

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

January 27, 2003 - 5:33 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting in the Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Nicholson at 5:33p.m., and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The City Manager, Steven Brown, gave the invocation.

Statement and
Quorum

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

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

A Request for the City
to Issue a Quit Claim
Deed for an Unopened
Alleyway between
Plowden and
Alexander Avenues.

The Mayor said, "The first part of our meeting involves a public hearing. The format that we employ in the public hearings 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 three or four minutes."

The Mayor then read the first item and asked, "Is there anyone here to speak in favor of this request? If you look on the overhead, it will give you a picture of where this property is located. It's really an alleyway between Plowden and Alexander Avenues. Is there anyone opposed?"

LEONARD SMITH

"I'm Leonard Smith, the President and Chairman of the Greenwood Sertoma Foundation. We have the building that used to be called the Wise Penny and St. Nicholas. The building was built in 1979, and we really need the alleyway to stay open because it is used for parking on the side.

We also have the Safety Kids Seats, the foundation from the hospital with a grant for about \$50,000 to buy car seats and give them to people who can't afford them, and they use this building to train people how to install them. They had to put up an awning at the back of the building so that, in covert weather, they can pull in behind the building and be out of the rain. So that's why we're opposed to having it closed because we really need it for access to our building. Thank you."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay. Thank you. Are there any others?"

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Yes sir, Mr. Brown?"

STEVEN BROWN

"We have a letter from the Commissioners of Public Works stating that there are utility lines overhead and underground, and have asked City Council to consider denying this request."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay."

RICHARD BOWIE

"Mr. Mayor?"

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Come to the microphone sir."

RICHARD BOWIE

"I'm Richard Bowie, one of the owners of property on Plowden Avenue. My first concern was, some of my help were denied being able to park over on this area. I guess what I want to know is, if it's going to be left open, maintained, repaved, or kept up, because I got growth behind my building. There's no way CPW, or anybody else, can go through that.

Basically, all I wanted was accessible parking, if it wasn't being used for anything. If it's going to be kept up, paved, or the bushes, trees, and shrubs cut down, was my main concern. I was going to try to initially use this as a park, not a freeway. I don't need it from one end to the other and, as it is, no one can go from one end to the other. They can go a partial way, but I just thought if I can get access to it and use it for parking, it would be all the better."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay, you want to get it maintained by getting some of the bushes cut through there so that you would be able to utilize it for parking?"

RICHARD BOWIE

"I would just assume that, if you would maintain it and if it was

ever paved, would deny us from being able to park there. Like I say, my side of the alleyway that goes back 50 feet from the road is different from everybody else. CPW is certainly not coming through there, or anybody else. I just wanted to claim my partial area so that I wouldn't have any conflict with my neighbors about parking close to my building. That was all I have to say about that. As far as the whole road, I didn't initially have any concern; just that area adjacent to my property. I'd like to be able to utilize it, if at all possible, somehow or another."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Okay."

RICHARD BOWIE

"Thank you."

STEVEN BROWN

"Mr. Mayor, we don't own this alleyway and we don't maintain it. We would only begin to maintain it at the direction of City Council. We have alleyways like this all over the City, and I certainly think it would be cost prohibitive for us to start paving alleyways. If it is closed, I am recommending the entire alleyway be closed. If it remains open, I am recommending that the entire alleyway be open.

There's nothing I know of that would prohibit any property owner from clearing any kind of trees, shrubs, or bushes in that alleyway and using it to access their properties. Certainly if the City were to receive that alleyway and maintain it, we would have to keep it open, and there could not be any parking in there."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Right. So right now I think it would be up to the individual property owner to keep up the property behind that building."

STEVEN BROWN

"I think there was a disagreement with his neighbor. The neighbor thought that it was his property, when it's actually not. It is in an unopened alleyway and, as long as he parks on his side of it, I don't see any problem with it at this time."

MAYOR NICHOLSON

"Right. Okay. Is there anyone else to speak in the public hearing? Okay, seeing and hearing none, we will close the public hearing. Now, we will move into the business part of our meeting."

There being no further business, the public hearing was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Floyd Nicholson, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk and Treasurer