

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2003 - 5:32 p.m.

**MINUTES**

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PRESENT

Council Members: Mayor Pro Tem Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Herbert Vaughn, Johnny Williams, and Barbara Turnburke; City Manager; Assistant City Manager; City Clerk; City Attorney; and Wallace McBride from the Index-Journal.

Betty Boles entered the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

ABSENT

Mayor Nicholson

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting in the Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Niki Hutto at 5:32 p.m., and she welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councilwoman Linda Edwards gave the invocation.

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STATEMENT AND  
QUORUM

The Mayor Pro Tem 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 Pro Tem Hutto asked the City Clerk, Steffanie Dorn, if a quorum was present. She said, "Yes, Ms. Hutto, we have a quorum present."

The Mayor Pro Tem also extended a special greeting to Scout Master A. P. Neal and Boy Scout Troop #66.

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MINUTES

Mayor Pro Tem asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the City Council Public Hearing, Meeting, and Executive Session on August 4, 2003, also the Public Hearing and Meeting held on August 18, 2003, and Executive Session on September 10,

2003.

Motion was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Herbert Vaughn, approving the minutes as presented.

The Mayor Pro Tem asked, "All those in favor raise your right hand."

Motion was carried unanimously.

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REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto asked for a motion to accept as information the reports from the City Manager for August 2003, and the Commissioners of Public Works Consolidated Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2003.

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

The Mayor Pro Tem asked, "All those in favor? All those opposed?"

Betty Boles just entered the meeting and did not vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

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RECEIVE

A Report from the  
City Manager  
Regarding a  
Vacancy on the  
Housing Authority  
Board of  
Commissioners.

Under old business, Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the first item and recognized the City Manager.

STEVEN BROWN

"Ms. Hutto and members of City Council, I have only received one recommendation to fill this vacancy. That vacancy was forwarded to me by Mr. Boykin Curry and he has recommended Nick Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson is a retired civil engineer, and he lives in the Lodge Grounds.

I first came to know Mr. Nicholson when he was working for Wesley Commons. He supervised their construction projects on a part time basis. I think now he is volunteering with the Parks Foundation, comes highly recommended, and does a lot of work in the community. I asked John Lamb at the Housing Authority if there were any other recommendations from their Board and there are none. This is the vacancy that was formally held by Mr. Watkins, who was an attorney with Greenwood Mills."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Do we have a motion to accept Nick Nicholson?"

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

The Mayor Pro Tem asked, "All those in favor? All those opposed? So moved. Nick Nicholson is now on the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners."

Motion passed unanimously.

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CONSIDER

Proclamation for  
I n d u s t r y  
A p p r e c i a t i o n  
W e e k .

Under New Business, Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the first item and proclamation and asked for a motion.

Motion was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Barbara Turnburke.

The Mayor Pro Tem asked, "All in favor, raise your right hand. All those opposed? So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

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CONSIDER

Resolution on the Homeless.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the second item and resolution and asked for a motion.

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

"All those in favor? All those opposed?"

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

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CONSIDER

Ordinance Amending City of Greenwood Zoning Ordinance Section VII, O, Temporary Uses, (2).

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the third item and said, "No action will be taken this evening. We had a request from the Zoning Department that there needs to be further evaluation on this before it is brought to Council, so we will not be acting on number three."

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CONSIDER

Ordinance Amending the City of Greenwood Zoning Ordinance Section VII, N. Signs, Off Premise, Directional, Signs for Churches and Schools.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the fourth item and said, "This is on the old zoning, not the new zoning. Steve, do have some information concerning this for us?"

STEVEN BROWN

"This is a recommendation that was forwarded to you from the Planning Commission.

After having a public hearing, they have offered their recommendation to approve this amendment. There are currently no standards in the existing zoning ordinance which allows off site signage for churches and schools. Even though we sometimes see them, it is a violation of the Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance allows directional signs for churches and schools with some conditions. Those conditions are one sign per intersection, and it may be only located on a federally or state numbered highway. It also states that if more than one establishment wishes to locate a directional sign at any one intersection, then all of the signs should be consolidated into one sign structure not to exceed 20 square feet, nor should it be more than six feet in height. If it is only one individual sign, then it's limited to four square feet. The proposed amendment is the same that is in your new zoning ordinance you have passed, and I will recommend that you pass this."

MAYOR     PRO     TEM  
HUTTO

"Do we have a motion to approve?"

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

"All those in favor? All those opposed?"

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

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CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the fifth item under old business and recognized the City Manager.

A  
Telecommunicatio  
ns Franchise and  
Consent Ordinance  
to Grant United  
Telephone of the  
Carolinas, Inc.,  
Its Successors  
and Assigns, the  
Right, Power, and  
Authority to  
C o n s t r u c t ,  
I n s t a l l ,  
Maintain, and  
Operate In, Over,  
and Upon and  
Under the Streets  
and Public Places  
of the City of  
Greenwood, Its  
Lines, Poles,  
Wires, Cables,  
and Other  
Telecommunicatio  
ns Facilities to  
R e n d e r  
Telecommunication  
Services to Its  
Customers in the  
Corporate Limits  
of the City of  
Greenwood for  
Such Period as  
Provided Herein;  
and to Provide  
for the Payment  
of Compensation  
for the Use of  
Streets and  
Public Places.

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

STEVEN BROWN

"Franchise agreements for telecommunications companies have been a hot issue in the General Assembly for a number of years, and they have passed a new law which, in essence, reduces the maximum rate that can be charged for a franchise agreement with a telecommunications to 3/4 of one percent. Our present franchise agreement with United Telephone of the Carolinas is set at three percent and has been at three percent since its inception in the 70's. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the maximum rate, as I have said, can only be 3/4 of one percent.

I'm offering this ordinance to you tonight. It's not absolutely necessary that you approve it tonight, but we do need to have it in effect and on the books by January 1, 2004. If you have an opportunity to read the ordinance, there is language that states if the General Assembly during the next year, or the years after, would change the rate, this ordinance allows Council to change your rate to comply with that new maximum rate. But as it is right now, and unless something changes later on, the maximum rate is .75%. This complies with the State Law. If you would like to study it for one month and possibly have it on the agenda for next month, then we can do so."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Do we really have an alternative? We can't change the rate because it's State mandated."

STEVEN BROWN

"It's State mandated."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"And the provision of this allows for us to change whatever the State mandated?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Right. We anticipate a loss of revenue probably at the minimum of \$100,000, because of this change in State law. So we will lose beginning January 1. Do you want to take first reading tonight, then we can schedule a public hearing at the October meeting?"

Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Herbert Vaughn.

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"All those in favor? All those opposed? So moved."

Motion passed unanimously.

- attach -

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CONSIDER

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the sixth item and recognized the City Manager.

Accommodations  
Tax Advisory  
C o m m i t t e e  
Recommendations.

STEVEN BROWN

"Ms. Hutto and members of Council, at last year's meeting when you considered approving the allocation of accommodations tax, you expressed an interest to the staff to become more involved in this process and receive further information by hearing first hand from the agencies that are requesting these funds. I would tell you that on September 8<sup>th</sup>, in this office at 5:30, your Accommodations Advisory Committee: Todd Wittington, who is Chairman, Roberta Major, Sara Morse, Carolyn Robinson, Wynn Ott, and Neil Tunstall met, and they have made a recommendation to you.

By law, this is only a recommendation. There are some changes in some State laws governing the accommodations tax. I want to read one of those changes to you because I think it's very important. There's some changes in the way the State defines 'Tourist', prior to this past year. Most people defined a tourist as a person who visited your town and spent the night. We've always referred to that as, 'putting the heads on the beds' in motels and hotels. The new definition the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee is going to define it this year is under Code Section 6-4-5: Travel and tourism means the action and activities of people taking trips outside of their home communities for any purpose except daily commuting to and from work...which is a vast change.

This year we had a number of agencies requesting funds, including \$18,000 of surplus that was left over from last year because of a request made by the Parks and Trails Foundation and the Arts Council. You had asked the staff to get an opinion from the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee. It's been almost a year, and we haven't received

that opinion yet. As of last week, they wrote us a letter and asked for additional information.

There's \$116,321 to be distributed, and the agencies are here tonight to make a presentation to you. There's two of them that have asked to be first, so we'll have to choose. One of those is Natalie Parramore, who represents the Greater Greenwood Parks and Trails Foundation, and also Paula Brooks, who will speak to you regarding the Festival of Discovery and the Uptown Pro Cycling Challenge. Ms. Hutto, once you're ready to recognize them, then we will go down the list."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO "Okay. So what you're telling me is, it's my choice as to who goes first?"

STEVEN BROWN "That's right."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO "Natalie Parramore, why don't you come up, please, and let us know about the parks and trails."

STEVEN BROWN "We have so many, Ms. Hutto, you may want to consider limiting the time."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO "In accordance with our ordinance, as far as speaking in front of Council, could you please limit your presentation to five minutes? Steve, am I correct in saying that we have less money this year than we had last year to disburse?"

STEVEN BROWN "We do."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO "Okay."

NATALIE PARRAMORE "Thank you. I'm Natalie Parramore, and I'm a board member of the Greater Greenwood Parks and Trails Foundation. When we submitted our letter of request, I actually had a member of our organization submit the letter on our behalf, because I was out of town.

Unfortunately, there was a miscommunication and I'm here to clarify what it is we were really looking for with the Accommodations Tax Fund. Last year, we made a request for money to go toward the construction of the pavilion, which falls under the guidelines under the Accommodations Tax Fund. This year, we're doing an event that will be held in April. Our letter indicates that the Greater Greenwood Park and Trails Foundation is requesting

\$3,000 from the accommodations tax fund. The money will be used for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art in the Park event to be held the weekend of April 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The event should attract up to 2,000 people from the surrounding areas, targeted marketing areas, and recruit artists from Augusta, Georgia; Greenville, Anderson, Columbia, Lexington, Greenwood, and Abbeville, South Carolina, along with neighboring communities. The same areas will also be marketed for attendance. The West Cambridge Park pavilion and grounds will serve as the venue for the art show. Food and entertainment will also be a part of the event.

We hope that you will look favorably upon this event. Should you have any questions, you can ask me. As you know, the park is getting ready to be constructed. The majority of the park will be in place in November, so we will very much be ready for holding our first event in April. What we are giving time for is our landscaping to mature and go through a blooming season. That's why we are targeted for April of 2004."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Thank you, so much."

NATALIE PARRAMORE

"Thanks. This is our formal letter of request and I will give you copies."

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto then recognized Ms. Paula Brooks of the Uptown Greenwood Development Corporation.

PAULA BROOKS

"Good evening and thank you for letting me make this presentation. I believe you are all familiar with me and these two events. I'll try to make it fast, but it's hard. The Uptown Greenwood Pro Cycling Challenge is one event that we're requesting funds for.

Last year we had the inaugural event which was a part of the South Carolina Heritage Cycling Series. It was structured last year that there were funds actually available from PRT to fund that event. The Uptown Greenwood Development Corporation took a leadership role in that, along with the City, to bring that event to Greenwood. It was a very

successful event. I know some Council Members were there, but I don't know if the rest of you were able to make it. The event included professional caliber world class athletes.

We had Olympians, Italian National Champions, Common Wealth Games Participants, World Title Contenders from United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Australia, and New Zealand that included teams from the U.S. Postal Service, which is a former Tour de France champion, Navigators, which include the US, Australia, and Olympic Champions, etc., which dominated American Cycling for several years.

The purpose for this event is for each region to showcase the Heritage Corridor. Greenwood was honored to be selected as the city to showcase our region. Like I said, the event was very successful. We've been given the opportunity of writing the first refusal to do the next event and we want to pursue that. We think this is an event that has tremendous potential for Greenwood, and we're asking for \$12,500 in Accommodations Tax Funds to help with this event.

Does anybody have any questions for this? I'm going fast, I'm sorry."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"That's okay."

PAULA BROOKS

"Okay. I'll move on. The other event that I'm here to request funds for is, of course, the Festival of Discovery. This was our third event this year, and we had one goal this year: to raise awareness of the heritage and cultural significance of festival events and activities. We accomplished that this year and we're very happy with the results. We had a unified theme in our marketing. We had traditional and folk artisans, crafters, musicians, and the barbecue and hash participants. The Index Journal did a great job in tying in the various heritage and cultural components. We did a series of radio interviews that also accomplished that goal.

We were also able to get grant funds from PRT. We changed around the layout of our event this year. Before, it had been a little bit disjointed, and the events were too far apart. We consolidated

into one area this year. We had a tented main stage area, and that was where we previewed all of our traditional and folk artisans. It was very well accepted by the public.

I think people finally got the message that it's about the culture, history, and all those things that have gone on the past in this area that will continue into the future.

We had a bigger offering on Friday night with a family emphasis. We had three Live After Five concerts. Despite the rain, we had a big crowd, even on Friday night. We were able to get our barbecue and hash contest sanctioned as a State Championship and that was a major incentive for teams to come from all over the Southeast. We had teams and judges that came from West Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Maryland. We had 29 teams this year which was a 60% increase from the previous year.

Some of our artisans included the Catawba Cultural Preservation Project. They had Native American dancing, drumming, and stories about Catawba Indian history and culture. We had the Tropical Island Players, Picking Partners starring Vernon Riddle, a master fiddler that was recently rewarded the Prestigious Gene Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award, and the WyO's from Brooklyn, New York. That day, lots of people came back to hear them because they were so popular. The Carolina Tune Croppers is a traditional four piece string band featuring fiddle, guitar, banjo, and bass. All of these were the focus of the heritage and cultural aspect of the festival.

We also had John Thompson, a Greenwood County Blacksmith from the Ornamental Iron Shop on hand. He did demonstrations throughout the day and had an ornamental iron display that he talked about to kids. The Museum was involved, and the Greenwood County Book Mobile showed up. We had our Rough House Hot Dog eating contest which had a dramatic increase in participants. Last year, they had 10 positions available and Wynn Ott had to call and beg people to be in it. This year, we had over 30 people calling and we had to draw the line.

There was a huge crowd for that, so it was a great success. There is one other thing that I wanted to let you know about. One of the teams that I asked to come and participate in the event was the Big Show. I don't know if you're familiar with the John Boy and Billy Big Show on Rock 101, but it's a syndicated radio show that comes out of Charlotte, North Carolina.

It's syndicated in 110 markets across 23 states. Audience numbers are approximately 2 million households in any average quarter hour, and their estimated listening audience is about 20 million people. Well, their team came and won in the Backyard contest. They were so excited, they had nothing but wonderfully positive things to say about Greenwood, and are already making plans to come back next year. An unexpected advantage that we got was, when they came back to the studio, John Boy and Billy did a live interview with them on the radio not just once, but about three or four times throughout that whole week about the contest, Greenwood, and the Festival. That really was a boost, and we're going to try and get John Boy and Billy to come next year.

We also had the Blues Cruise that was very successful this year. We had lots of good comments from people this year about that. I'm thinking, just like I said, we did a better job this year in getting the message out and people are really excited about the event. We're requesting \$12,500 for that event. Are there any questions? I know I'm going fast."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Can you track the attendance of people that came to the events? Did you see an increase in the Festival of Discovery as far as attendance?"

PAULA BROOKS

"The weather was a detractor. However, I spoke to our vendors and our carnival ride vendor, and we all agreed that on Friday night, a ton of people still came out. I mean, it rained like you would not believe that night, and people still came out about 30 minutes after that rain waiting for the performances. We had a great crowd so they all agreed, as I did, that if it hadn't rained, we would've had an astronomical crowd. Even with the rain, we had a great crowd. I would say it was even better than last year."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Okay."

PAULA BROOKS

"Are there any other questions? Thank you very much."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"I'm going to go down the list now since we heard from our two individuals who needed to go first."

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto then recognized Ann Craig representing the Arts Council.

ANNE CRAIG

"This year the Arts Council of Greenwood requested funds to match a grant the Arts Council received from the National Endowment for the Arts. We received word nine months ago that we have been accepted to received a grant from the National Endowment, but we needed to match that grant locally with a \$10,000. This Arts Council was only one of five in the State of South Carolina to receive a Challenge America Grant. We applied for a joint marketing program that would include all the cultural organizations in town, and we sought to increase exposure for those organizations and their events.

One of the various pieces that we proposed in the grant was 6,000 of the four color brochures; the booklet that has purple on the front. There is not one prior to that brochure that tells about each organization and gives contact information. There is not one single piece of print material that gave a complete directory of all cultural organizations in town, what they do, and how to be in contact with them. That's one piece of the grant.

In the second piece, there are two articles in the Sandlapper Magazine; one in the Spring and the other in the Fall. Both of those were paid by the Arts Council for a page layout. Again, all 17 cultural organizations were mentioned somehow in the article with pictures. The piece that we have just received is this that I'd like for you to look at. One thousand seven hundred of 'Arts Alive' were mailed out on Friday. We have another 1,800 of those to distribute locally. This magazine is a cultural event calendar. If you'll open to the center, you can see there is combined calendar information. So those are the major parts of this grant. Yet to come are some video public service announcements that we will be producing to air on TV.

The total work involved in the pieces that I've shown you is over \$22,000. We received \$10,000 from the National Endowment, and we've requested \$10,000 from accommodations tax. The Arts Council will be making up the rest. Do you have any questions?"

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto then recognized Mr. Bornneman and Mr. Cuda of The Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.

LEN BORNNEMAN

"Thank you, Ms. Hutto, and members of the City Council. We appreciate the chance to speak with you tonight, and we particularly appreciate the support that the Chamber has received in the past years in helping us promote the community and other community events. We will divide this into two pieces. We have two different requests, with all coming from the Chamber. Frank is going to talk about the Festival of Flowers. I want to speak to you about what the Chamber does, as far as reaching out and touching literally tens of thousands of visitors that are coming into this area every year.

We get about 10,000 hits per month on our Chamber website, but we also have printed materials that go out all over the State to help promote Greenwood and what we're doing. I noticed from the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee that we received \$25,000 last year, and that was our request this year. Maybe the best thing I can do is to tell you what we would probably not fund if we get the lower amount, and you all can decide if things need to be shifted around or whatever.

One of the things that we have done very successfully for the past five years is a community calendar. Every time we publish this, it has a historical piece or a piece featuring what Greenwood offers to visitors in the community. We have requested \$6,000 to distribute 8,000 of these per issue to all the walking centers, all the hotels in the area, and people that are coming to visit us. As they cross the borders, I use these things. We do, in fact, use 8,000 per time when we do this. If our \$10,000 request from the Tourism Committee is factored back, we would probably do two of these instead of three, and select a good time to do a 3 or 4 month segment. We have counted up some limited amount of County funding and your funding to do three issues of this. This would

probably be cut back a little bit, if we don't get the full funding.

One of the really important printed materials is this particular brochure. It goes into a brochure rack, and we go through 10,000 of these per year. This part fits nicely into an envelope, and we mail this out to people who request information that are contacting us by phone, or whatever, but this is a very key thing in promoting Greenwood.

It points out all the visitor attractions that we have here, and \$3,000 will go towards the printing of 10,000 of these to get us through the next year.

The other thing that we have requested from the Chamber side was assistance with the South Carolina Half Ironman Project. Mr. Vaughn was out there yesterday, and it was a rather exciting day. It started at pre-dawn and finished up about 4:00 in the afternoon. We had 268 athletes from 19 states visiting Greenwood. Our estimate is that it had at least \$150,000 impact just in one day, or overnight, on the Greenwood Community by them staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, and crashing after a very turbulent, grueling day. From the allocation, we would probably just go with a lesser budget compared to what we've asked for. Everything was to help with promoting the historic home tour of Greenwood Village and we would just reduce that budget as well, if we do not get the full funding. Our request is to have two printed materials that would go into promoting Greenwood County. Mr. Cuda is going to talk about the Festival of Flowers."

FRANK CUDA

"Thank you for giving me time to spend talking about the festival. I know you are aware that the festival has been going on for 36 years, and this is our 37<sup>th</sup> year coming up. We received wonderful support from you folks and we're requesting some help again.

We discovered that our ad in Southern Living Magazine is a big generator. We advertised in the Georgia and Florida editions that reaches 715,000 subscribers. Now in addition to that, there is a card in the back of Southern Living Magazine's entire subscription. That's 2,550,000 subscribers that have seen the card that says under South Carolina, 'The South Carolina Festival of Flowers'. They have requested information from us after this

thing came out. We sent out over 3,000 pieces of additional information that these people wanted. Since the festival is over, we're still getting requests for it. We received over 350 additional requests from these folks from this magazine.

Our website had 43,985 hits for April, May, and June this year. That's a big increase over the 36,000 that we had last year. We had nine billboards like these scattered throughout the State.

As a result of the ad plus the billboard that had our website address, it generated the increased number of people asking for additional information. We had billboards in Aiken, Anderson, Augusta, Pickens, Columbia, McCormick, Pottersville, and a couple on the outskirts of Greenwood.

We're also in need of brochure dollars. We printed 15,000 brochures that we scattered throughout the County and the City at the time of the festival, plus the nine welcome centers in this State. We had radio and TV spots on ESPN, CNN, HGTV, the Weather Channel, and things like that. Finally, 10 years ago, we started to put the banners up on the poles. I'm sure you all have seen them during the festival. Those banners are finally starting to go. I had six or seven banners that got ripped because of the weakness of the material during that period of time, and we're going to have to start replacing them.

Our total request was \$19,000 and, based on what I see on the board, we'll make an adjustment somewhere to where we can have a good fit. Finally, the economic impact for the festival this year, we measured about \$1,053,000. That's based on motel rooms for two weekends, and this is a conservative estimate. What it doesn't consider are the people that came in with campers that stayed overnight, and also the people that came and stayed with you and me during the festival. We don't have any way to measure those people in addition to what we've been able to calculate based on the formula that we received from the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism of the State.

Are there any questions? Thank you very much."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Thank you."

FRANK CUDA

"Oh, finally, one more thing. We have 1000 of these table tents. They were in all the restaurants and motel rooms during the festival weekend and it gave the schedule of all the events going on. It was another last minute impact to get people to go to the festival."

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto then recognized Ms. Gilchrist of the Greenwood Community Theater.

SHELLEY GILCHRIST

"Good evening. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Shelley Gilchrist, and I'm the newly board appointed Executive Director of the Greenwood Community Theater. We are in the process of doing some reorganization at the theater and, hopefully, we'll be doing business a little bit differently. We'll still need money for our marketing projects and productions of our plays. I respectfully submit this request, and monies that will be spent to subsidize the creation and printing of a color brochure. This an example of the one we had this year. We included a map to Greenwood and directions how to get there. We mentioned the Museum, the Festival of Flowers, and other interesting things about Greenwood. These were placed in all nine welcome centers, 12 area Chamber of Commerce, tour bus operators, and over 700 church groups in an 85 mile radius. I couldn't believe there were that many churches within 85 miles! We also sent them to resorts and communities such as Savannah Lakes, accommodation businesses in McCormick, Abbeville, Clinton, Laurens, Lexington, Columbia, Newberry, Dreher, Greenville, Edgefield, the Old Ninety Six Tourism Department, as well as the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. As you can imagine, postage for this brochure is expensive and needs to be paid.

We also have a payment of royalties for production. For this year, it totals \$25,635. The South Carolina Community Theater Festival will be at our theater this year in November. Several years ago, our theater went to Charleston to present our community theater offering, and we stayed in a hotel. Hopefully, people coming to our performance in Greenwood will stay in a hotel here as they deliver their performance. We continue to attract large tour groups from Greenville, Saluda,

McCormick, Newberry, Greer, Spartanburg, Lexington, Columbia, and Elberton, Georgia. Our first season production was 'Smoke on the Mountain', which was a grand success for the theater. We hope to follow up with 'Andrews Family Christmas', which is the sequel, and are already making reservations for that show.

With respect to 'heads on beds', we made an effort last year to take surveys from our theater goers. We had 6,727 attendees at our performances, and 27,000 completed the surveys. That's 40%.

We had 61% of Greenwood residents, and 21% were tourists over a 50 mile radius. We had 10 hotels benefitting with overnight guess and 90 hotel nights, so we made an effort to prove that we are reaching the tourism trade. We had sent about 8,000 brochures, and this is due once again to welcome centers, chambers of commerce, realty companies, and other theaters in South Carolina as well. Our printing for this brochure was \$8,600. Like I said, our royalties this year are upwards to \$25,000, and we hope to have a successful season and use this money wisely.

Are there any questions? Thank you, very much."

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto recognized Ms. Lyda Carroll of the Museum.

LYDA CARROLL

"Thank you very much for allowing each of us this time this evening to present our position concerning the allocation of accommodations tax. The Museum has been the recipient over the last several years of a considerable sum of money, and we appreciate that. Earlier this year, we were audited by the State, and there were no questions concerning how passed allocations to us were spent, so I'm very pleased to be able to give you that information and share with the group here this evening.

Your past support has allowed us to be awarded the '2002-2003 Attraction of the Year', by the Old Ninety Six Tourism Commission, and we are very proud of that. Without the help of the community and accommodations tax, it would not have been possible for us to come to that level. It also enabled us to open the Railroad Historical Center

on a regular schedule. It assisted us in extending our public hours during the Festival of Flowers and the Festival of Discovery.

It is unfortunate that we're here this evening competing for funds when the organizations and events compliment one another. The Festival of Flowers, the Festival of Discovery, and the Museum are very proud to be able to take part in events, and in taking part, we have to extend our public hours. All of these things impact our budget.

Of our 2003-2004 predicted budget, our income is down 30% because of the weak economy. We're all experiencing that. We face challenges to maintain our public hours and our high level of support to the educational community of Greenwood, as well as the tourism base. Continuing in a marketing partnership with South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, there's the advertising that were very successful this past year. We advertised in four major publications that are nationwide. We would like to be able to do that again during this next funding cycle. Demographics in that show us that a lot of our out of town visitors are coming to us from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. We want to target those areas that bring people into Greenwood and the region.

The Museum is not the only one benefitting from this. We found out, through our demographics and evaluating with the advertising company, we're targeting the decision maker. The decision maker tends to be the female head of household. We're trying to look at things through her eyes as it relates to why she would want to come to our community and bring her family to The Museum. We provide visibility for Greenwood through the association with the Association National Heritage Corridor, and I sit on the board for South Carolina Educational Television. We participate in state festivals, tourism partnerships, and meetings.

Right now, we find ourselves in a very delicate balance. We've scheduled an outstanding traveling exhibit in April and May of next year through the Smithsonian Institution. Our national parks system was captured in photographs by Stan Jorstad titled, 'These Rare Lands'. We expect this to draw a broad audience and provide other organizations opportunities to provide wrap around events; again, partnering together, not competing with one

another.

Right now, our lower level that has our textile history, non motorized transportation, Edison, Park Seed, horse drawn fire engine, and Cinderella Carriage is closed. Until we can address the dampness problems, we cannot open that again to the public. Greenwood County is stretched to the maximum. That's who we occupy the building from. Our facility is handicapped accessible, but does not meet ADA requirements. These are the things this year that we're going to have to personally address. With a cut in budget, I don't know how we can.

We had hoped to begin satellite locations in 2004 and move forward with our primary location as part of the master plan for Greenwood's town center. In the current economic climate, efforts will remain focused on the Railroad Historical Center and the primary Museum location of 106 Main Street, which we invite all of you to please come and visit.

Are there any questions? Thank you very much."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"I believe that concludes the people and the organizations that would like to make presentations. At this time, we will take this information to our next work session. When do we have to make our recommendations and submit them to the State?"

STEVEN BROWN

"If Council is prepared to take a vote tonight, it would be good. Once you approve these allocations, we could write the checks this week, and the agencies will have their funds. If Council wants to wait until October, you may do so. I would tell Council that the total funds available are \$24,000 less than last year. We think the economy has contributed to that reduction. We went back to the State and made sure that they had all the motels and hotels that are located inside of the City listed properly. Hopefully, the economy will get a little bit better, and we will realize some more funds next year.

The State law says that the first \$25,000 of these funds may be retained by the City. Of the remaining funds, 5% can be retained by the City, so that's \$28,580. Thirty percent of those remaining funds must go to an agency which has an ongoing tourism program. For the last number of years,

City Council has used the Chamber of Commerce to meet that section of the law. Then, the remaining 65% must be used for tourism related expenditures.

There is a lot of interest in the community from some of the hotel and motel owners and managers for the City and County Councils to consider increasing the accommodations tax from 2% to 4%, and using that additional 2% to begin a valid tourism visitors bureau which would be staffed. You would have people who would have the full time responsibility of attracting events, organizations, and meetings. I think the potential is just unlimited. We have three lakes surrounding us, and good sports facilities.

We have a lot of opportunities, but these agencies that have appeared before you tonight have such little funding, they can't do this work themselves. If the City and the County can come together and consider increasing this, I would think it should be both inside the City and the County. If someone assumes this responsibility, I think you would see the amounts of monies and attractions that we can bring into Greenwood increase considerably."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Well, one thing I have noticed is a lot of the cost is in actual publication and printing of individual brochures for each individual location. There seems to be some duplication, especially with the Chamber, if you look at the calender of events and things like that. Carroll brought out an excellent concept of partnershiping with these organizations and events so that there may be some way to consolidate some of the calendars and brochures into one. I don't know if you can handle all of it under one brochure, but in some way make a more consolidated effort of presenting Greenwood as a whole, instead of piece meal. I don't know if that's feasible or possible, but if there was a tourism director and that tourism office was funded, the responsibility of advising for these events and activities could be consolidated under one, and possibly, in the long term, save money and give each organization their ability to concentrate on what they do best. I don't know if that's possible."

STEVEN BROWN

"I think that can be discussed when you consider this increased funding."

MAYOR PRO TEM

"Okay. But that is a separate issue from what we

HUTTO

have on the table right now. So at the present, do we have a motion to accept the allocations for the accommodations tax money as proposed?"

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

"All those in favor? All those opposed?"

Those voting in favor were Johnny Williams and Herbert Vaughn. Those voting against were Barbara Turnburke, Niki Hutto, and Betty Boles. Linda Edwards abstained.

The motion did not pass.

LINDA EDWARDS

"I still have some questions and they are really questions I don't think we need to discuss here, but need to be done in a work session."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Do I have a motion that we review the recommendations made by the committee at the work session scheduled for the first Monday in October?"

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

"All those in favor? All those opposed?"

Motion passed unanimously.

"But when do we actually have to make a submission to the State so we can give them their money in a timely basis?"

STEVEN BROWN

"If Council would take action at the October meeting, we'll be okay."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Now, can we take action on this at the October work session, or do we have to do it here?"

STEVEN BROWN

"It would have to be the regular meeting in October."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Okay."

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RECOGNIZE

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the seventh item and recognized Mr. Craft.

Mr. Wayne Craft  
of the Greenwood  
Toros' Soccer  
Club.

WAYNE CRAFT

"Ms. Hutto and City Council, I'm appearing this evening on behalf of the Greenwood Toros Soccer Club. I would like to introduce as well, Johnny McElhaney, the president of our club.

We began working approximately 60 days ago with School District 50 about the field by the Old Greenwood High School. We have been granted permission to use it, which I have a copy of agreement to Mr. Brown's Office. We were under the impression that this whole area off Phoenix Street back to the City Shop, with the exception of the City parking lot, is still under the jurisdiction of School District 50. We found out subsequently later that this section, which is part of the old baseball field, was deeded back to the City several years ago when it was abandoned.

We got permission to use the other part of the facility, and we would like to get permission to use the green area, which is the old baseball field, to make as much room available for our club. We have approximately 12 teams with 140 youths that are participating. We are growing slowly but surely over the last 22 years. We have been in existence since 1981. My youngest daughter has played with the Toros for six years. She's been playing soccer since she was 4 and she is now 14. Soccer is the fastest growing American youth sport in this country. We're fortunate again to have the Women's World Cup this year in the United States. It was supposed to be in China, but because of SARS, it was moved here by FECA Government Organizations of the World. This is what's attracting kids now at play.

Land is not cheap, and we have been fortunate in the past that Greenwood Mills, a church, or something like that has allowed us to use their areas. But now, as they're kind of landlocked,

they're selling off property. We got to the point now where we have no place or no grass for these kids to play. This is a great opportunity, and a 'win win' situation.

The agreement that we have with the School District is we told them that we would maintain the facilities. They told us they would continue to bushhog their property. If we needed any closer cutting, we would have to do it, in which we have no problem. There were a couple of stipulations. One was that we provide evidence of insurance, which we do. Johnny has a copy of the certificate that we're in the process of getting issued to the School District now. It's a \$1 million liability insurance policy. In order to be licensed or registered with the South Carolina Youth Soccer Association, you have to have this insurance. South Carolina Youth Soccer has to have insurance with the United States Youth Soccer, which has to have it through the US Soccer Association, and United Soccer Federation. So you see, it goes all the way back up to FECA, which is the governing organization of the world.

The other stipulation was that the parents of players must sign waivers holding arms to the school district in the acts of an injury. Again, that is no problem. Also, they asked if another group wanted to use the facility, would we have any objection, and we told them 'No.', as long as a mutual agreement can be work out by all parties. So for instance, and I know that Mr. Williams and Mr. Vaughn wanted to have a softball tournament here, if things can be worked out, we have no problem with them using that area. It's a big enough area for them to do that, and we would ask them at the same time to provide us the same notice of insurance and liability protection for our benefit as well.

We feel that we can get the football field itself and put what is called a U14 and a U19 field. It's a full size regulation field; the same size as Lander University. In this area (pointing), Johnny and I half way staked it off parallel to the football field. On a wider stretch, we can put a Youth 13 field in the area. Where the concession stand is, we can put a smaller field in there. We have just started something with the Toros this year. We have opened up small-sided teams which are kids under the age of 10. Johnny said there

are 36 youths participating, so in the next couple of years, those kids will be kicking into here (pointing at the larger field).

Statewide, there are approximately 80+ clubs. Greenwood is a smaller club. Greenville probably has 1600 kids participating in their clubs. We have played games here in Greenwood, Greenville, Columbia, Spartanburg, and we're traveling to Aiken, here, there, and everywhere. We can bring the same people here, if we have the facilities. That's the one thing that's land locking us right now. The YMCA has been very generous to let us use the facility for games, but they have their programs as well, so we're looking for a home. Land is not cheap, and we know that. We do have some funds we have been raising for 20+ years that we might be able to get 2 acres of land out it.

In order to have the proper facility, it takes time, money, and effort, and we're working on it. We're doing this strictly for the kids. That's the basis of my presentation.

Like I said, Mr. Brown does have the proposed agreement we have with the school district in his possession. Hopefully, y'all can seek favor. The only other thing that's in the agreement is we asked the school district to continue the lease on their property for the purpose of applying to the US Soccer Association for grants and field improvement and development. Y'all may be aware that area is not lighted. It costs money to put lights up, and those grants are out there. Those grants can give anywhere from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to a club. I'm not going to say that we're gonna get \$100,000, but grant applications would look more favorable if there's some type of lease agreement in there. I know there's probably concern that we're asking you to do a year-to-year type thing. A ten year thing is no bigger deal; it's the same as the school district. At any point in time someone can come in here and say, 'I want to buy this property.'. The only thing that we're asking the school district, and I know it's not an option with y'all, is give us first right of refusal to match or exceed the offer of the property.

Mr. Brown has informed me that the field was deeded back to the City from the School District for the purpose for expanding the City Shop. I know that it's not a possibility that we can buy that

property because of that future need, but you never know. At some point in time, the City might say, 'Well, we don't want to do that. We're going to move the City Shop elsewhere.' You never know what the future may hold.

Are there any other questions that I may answer?"

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Mr. Brown, has the City Attorney reviewed the documentation from the School District?"

STEVEN BROWN

"If you would allow me to do so, I will make a statement. I do not anticipate the City having an immediate need for this property. Some of the Council Members will remember that sometime in the past, when Greenwood High School was located on the South end, Mr. Babb asked City Council to deed some property to the school so he could construct a baseball field.

When this property was being marketed by School District 50, we asked for the School Board to give us our property back. I think not only did they give us the three or four acres that the City gave to the School District, but I think they also added an additional acre. It was done to allow us the flexibility to have some room to expand. The only thing that we have constructed on the property at this time is a parking lot for our employees.

I would like for them to respond to you, as far as how they are going to provide safety for children when they're there. There should be a stipulation that if the City has a need for this property, we will be able to use it. You don't know what's going to happen in the future. We'd probably need some input in the improvements that's put on the property. There is some storm drainage in and around that property, and certainly we would want the right to at least review what they're doing to make sure that there's no damage to any of our infrastructure that may be under the ground."

WAYNE CRAFT

"Again, that will not be a problem. It's the same type thing we have with the School District. Any improvements that we do, we'd have to get their approval. As far as security, I speculate that we'd want to go with the fencing area that stops on the other side of the old field house. You'd probably want to go back around Fair Street, primarily just as a buffer. If you put a field this way (pointing at layout), hopefully there

won't be enough air on the ball that it would go over where the water tower is, but the fencing would stop it. There's a natural growth barrier this way (pointing), and there's fencing already here. It's in bad shape and needs to be improved over time, but again, you can't just snap your fingers and it's there. As far as putting any permanent fixtures on City property, I would foresee us as putting two light poles here on the School District property and two light poles on this side (pointing). We can space and light this area, and you need back lights to light this area here for practice (pointing). The main field used for games would be the football field itself, which we can set up as a U14 field. We can service the children up to U19. We can remark it and so forth if we need two fields. If Ms. Hutto's child's team has a game and Mr. Williams grandchildren's team have a game, we'll have two games slotted in the same location. We can work that out where we can have two or three games going at the same time."

STEVEN BROWN

"I personally think some activity in this area may be good. The School District is doing a superb job, compared to what has been done in the past, on keeping it cut and cleaned. I think some activity there would be real good. I would even recommend City Council entertain giving them permission after hours to use our parking lot for some of their participants to park. It would give them a good place that's off the road. We will prepare a formal proposal to you at the October meeting."

BETTY BOLES

"I just have one clarification from this presentation. When you say parents waiver..?"

WAYNE CRAFT

"Yes, ma'am. I'm a parent of a child that plays. I would sign a waiver stating that I wouldn't hold the City of Greenwood, nor School District 50, totally harmless in case of any accident. I understand the fact that my child is out there. If I have fully walked the property and Mr. Brown has told me about the storm drain, which I'm sure that there's probably a manhole cover, if that cover flips over and my child falls down there, I'm on my own. I understand what's going on. My child would be hurt, but I can't hold the City liable for it. The City has done everything they can do, and I've done everything I can to keep my child safe. Accidents happen. Again my child has been playing for 10 years. She's had a broken foot, hand, and right now, a bruised toe. She's had sprained

fingers, a bloody nose, and the list can go on and on. No matter what you do in any sport, you're going to get hurt and our parents realize that. We already signed the acknowledgment on the medical release forms that every player has to have. I'm a team manager for my daughter's team. The head coach and I have the authority of treatment for that child. If Ms. Hutto's child was on my daughter's team, and she couldn't go to the game in Greenville, I have the authority to give her child medical care instead of her child laying on the field hurt until she gets there. It's also the same thing with any of the other clubs. They all have to have this same insurance coverage that insures all the clubs in South Carolina all the way back up to the World Organization. In order for us to be licensed and affiliated with the World Organization, you can't play without it. They would not let you. You can't just pop up and say, 'I want to have a soccer club and play against the Greenwood Toros.' It doesn't work that way."

STEVEN BROWN

"We will bring that back to you at the next meeting."

WAYNE CRAFT

"Thank you."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Thank you."

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RECOGNIZE

Mayor Pro Tem Hutto read the last item's title, and recognized Mr. Peel.

Mr. David Peel of  
221 Jennings  
Avenue.

DAVID PEEL

"Good evening, Mrs. Hutto, and members of the City Council. I want to follow up on several statements made in a previous meeting. Then I want to talk about leadership in government. I plan to address the leadership in government issue in several meetings beginning tonight and continuing in the future until I complete the series. I will keep this as brief as possible.

During the last public hearing, the Mayor stated that I did not present any evidence to support my previous statement. He also invited me to his office to resolve some of these issues. I did

visit the Mayor and we did discuss some of these issues. I asked the Mayor to address two specific issues with members of City Council. I hope that you have discussed these issues, and I await a response from you. My visit to the Mayor's office was an attempt on my part to minimize the discussion in this public hearing. Until I get a response, I will proceed to present evidence to support my previous statements made to this Council. I expect this will take several meetings and lots of time.

I also provided a copy of my two previous presentations to the Mayor. I requested that he and members of the City Council, review them for content and accuracy. I offer these documents because of the negative response from some of the members of this Council. I asked that if you find an occasion where I have personally attacked any member of this City Council, I will stand corrected and apologize.

However, I think you will find that I questioned I challenged, criticized your decisions, actions, lack of action, or failure to provide clear answers to my request. I have not attacked you personally. I've used facts and quotes made in this chamber or in conversation with members of City Council by documents made available to the public at large. However, with due humility, I want to apologize to any member of this Council that I may have offended. Also in the spirit of being heard, and this being a public hearing, I want to continue to voice my concern, my ideas, and my challenges to this Council. I hope that you can accept my comments in the spirit that they're offered. This is and I hope will continue to be a forum that citizens can come to be heard.

Concerning the statement made to me by the Mayor in the meeting that I had not presented any evidence to support my statements. I want to explain the timeline of events and present evidence that lead me to make several statements to this Council in the previous meetings. The following comments were made to this Council on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All of you were present except Mrs. Boles. I asked that you serve as evidence this document was read in this chamber: 'On 1/13 the City was made aware of problems on 218 Jennings.' The response from the City was weak or nonexistent until 2/22/03 when a gas line ruptured

at 218 Jennings Avenue presenting a very dangerous situation to the residents and neighbors. City Manager Brown assured us that he would take care of this problem. He said that he was familiar with this type problem. On 2/24/03, the City Engineer assessed the situation at 218 Jennings Avenue. On 2/25/03, the City Manager stated he would take care of this problem, but was going to take a little time to decide how. On 2/26/03, the City Attorney, McCravy, drafted a letter stating that the City would not take care of the problem at 218 Jennings Avenue. The City Attorney has not issued another letter stating otherwise since that day, 2/26/03. City Manager Brown addressed this Council on that day when this was read. These facts that I just read to you were read in this chamber.

City Manager Brown addressed this Council on this date, March 3, 2003. This information was presented and stated (this is not a quote but this is a paraphrase of what Mr. Brown said), 'Everything she said is correct.

As your City Manager, I warn you that if you take care of this house, we will set the precedent and must repair any house with this problem in the future.' This supports my statements and I offer this as evidence. On 6/18/03, there was a prelitigation settlement conference and the City was represented by Council. At that meeting, the City denied ownership of the drainpipe. Also the City was told that litigation would follow if the pipe was not fixed immediately. On 7/1, the suite was filed. On 7/4/03, the Index Journal read a quote from the City Attorney, McCravy, that said 'The City offered to replace the waterline at its own expense,' he said referring to the City Attorney, 'but the Poore's declined.' The three important elements of this quote is: one, the City infers it, and they take responsibility for the drainpipe if they offer to repair it."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Mr. Peel?"

DAVID PEEL

"Yes, Ma'am?"

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"May I ask one question?"

DAVID PEEL

"Yes."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "You understand that, because of the litigation, we are unable to speak about any matters relating to the lawsuit. What you are discussing are matters that relate to that lawsuit, so we cannot respond to you in the nature that you want us to, unfortunately. If you would like for us to respond to another issue that you have, we'd be happy to do so, but in essence we cannot respond."

DAVID PEEL "I understand what you just said, but I don't understand why you cannot respond because these accusations were made in public to me. Last month, the Mayor said I did not present evidence, now I'm here to present that. I went to his office to present evidence. I do not want to present that here, but until I get a response from this City Council, I have no other alternative. These statements were made."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "But I don't know how we can respond to you."

DAVID PEEL "You can say that you made those statements or did not make those statements."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "Well, I have not been privy to the statements that were made to you in the time you met with the Mayor, so I have no indication of what was said. So unfortunately I, nor Council, cannot respond to your request, unfortunately."

DAVID PEEL "I would like to continue. As this being a public hearing, I would like to continue."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "Yes sir. And as we stated, we have a limited amount of time, and we really cannot respond to you."

DAVID PEEL "Can I at least follow-up on the comment that the Mayor made last meeting and present the evidence? I take it when he made that statement to me, he wanted me to present that evidence."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "Present what evidence, sir?"

DAVID PEEL "The evidence that the statements I made in my previous presentation were true and that they are supported by fact."

MAYOR PRO TEM HUTTO "Unfortunately, this is not a trial of law or an evidentiary hearing. I'm at a loss of how we can

answer you, Mr. Peel."

DAVID PEEL

"I'm not asking for an answer from you."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"You just want us to listen?"

DAVID PEEL

"I just want to be heard."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"Fine. Go ahead."

DAVID PEEL

"The second thing that is important about this statement is the residents at 218 Jennings Avenue never refused the City. They insisted on at least two occasions in writing, and in numerous times in person, that the City fix the pipe immediately. The City Attorney statement is not true. The third important element of this is you allowed this statement to stand knowing you have stated on numerous occasions that the City is not responsible and will not repair the pipe. This evidence supports the following statements I made to this Council in previous meetings. City Manager Brown said he would fix the pipe, but did not.

City Manager Brown admits that he made these statements to the residents at 218 Jennings Avenue, but did not produce on his promise, and the City Attorney stated that the City offered to repair the pipe, but residents refused. I hope you will accept this response as factual and support it by sound evidence.

Now, I want to talk about leadership in government. The style of the leadership that allowed us to grow and develop in the past is not the type of leadership we need to continue into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Specifically, communication is of paramount importance. Communication must be open and honest. Anything less than full disclosure is unacceptable. You have not shared information concerning the storm drain problem to the level that it deserves. Also there is a question: 'What information is withheld from City taxpayers?' We clearly understand the issue concerning national security, personnel issues, and the importance of safeguarding this kind of information. We don't understand why the position the City takes on storm pipe ownership and repair is so important that it must be guarded and not shared with the citizens of the City.

I asked the City Council to be more forthcoming with information that directly affects the citizens of this City. I ask that you be more forthcoming when citizens ask for clarification on these kinds of issues. I ask that this public hearing forum be just that...public and heard. I ask that you not become defensive. You are public officials and some criticisms should be expected. I asked that you not become argumentative. Public opinion should be welcomed. It takes some courage for citizens to prepare presentations and present it to this Council. The very last thing that we want is for you to undermine and refuse to validate what we feel, what we think, and what we believe to be right. I ask that you not attack the speaker in a public hearing, but rather ask that you listen emphatically and listen to understand.

Now, some examples of this undesirable communication are these...this happened to me right after a public hearing last week. I want to respond in the same fashion that it was offered to me. On 8/18/03 immediately following the public hearing, I approached Mr. Williams to confirm the comment he made to me during my presentation.

I understand he said, 'I've had it with you criticizing the City Manager.' Mr. Williams' remark during my presentation is an example of poor leadership. I don't think a citizen in a public hearing should be subjected to this kind of remark from a City official. This is a public hearing and we want to be heard, not attacked. This behavior is condescending on the part of Mr. Williams. I don't think it's appropriate in this forum.

On 8/18/03, immediately following my conversation with Mr. Williams, Mr. Vaughn wanted to engage me in conversation. He wanted to clarify his question to me during my presentation. Mr. Vaughn interrupted me to ask me, or he stated, 'Mr. Peel, are you an engineer?' During that conversation with Mr. Vaughn, he wanted to know what kind of engineer I was. If Mr. Vaughn is interested in my resume, I will gladly provide him one. My profession has little to do with the presentation I was making. You don't have to be an engineer to understand what is happening to my neighborhood. He proceeded to make some off color remark about a B-52 engineer and inserted profanity into his statement. I asked him not to use profanity, and he apologized for his remarks. I appreciated his

apology. However he went on the attack after his apology. He accused me of badmouthing the City Council and accused me of being unprofessional. He was in a very agitated state when making these comments. I was making notes as he continued. This appeared to inflame him even more. He commented, '...and you can take all the notes you want.' His behavior is very condescending toward me. This conversation ended for the most part. I walked away and he followed. He made several condescending, but insignificant, remarks that I did not respond to and several gestures of disgust to include facial expressions, grunting sounds, and other inappropriate body language. I ignored him. It seems odd that Mr. Vaughn would accused me of being unprofessional. This is an example of no leadership on the part of Mr. Vaughn. He lost his composure and he said things that were inappropriate in any form. And personally, I detest when someone treats me in a patronizing manner.

The kind of leadership that we need to move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is not practiced within the City Council.

I suggest that the taxpayers and the voters of Greenwood City will learn about and become familiar with your leadership, or the lack thereof, before the next election. I think we will be heard at the polls. Heard without interruption and without verbal attack. Thank you."

MAYOR PRO TEM  
HUTTO

"This concludes this meeting of City Council. Is there a motion to adjourn?"

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

"All those in favor?"

Motion was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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Floyd Nicholson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk and Treasurer