

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

November 17, 2014 - 5:33 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT Council Members: Mayor D. Welborn Adams, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, Johnny Williams, and Ronnie Ables. City Manager Charles Barrineau, Assistant City Manager Julia Wilkie, and City/County Planning Director Phil Lindler; Brian King of GwdToday.com and Colin Riddle of the Index Journal.

Niki Hutto entered the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

ABSENT City Clerk Steffanie Dorn

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Adams called the meeting in Council Chambers to order at 5:33 p.m.

The invocation was given by City Manager Charles Barrineau.

STATEMENT AND QUORUM Mayor Adams 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."

City Manager Charles Barrineau confirmed that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Mayor Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

Niki Hutto entered the meeting at 5:40 p.m. and did not vote.

RECOGNIZE

Stacey Thompson,
Director of the
Museum and
Railroad
Historical
Center.

Under Public Appearances, Museum and Railroad Historical Center Director Stacey Thompson reviewed the history of the railroad depot that was once located in Uptown Greenwood. She then updated Council on the four bidding cycles for the Railroad Historical Center.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Kenn Wiltshire commented that he supports the museum but wanted to know how the money for operations will be used after everything is demolished. Stacy informed him that there will be no demolition next year. The idea would be to build the train depot replica and then demolish the Palmetto Bank building. She learned that the center will need two people there at all times to keep it open for tours. City Manager Barrineau anticipates a great difference once the trains are painted. He suggests that it may be best to invest in the house demolition for better visibility. Mayor Adams noted that it is a project that Greenwood County can help with.

Stacy confirmed to Councilor Betty Boles that she met with the County Manager regarding funding. They are supportive of the renovation more so than the long term operation. She will follow-up with County Council now that Greenwood County has a new hospitality tax.

City Manager Barrineau received confirmation from Stacy that \$360,000 will be needed for the total abatement of railroad cars. The bids were tabulated for piece meal of the interior and exterior of railroad cars. The engine and outside of the executive diner car can affordably be repaired now. She clarified that the funding set aside by City Council for grant funding will abate all the asbestos from every train.

Councilor Niki Hutto inquired of the paint application for the interior and exterior in Phase 1. Stacy stated that the trains cannot be opened until the lead paint is lifted and cars are repainted.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 14-020 Providing for the Issuance and Sale from Time to Time of One or More Series of Combined Public Utility System Revenue Bonds of the City of Greenwood, South Carolina, in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not Exceeding Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000); and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

(2nd reading)

Under Public Hearings, City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the Revenue Bond Ordinance for the Commissioners of Public Works (CPW).

No one spoke for or against CPW Bond Ordinance.

There was no discussion from Council.

A motion to approve the Ordinance No. 14-020 was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

-Ordinance No. 14-020 is Located in Vault-

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 14-026 Amending Ordinance No. 03-010, Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 3, Article 4, Industrial District Regulations, Sections 3.4.2. LIW (Light Industrial, Warehousing & Heavy Commercial), 3.4.3. HI (Heavy Industrial), 3.4.1.2. Conditional Uses Allowed in All Industrial Districts, and Article 2, Residential District Regulations, Section 3.2.2.4., Accessory Uses Allowed in All Residential District.

City Manager Charles Barrineau recognized City/County Planning Director Phil Lindler who discussed the Planning Commission's request to modify the zoning ordinance to allow for both solar panels as an accessory use in residential zones as well as an individual use as a solar farm in industrial zoning districts. City of Greenwood staff requested this ordinance in light of potential changes to State Law that would allow for more flexibility of individuals to develop solar energy independently of a public facility. He also approached the City Building Official, Fire Department, and CPW for their opinions.

DISCUSSION:

City Manager confirmed to Councilor Boles that no requests have been made for solar farms yet and Phil Lindler will send her illustrations.

Councilor Hutto inquired why the City/County Planning Commission is presenting this request ahead of time other than establishing the setback and screening for panels. City Manager Barrineau noted that solar farms were discussed as a potential use at the former Greenwood Mill site and residents were concerned of visibility. He added that there is no rush to act on this ordinance but requests may be coming soon.

Councilor Wiltshire inquired if residents with solar panels could sell excess capacity back to CPW. Councilor Hutto asked if solar energy has been discussed at the CPW. CPW Manager Steve Reeves answered no, but stated that they are conducting a trial at their Operations Center.

(1st reading)

A motion to table the proposed ordinance for more information was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTER Under New Business, City Manager Barrineau recognized
Oath of Office. Municipal Court Administrative Judge Lee Miller who gave
the Oath of Office to newly re-elected officials:

Mayor D. Welborn Adams
Linda M. Edwards, Ward 2
Kenn F. Wiltshire, Ward 4
Ronnie Ables, Ward 6
Henry O. Watts, Commissioner of Public Works

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau reminded Council that a new Mayor
Pro Tempore is appointed every election year. Linda
Edwards recommended Kenn Wiltshire to serve a two year
Appointment of term as Mayor Pro Tempore. Ronnie Ables nominated Johnny
Mayor Pro Williams because he never missed a meeting and is always
Tempore for Two on time. City Manager Barrineau noted that Council has
Year Term. historically tried to keep a rotation for everyone to
serve and Kenn Wiltshire's Ward 4 has not served as Mayor
Pro Tempore for at least 12 years.

A motion for Kenn Wiltshire to serve a two year term as
Mayor Pro Tempore was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by
Niki Hutto.

Those who voted in favor were Mayor Adams, Niki Hutto,
Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Johnny Williams, and Ronnie
Ables. Kenn Wiltshire abstained due to conflict of
interest.

The motion passed 6-0.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 14-022 Amending Ordinance 12-006 to Amend Participation by the City of Greenwood in the Costs of Health Insurance for Eligible Employees Retiring after December 31, 2011.

(1st reading)

City Manger Barrineau reminded Council of the multiple tiers that include the 100% program which was continued forward after December 2011. Before that, the City had tiered programs for 50% and 75%. These ordinances were written for the City to spend up to \$590 for retiree health insurance starting 2012. As health insurance has increased, the City has continued to pay the additional amount.

The City's Actuary recommended, if the City was to pay the full amount for these retirees, then the monetary amount must be removed. Ordinances 12-021 and 12-022 basically removed the reference of a monetary figure.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Adams confirmed that these ordinances haven't changed anything but just removed the numbers.

A motion to Amend Ordinance 12-006 was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 14-021 Amending Ordinance 12-005 to Amend Participation by the City of Greenwood in the Costs of Health Insurance for Eligible Employees Retiring after December 31, 2008 and before January 2012.

(1st reading)

City Manager Barrineau reminded Council of the multiple tiers for retiree health insurance programs. This proposed ordinance removed the amount of service years for tiers 2 and 3. He noted that this ordinance is very similar as prior to January 2012 when the City had employees who qualified for 50% and 75% coverage. There are still retirees on the City's health insurance but the City is removing the monetary amount from the ordinance.

A motion to amend Ordinance 12-005 was made by Ronnie Ables, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No.
14-027 Amending
Ordinance 08-051
to Amend the
Definition of
Eligible
Retiree, Health
Insurance
Program Implicit
Rate Subsidy and
Group 1.

(1st reading)

City Manager Barrineau gave a history of the retiree health insurance program that was offered January 1, 2000. When the recession came in 2008 & 2009, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board stated that the City had to set aside funds for every employee and the costs jumped 150%. In 2012, the City eliminated the 50% and 75% tiers to reduce costs. The annual costs continued to increase and are now approaching 30% so staff has recommended this proposed ordinance to eliminate the insurance benefit for new employees hired after January 1, 2015. He noted that all current employees are still eligible for the retiree insurance program, but staff may make changes in the future as costs continue to rise.

A motion to amend Ordinance 08-051 was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No.
14-023 to
Authorize the
City Manager to
Issue CPW
Revenue Bond
Anticipation
Notes in 2015.

(1st reading)

City Manager Barrineau reminded Council that this is an annual Ordinance for approval if CPW needs to borrow funds to purchase natural gas. He also noted that Council will not be asked to approve a similar tax anticipation note for the City because staff believes the City is in good financial standings and will not need it for next year.

A motion to authorize the City Manager to issue CPW revenue bond anticipation notes in 2015 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Ronnie Ables.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No.
14-024 to Adopt
the Budget for
2015.

(1st reading)

City Manager Barrineau informed Council that the budget is balanced at \$14,400,734 in the General Fund. The budget also includes Victims Services, Accommodations Tax, and Hospitality Tax budgets for their consideration. He did note that there were no changes since the November work session. There were no property tax increases this year despite significantly underfunded allocations from the State Legislature in the Local Government Fund. He also noted that any proposed changes can be discussed at the December work session. If approved by Council, this ordinance will have a public hearing on Monday, December 15, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Boles was concerned of the significant salary increase for the Captains and Lieutenants in the Police Department and wanted to know if the City Manager will measure the performance for other employees to get salary increases. City Manager admitted that employee evaluations have been lacking in some departments due to the recession. He noted that a compensation study can be used and the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) offers an annual compensation study as well. He usually compares the City of Greenwood salaries to similar cities such as Anderson and others in the region.

Councilor Linda Edwards commented that there will always be someone making more money than another even in across-the-board raises. She is concerned with supervisors not recommending raises for their workers. City Manager Barrineau noted that pay increases are given when employees gain experience. He did note that there are some management level positions where the pay remained flat except for cost of living pay increases.

Councilor Johnny Williams disagreed with giving an 8½% and 4% increase to some and only 2% to others because he didn't think it's fair.

Councilor Hutto noted that, due to the economy, the City had to let go of some employees but can now afford a pay increase in certain areas without raising taxes. She thinks Council needs to review each department and adjust with an organized plan for pay increases to help improve morale and education that may take three or four years. Councilor Edwards and Mayor Adams agreed that it's not Council's job to do evaluations but to review the budget and control spending.

Councilor Ronnie Ables stated that Council should be more involved in the budget. Councilor Williams reminded Council that department heads used to present their budget requests to them in the past and now this is a mess. Mayor Adams disagrees and acknowledged that this is a good budget.

Councilor Kenn Wiltshire noted that the City must also be competitive with private industry.

A motion to adopt the budget for 2015 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Niki Hutto.

Those who voted in favor were Mayor Adams, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, and Ronnie Ables. Johnny Williams voted against.

The motion passed.

CONSIDER

City Manager Barrineau informed Council that the tax rate will remain the same at 103.7 mills.

Ordinance No. 14-025 to Levy Tax for the City of Greenwood for 2015.

A motion to levy tax for the City of Greenwood for 2015 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Niki Hutto.

(1st reading)

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

City Manager Barrineau informed Council that gift cards was budgeted for this year but must be approved by resolution at increments of \$50 for full-time employees employed at the City for over one year and \$25 for those under a year.

Resolution No. 14-010 Authorizing Christmas Gifts for City Employees.

A motion to authorize Christmas gifts for City employees was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau informed Council that the City received a letter from the Governor rewarding a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Riley, Magnolia, and Phoenix streetscape project. This is 13th Uptown City Center Master Plan Project with the City's partnership with the CPW, Greenwood Metro, and Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant Award for Riley, Magnolia, and Phoenix Streets, and Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Grant Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

A motion to accept the CDBG award and authorize the City Manager to sign a grant agreement with the South Carolina Department of Commerce was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau informed Council that Greenwood County requested the City to collect their Hospitality Tax starting January 1, 2015.

Authorizing Mayor to Sign an Intergovernmental Services Agreement with the County of Greenwood for Collection of Hospitality Tax.

A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign an Intergovernmental Service Agreement with the County of Greenwood for the collection of hospitality taxes was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Ronnie Ables.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau recommended the City to receive 60% of Festival of Flowers sponsorship funds to pay for topiary maintenance. The original reimbursement agreement was to not exceed \$18,000. The City's net will remain neutral for practical purposes.

Consider Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Topiary Management and Maintenance Agreement with the Festival of Flowers.

A motion to authorize the City Manager to sign a Topiary Management and Maintenance Agreement with the Festival of Flowers was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau confirmed that Kathy Nave Felder and Sheila Reynolds want to continue serving on the City/County Planning Commission.

Reappointing
Kathy Nave
Felder and
Sheila Reynolds
to the
Greenwood
City/County
Planning
Commission.

A motion to reappoint Kathy Nave Felder and Sheila Reynolds to the City/County Planning Commission was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER
COMMENTS City Manager Charles Barrineau commended both City and CPW employees for their hard work in putting up Christmas lights throughout Uptown. He also informed Council of improvements within City Hall starting with the Police Department in the basement.

He reminded Council of:

- December 16th Arts, Museum, and Theatre Christmas Dinner at the Federal Building from 5 - 7 p.m.
- December 17th Public Works staff Christmas lunch at the Federal Building at noon.
- The EPA Cleanup Grant application for the Mill site. The consultant is recommending that the City issue a request for an RFP to developers where the City will advertise this site for potential sale to build a multi-mixed residential and commercial use. There may be some or no interest at all, but the City has the right to see if there is any interest in redevelopment and not act upon it.

He then showed a two minute video paid by and showcasing Uptown Merchants.

CITY COUNCIL There were no comments at this time.
COMMENTS

CONSIDER City Manager Charles Barrineau requested Council to enter into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter that will require action.

Executive
Session to
Discuss a Legal
Matter.

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 6:44 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

CONSIDER

City Manager Charles Barrineau requested Council's permission to resolve a dispute at 324 Wade Avenue.

Authorizing the City Attorney and City Manager to Seek a Resolution to Dispute at 324 Wade Avenue.

A motion to authorize the City Attorney and City Manger to seek a resolution to the dispute at 324 Wade Avenue was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Betty Boles.

Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

D. Welborn Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer