

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

November 17, 2008 - 5:32 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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PRESENT Council Members: Mayor Pro Tempore Johnny Williams, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Herbert Vaughn, and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; Phil Lindler; Chris Trainor of the Index Journal and Lesley Lane of Greenwood Today.

ABSENT Niki Hutto

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CALL TO ORDER The meeting in Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Pro Tempore Johnny Williams at 5:32 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

City Manager, Steven Brown, gave the invocation.

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STATEMENT AND QUORUM Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the following statement, "In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 4, Title 30, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, an agenda has been posted on the front door of City Hall and notification of this meeting has been given to the news media."

The Mayor Pro Tempore then asked the City Clerk, Steffanie Dorn, if a quorum was present. She said, "Yes, Mr. Williams, we have a quorum present."

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APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Mayor Pro Tempore Williams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Betty Boles.

The Mayor Pro Tempore asked, "All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

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CONSIDER  
 Ordinance No.  
 08-045 Amending  
 the City of  
 Greenwood's  
 Official Zoning  
 Map (Ordinance  
 04-020) by  
 Rezoning  
 Properties  
 Located at 315  
 Epting Avenue  
 and 1501 Spring  
 Street from OPI  
 (Office  
 Professional  
 Institutional)  
 to GC (General  
 Commercial).

Under Public Hearings, Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the item and asked, "Is there anybody who wishes to speak in favor?"

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

JUDY BUTLER

"My name is Judy Butler, the Manager of Self Memorial Hospital Federal Credit Union. We're asking this to be rezoned due to the fact that we're not a part of the hospital. We're separate entities that don't fund each other, and I don't want to lose my grant I've just received. This rezoning request is for a new sign to indicate that we are Self Memorial Hospital Credit Union and let the town of Greenwood know what we offer in fulfilling the needs of the community. Thank you."

MAYOR PRO  
 TEMPORE  
 WILLIAMS

"Is there anybody else?"

STEVEN BROWN

"There are two parcels. It also includes the Subway store."

MAYOR PRO  
 TEMPORE  
 WILLIAMS

"Does anybody object? Hearing none, I close the public hearing. Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Barbara Turnburke, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Under Unfinished Business, Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the only item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No. 08-042 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning Properties (14.98 acres) Located at 1004, 1006, 1013, 1020, 1072, 1123, 1124, & 1126 Spring Street, 349 Creswell Avenue, and 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, & 112 Chesterfield Court from OPI (Office Professional Institutional) to OP (Office Professional); and 1000 Spring Street from OPI to R10 (High Density Residential).

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

(2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

CONSIDER

Under New Business, Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the first item and recognized the City Manager.

Ordinance No.  
08-046  
Authorizing the  
Issuance and  
Delivery from  
Time to Time of  
One or More  
City of  
Greenwood,  
South Carolina,  
Revenue Bond  
Anticipation  
Notes, in an  
Aggregate  
Principal  
Amount Not to  
Exceed  
\$10,000,000, in  
Anticipation of  
the Receipt of  
the Proceeds of  
the Sale of  
Junior Lien  
Combined Public  
Utility System  
Revenue Bonds  
of the City of  
Greenwood.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"For two years, the CPW has asked City Council's permission to issue Revenue Anticipation Bonds to buy large supplies of huge, high volume dollar purchases of natural gas in advance. They do not receive any revenue until people pay for their gas consumption in their monthly bills."

MAYOR PRO  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

"Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

"All in favor raise your right hand. Unanimous."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER Mayor Tempore Williams read the second item and recognized the City Manager.

Ordinance No. 08-047 to Adopt the Budget for 2009.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

STEVEN BROWN "Last year, the budget was \$14,621,523. Of that \$14 million+, there was \$871,808 in the budget to purchase the Fire Department's ladder truck. This year's budget is \$12,858,938. We have reduced our projected revenue by six percent and our projected expenditures by 6.3 percent. If you take out the \$870,000 for the ladder truck, we're still reducing the budget probably around \$1 million.

We are proposing to purchase three police vehicles. Normally, we purchase six. We're proposing to purchase one chassis for a limb loader. The chassis that we will be replacing is a 1990 model, and it is exhausted its usefulness. We also have about \$60,000 to purchase roll carts to replace damaged carts and metal containers for our sanitation department.

We believe this is a bare-bones budget. We have a clear perception of the financial problems in our community, State, and Nation. Therefore, we are also recommending no cost of living increase for the employees."

MAYOR PRO "We also have a tax millage increase of three mills?"  
 TEMPORE  
 WILLIAMS

STEVEN BROWN "What is that millage?"

STEFFANIE DORN "It is 2.8."

MAYOR PRO "Do I have a motion?"  
 TEMPORE  
 WILLIAMS

Motion was made by Barbara Turnburke, seconded by Betty Boles.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So carried."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the third item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.  
08-048 to Levy  
Tax for the  
City of  
Greenwood for  
2009.

Motion was made by Barbara Turnburke, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

The Mayor Pro Tempore asked, "All in favor raise your right hand. The motion is carried."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the fourth item and asked for a motion.

Ordinance No.  
08-049 to  
Authorize the  
City Manager to  
Issue Tax  
Anticipation  
Notes in 2009.

Motion was made by Barbara Turnburke, seconded by Linda Edwards.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

The Mayor asked, "Is there any discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

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CONSIDER Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the fifth item.

Ordinance No.  
08-050 Adopting  
the Business  
License  
Ordinance for  
2009.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

BETTY BOLES "There are no changes in there?"

STEVEN BROWN "There are no changes in the rates. Everything is the same from last year."

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

MAYOR PRO "All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

The motion passed unanimously.

- Ordinance is Located in Vault -

CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the sixth item and recognized the City Manager.

Ordinance No. 08-051 Adopting the City Council's Policy and Guidelines Governing Participation by the City of Greenwood in the Costs of Health Insurance for Eligible Employees Retiring after December 31, 2008.

(1<sup>st</sup> reading)

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Williams, Members of City Council, and the public, City Council has been working with the staff for almost a year to meet the challenge of GASB 45 requirements. GASB 45 deals with a methodology implored by the City to fund a benefit that it provides its employees, which is health insurance after those employees retire. The staff recommends that this ordinance that proposes changes in the City's retiree health insurance program. From a financial perspective, the City must also be able to financially fund the health insurance benefit for retirees.

The basic change to the program is the City will no longer just pay the existing premiums. If you adopt this ordinance, you will be setting a maximum amount of \$540.00. And please remember that the way it is figured, we take the present health insurance premium which is around \$358 and, according to the requirements, apply the implicit rate subsidy which is determined to be 50% of the monthly premium. So that's the calculation used to produce the \$540.

If this ordinance is approved, we will also be requiring retirees and their dependents, or survivors, to pay the implicit rates subsidy equal to 50% of the monthly health



insurance premium portion paid by the individual. In layman's language (I can use myself for an example), if I were to have my wife on the City's policy after I retire, I must pay the premium for her. You would also require me to pay the implicit rate subsidy which would be 50% of the monthly premium. Some of our people earn a benefit of 50%. That means you pay 50% of their premium and they have to pay 50% on their own. Any portion of any premium paid by a retiree, a retiree's dependent or their survivors, we're applying the implicit rate subsidy to that portion."

BETTY BOLES "So am I to understand that, if you retire, you will pay 50% of your spouse?"

STEVEN BROWN "Your dependents or survivor... we have some survivors of employees who are still on our insurance. All we're saying is you are required by the City policy to pay any portion of that premium and the implicit rate subsidy. We don't think it's fair for the City to pay that on dependents or their survivors. If an employee has only earned a 50% benefit, then he ought to pay the implicit rate subsidy on the 50% that he pays."

MAYOR PRO "Are there any other questions?"  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

LINDA EDWARDS "This will start with persons retiring after December of this year?"

STEVEN BROWN "Yes, ma'am, December 31<sup>st</sup>. We felt it was not prudent to change it for those who are already retired. You'll notice a statement in the ordinance that says, '...for those who are already retired, they're governed by your existing ordinances.' We must implement GASB 45 in 2009 so this is why we're changing the ordinance. It's nothing unique to the City of Greenwood. Every governmental agency whether it's the State, County, or City are all having to comply with these new standards."

MAYOR PRO "Are there any other questions? Do I have a motion?"  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Betty Boles.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So carried."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER Mayor Pro Tempore read the seventh item and recognized the City Manager.

Resolution No.  
08-010  
Authorizing  
Christmas Gifts  
for City  
Employees.

STEVEN BROWN "Mr. Williams and the rest of City Council, an ordinance was adopted a number of years ago that states if City Council desires to give any type of gift to the employees, whether it is at Christmas or any other time of the year, you must pass a resolution stating what that gift is and the value of it. Some of you were on Council when it was adopted. For the last number of years, you have passed a resolution which at Christmas time gives those employees who have been employed 12 months or longer a food gift certificate of \$50 and a \$25 food gift certificate for those who have been employed less than 12 months."

MAYOR PRO "I hope they don't agree this year. Do I have a motion?"

TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

Motion was made by Herbert Vaughn, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved. Sorry, Steve!"

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

BETTY BOLES "This is in the budget, right?"

STEVEN BROWN "Yes, it is in the budget."

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CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the eighth item and recognized the City Manager.

Resolution No.  
08-011 to  
Authorize Staff  
to Issue a  
Permit Allowing  
Businesses  
within the City  
of Greenwood to  
Open on Sundays  
at 10:00 A.M.  
During the 2008  
Christmas  
Holiday Season.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Williams and City Council, State Law allows the City of Greenwood to issue a permit for public entertainment events occurring on Sundays. If the permit is issued, City Council may adopt a resolution suspending the 1:30 p.m. opening hour provided in the South Carolina Code of Laws, 53-1-5, in allowing businesses to operate at an earlier time on the day of the events. Greenwood Mall, on behalf of its owners and tenants, has requested a permit. City Management recommends that City Council adopt the proposed resolution allowing businesses to open no earlier than 10 a.m. on the four designated Sundays during the holiday season. In accordance with State Law, the resolution would apply to all businesses within the City of Greenwood. I have a revised resolution and would like to read it to you."

The City Manager read the revised Resolution

BETTY BOLES

"But they have to request a permit though?"

STEVEN BROWN

"A local person can request the permit and, if you issue it to them, then it applies to everyone. Not everybody has to ask for a permit."

MAYOR PRO  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

"So, if the mall management were issued a permit, every store in the mall can open?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Right; every store in Greenwood. I would be remiss if I did not tell you that you have the freedom to change the opening hour."

The State Law says no earlier than 10 a.m. but, if you wanted to make it 11 a.m. or 12 noon, you could. I think, with the economy the way it is, some stores will take advantage of it and some will not but this will give them the freedom to make the decision based upon what they think is in their best interest. The permit is only for four Sundays and it expires after that. It's not all year long and it does not involve alcohol. It's for retail businesses and there are many of them already allowed to open on Sundays anyway."

MAYOR PRO  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

"Many grocery stores are open on Sunday so why not retail? Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Herbert Vaughn, seconded by Betty Boles.

LINDA EDWARDS

"Go back to that time again? Are we going with 10 a.m.? Number 3 is still in effect, right?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Is that the one about the refusal? Yes, ma'am, it's a part of the new resolution."

MAYOR PRO  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

"All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

The motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

APPOINT

Mayor Pro Tempore Williams read the last item and asked for a motion to appoint Herbert Vaughn.

One City  
Council Member  
to Sign  
Fireman's Fund  
Vouchers.

LINDA EDWARDS

"Mr. Vaughn, have you showed an interest?"

STEVEN BROWN

"We just need to make it official."

MAYOR PRO  
TEMPORE  
WILLIAMS

"All those in favor raise your right hand."

Motion to appoint Herbert Vaughn was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The motion passed unanimously.

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CITY COUNCIL      There were no comments at this time.  
COMMENTS

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CITY MANAGER      There were no comments at this time.  
COMMENTS

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Johnny F. Williams, Mayor Pro Tempore

ATTEST:

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City Clerk and Treasurer