

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

March 17, 2003 - 5:40 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT Council Members: Mayor Nicholson, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Herbert Vaughn, Johnny Williams; and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; and Maya Hollinshead from the Index-Journal.

MINUTES Mayor Nicholson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on February 24, 2003.

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto, approving the minutes as presented.

STEVEN BROWN "Mr. Mayor?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Yes, Mr. Brown?"

STEVEN BROWN "I think the agenda should also include the Executive Session for your approval also."

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Okay, we'll approve the minutes of City Council Meeting and Executive Session on February 24th. Ms. Edwards, could you amend your motion to include that?"

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto, amending the motion to include the Executive Session.

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS Mayor Nicholson asked for a motion to accept as information the reports from the City Manager for February 2003.

A motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn, to receive the reports as information.

The Mayor asked, "Any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER

Public Motion and
V o t e o n
I n f o r m a t i o n
R e c e i v e d i n
E x e c u t i v e
S e s s i o n .

Under executive session business, Mayor Nicholson made the following statement:

"Prior to this meeting, City Council met in Executive Session to receive a legal briefing from our attorneys. In concerning this matter, Council has received legal advice in Executive Session regarding the Poore's property at 218 Jennings Avenue. Based upon our knowledge of this situation, the City does not believe that any legal liability exists to the Poores at this particular time. Despite the lack of any legal liability, the City would like to explore the possibility of a mutually beneficial remedy to the drainage problem. Therefore, we invite the Poores and their legal counsel to meet with our City Attorney and engineers to discuss this matter to see if we can resolve it. We will be following through on this after receiving a legal briefing from our attorneys. Mr. Brown, do you have anything?"

STEVEN BROWN

"No sir."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Now we'll move to old business."

CONSIDER

Under old business, Mayor Nicholson read the first title and ask for a motion.

O r d i n a n c e
Annexing 10.639
A c r e s o f
Property, Owned
by Greenwood
School District
50 Located off
East Durst
A v e n u e / O l d
Laurens Highway.

Motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The Mayor asked, "Any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

(2nd reading)

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the second item under old business and asked for a motion.

O r d i n a n c e
Annexing 10'
Strip of Property
O w n e d b y
Greenwood County
Located off Old
Laurens Highway.

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

(2nd reading)

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the third item and asked for a motion.

O r d i n a n c e
Annexing 637+
Acres Owned by
Commissioners of
Public Works of
the City of
Greenwood and
Located off Old
Laurens Highway.

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Niki Hutto.

(2nd reading)

The Mayor asked, "Any questions or discussion? By the way, the City Manager and myself met with Mr. Monaghan and Steve Reeves last week to talk about this property. They did say that there are no plans in the making right now for the property, but when it comes to a point where there's going to be development, they will be working with the City, as far as being able to provide services in this particular area. So there's a good feeling between the Commissioners and the City Council, as far as further future development on this site, but right now, there are no plans for development in that particular area. All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the next item and asked for a motion.

O r d i n a n c e
Amending City
Ordinance 02-019,
Section 10-8 (c),
Fee Schedule and
Procedure for
Billing of
Chapter 10,
Garbage, Refuse
and Weeds, the
C o d e o f
Ordinances of the
C i t y o f
Greenwood.

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The Mayor asked, "Any questions or discussion? All in favor, raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the next item's title and asked for a motion.

O r d i n a n c e
Authorizing the
Mayor and City
Clerk to Execute
a Federal
Building Lease
Agreement with
the Arts Council
of Greenwood
County.

Motion was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

The Mayor asked, "Any questions or discussion? All in favor, raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

(2nd reading)

- attach -

APPOINT

The Mayor read the last item's title and asked for a motion to postpone until the April meeting.

One (1) Person to
the City/County
P l a n n i n g
Commission.

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE

Under new business, Mayor Nicholson read the first item and recognized the City Manager.

City Employee
Carroll Bryant
and Billy Allen.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor, City Council, and members of the public, I looked back over my notes today and sometime in March of 2001, I had a call from Mrs. Peggy Adams. I met with Mrs. Adams and her husband, Mr. L.B. Adams, and they introduced me to

the possibility that the City could have some people to be trained in the technology of Arboriculture.

Working with these two individuals, and Mr. Jimmy Walters with the Forestry Commission, we have identified two employees as potential candidates for the position of Certified Arborist. We asked Mr. Billy Allen, who is our Street Superintendent for Public Works, and Carroll Bryant, who is the Superintendent of our Sanitation Department, if they would consider taking this training. For a number of years, Carroll has done a major portion of our work around Greenwood, and you see the benefits of Carroll's labor, even today. He was very willing to do this, and then Billy, who works in the Street Department, also agreed. Jimmy Walters agreed to tutor these two individuals and, over the past year and a half, they have been working with him. We're proud to tell you tonight that both of them have not only studied, but they have successfully completed the course. The City of Greenwood can now say that we have two Certified Arborists working for the City of Greenwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams, and Jimmy, would you come forward and just speak to the Council just for a moment, please, before we present these certificates?"

MRS. PEGGY ADAMS

"I'm the Chairman of the Upper Savannah Land Trust, and we are interested in green trees, urban and rural. We were notified of the possibility of a matching grant with the United States Forest Service where we could support urban forests (trees within the city). I talked with Steve and Jimmy, and we agreed this will be a great thing for Greenwood.

We're doing so well with getting green back in the City, but when you have trees, you'll also have problems, and it's these problems that we felt needed to be addressed correctly. In order to do that, you need to train Arborists and then, lo and behold, we had two employees who are willing to go through this difficult procedure. We feel really fortunate that everything came together for this to work. We thank you for your help with it, especially Steve."

JIMMY WALTERS

"Mr. Mayor, Council Members, and citizens of Greenwood, I want to congratulate these guys. They did work hard. I have, myself, taken this course,

and passed the test. Now, I'm proud to say that I'm no longer the only Certified Arborist in Greenwood County.

As a result of what Peggy and L.B. Adams started, Greenwood now has a Tree Management Plan for managing the trees on public property. Here, forestry has been a crisis-management type situation. Now, we do have a plan out for the orderly maintenance of trees, and people on staff who can carry this out. So this speaks well for the City of Greenwood.

We've come a long way, and got a long way to go, but we're well on the way to it. I want to congratulate Steve Brown and City Council for supporting these guys. I also congratulate Billy and Carroll for the hard work they put in. This is an International Certification, by the way. If they go to Great Britain or New Zealand, they're still Certified Arborists."

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor, if you will come forward along with these three individuals, we can ask Billy and Carroll to come forward to present these certificates."

Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. Jimmy Walters, and Mayor Nicholson then presented Billy Allen and Carroll Bryant with the certificates.

BILLY ALLEN

"I just wanted to take this opportunity to say that I'm glad to do it, and I look forward to serving the City."

CARROLL BRYANT

"I've always enjoyed trees and forestry. I was glad that we were able to have the time to put our efforts toward learning more about forestry and arboriculture. I hope that this will aide us in the future to help our town and our area to grow and be more beautiful."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Now, I would just like to thank Jimmy, and the Adams, for everything they're doing. You know, we hear more now about the importance of observing our environment because it is so important. When Fuji made the announcement a couple of weeks ago, they gave a bunch of money for the cleaning of the Saluda and Reedy River. I was at a conference last week, and they were talking about the importance of the greenery, because we have to maintain our

environment. We're going to think about our kids being here in the future, so it's important. We just commend you for everything that you do."

MRS. PEGGY ADAMS

"Thank you, so much."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Thank you."

City Council then greeted and congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. Jimmy Walters, Billy Allen, and Carroll Bryant.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Nicholson read the second item and recognized the City Manager.

On the South
Carolina Heritage
Cycling Series
Race.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, the City of Greenwood, along with four other cities, has been invited to participate in the South Carolina Heritage Cycling Series. We have completed the preliminary work, and Paula Brooks is working with the State staff to make this happen. I have asked her to come to you tonight and provide you with some information about this series and what it will mean to Greenwood."

PAULA BROOKS

"Good evening. As he said, Rich Hinkappie Sports, in conjunction with South Carolina Heritage Corridor, is organizing this inaugural event. It is part of a week of professional cycling events featuring three national racing events in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina with nearly \$80,000 in professional prize money up for grabs. So it's really a big deal.

It's designed to showcase the four regions of the Discovery Route of the South Carolina Heritage Corridor. I did put some information in your packet to show that. It's staged for April 29th through May the 2nd, 2003. It will start in Anderson on the 29th, followed by Walterboro on the 30th. Greenwood will be hosting on May 1st, and the last leg of the race will be in Aiken on May 2nd.

As I said, we will be a host city, and we're very excited about this. We actually get to have a name

for our event and we have chosen: 'The Uptown Greenwood Pro Cycling Challenge'. This event is a Men's Professional Half-Criterium.

I had to do some research to find out what that meant because I didn't have a clue. Criterium is a closed-course of less than one mile in length where the riders do several laps. For this race, it's going to be between 100K to 50 miles in length, and it will be hosted in the Uptown Greenwood area. It features a lot of fast action, high visibility, and is said to be a real crowd pleaser. I know my nine-year-old son is looking forward to it. Our event will feature a \$10,000 purse and points toward the National Race Calendar Standings. So as I said, in the world of cycling, this is a pretty big deal.

We are going to host some children's events proceeding the professional race. Frank Coyle, of State Farm, and Bikes and Boards will be working with our organizations to do that. We will be presenting a bike rodeo and bike safety checks. We will also have a V.I.P. hospitality area that the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce and several of our Uptown restaurants are going to be working on. We're going to have a Live After 5 after the race, so it is going to be a jam-packed Thursday evening in Uptown Greenwood.

I hope that you guys will all be there to support it. It has a potential to be a major tourism event for Greenwood County. There's one in Athens that's already established, and it draws thousands of people to it. There are other races that are featured in Shelby and Georgia, which also bring in thousands of people. It has potential to be a major impact on our local economy, and it's going to be very exciting.

The course will actually be in Uptown Greenwood. It will start on Highway 25 in front of Rick's, go down to Washington Avenue, turn right on Washington, come up Monument, turn back on Maxwell, and make that loop. They'll be going around and around 50 to 60 miles per hour. There's going to be wrecks and all kinds of exciting stuff, so it's going to be a lot of fun. I encourage you to come out and support this event. Thank you."

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and Council, I would let you know that there are no General Fund monies going towards this

event. The South Carolina Series has its own funding. Other than the Live After 5, Public Works, and the Police Department working with the roads and security for this series, we did not have to ask you to allocate any local funds. We feel this is a good beginning to something that may provide benefits in the future. If you have any further questions, we'll try to answer them."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay."

NIKI HUTTO

"Are you going to have a 'Taste of Greenwood', or any other food setup?"

PAULA BROOKS

"Of course our Uptown restaurants will be open. Since I'm Uptown Manager, I look for every opportunity to promote my Uptown businesses, so they'll be participating at the Live After 5. I know the sushi bar is going to actually set up at the Live After 5, so that's going to be kind of fun. They may do some rolling classes, and stuff like that. The Rough House, Inn on the Square, and basically all the Uptown restaurants will be out there with food. I may have a couple of vendors, but at this point, I'm just trying to promote the local Uptown businesses."

NIKI HUTTO

"Okay."

PAULA BROOKS

"Any other questions?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"It sounds great!"

PAULA BROOKS

"Yeah, I'm excited! I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"It was a couple of years ago that we were planning on having a race coming through here, right?"

PAULA BROOKS

"Right. When they originally planned it, they were going to race from town to town, more like a Tour Du Pont, but they changed the format to where each town will have its own race. I think that has a lot of benefits, and it will be a good way for people to get excited about cycling. The local cycling club is going to handle all the volunteer activities for us, and they are very involved in it. So I think it's going to be fun."

NIKI HUTTO

"Will the cyclists spend the night in Greenwood?"

PAULA BROOKS

"Yes. It will impact our Accommodations Tax Funds."

Is there anything else?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "That's it."

PAULA BROOKS "Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON "We can have our local cyclists to get ready also, right?"

PAULA BROOKS "Right!"

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Okay. Thank you, very much."

CONSIDER Mayor Nicholson read the third item and recognized the City Manager.

Adoption of 2003
Fair Housing
Resolution.

STEVEN BROWN "Mr. Mayor and Council, each year you do adopt a Fair Housing Resolution, which is standard in it's form. We're coming back to you this year, and asking for you to adopt this resolution and hereby designate April 2003 as Fair Housing Month. This is a part of our Community Development program."

MAYOR NICHOLSON "Okay. You can see that this is the resolution on the overhead and all the Council Members received them in their packages. Do I have a motion that we adopt this?"

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"Any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER Mayor Nicholson read the fourth title and recognized the City Manager.

Adoption of
Resolution
Adopting CBDG
Relocation
Policy.

STEVEN BROWN

"As City Council is aware, we have been approved for funding for East and West Grendel Avenues, and a part of Pelzer Street, for a housing rehabilitation project. A part of the revised requirements for the federal funding is that we have a relocation policy. The Upper Savannah Staff has developed this policy and brought it to my office. I have reviewed it, and I think it is a good policy. I would ask City Council to adopt this resolution and hereby adopt the relocation policy, because it must be in place. There will be few, if any, that will need to be relocated, but we must have a policy in place in case the need arises. So, I would ask you to adopt this."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Do I have a motion?"

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Linda Edwards.

"Any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

CONSIDER

Mayor Nicholson read the last item's title and recognized the City Manager.

Approval of City
Manager's
Recommendation on
CTC Funding.

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor and City Council, each year you authorize me to represent you at the CTC (County Transportation Committee) Meeting, to make a request for funding. If you recall last year, you

requested \$300,000 to support the Cokesbury Project, and that was approved. In April, we will need to appear before the CTC and make the 2003 request.

I have three recommendations. One is for Cobb Road, 1400 linear feet, because of the additional commercial development in that area. It is in need of some work (milled and resurfaced) at the total cost of \$28,852. We have some problems with North Lake Drive, which is in North Lake Subdivision. There's 2,541 linear feet of 20 foot resurfacing. We also want to make some changes to the North Side Drive entrance to North Lake to make it safer, and ease the traffic in that area. The total cost will be \$37,705. Thirdly, the director of the Housing Authority has come to me and asked our assistance in helping the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to obtain funding to resurface the streets in the Foundry Road Community. If you noticed in my letter, Tennessee, Ohio, New York, and Douglas Courts, along with Margaret Street, are all state roads in that specific community. In talking with the State, those types of roadways would be very low priority on their listing. Our people went down and inspected the roadways, and they feel the streets are in need of resurfacing.

The Housing Authority has already completed some work of their own around the sanitation containers. They also will need to pay for the costs associated with any parking areas, so I have asked you to consider requesting \$24,192 to be used to pave those streets in the Foundry Road Community. Then the Housing Authority would need to probably spend about \$12,000 or \$13,000 to do the parking part. This is only for the state roads entering those communities there. The total request would be \$90,749."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Do I have a motion that we approve this?"

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto.

"Any questions or discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

"Okay. Mr. Brown, do you have anything else?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Yes, sir. I would like to reemphasize what I think is a very excellent report from the Greenwood Police Department, and I have made a copy available to City Council. Often times the Police Department is unfairly criticized because of the nature of its work. I think this annual report from our Police Department is commendable, and there is one important aspect I need to make to public aware of tonight."

The City Manager began to read an excerpt of Chief Brooks' letter.

"There is a lot of good information in this report. I would ask City Council, if you haven't had time to do so, to read it. At any time that you have questions about any of this information, please let me know. We will be glad to respond to your questions. I think it's something that we can all be proud of. When Chief Brooks first talked with me about these statistics, they were almost unbelievable. So, we have gone to SLED and compared our figures with theirs, and we found that ours did compare with SLED. These are not just numbers, but accurate numbers.

I'm proud of the Police Department and the job that they do. I think Chief Brooks, Assistant Chief Butler, and all of the employees of that department need to be commended for the good work that they do."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brown, for that additional information, and we appreciate those reports. That is a good sign, especially in this day and time. Is there anything else to come before Council? Let's not forget Work Session the first Monday in April, at 5:30. Do I have a motion that we adjourn?"

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

"Again, thank you all for coming and have a wonderful evening."

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Floyd Nicholson, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer