

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

Monday, May 16, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Manning City Hall

**Council Present:**

Mayor Nelson  
Mayor Pro-tem Davis  
Councilmember Georgia  
Councilmember Gordon  
Councilmember Pack  
Councilmember Welle

- I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Nelson welcomed all present.
- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Rev. Ervin L. Davis, Sr., Pastor,  
First Servant's Church, Manning, SC.
- III. Pledge:** Mayor Pro-tem Clayton Pack.
- IV. Approval of Agenda:**

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Georgia and was seconded by Councilmember Gordon 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 18, 2016.**

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting of City Council for April 18, 2016. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

**VI. Citizens' Comments:**

**Mr. Lannes C. Prothro IV, 1052 Canterbury Dr., Manning, SC 29102**

Mr. Prothro stated that he would like to challenge the amendment of Ordinance No. 2016-02 concerning retirement and health insurance for Councilmembers.

Mr. Prothro stated that this is a small town and that he sees a problem in the timing of the ordinance. In addition, Mr. Prothro asked about the cost and who would benefit. Mr. Prothro stated that currently the employer’s cost would be approximately \$11,000 and in two years could increase to \$20,000 per Councilmember. Then, Mr. Prothro stated that, in his opinion, it is excessive and asked Council why they would have to vote now? Finally, Mr. Prothro urged Council to use some constraint on this Ordinance.

**Mr. Art Lambert, 200 S. Brooks St., Manning, SC 29102**

Mr. Lambert stated that he had three questions concerning the amendment of the ordinance. Mr. Lambert asked about Council’s Rules of Procedure, whether there were any special considerations and whether elected officials would have a financial gain. Next, Mr. Lambert stated that he felt like it was a conflict of interest. Then, Mr. Lambert asked if the amendment was ever brought up for discussion because he could not find it in the minutes. Mr. Lambert asked if this should be a referendum for people to decide on.

**VII. Committee Reports: None.**

**VIII. Public Presentations:**

1) **Key to the City.....Mayor Julia Nelson**

**Mr. Hayes F. Samuels, Jr. - Samuels Funeral Home, LLC**

Mayor Nelson recognized Mr. Hayes Samuels for his public and private contributions to the community and presented him with a Key to the City. Next, Mayor Nelson thanked him for his service to the community.

**IX. Finance Director’s Report:** Included in Council’s packet as information. Mrs. Prince stated that as of April we should be at 83% with 17% remaining in the budget. Mrs. Prince reported the following:

Report for month ending April 30, 2015

**REVENUES**

<b>Type of Fund</b>	<b>Percent Collected</b>
General Fund	78%
Utility Fund	113%

**EXPENDITURES**

<b>Type of Fund</b>	<b>Percent Spent</b>
General Fund	79% The Fire Department line item is at 98% due to purchase of Fire Truck
Utility Fund	83 %

**Bank Balances and Notes Payables Balances**

<b>General Fund Unrestricted</b>	<b>Balances</b>
Checking (A/R, A/P, Payroll, Cemetery)	\$ 3.2 million
Interest Earned (A/R, A/P, Payroll, Cemetery)	\$ 2,900
<b>GENERAL FUND RESERVE</b>	
Police, Juror, Drug, Equitable, Fire, Farmers Market, Reserve	\$ 137,000
<b>UTILITY FUND UNRESTRICTED</b>	
Checking (A/R & A/P)	\$ 1.9 million
Interest Earned	\$ 1,400
<b>UTILITY FUND RESTRICTED ACCOUNTS CD's</b>	\$ 1.8 million
<b>UTILITY FUND NOTES PAYABLES BALANCES</b>	\$ 11.8 million
<b>Special Fund Reserve</b>	
Checking (Victim's Right, USDA Construction)	\$ 115,000

Mrs. Prince asked Council if there were any questions. There were none.

**X. Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Nelson stated that she would like to address the comments made earlier concerning the amendment of the ordinance for retirement and health benefits for Council. Mayor Nelson stated that the reason that the ordinance is being done now is per the rules of the Municipal Association. The ordinance has to be approved prior to the next general election. Mayor Nelson stated that if the money is not there, then it can't be done. By the year 2018, any ordinance that is made can be amended at any time by the sitting Council and that as far as the Council having the right to do this, it is legal.

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Next, Mayor Nelson stated that as far as comments made at our May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in reference to another city, those comments were incorrect. It was in reference to an issue with a mayor in Lee County trying to receive benefits that other Councilmembers received because his wife was already in the State system. That mayor did not need the insurance but wanted the money that would have been paid to the other Councilmembers. Mayor Nelson stated that Manning City Council was not trying to do anything like that. Also, in regards to an increase of salary of Council, that can only be done by Council, but done prior to the next general election. The last raise that Council received was under Mayor Johnson's administration in 2010. Mayor Nelson stated that she doesn't remember any comments being made public in 2010 like the comments have been made tonight.

Next, Mayor Nelson stated that the other thing that concerned her that does not get the attention of the citizens is the hospital debt. Mayor Nelson noted that right now we have very little knowledge of what is truly going on with the hospital. The hospital has been in severe debt for many years. Decisions are being made by an appointed board, not an elected board, to sell our hospital which is in debt. No one seems to have been concerned for years about that. Mayor Nelson also referenced other public debt issues which had drawn few public comments or any uproar. Mayor Nelson stated that as far as the idea that there are people that work in local banks that have issues with federally funded grants and loans that the city receives, she would suggest that Council begin to diversify our banks. The majority of the city's funds are held at one bank. Mayor Nelson stated that she feels that if some of the employees have issue with the city's funding that the city relieves that bank from their concerns.

Following, Mayor Nelson stated that since last attending the city's Retail Development Trade Event last week in Alabama, she and Mayor Pro-tem Pack realized that it would take a little more money than they anticipated. The training was very thorough and they returned with ideas on how to achieve what they are planning for the city's retail strategies and that it is a good investment for the city. It will be approximately 1 to 1 ½ years to see the benefit of the investment. However, they are already receiving a benefit by going out and inquiring of other businesses on moving to Manning, SC.

Finally, Mayor Nelson stated that on the local level, there are several trees hanging very low on Church Street, making it difficult to walk on the sidewalk. Mayor Nelson asked Mr. Tanner to check to see which agency is responsible so that this concern can be resolved.

**XI. Administrator's Report:**

Mr. Tanner gave an update on city projects:

**Fire Department Expansion**- The city will be purchasing a new ladder truck at the end of May. The city's truck is almost obsolete and is getting difficult to get certified. The truck will be purchased with the surplus from the Fire Station Expansion project that the city is allowed to use.

**Fleming Neighborhood Project**- The contractor is back in town demolishing buildings. We will be bidding the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the project on June 7<sup>th</sup> which consists of demolishing the 6 homes that contained asbestos. The cost will increase slightly, but will not cause any budgetary problems. One element of the grant is that the city has to help begin a Crime

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Watch Committee in that neighborhood. Plans are underway for a community meeting at the Althea Gibson building on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chief Shaffer will assist in putting this meeting together.

**Alcolu Project**- The paving has been completed. Contractors are wrapping up things now and the city should be able to finally close the project.

**Huggins Street Sidewalk**. The project has begun. The project is going well and should be completed in a couple of months.

**WWTP Phase 2**- The project continues to go well. Contractors are on schedule and coming under budget.

**Mill Street Streetscape Project**. Bidding on the project is scheduled for June 2nd.

Next, Mr. Tanner stated that Daun Davis had knee replacement surgery and is doing well. Ms. Davis sent a card thanking everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

The Chamber of Commerce will have a Ribbon Cutting at Sumter Hearing Associates, 23 S. Mill St., on Wednesday at 11:30 am.

The Economic Development Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, will have a Boeing Reception at F. E. Dubose Career Center on Thursday at 11 am. Council is invited.

Departmental Reports: Included in Council's packet as information.

**XII. Old Business:**

- A. Ordinance No. 2016-01. (Second Reading) An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 2015-05 (Amended and Restated General Bond Ordinance), Enacted September 21, 2015, and Ordinance No. 2015-06 (2015B Series Ordinance), Enacted November 16, 2015, to Amend Provisions Regarding the City's Use of a Third-Party Trustee, Registrar, Paying Agent, or Any Combination of the Three.**

Mr. Tanner stated that this is a modification of our General Bond Ordinance and the 2015 Series Ordinance enacted to re-finance our 1994 Bonds. The change will allow the city flexibility not to use a third party trustee when interacting with the bond holder.

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

- B. Ordinance No. 2016-02(Second Reading). An Ordinance to Amend the City of Manning Code of Ordinances Chapter II, Article II, Section 2-32 (a), to state, that "The City shall pay the employer's share of retirement and health benefits for the Mayor and each Councilmember effective after the April, 2018 City Election."**

Mayor Nelson stated that discussion and first reading of the ordinance was held on May

9, 2016.

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

**XIII. New Business:**

**A. Ordinance No. 2016-03 (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, 2017.**

Mr. Tanner stated that this is the first reading of the 2017 Budget. The projected revenues and expenditures are \$7,705,469 as discussed in the budget workshop.

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

**XIV. Councilmembers' Comments:**

**Mayor Pro-tem Pack**

Mayor Pro-tem Pack stated that he was happy to see the sidewalks being poured on Huggins Street.

**Councilmember Davis**

Councilmember Davis stated that he was grateful to the Lord that Ms. Davis was doing so well and recovering from knee replacement surgery. Councilmember Davis stated that his thoughts and prayers are with her as well.

**XV. Executive Session:**

1) A legal matter in the Administration Department concerning Planning and Zoning.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Davis to enter into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter in the Administration Department concerning Planning and Zoning. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Pack to return to Open Session. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

**XVI. Possible Action Following Executive Session:**

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Georgia and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to resolve the planning and zoning issue with Ms. Sharon Thames concerning the property at 200 W. Boyce Street. Council authorizes the Administrator to settle with Ms. Thames in the

amount of \$2,540.00.

**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: 7:20 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Mary G. Adger  
Administrative Services Coordinator