

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
MANNING CITY COUNCIL**

Monday March 16, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Johnson
Mayor Pro-tem Gordon
Councilmember Georgia
Councilmember Pack
Councilmember Welle
Councilmember Witherspoon

Members Absent-

E=Excused/U=Unexcused:

Councilmember Davis- **E**

I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks: Mayor Johnson welcomed all present and stated that the media was notified. Mayor Johnson acknowledged the following:

News Media: Cathy Gilbert, *Manning Times*

Bobby Baker, *The Item*

Others: James Zimmerman, Manning Zoning Board of Appeals

Larry Williamson, Manning Zoning Board of Appeals

Mrs. Dawn Griffith, Executive Director, Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Louis Griffith, CFO/Executive V.P., Bank of Clarendon

II. Invocation: Mayor Johnson

III. Pledge: Councilmember Diane D. Georgia.

IV. Approval of Agenda:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

V. Minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, February 16, 2009.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

VI. Citizens' Comments: None.

VII. Committee Reports: None.

VIII. Mayor's Report: Included in Council's packet as information. Mayor Johnson stated that he had attended a meeting in Washington, DC concerning stimulus funding for the City of Manning. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that he met with Congressman James E. Clyburn and his staff and left information concerning the various projects that the city would like to begin under the stimulus funding and asked for their support. Mayor Johnson noted that most of the funding is in the form of competitive grants and that the city would apply for the funds. Mayor Johnson stated that he also discussed funding for the parking lot behind the businesses on North Brooks Street, infrastructure towards Paxville, and help with broadband infrastructure. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that the Municipal Association has scheduled a press conference on March 17, 2009 at noon on the State House steps concerning the proposed cuts to the local government and the Municipal Association's request that the funds be restored. Mayor Johnson asked Council to attend, if possible, to show their support.

IX. Public Presentation:

**SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department.....Thomas Stabler
Business Development Specialist,
SC Vocational Rehabilitation**

Mr. Stabler thanked Council for allowing him to make his presentation. Mr. Stabler stated that the mission of the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) is to help South Carolinians who are disabled to find and maintain competitive employment. Mr. Stabler stated that the organization also helps employers with their disabled personnel. Services offered through SCVRD are:

- 1) Job retention- Assists employees with anxiety, depression, physical disability or drug or alcohol abuse get help and stay on the job at the same time.
- 2) Rehabilitation facilities- These facilities are free to the employee and employer.
- 3) IT Training Centers.
- 4) Work Training Centers- There are 23 community-based centers that offer a cost-effective outsource alternative to businesses and also give their clients first-hand work experience.

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Mr. Stabler stated that they need work from the community to help the disabled obtain employment. Following, Mayor Johnson stated that he receives the newsletter that is published by the rehabilitation department. Mayor Johnson thanked Mr. Stabler for his presentation and encouraged the media to publish the services provided by the SCVRD.

X. Public Hearing:

A petition for annexation of property owned by Manning Educational Association, Inc. (Lawrence Manning Academy), Tax Map Numbers 170-00-04-011-00 and 170-00-04-013-00 along with a portion of South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) right-of-way of South Carolina Highway S-14-23 (Old Georgetown Road).

Mayor Johnson stated that the Planning Commission had met and recommended that Council approve the annexation of the property and the right-of-way. Mayor Johnson asked those in favor or against the proposed annexation to please come forward and complete the sign in sheet. No one came forward. Mayor Johnson brought the Public Hearing to close.

XI. Finance Director's Report:

Finance Report for the month ending February, 2009

General Fund Unrestricted:	\$1,944,613
Total Unrestricted GF	\$1,944,613
General Fund Restricted:	\$ 123,162
Total Restricted GF	\$ 123,162
Interest Earned (GF):	\$ 1,529
Utility Fund Unrestricted:	\$ 1,119,049
Total Unrestricted UF	\$ 1,119,049
Utility Fund Restricted/Reserved:	\$1,098,058
Total Restricted/Reserve UF	\$1,098,058
Interest Earned (UF)	\$ 1,110
Special Fund:	\$ 47,997
Total Special Fund	\$ 47,997

We are 8 months into the budget year which is 66% with a remainder of 34%.

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REVENUE

	<u>YTD Collected</u>	<u>Percent Collected</u>
YTD GF Revenue	\$2,015,557	60%
YTD UF Revenue	\$1,407,426	72%

EXPENDITURES

General Fund

	<u>YTD Spent</u>	<u>Percent Spent</u>
Legislative	\$ 37,784	58%
Judicial	\$ 52,568	54%
Administration	\$ 290,019	63%
Non-Departmental	\$ 261,407	147%
Police	\$ 790,945	68%
Fire	\$ 320,679	68%
Street	\$ 557,733	62%
YTD GF	\$2,326,989	69%

Utility Fund

	<u>YTD Spent</u>	<u>Percent Spent</u>
Utility Fund	\$1,246,088	64%

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XII. Administrator's Report:

- 1) **Update on the Audit Reports-** Bound copies of the completed reports for the Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2005, June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007 have been distributed to Council. The auditor is currently working on the audit for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008.
- 2) **Uncollectable Debt-** A list of uncollectible debt for the Utility Fund from 2004 was distributed to Council. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the auditor had recommended that Council write-off the debt yearly. Mrs. Rhodes asked Council to review the list, bring questions to the next Council Meeting, and to vote on this issue.
- 3) **Budget-** Mrs. Rhodes asked Council if they would like to see the full budget with each department's request or the final budget. Mayor Johnson stated that Council had indicated that they would like to see what each department is asking for before it is finalized so that they are aware of their needs.
- 4) **Public Works Buildings-** The closing on this property occurred at the end of February. Mr. Hardy has begun refurbishing some of the buildings for break rooms and offices.
- 5) **Paxville Waterline Project-** Mrs. Rhodes met with a couple of the property owners. Three different easements are needed to get water to Interstate 95 and under Interstate 95. One property owner has agreed to the easement, another still needs to be contacted and the third property owner is still in negotiations.
- 6) **Wyboo Utilities** – Mrs. Rhodes stated that Clarendon County had asked the city to put together a proposal for running the Wyboo Utilities System. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she and Mr. Hardy and Attorney Johnson had been working on the proposal to run the system for approximately \$2,500 and \$3,000 a month. Mrs. Rhodes stated that since Clarendon County needed a decision on this issue before the next Manning City Council Meeting in March, they have proceeded and have selected someone to run the utility system.
- 7) **Manning CDBG Renaissance Village Project-** Mrs. Rhodes stated that the property would need to be re-zoned to a Planned Unit Development District (PUD) to allow for smaller lots to be built. This item will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and placed on Council's agenda for April.
- 8) **Main Street Manning-** A newsletter has been distributed to the businesses in the downtown area. In addition, the owner of the second façade improvements approved by Main Street would begin work after the Striped Bass Festival in April. The Master Gardeners will be planting and maintaining the right-of-way in the city limits at the intersection of Church and N. Brooks Street. Main Street Manning would also be working on signage for that entryway.

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9) Jasper County Ordinance- Mrs. Rhodes distributed to Council, for their review, a copy of Jasper County's ordinance addressing the concerns with wearing "baggy pants". Mayor Johnson asked Mrs. Rhodes if she is recommending that Council draft an ordinance similar to Jasper County. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would like Council to see if they were interested in a similar ordinance. Mrs. Rhdoes stated that she would need direction from Council whether to have the city attorney draft a similar ordinance.

10) Stimulus Funding- Mrs. Rhodes stated that the money from the stimulus funding would be coming through the normal channels. The projects currently awaiting funding (i.e. USDA- for a new Fire Department, and the Paxville Waterline Project) hopefully would be funded very soon. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would like to see the city get more grant monies vs. loan monies for these projects. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had been working with Santee-Lynches RCOG on the parking lot behind the businesses on Boyce Street, Mill Street and Brooks Street. Next, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the CDBG has a program called "Ready-to-Go" in which cities could apply for funding for the design of a project. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated if a city is approved under this program, the design must be completed and ready to be bid out before the grant is awarded. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would be meeting with Mr. Will Laintz of Santee-Lynches RCOG and the Department of Commerce about this program. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the Municipal Association has developed an on-line program called eCivis that would help cities and towns identify grant funding opportunities. However, each municipality must register for this program.

A) Departmental Reports. Included in Council's packet as information. Following, Mayor Johnson asked Chief Blair Shaffer to talk about the grant applications he has applied for.

Chief Shaffer stated that there is money available under the stimulus package for law enforcement and that he would be applying for the following grants:

- 1) \$500,000 Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force Grant. A narcotics officer for the city and several narcotics officers for the county who would work jointly on narcotic cases together. This grant would not require a match and would pay for the salaries of the officers for 5 years.
- 2) Direct Award Grant- This grant is based on the number of statistics and calls that law enforcement provides for service. The city qualifies for a direct award of \$22,647 which would be used for equipment needs.
- 3) \$363,000 Drug Suppression Unit Grant- Chief Shaffer will ask for four officers. This is a competitive grant, which would pay for the salaries, benefits, equipment, and vehicles for the officers for a three year period. The officers would work in high crime areas along with the multi-jurisdictional task force.

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4) \$237,000 Equipment Grant- Chief Shaffer stated that his department currently has six patrol cars shared between twelve officers. Under this grant, he would ask for five additional patrol cars. The grant would pay for the vehicles and all the necessary equipment for the vehicle. This is also a competitive grant and there is no match for this grant.

5) COPS grant- This grant would fund additional officers. Chief Shaffer will ask for two officers for investigation and patrol. This grant would pay the salaries and benefits for the officers for a three year period.

Mayor Johnson thanked Chief Shaffer for all he is doing to obtain stimulus funding.

XIII. Old Business:

A. Ordinance No. 2009-01. (Second Reading) An ordinance to annex County Tax Map No.'s 170-00-04-011 and 170-00-04-013, owned by Manning Educational Association, Inc., and known as Lawrence Manning Academy, located on Old Georgetown Road and a portion of South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Right-of-Way of South Carolina Highway S-14-23 (Old Georgetown Road) Pursuant to Section 5-3-110, Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976 as amended).

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve the ordinance for second and final reading. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

XIV. New Business:

A. Ordinance No. 2009-02. (First Reading) An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I. In General.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to approve the ordinance for first reading. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

B. Ordinance No. 2009-03. (First Reading) An ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50, Second Hand Goods, Article II, Rummage Sales.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to approve the ordinance for first reading. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

C. Ordinance No. 2009-04 (First Reading) An ordinance authorizing the lease with an option to purchase of property located in the City of Manning.

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A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to approve the ordinance for first reading. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

D. Zoning Ordinance No. 2009-01T (First reading) An ordinance to amend Article 7 Supplementary Regulations: Section 715 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to make sure that the Code of Ordinances and Zoning Ordinance has the same language concerning yard sales. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the Planning Commission had reviewed the ordinance and have agreed to have the language read the same as the Code of Ordinances.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to approve the ordinance for first reading. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

E. A Resolution Proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month.

Mayor Johnson read the resolution proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Georgia and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to approve the resolution as presented. In discussion, Mrs. Rhodes stated that this is a requirement for the CDBG grants that the city receives. There was no further discussion. All favored the motion.

F. Approval of the CDBG Selection Committee's recommendation for engineering services.

Mayor Johnson that Mrs. Rhodes mentioned this item earlier in her report. Mrs. Rhodes stated that Council had appointed her, Mr. Hardy, and Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to the Selection Committee for the CDBG project. The committee reviewed and ranked the RFQ's for 19 engineering firms and found Hybrid Engineering, Inc. to be the highest ranking firm. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the committee recommended that Council award the contract to Hybrid Engineering, Inc.

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to award the contract for engineering services to Hybrid Engineering, Inc. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

XV. Councilmembers' Comments

Councilmember Pack

Councilmember Pack commented on the stray dogs in the community and asked that

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something be done. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city does not have an animal control officer, but recommended that citizens call City Hall to report stray dogs. Mrs. Rhodes stated that a trap could be set and once an animal is in the trap, then our Public Works Department can pick up the trap and transport the animal to the Animal Shelter. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the County may be hiring an animal control officer and hopefully that person could be of some benefit to the city.

Councilmember Witherspoon

Councilmember Witherspoon thanked Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Hardy for the work done to the sidewalk in front of the Masonic Lodge. Mayor Johnson stated that members of the Lodge were appreciative of the work that was done.

Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle stated that she has noticed that the number of calls on the police report had increased in her district. Chief Shaffer stated that he would check the accuracy of the report and check on her concerns. Councilmember Welle also asked Chief Shaffer if there could be more patrol cars in her district. Chief Shaffer stated that he has adjusted the way the officers are working so that more officers could be visible. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the reason more officers are visible is that this is the first time in several years that the Police Department has been fully staffed with fully certified officers. Councilmember Welle thanked Chief Shaffer for all that his department does.

XVI. Executive Session

1) Administration Department: Personnel Matter and a Contractual Matter.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Georgia and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter in the Administration Department. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Following Executive Session, no action was taken:

XVII. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to adjourn. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Daun Davis

Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk