

WOODRUFF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2009
6:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Woodruff City Council was held on Monday, January 26, 2009 beginning with a Public Hearing for the Creation of the Housing and Construction Board of Appeals. No one signed the sheet to Speak at this portion of the public hearing.

Next on the agenda for the Public Hearing was the Ordinance appointing Membership of the Board of Housing and Construction. Members (Jim Hyatt, Mr. Dan Frey has retired so an application was given to his son James; Jody Lamb could not be present because his father is in the hospital. Ted Harrison was a previous member and Vincent Smith was appointed in October. This is first reading and council will have a special meeting for the final reading. Council member Arnold asked city attorney Clark if they needed to be reappointed and was told yes. There were no other comments.

The Public Hearing Ordinance to Amend the Property Maintenance Code was then discussed. This change allowed citizens to appeal to the Board of Housing and Construction instead of city council. There were no comments.

With no further comments the public hearing was closed.

The regular meeting of the Woodruff City Council was called to order. Members of Council present were: Mayor Brad Burnett; Mayor Pro-tem Mattie Norman; council members Tony Kennedy, Kenneth Gist, James Smith and Buddy Arnold. Also present were Interim City Manager, Herb Thompson; Clerk Treasurer, Beverley Maddox, City Attorney Terry Clark.

Rev Deborah Williams of Lanford Grove Holiness Church, lead the group in a brief devotional.

Mr. Stephen Steese, City Manager starting February 16, 2009 was introduced to everyone.

Minutes of the December 29, 2008 Council meeting were passed un-animously on a motion by Council member Smith and a second by

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Council member Gist.

Minutes of the January 13, 2009 Special Meeting were passed as written on a motion by Council member Arnold and a second by Council member Gist.

It was decided by council to have their 2009-2010 Planning Session at Appalachian Council of Governments in Greenville on February 21, 2009 beginning at 9:00 until 1:00 p.m.

Laura Ponder made a presentation of the Tourism Convention Visitor Bureau. This involved the request for SC Visitors Bureau's request For Hospitality Tax to create a strategy plan for county. The PRT has 8 regions in the state. These funds are to help create awareness, visibility and get funding, marketing to sell Spartanburg County. This would create a calendar of events, press releases, festival brochures, newsletters. Create a sense of place by partnering with colleges, businesses and hospitals. She is requesting a portion of the hospitality taxes collected for the City of Woodruff be donated. Ms. Ponder was requested to send a proposal for council to have on hand at the Budget Planning Session. City money would only be spent on things related to your municipality.

Liz Marcellano, Chairman of the PRT Committee was next on the agenda to discuss the committee's Rules and Procedures presented to council a few months ago. The committee deleted Article VII and added Article Five. Mayor Burnett remarked that the Article refers to you as a spending Committee but you don't have to add this to your committee. The manager and council approve spending the funds in the city budget and the City Manager signs off on all invoices. Ms. Marcellano requested that Darrell Lancaster be removed from the Committee roster and he has been sent a letter but the committee has received no response.

Next on the agenda was a correction statement from Mayor Burnett. He had thought that 2 people on the Planning Commission were no longer participating since they had moved outside the city limits. (Mr. David Thomas and Mr. Stephen Teague) These members of the Commission are still active until their terms expire this year. Mayor Burnett apologized for the error in his statement.

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The request of Ms. Barbara Sandels to be appointed to the Planning Commission was next on the agenda. After a brief interview, Council member Gist made a motion to appoint Ms. Sandels to the Planning Commission. Council member Smith made a second to the motion and the vote was unanimous. The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held February 10, 2009 to elect officers. Mr. David Thomas said that Mr. Teague was co-chairman and should be moved up to Chairman. Mayor Burnett stated he was on that committee and did not remember Mr. Teague being elected to that position. He said council would check into it and have the city manager give Mr. Thomas a call.

Mr. Charles Hornack, Foothills Renovation Company, was next on the agenda. Mr. Hornack reported that he had been contacted about some property he owned in the city that needed cleaning up/grass cut/etc. He was told that the city would pick up the debris when he cleaned up. He was notified about October. I finally got in touch with the street department and they told me things had to be separated. Mr. Hornack received a ticket in the mail this month that the work had not been done. I tried to rehab my houses and I get slapped in the face every turn. I did what the city told me to do and I was given a ticket. The city removed the metal and left the trash. I was also billed for the city picking up the stuff. I pay taxes for them to pick up the trash. This complaint was taken as information since Mr. Hornack is awaiting court date.

A request for an amendment to the agenda to allow James Frey to be on the agenda. A motion was made by Council member Smith to amend the agenda with a second made by Council member Gist. Vote was unanimous.

The appointment of Mr. James Frey to the Board of Housing & Construction was discussed by council. Mr. Dan Frey had previously been on the board but has retired and due to his age did not wish to continue to serve on the board. Council member Gist made a motion to appoint Mr. James Frey to the Board of Housing and Construction. Council member Smith second the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The second reading of the Rental Property Registration was next on the

agenda. Mr. Doles reported that no had signed up to speak at the public hearing and his department was ready to send out applications. Council member Arnold made the motion to accept this on second and final reading. Council member Kennedy made a second to the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The Budget Ordinance Amendment to bring forward the \$14,450 that had not been moved to the 2008-2009 Budget for the Timrod Library. A motion was made by Council member Arnold to accept this on second reading with council Member Gist making a second to the motion. The vote was unanimous.

First reading of an Ordinance creating the Housing and Construction Board of Appeals was next on the agenda. A motion was made by Council Member Gist to create the Housing & Construction Board of Appeals. Council member Smith made the second and the vote was unanimous.

An Ordinance to appoint the membership of the Housing and Construction Board of Appeals and repeal the Housing Board of Appeals was passed as written on first reading by a motion by Council member Kennedy and a second by Council member Arnold. The vote was unanimous.

A Ordinance amending the Property Maintenance Code establishing an Appeals Process was passed as written on a motion by Council member Arnold and second by Council member Kennedy. The vote was unanimous.

An Ordinance to amend Section 1-6-7 of Woodruff Code of Laws regarding Fines to bring the City of Woodruff in line with state law was passed unanimously as written, on a motion by Mayor Pro-tem Norman with a second by Council member Smith.

A Special Meeting will be held Monday, February 9, 2009 for the second readings of some of these ordinances.

A request from TSS LLC regarding John Green was passed unanimously on a motion by Council member Gist with Council member Kennedy making a second to the motion.

The Manager's Report was discussed next. Switzer Mt Zion Church Was requesting to close Main Street for their Community Day for all of Woodruff from E Georgia Street to Hayne Street beginning at Noon on May 16, 2009. Mr. Thompson stated this might be a problem and further information would be needed.

Ms. Karen Davies was requesting to have a Revolutionary War Parade starting at new Woodruff Community Center, going down S Main Street and ending at First Citizen Bank. It will start at 4:30 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2009. On April 18th there will be Story Telling at the Library and City Hall. This will involve children who will go down the sidewalks with the police stopping traffic at the intersections. Council was in full agreement.

Mr. Herb Thompson, Interim City Manager told council that he was working on the budget and was looking into paying of the TIF Bond and saving the interest rate or looking to refinance to get a better rate. He asked that some of the money be used to do cosmetic changes to city hall. He planned to report back to council at the next meeting. Mr. Thompson reported that some of the departments were over their Budget. He and the department heads are looking line item by line Item. The city has 45% remaining in revenues. If you take the TIF out (\$81,000) per year, 45% is not a true picture. In some departments not enough money was appropriated in the budget to begin with. Sewer department lift station should go 10-15 years in good shape since it was just repaired.

Council requested that all department heads come to COG on February 21 to present their department budget requests. Council member Arnold asked if the departments were overspending or had they had emergencies. Mr. Thompson said yes, both. Mayor Pro-tem Norman reported that the Police Department was doing an excellent job in fighting the war on drugs.

Mayor Burnett reported that he had met with the School today and another set of problems has come up. This will be addressed at a later date.

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Mayor Burnett asked about the question concerning the clean up ordinance. Mr. Doles said that Mr. Hornack had requested a jury trial so that's why it cannot be discussed nor the appeal on the ticket.

The department reports were in the packets. Mr. Doles reported that the Building Inspection Department had received a Palmetto Pride Grant for \$1,000 to be used to purchase equipment. Mayor Pro-tem Norman attended lunch on January 21, 2009 when the check was received.

The Palmetto Pride Campaign is to be held April 20-25, 2009. Mr. Doles stated he wants the city to provide 4 trash containers for people to use and promote the clean up in town.

Mr. Kenneth Thompson was then recognized. He only had 30 days left to correct his code violation. He stated the ordinance allowed him 30 days but he needs more time. I have had a license contractor to fix the exterior. Mr. Thompson said he would need at least 90 more days to clean up and do the interior. Mr. Thompson was allowed 30 days for the exterior and 60 days for the interior on a motion by Council member Kennedy and a second by Council member Smith. The vote was unanimous.

Demolition of property inside the city was discussed by Building Inspector Doles. Mr. Doles said to attach the cost of demolition to property tax and apply to any QSI cost set up software and landfill fees will be the biggest expense. We have 6 properties that need to be demolished. The demo materials can be recycled to recover some cost. No action was taken.

Attorney Clark said that some demo cost was provided for in the Budget.

The next scheduled council meeting will be February 23, 2009.

With no further discussion, council member Smith made a motion to adjourn. Council member Kennedy made a second to the motion and the vote was unanimous.