



REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
7:00 P.M.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

Councilmember Nicole Singletary Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby
Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott
Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr. Councilmember Tony Whitlock
Councilmember Richard Cook

STAFF

Shawn Bell Lenessa Hawkins Cherline Wolf
Cynthia Mallette John Kelly, Jr. Ricky Sims

OTHERS

Louis Grooms Teresa Benjamin Sheila Elliott
Lauren Stanton Gloria Tisdale Vicki Liebers
Mindy Spires-Miller

The City Council Meeting agenda was mailed or emailed to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr. gave the Invocation. Councilmember Nicole Singletary led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Cherline Wolf polled the Council and found a quorum present.

I. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

Mayor Anderson requested a motion to adopt the Agenda as published.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook to adopt the agenda as published. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Mayor Anderson stated that Item II is for approval of the Regular City Council Meeting held on February 9, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott to approve Minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting held on February 9, 2016.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Anderson stated that the next item is Citizens Comments which are limited to two minutes per person and no personal or verbal attacks will be entertained. The Council is interested in hearing your concerns, but speakers should not expect Council action or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the Public Comment Period. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the City Administrator and may be scheduled for a future agenda.

Ms. Valerie said she has a few questions and concerns regarding a meeting that was held this week for the Public Works jobs. A lot of employees have questions and concerns. The first is what is going to happen to the City Public Works employees as far as their health insurance, retirement, etc. Another question is when will the City employees start their transition to Waste Management jobs being that July is approaching. She asked how much of their tax dollars will be used to pay for the Waste Management services. Overall, how will the new changes for Waste Management be beneficial to all of the citizens of Lake City. She asked Mayor Anderson what is his short term and long term goals for Lake City.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Update on the Police Department (Jeff Johnson, Interim Chief)

Shawn introduced the Interim Police Chief, Jeff Johnson.

Chief Johnson said he has been with the Florence County Sheriff's Office for twenty-three years. He said he is the Interim Police Chief for about 4 ½ more months. He

started working at the Sheriff's Office in the Jail and worked his way up to Patrol, from Patrol to Criminal Investigations and from there to Narcotics where he spent the majority of his career. Eight years ago he moved to training and that is where he is stationed at this particular time other than helping Lake City. He is the Training Lieutenant and handles all the training for the Sheriff's Office. He added that he is responsible for 130 employees. Back in January, he was approached about coming to Lake City to help out since the Chief decided to leave. It was an honor to be asked to come and bring the skills that he has and try to apply them to Lake City. Since he has been here, he has been working on restructuring the department. He said he changed the way they do some patrol issues where there will be more people present for the citizens. He said he is in the process of purging the system now because it is like a business. You have things that come in and things that need to go out. It can't stay here on and on. This includes property evidence and things of that nature. They have been cleaning up and this has been a group effort. Jeff said that he has had 100% support from the Police Department. Everybody is pulling their weight and helping out to give back to the citizens. This is the citizens' Police Department and they are trying to make it better for them. He said he wants to make sure the Police Department is doing their job so they can deter crime. The citizens have the right to be able to be in their house or yard and go places in the community without having to look over their shoulder and worry about something happening to them. This is not a perfect world but they are doing the best they can with what they have. Chief Johnson said a lot of things he will be implementing over the next couple of months should make Lake City better. Not only for the department but for the people in the community. They have made some changes with the telephone system. A lot of people are still trying to call the Police Department when they need help. It is very important that if someone needs help that they call 911 and then everything will be dispatched back to the County and then to the officers.

V. LEGISLATIVE

A. ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance 2016.419 – Second Reading

Shawn stated that Ordinance 2016.419 adopts the amended boundaries of municipal district lines from which members of the City Council of the City of Lake City, South Carolina are to be elected; and other matters related thereto.

This Ordinance will amend the boundaries that they talked about last month at the work session where they had the cartographer from the State of South Carolina at the meeting.

He stated that after each census, municipalities should consider amending the boundaries of their council district lines to ensure that equal numbers of voters can vote for proportionally equal numbers of officials. They discussed the deviation amongst the boundaries. After they redid the boundary lines, there were minimal changes. The benchmark plan is on the wall. Plan #1 shows the changes where they will take some voters from Councilmember Crosby's district and move those to Councilmember Singletary's district. They will also take voters from Councilmember Whitlock's district and move those to Councilmember Scott's district. They are doing this for the upcoming election in November. If someone was to challenge the election, it would be held up in court as being legally valid.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr. to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2016.419 adopting the amended boundaries of municipal district lines from which members of the City Council of the City of Lake City, South Carolina are to be elected; and other matters related thereto. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy is enclosed and made part of the minutes.

Councilmember Cook asked if the property off of Morris Street on the Country Club Road has been cleared up. Shawn said the County collects the taxes for the City so that isn't a City function. He said he will have to investigate that further. If it was a City function, it would be easier to check on.

VI. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

A. FORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL

1. Report No. 6-2016: Action Requested

Shawn stated that Report No. 6-2016 is for Approval of Baseball/Softball Uniforms Bid. The City does this annually. The City's Parks and Recreation Department solicited bids for baseball/softball uniforms for the upcoming Spring 2016 season. Bid packages were mailed on February 15 and the deadline to receive proposals was February 29 at 12 p.m. The City received bids from All-Star Sports for \$9,352.09, T & T Sports for \$11,412.17, AD Star for \$8,854.20, and Pirates T-Shirts Plus submitted a "No bid". While AD Star out of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania was the lowest bid, it was only lower by \$497.00. The City's Bid Committee feels compelled to keep the tax dollars in Florence County whenever possible. The Parks and Recreation Department has used All-Star Sports previously and has been very satisfied. If there is an issue with the jerseys and they need to be returned, there isn't any issues. The Parks and

Recreation Department felt if they had to return jerseys back to Pittsburgh, there could be an issue with shipping which could be costly and also prove untimely. The Bid Committee recommended awarding the baseball/softball bid to All-Star Sports out of Florence in the amount of \$9,352.09.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott to approve Report No. 6-2016 awarding the baseball/softball bid to All-Star Sports in the amount of \$9,352.09. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy of the bid is enclosed and made part of the minutes.

2. Report No. 7-2016 – Information Only

Shawn stated that the City of Lake City will hold a Public Meeting on March 22 in the Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to give an opportunity to become acquainted with the proposed Rural Development Project consisting generally of system wide water meter replacement, Daniels Road water line, SCADA system for wells and tanks, and a sewer system rehab. The citizens will have the opportunity to comment on items such as economic, environmental impacts, service area, and alternatives to the project. This is a required public hearing and this is for the \$5 million loan that the City requested from USDA Rural Development. The bulk of the project is for the water meter replacement project that they have been talking about for years. This will allow for all the water meters to be read by radio frequency off of the water towers. It will allow for SCADA on the wells and tanks and sewer rehab and the Daniels Road water line extension. The meeting will be a stand-alone Public Hearing but if they have additional items they may need to have approved, they may have this as a special called meeting.

3. Report No. 8-2016 – Action Requested

This is for approval of Martha Law Park backstop bid. The City's Parks and Recreation Department received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism for a backstop at Martha Law Park. The State Grant is for a little more than \$4,300 and the City's match must be at \$1,000 for a total of \$5,300. Bid packages were mailed to multiple fencing companies and the City received two bids; one from Watford Fencing for \$6,530.00 and Sam Hill for \$11,000.00. The Bid Committee recommended awarding the Martha Law Park backstop bid to Watford Fencing in the amount of \$6,530.00.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Wilhelmena Scott to approve Report No. 8-2016 awarding the Martha Law Park backstop bid to

Watford Fencing in the amount of \$6,530.00. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy of the bid is enclosed and made part of the minutes.

B. INFORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL

Shawn said there were none.

C. APPROVAL OF BILLS

1. March, 2016 Bill List

Shawn asked Mayor and Council to approve the March Bill List items 1 – 17.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to approve bills 1 – 17. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy of the bills is enclosed and made part of the minutes.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to appoint Teresa Benjamin as City Clerk when Cherline Wolf retires. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Teresa Benjamin thanked Mayor and Council. She said she welcomed the opportunity and will work hard for them. She said they won't be disappointed.

VIII. CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Tony Whitlock – He thanked everyone for coming out. He said he appreciates their attendance and support.

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott – She said that it is good to see everyone at the meeting.

- She said she looks forward to her Crime Watch meeting for next month.
- She congratulated Teresa Benjamin and welcomed her to Lake City.

Mayor Pro Tem Billy H. Brown, Jr. – He said he appreciates Ms. Wolf and stated that he will miss her.

- He welcomed Ms. Benjamin to Lake City.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby – She thanked everyone for coming out.

- She thanked Valerie for her concerns and comments.
- She welcomed Ms. Benjamin.
- She said there are many stop signs down. There is one on the corner of Scott, Adams, and Carver. She asked them to patrol the area and monitor those signs.
- She thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Councilmember Nicole Singletary – She thanked Valerie for her concerns. She welcomed Ms. Benjamin.

- She said that she will miss Cherline.
- She said District #1 will have their Crime Watch meeting on March 14 at the Community Center in the Projects. The meeting will start at 6:30. She asked everyone to mark their calendars.

Councilmember Richard Cook – He thanked Cherline for the number of years that she has been with the City. He said he appreciates her work and stated when he first got on Council, that she helped him a lot and still does. He welcomed Ms. Benjamin to the City of Lake City.

- He said he has a Crime Watch meeting Monday night and asked Chief Johnson to come. This is for Districts 5 and 6 and they will meet at the Lake City Fire Department at 6:30 p.m.

IX. Mayor's Report –He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He said he appreciates what the City staff has been doing. He thanked Chief Johnson for coming. He thanked Cynthia for the Recreation Program. He asked Cynthia to tell him about the games they will have Saturday.

- Cynthia said they have two teams that will be going to State this week. The 10 and under went undefeated and will travel to Mauldin. They will play at 10:00 Saturday morning. The 12 and under are the Eastern District Runners-up. They will travel to Columbia Saturday morning and will play at 9:30 a.m.

- Mayor Anderson said a few weeks ago they had their Pioneer Awards which is the Annual Fundraiser for the Lake City Boys and Girls Club. He thanked the Committee for making that a success. They had four Pioneer Awards: Floyd Keels, Marilyn Singletary, Dr. Tyrone Wallace, and Wilbur Brown. They are very deserving individuals.
- He reminded everyone that there is an event at the High School. This is the Fund Raiser and the proceeds will go to St. Jude's.
- He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- He welcomed Pastor Elliott from Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.