

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

February 23, 2004 - 5:32 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT

Mayor Nicholson; Council Members: Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Herbert Vaughn, Johnny Williams, and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; Fire Chief Strange; Mike Hatfield of WCRS, and Wallace McBride from the Index-Journal.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting in the Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Nicholson at 5:32p.m. The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave the invocation.

STATEMENT AND QUORUM

The Mayor gave 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."

Mayor Nicholson asked the City Clerk, Steffanie Dorn, if a quorum was present. She said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, we have a quorum present."

ORDINANCE

Annexing a Strip of Land Ten Feet (10') Wide, Owned by the Commissioners of Public Works for the City of Greenwood, Located off Emerald Road.

Mayor Nicholson said, "First on the agenda tonight, we have five public hearings. The format we employ in the public hearing is, if there are individuals who would like to speak, we ask that you come to the podium, state your name and address for the record, and try to limit your comments to not more than four or five minutes."

The Mayor read the first title and said, "If you look on the overhead, this will give you basically an idea of where this is located off Emerald Road. This is to gain access to the property where the new Brewer Middle School will be constructed. It's across the street from Aspen Heights, past Piedmont Tech, on Emerald Road. Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this annexation? Mr. Brown?"

STEVEN BROWN

“Mr. Mayor and City Council, I have included some comments in your packet, but I would go on the record as saying that, through the assistance of Mr. Vaughn, we have negotiated an automatic aid agreement with Coronaca. If there is a need for fire services on the property, both Coronaca and the City of Greenwood would be dispatched simultaneously. A substation on that side of town will certainly be in our future plans.

Chief Strange, Fire Inspector Robbie Stevenson, and I had an opportunity to meet with the design architect. We also met with Gary Johnson and Terry Willard. The Fire Department was given adequate time to review the plans, and there were a lot of questions concerning compliance with codes inside of the City. What we encounter often with these types of situations is the State mandated two years ago that we adopt the International Building and Fire Codes. The State doesn't enforce the International, because they're still enforcing the Southern Building Codes. When you have these plans being reviewed by people at the State Department of Education, they're looking at one code and we're looking at another. We felt we should ask them to meet the International. It was about a 2 ½ hour meeting, and the architect is responding to us on how he's going to meet our code. We feel comfortable with that, so our recommendation to you tonight is to proceed with the annexation. We feel we have all of our bases covered.”

MAYOR
NICHOLSON

“Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Is there anyone else to speak in favor of the annexation of this strip? Anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing no further individuals to speak, we will close the public hearing.”

ORDINANCE

Annexing 144.32
Acres of Property,
Owned by School
District 50, Located
off Emerald Road.

Mayor Nicholson read the title of the second public hearing and said, “Now, this is the main property where the new Brewer site will be located on Emerald Road. Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this annexation? Is there anyone to speak in opposition? Seeing and hearing none, we will close the public hearing.”

ORDINANCE

Annexing Karlie Hill
Townhouses,
Phase I and II, 7.20
Acres, Located off
East Laurel
Avenue.

Mayor Nicholson read the title of the third public hearing and said, “Again, if you look at the overhead, you can see the location of this property. Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this annexation? Is there anyone opposing? Alright, we will close the public hearing.”

ORDINANCE

Annexing 2.81
Acres of Property
off Genesis Circle
Owned by
Nehemiah
Corporation.

Mayor Nicholson read the title of the fourth public hearing and asked, "This is located where, Mr. Brown?"

STEVEN BROWN

"It is across from the Hospital behind Food Lion and the Beckman Mental Health new building."

MAYOR
NICHOLSON

"Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this annexation? Is there anyone opposing? Seeing and hearing none, we will close the public hearing."

REQUEST

From Lander
University to Close
a Portion of Brice
and Sanders
Streets.

Mayor Nicholson read the title of the fifth public hearing and said, "Again, if you look at the overhead, you will see the areas recommended for closure. Is there anyone here to speak in favor of the closing of the area? Yes, sir?"

THOMAS
SUTTLES

"I'm Thomas Suttles, the Campus Engineer at Lander University, 320 Stanley Avenue. I presented information in December about the reasons we wanted to close these portions of the roads in order to construct a new residence hall facility on that side of the campus. It'll help us to better utilize the space and control our access to the campus. I'm just here to answer any questions, if anybody has any, concerning the closures."

MAYOR
NICHOLSON

"Okay."

NIKI HUTTO

"One question. Are you actually going to leave the road beds there, or are you going to demolish them?"

THOMAS
SUTTLES

"It'll be taken up in order to landscape that area, and also to reduce the amount of detention that is required from run-on."

NIKI HUTTO

"Okay. And then you're going to add the cul-de-sac at the end of Henrietta?"

THOMAS
SUTTLES

"That's right. There's a cul-de-sac already existing, and it'll just be expanded to provide turnaround for vehicles."

MAYOR
NICHOLSON

“Are there any other questions?”

STEVEN BROWN

“Mr. Mayor and City Council, we as a staff have not found anything in the request that would give us concerns. We do understand that there will be a new building built. We would recommend that the closing be subject to the CPW easements. If they do have utilities under these streets, then they would need to be relocated, which means that they would need additional easements. So when you take second reading, then all of that will be subject to some satisfaction by the Commission that they have the proper easements in that area. But other than that, we don't have any concerns. We feel we can provide our emergency services. To be honest with you, a portion of these streets that are being closed are in horrendous condition and, if they remain open, there needs to be a lot of work done on these roads.”

MAYOR
NICHOLSON

“Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown. Is there anyone to speak in opposition to the closing of the portion of Brice and Sanders Streets? Seeing no other individuals here to speak, we will close our last public hearing. Now, we will move into the business part of the meeting.”

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Floyd Nicholson, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk and Treasurer