

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED
MEETING
OF
MANNING CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, March 31, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Johnson
Councilmember Davis
Councilmember Georgia
Councilmember Pack
Councilmember Welle
Councilmember Witherspoon

Members Absent:E/Excused

Mayor Pro-tem Gordon- E

- I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Johnson welcomed all present and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to address some important issues that were tabled at the last meeting on March 17, 2008. Mayor Johnson stated that the media was notified and acknowledged the following:

News Media: Cathy Gilbert, Manning Times.

- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Ervin Davis.

- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Gregory Witherspoon.

- IV. Approval of Agenda:**

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

- V. Discussion of funding for I-95 Water Line Extension:**

Mayor Johnson asked Mrs. Rhodes begin the discussion on this item.

Mrs. Rhodes apologized for her absence at the last meeting held March 17, 2008. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had sent a cost estimate on this project in the Council packet last month. Mrs. Rhodes stated that after hearing from Elder Langhorn a couple months ago,

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she confirmed that the State Budget and Control Board had diminished funding for the Have Faith Community Development Corporation's grant for sewer extension as well as her request for funding the I-95 water extension. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she began looking for other ways to obtain funding. She stated that the city has two reserve accounts funded at \$496,000 each and have been put into bonds which mature in August, 2008. She did some research with Rusty Craven of USDA and the city's Auditor, Dean Richardson of C. C. McGregor and Associates. Those reserve accounts have to be set up through the loans the city has thru USDA, but there is no requirement on the amount of money that must remain in the reserve accounts.

Mayor Johnson stated that he recalled that Council had decided to set those funds aside for emergency water and sewer issues.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city was required to set up two reserve accounts for both of the USDA loans that the city has. Mrs. Rhodes stated that both Mr. Craven and Mr. Richardson indicated that a project like the Highway 261 water line extension project would be a good use of the funds. She stated that Mr. Craven also stated USDA has no control of what the city does with those funds. Mrs. Rhodes stated a cost estimate was done by Engineering Resources Corporation (ERC) to run water under I-95 at Exit 119. Mrs. Rhodes stated that once water is extended to I-95, there would possibly be a lot of interest from developers and the City may be able to get assistance for the sewer extension. ERC estimated the cost to extend the water lines at approximately \$294,000. Mrs. Rhodes stated that Mr. Hardy received an estimate from a contractor at approximately \$205,000. An official bid would be obtained if Council approves the request. She also suggested that while the city bores for the water line, that the city bore for a sewer line. ERC estimated the cost to bore for a sewer line was approximately \$70,000. Mrs. Rhodes asked Council to approve a request to use one of the bonds that matures in August, 2008 to pay for the cost of running water under I-95. It would take approximately six or seven months to run the lines, get the proper permitting. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city could begin the project and take the money out of the enterprise fund and repay the enterprise fund in August when the bond matures.

Mayor Johnson asked if cost would be split between both reserve accounts, or would the cost be taken just out of one reserve account.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would contact the Auditor for advice.

Councilmember Davis asked what would be done to the sewer line once it is bored.

Mr. Hardy stated that a casing would be put under the road.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve funding the I-95 waterline extension using the reserve account. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Next, Mayor Johnson asked that Hardy and Chief Garrett check on landscapers who are

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blowing debris onto the road.

VI. Discussion of Joint Water and Sewer Authority to Southern Clarendon County:

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she wanted to discuss an action taken by County Council during their March 2008 meeting. Mrs. Rhodes stated that Council gave direction in August that she meet with Mayor Johnson, Mr. Hardy and members of County Administration to discuss the extension of the city's franchise area. Mrs. Rhodes stated that County Council had asked that the city hold off on requesting an extension of the city's franchise area down Hwy. 260 until they have completed their water and sewer study for southern Clarendon County. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the study is complete and that County Council voted in March 2008 to negotiate with the surrounding municipalities to form a joint water and sewer authority in southern Clarendon County and possibly the entire county. Mrs. Rhodes asked Council if they had questions or concerns they would like discussed those meetings.

Councilmember Welle asked Mrs. Rhodes if County Council had already adopted the joint water and sewer authority.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that County Council had approved the water and sewer study, and directed Mr. John Truluck to negotiate with each municipality to create a joint water and sewer authority.

Mayor Johnson stated that based on the discussions that he has had over the last couple years, that he has tried to make it clear that the City of Manning is willing to do everything that can be done to help bring water to the other parts of the county that are not currently serviced by the city. Mayor Johnson stated that in order for this venture to be successful, there will need to be open and honest communications from the County.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had concerns that the County has been negotiating with developers about water and sewer without the involvement of the city. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the County has applied for a USDA Grant to run water down Hwy. 260 without any agreement between the City and County for water service.

Following discussion, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city produces 2.3 million gallons of water and only uses 1.2 million gallons and have a total capability to produce over 6.9 million gallons of water.

Mayor Johnson stated that County Council will need to know that the city is willing to do what needs to be done and that the city requires honesty in communications. In addition, Mayor Johnson asked Council to forward any questions or concerns to Mrs. Rhodes to discuss at the next meeting with County Council.

Next, Mayor Johnson stated that he received a letter from Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce asking the city to be a sponsor for the Striped Bass Festival and The Taste of Clarendon events to be held in April, 2008. Mayor Johnson stated that Mrs. Rhodes

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recommended that the city sponsor the Striped Bass Festival and The Taste of Clarendon at a level of \$500.00.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city will have a table at the Taste of Clarendon for those who wish to donate food.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to sponsor the Striped Bass Festival and the Taste of Clarendon at a level of \$500.00. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

VII. Executive Session:

- 1) Public Works Department: Contractual matter concerning Water and Sewer Agreements.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter in the Public Works Department concerning water and sewer agreements. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Following Executive Session, the following action was taken:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve an agreement to provide water and sewer to the Shannon Greens Development. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to approve an agreement provide water and sewer to the Have Faith Development Corporation, to pay \$50,000 towards the engineering fees. This agreement will expire within one year if the Have Faith Development Corporation is not able to begin the projects. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the agreement with the Shannon Greens Development included an agreement that the city would pay one half of the construction and engineering costs.

VIII. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to adjourn. There was not discussion. All favored the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Rhodes,
Administrator