

**Special Call Council Meeting
City Council Chambers
231 East Hayne Street
Monday, June 15, 2015
5:30 p.m.**

(These minutes are subject to approval at the June 30, 2015 City Council Meeting)

City Council met this date with all members present except for Councilperson Kennedy, Councilperson Durham and Councilperson Norman. City Manager Stephanie Tillerson, City Attorney Terry Clark and City Clerk Cameron Fant were also in attendance. Notice of the meeting was faxed to the media the week prior to the meeting and posted on the bulletin board at City Hall in advance according to the Freedom of Information Act.

- I. **Call to Order** –The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenneth E. Gist at approximately 5:30 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes**– None
- III. **First Reading – To Provide for the Adoption of an Ordinance Authorizing the Borrowing by the City of Woodruff, South Carolina, of not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes and license fees for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.** Mayor Gist called Kimberly Witherspoon, an attorney with Haynes Sinkler Boyd, P.A. to the Floor. Witherspoon took the Floor and informed Council that this Ordinance was for a Tax Anticipation Note to borrow \$400,000 at an interest rate of 3% and it would be thru April 30th 2016. Witherspoon said if this Ordinance is passed then this would go to bid and the terms would then be further discussed. Next City Manager Tillerson took the Floor and reminded Council that the City had used a Tax Anticipation Note in the past. Tillerson said that due to the USDA loan/grant the sewer funds that had previously been used to help cash flow would not be available and the TAN was required. Tillerson said that many municipalities used the TANs to help with cash flow until tax and business license revenues start coming in. After that Tillerson answered a couple various questions from Council. Next Mayor Gist asked for a Motion to Provide for the Adoption of an Ordinance Authorizing the Borrowing by the City of Woodruff, South Carolina, of not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes and license fees for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (first reading). A Motion was made by Councilperson Sloan and a Second was made by Councilperson Arnold. The Vote to Provide for the Adoption of an Ordinance Authorizing the Borrowing by the City of Woodruff, South Carolina, of not exceeding Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000) in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes and license fees for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (first reading) passed unanimous.

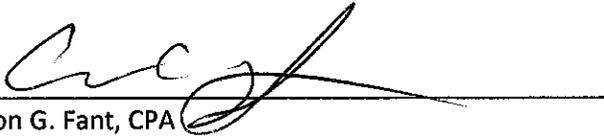
IV. **Public Hearing** – At approximately 5:39 Mayor Gist asked for a Motion to enter into Public Hearing. The Motion was made by Councilperson Smith and the Second was made by Councilperson Sloan. The Vote to enter into Public Hearing was unanimous.

- A. To Provide for the Adoption of an Ordinance to Amend Section 8-3-2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Woodruff pertaining to Stopping, Standing or Parking a Vehicle on a sidewalk.** Mayor Gist called City Attorney Terry Clark to the Floor. Clark reminded Council that South Carolina already had a state statute but it required the police officer to actually see the driver park illegally. Clark said that this new Ordinance provides that the owner of the vehicle be liable for the ticket and the police officer would not be required to see the driver park the vehicle. Clark said that the fine would be \$25 for this ticket. Clark said it was his understanding that the Police Chief was going to hand out flyers and issue warnings on the first offense to give the citizens time to get adjusted to this Ordinance. After that Mayor Gist opened the Floor to the Public. Robert Hix of 298 Edgewood Circle Woodruff, SC took the Floor. Mr. Hix asked if this Ordinance would cover trash cans that people leave on the sidewalk. City Manager Tillerson said no it wouldn't that the trash cans would fall under code department enforcement. After that Geraldine Simmons of 313 Allen Street Woodruff, SC took the Floor and asked how much the fine would be and who would pay the fine. Clark answered and said the fine would be \$25 and if the officer actually seen the driver park the vehicle he could give the driver the ticket and if the officer didn't see the driver park the vehicle the ticket would go to the owner of the vehicle. After that Mario Smith of 615 N. Main Street Woodruff, SC took the Floor and asked if the Police would notify the public and if the Police would issue warnings. Clark answered and said it was his understanding that Chief Bledsoe was going to hand out flyers to the public and give a 30 day grace period to help people get adjusted to the new law.
- B. To Provide for the Adoption of a City Operating Budget, Its Execution and Effects, for the Fiscal Period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.** Mayor Gist called City Manager Stephanie Tillerson to the Floor. Tillerson informed Council that at this time Council had a balanced budget that had a surplus built into the budget. Tillerson said this budget included dissolving two departments, the building inspector and code department and taking two positions downs to part time. After that Mayor Gist opened the Floor to the Public. Robert Hix of 298 Edgewood Circle Woodruff, SC took the Floor. Mr. Hix asked who would take care of building inspections and would we still have building codes. City Manager Tillerson said that Spartanburg County would handle the building inspections and the codes would still be the same. After that Geraldine Simmons of 313 Allen Street Woodruff, SC took the Floor and asked if we privatize the building inspections and code enforcement if that would save the City money. Tillerson answered and said it would.
- C. To Provide for the Adoption of a Millage Rate, Its Execution and Effects, for the Fiscal Period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.** Mayor Gist called City Manager Stephanie Tillerson to the Floor. Tillerson said the Millage Rate for fiscal year 2015/2016 would be increased from 103 mills to 111 mills. Tillerson said that this would be the first increase in the last five years. Tillerson reminded Council that back in fiscal year 2002/2003 the Millage Rate was 121.4 mills. Tillerson said that if a citizen had a house that was appraised by the County at \$100,000 the millage increase would cost that citizen approximately a \$32 increase on the property tax bill. After that Mayor Gist opened the Floor to the Public. Robert Hix of 298 Edgewood Circle Woodruff, SC took the Floor. Mr. Hix and made the comment that he is worried the tax increase might put some of the public in a financial bind. After that Geraldine Simmons of 313 Allen Street Woodruff, SC took the Floor and asked how much of an increase the City was asking for. Tillerson answered and said it would be an increase of 8 mills. After that Mario Smith of 615 N. Main Street Woodruff, SC took the Floor and asked how the millage rate worked.

Tillerson answered the question by going thru an example of a house appraised by the county of having a value of \$100,000.

At approximately 6:06 Mayor Gist asked for a Motion to come out of Public Hearing. A Motion was made by Councilperson Smith and a Second made by Councilperson Sloan. The Vote to come out of Public Hearing was unanimous. At approximately 6:07 Mayor Gist asked for a Motion to go back into the Special Call Council Meeting. A Motion was made by Councilperson Smith and a Second made by Councilperson Sloan. The Vote to go back into the Special Call Council Meeting was unanimous.

- V. **Adjourn-** At approximately 6:08 Mayor Gist asked for a Motion to adjourn the Special Call Council Meeting. Councilperson Smith made the Motion and it was followed by a Second from Councilperson Sloan. The Vote to Adjourn was unanimous.



Cameron G. Fant, CPA
Finance Director/Clerk to Council
City of Woodruff