

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
MANNING CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, May 17, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers
City Hall

Members Present:

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

- I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Johnson welcomed everyone to the first meeting at Manning City Hall's new location and thanked the Administrator and staff for all their hard work during the move. At this time, Mr. Larry Williamson asked the Mayor for permission to speak. Permission was granted and Mr. Williamson asked the audience to give Council and everyone that took part in making the location possible a round of applause. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that the media was notified and acknowledged the following:

Media: Jason Lesley – *Manning Times*
Bobby Baker- *The Item*

Others: Larry Williamson- Manning Zoning Board of Appeals
James Zimmerman- Manning Zoning Board of Appeals
Mayor Jerry Robertson- Former Mayor of the City of Manning
Mrs. Robertson
Ms. Nancy Cave, Archivist, Clarendon County Archives and
History Center

Following, Mayor Johnson apologized for the elevator not working, stating that it must pass inspection and be licensed before the public could use it. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that a formal grand opening would held be at a later date.

- II. Invocation:** Mayor Pro-tem Ervin L. Davis, Sr.

- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Clayton Pack.

IV. Approval of Agenda: A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Davis to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

V. Minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, April 19, 2010.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Georgia and was seconded by Councilmember Welle 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 noted that National Municipal Clerks Week was recognized during the month of May. Next, Mayor Johnson thanked Mrs. Daun Davis for her work on Council's behalf and said that he and Mrs. Rhodes to the liberty of presenting Mrs. Davis with a gift from Council.

IX. Public Presentation:

Proclamation.....National Historic Preservation Month

Mayor Johnson recognized May as National Historic Preservation Month and presented a proclamation to Mayor Jerry Robertson, Chairman of the Clarendon County Historical Society and Ms. Nancy Cave, Archivist. In addition, Mayor Johnson also thanked Mrs. Mary Adger and Main Street Manning for participating in this endeavor.

X. Finance Director's Report: Mrs. Prince gave the following report:

Finance Report for the month ending April, 2010

General Fund unrestricted:	\$1.2 million
General Fund restricted:	\$ 132,000.00
Interest Earned (GF):	\$ 1,163.00
Utility Fund unrestricted:	\$ 528,907.00

Utility Fund restricted/reserved:	\$	1.1 million
Interest Earned (UF):	\$	1,875.00
Special Fund:	\$	78,444

REVENUE

YTD GF Revenue	\$2.4 million	63%
YTD UF Revenue	\$1.6 million	82%

We should be at 83% of budget with 17% remaining. Franchise Fees and Business License revenues have not been met.

EXPENDITURES

	<u>YTD Spent</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
YTD GF	\$ 3.3 million	86%
YTD UF	\$1.5 million	76%

- Served 2,900 water customers; 2,200 sewer customers.
- Delinquent accounts went up 647 customers, and increase of 91 accounts.

Mayor Johnson asked how much is required to remain in the city's accounts for the 1976 Cushion Fund and the 1994 Certificate of Deposits.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that Council had discussed the topic at their budget workshop in April and at that time stated that the city is only required to put in the fully funded amount. Mrs. Rhodes stated that Council decided to deposit more into the accounts yearly. Mrs. Rhodes noted that because the monies are in contingency and depreciation funds associated with USDA Bonds, the city would need approval from USDA to take the excess funds out of the account. Mayor asked if the accounts are still being funded. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city stopped funding the accounts when the city began paying SC Department of Transportation for the water line.

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Next, Mayor Johnson asked why the personal property tax revenue line item is at its current level.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the line item reflected car sales and a number of people delinquent on their property taxes. Mrs. Rhodes stated that personal property tax revenues will not reach the budgeted amount of \$389,216 but may reach between \$110,000 and \$140,000.

Following, Mayor Johnson stated that several events were recently held in the city of Manning but not sponsored by the city—The Striped Bass Festival, The Relay for Life, and The Taste of Clarendon. Mayor Johnson noted that he had received many compliments from the organizers of the events for the great job done by the city to help make the events a success and thanked the Department Heads and employees.

XI. Administrator's Report

Mrs. Rhodes thanked Council for providing the new location for Manning City Hall.

- 1) **Manning City Hall--** The elevator should be permitted within 24 hours and then inspected. Microphones and a projector are to be installed. Mrs. Rhodes thanked the Garden Clubs for the use of the flower arrangements at City Hall for the Council Meeting. Mrs. Rhodes noted that the arrangements were made by the Evening Primrose Garden Club for the Taste of Clarendon Event that was held Saturday, May 16, 2010.
- 2) **Paxville Waterline Project--** Mrs. Rhodes met with USDA last week and noted that meetings would be held in the Town of Paxville at a location between Manning and Paxville to begin signing people up for the water. Several potential customers have already contacted the city to sign up.
- 3) **CDBG Project- 2nd Phase--** On June 10th there would be a bid opening for work on the sidewalks and lighting on Barfield Street. Work on the new street lights on Dickson Street should begin soon.
- 4) **Main Street South Carolina Training-** Main Street South Carolina participants would be meeting at Manning City Hall on May 27, 2010 for training on Economic Restructuring. Main Street Manning would host the meeting.

XII. New Business:

A. Ordinance No. 2010- 01 (First Reading) An Ordinance to amend the Ordinance to raise revenue and levy taxes for the City of Manning, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011.

Mayor Johnson stated that the budget was still a work in progress, noting that the city was currently out of balance with expenses over revenue in the amount of \$333,171.00 in the General Fund and expenses over revenue in the amount of \$182,907 in the Utility Fund. Mayor Johnson stated that more work would be done to bring a balanced budget before second reading occurred. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that he doesn't think the budget will call for lay-offs or firing of full-time

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employees noting that there will be cuts and positions that were vacant may remain vacant for a while. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that Council would also look at their expense items for cuts. Mayor Johnson thanked Mrs. Rhodes and all Department Heads for all they have done and stated that Council would schedule a budget workshop and second and final reading of the ordinance at their June meeting.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to approve the ordinance for first reading. In discussion, Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had distributed to Council information on the city's health insurance and stated that the main reason for the shortfall in the budget was due to the increase in the cost for health insurance premiums. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the pool for the city's health insurance through the Municipal Association would be getting a 19-20% increase and because of the city's experience rating, there would be an additional increase of 5% above that amount. Mrs. Rhodes stated that for every \$1.00 the city was putting into the pool, SCLGAG is paying out \$1.83. This will reflect a premium increase of \$232 per employee, per month paid by the city.

To help keep costs down, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the department heads have looked at options and have proposed to go from a \$350 deductible to a \$1,000 deductible for employees only. Employees with dependent coverage could elect the Value Plan and get a credit toward their coverage.

Mayor Johnson stated that if the city goes to the \$1,000 deductible, it would cost the city an additional \$167,000 over last year's cost for health insurance coverage for employees. There was no further discussion. All favored the motion.

Mayor asked Council for a date for the budget workshop. Council agreed to have a budget workshop on Tuesday, June 8th, 6:00 p.m.

B. Zoning Ordinance No. 2010-01M (First Reading). An ordinance to re-zone property located at 224 Memorial Street, Tax Map No. 187-01-06-014-00, owned by John Joe Wilson, Jr., from Residential-6 (RS-6) to Light/Limited Industrial (LI).

Mayor Johnson stated that the property raised concerns about the scrap metal and abandoned cars in the area. The Planning Commission was scheduled to meet May 10th but did not have a quorum present.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the existing scrap metal business proposed to expand their business to the adjoining lot to allow more room.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Gordon and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Davis to approve the zoning ordinance for first reading. In discussion, Councilmember Gordon asked the current zoning classification of the

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property. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the property to be expanded was zoned as Residential-6 (RS-6) and that the zoning ordinance requires certain buffers to separate residential use from light industrial use. Mrs. Rhodes stated that an applicant has a right to apply for re-zoning of property. The Planning Commission makes a recommendation to Council, but the final decision comes from Council. Councilmember Welle asked if the property was approved for Light/Limited Industrial would the buffer requirements add more of a protective barrier. Mrs. Rhodes stated that a new extension of the property would have to abide by the current zoning laws. Following discussion, Mayor Johnson asked for those in favor of the motion.

Favor

Councilmember Georgia
Councilmember Gordon
Mayor Pro-tem Davis

Against

Councilmember Pack
Councilmember Witherspoon
Councilmember Welle

The vote resulted in a 3-3 tie. Mayor Johnson cast a vote against the ordinance and the motion failed. Mrs. Rhodes stated that re-zoning requests must come before the Planning Commission, have a public hearing and two readings on the ordinance.

C. Discussion of Council Appointments to Boards.

Abatement and Appeals Board
Charles McCreight

Term Expiring May 31, 2010

Mayor Johnson noted that Mr. McCreight agreed to serve for another term.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to re-appoint Mr. McCreight to the Abatement and Appeals Board. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

XIII. Councilmembers' Comments

Councilmember Gordon

Councilmember Gordon asked Mrs. Rhodes if the stones located near the Memorial Street Basketball Court could be removed until work has begun in that area. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would check with the contractor to have them removed

Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle asked Chief Shaffer for an update on crime in the Pine Knoll area. Chief Shaffer noted that there have been three incidents located in the County portion of

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the Pine Knoll area in November. Chief Shaffer stated that the city was now patrolling the entire Pine Knoll area and also using their T-3 mobile unit on patrols.

Councilmember Welle asked Chief Shaffer about the progress in setting up the Crime Watch Meeting between the City of Manning Police Department and Clarendon County Sheriff's office. Chief Shaffer stated that he had not had communication with the Sheriff. Councilmember Welle asked Chief Shaffer to coordinate a date with the Sheriff's office as to when they would be available to attend a Neighborhood Meeting and to let her know.

Next, Councilmember Welle stated that she had heard positive comments about the new park that would be developed in her district.

XIV. Executive Session

1) Administration Department: Contractual Matter.

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

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to come out of Executive Session. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

After Executive Session, the following action was taken:

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to let an RFP for the city's auditing services. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Next, Mayor Johnson reminded Council of the upcoming Municipal Association's Annual Meeting. Mayor Johnson stated that an assigned representative would be the contact person for registering Council for the meeting and for making the hotel reservations. Mayor Johnson asked Council to submit their forms to the clerk with all pertinent information so that she would be able to give the information to the Municipal Association during her designated appointment time. In addition, Mayor Johnson also noted that each Councilmember's line item may be cut due to the budget constraints and noted that cost of two annual conventions would come out of their budget line items during the next fiscal year.

XV. Adjournment

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Gordon to adjourn. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Daun Davis
Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk**