

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
MANNING CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, April 17, 2006
6:30 p.m.

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

Mayor Johnson
Mayor Pro-Tem Gordon
Councilmember Davis
Councilmember Evans
Councilmember Georgia
Councilmember Pack
Councilmember Witherspoon

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

News Media: Mike Gellatly, Manning Times

Others: William Blair, Vice-Chair, Planning Commission
James Zimmerman, Municipal Election Commissioner
Staff, Parents & Students of Wateree Community Action, Inc.

- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Davis.

- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Pack.

- IV. Swearing-In of Newly Elected Officials:** Mayor Johnson congratulated all of the new newly elected officials and swore them in as follow:

District 2 – Diana Georgia
District 3 – Ervin Davis
District 5 – Gregory Witherspoon

Next, Mayor Johnson recommended that the vacancy left on the Planning Commission as a result of Ms. Georgia taking office as a Councilmember be filled by Ms. Monica Reed who currently serves as an alternate and has served faithfully. Also, Mayor Johnson noted that in June vacancies would exist on various boards to appoint/re-appoint individuals and asked Council to please keep that in mind and provide names at that time.

Following, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and seconded by Mayor Pro-

tem Gordon to become a full-time Planning Commission member. No discussion followed. All favored the motion.

V. Election of Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Manning: Councilmember Pack **moved** to elect Johnny L. Gordon as Mayor Pro-tem for two years. Councilmember Evans seconded the motion. All favored.

VI. Committee Assignments: Mayor Johnson made the following appointments for committee assignments:

- **Finance/Administration** Mayor Kevin Johnson
Councilmember Clayton Pack
Mayor Pro-tem Johnny L. Gordon

- **Public Safety** Mayor Kevin Johnson
Councilmember Sherry A. Evans
Councilmember Gregory Witherspoon

- **Public Works** Mayor Kevin Johnson
Councilmember Diane D. Georgia
Councilmember Ervin Davis

Following, Mayor Johnson stated that he liked to do everything as a Council, but that there are situations that arise and standing committees are needed to study the matter.

VII. Approval of Agenda:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve the agenda. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

VIII. Minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, March 20, 2006. A **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve the minutes. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

IX. Citizen Comments:

Cheryl Malone, 314 E. Huggins Street

Citizen was not present.

For the record, Mayor Johnson stated that it is the policy of the City to send out a disconnection notice for water service.

Downtown Merchants

**L. G. Mathis (L. G. Cut & Style) 17 Brooks Street &
Sam Levy (Sam Levy Photography / Brooks Street Barber Shop) 21 & 23 Brooks Street**

Mr. Mathis stated that after the two-hour-parking limit was put in place the merchants required employees to park in the rear of buildings. Now, after seven years, one merchant is closing up access and causing a safety hazard.

Mr. Mathis wanted to know if there was a state law prohibiting closure of the area and if the city was going to take any action to have the area reopened.

Mr. Levy stated that Ridgeway Fence Company had placed a fence up in the area near his property which provided access into that area and further stated that if a permit was granted to him for such it would deny access to other property owners to their property.

Following was dialogue between Council and the merchants Mayor Johnson stated that the fence did not change the fire hazard because the fire department could not get back there anyway. Then, Mayor Johnson asked Fire Chief Mitch McElveen to share some input into the situation should a fire occur.

Chief McElveen reported the following:

- Fire Engine is too large to enter area through the alley (The truck requires 11 ft. minimum and the alley is 9 ft. wide.).
- Alternative – Water Manifold is available. Used to fight fires. Have four lines hooked to it to pump water. There is some delay because it has to be setup.

Following, Councilmember Evans asked if the City's attorney could draft a letter to Mr. Metropol on the behalf of the City to make a plea to reopen the area.

After more discussion, Council agreed that the City would look into the matter further.

Next, Mayor Johnson brought to Council's attention the request of Santee Lynches CDC's request to waive tap fees as proposed in a letter from Mr. Rodriguez: One-time request for a waiver of water tap and sewer tap fees for six houses being constructed on Bellewood Court.

Mayor Johnson stated that the fees were \$250 each for water and sewer.

Some discussion followed, and a **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Councilmember Davis to table the discussion of the request until Council's next meeting and to seek legal review/opinion of the request and to allow the Administrator to see what final impact the request would have on the city. There was no further discussion and all favored the motion.

X. Committee Reports: None.

XI. Mayor's Report: Included in Council's packets as information.

XII. Finance/Administrator's Report: Mayor Johnson stated that the Administrator was out on an excused leave, but left the Financial Report and his Administrator's Report as follow:

A. Financial Report to Council.

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General Fund	\$1,541,868.00
Lola Clark CD	\$7,634.00
General Fund Total	\$1,549,502.00 (Rest. \$40,667.00)
Utility Fund/Accts. Receivables	\$1,160,187.00
Utility Fund/Accts. Payables	\$28,815.00
Cushion Funds	\$94,973.00
Total Reserve Funds & CD's	\$100,599.00 (Rest. \$1,081,484.00)
Total Checking Accounts	\$1,189,002.00
Utility Fund Total	\$1,289,561.00 (Rest. \$1,122,051.00)

Interest earned in March

General Fund	\$6,068.00
Utility Fund	<u>\$4,807.00</u>
Total	\$10,875.00

B. Administrator Report.

1. Budget/One-time Expenses Three items were recommended: Police and Fire Chiefs vehicles to be purchased this year and removal of trees and stumps from the cemetery at a cost of \$5,200.

Following, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Evans to approve the Administrator's recommendation. No discussion followed and all favored the motion.

2. Mr. Stogner, First Baptist Church / Letter. Received a letter from Mr. Stogner: however, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will not allow room for parking of the hearse in front of the Church, but no parking on the yellow curb. Also, a 24-hour notice to the Police Department is necessary to direct traffic.

C. Departmental Reports: In packet as information.

XIII. Old Business:

A. Ordinance No. 2006-1M. (Second Reading) An Ordinance Zoning a portion of County Tax Map #169-10-01-001-00, approximately .072 acres, located on West

Boyce Street, South Carolina Highway 261, recently annexed into the City to General Commercial. A **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Council member Pack to accept second and final reading of the ordinance. All favored the motion.

B. Zoning Ordinance No. 2006-1T. (Second Reading) An ordinance to amend (text) Article 7 Supplementary Regulations: Section 717 – Sign Regulations the Zoning Ordinance. A **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to accept second and final reading of the ordinance. All favored the motion.

C. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget. Mayor Johnson stated that Council had two budget workshops and that a balanced budget has been prepared.

The following items were highlighted:

- 3.4% increase in millage (tax increase) to support the increasing cost of fuel.
- 2.5% Cost of Living Raise
- \$1 increase roll cart fees (past thru fees)

Mayor Johnson stated that Council chose a lot of one-time purchase out of the current budget year.

Following, Mayor Johnson stated that a summary of the budget was provided and that Council is required by law to have a public hearing and a balanced budget by July. Then, Mayor Johnson announced that a public hearing would be conducted next month (May) along with second and final reading of the budget ordinance.

XIV. New Business:

A. Ordinance No. 2006-04. (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, 2007.

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon and was seconded by Councilmember Witherspoon to accept the first reading of the ordinance. All favored the motion.

Following, Mayor Johnson stated that a public hearing would be conducted regarding the budget and second and final reading would be entertained.

B. Zoning Ordinance No. 2006-2T. (First Reading) Discussion of a Zoning Text amendment to Article 6 District Regulations Section 611 to define the purpose of a PUD – Planned Unit Development District. A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to accept first reading of the ordinance. All favored the motion.

Mayor Johnson acknowledged that the amendment to the ordinance was reviewed by the

Planning Commission, and was recommended for approval.

- C. A Resolution to declare the results of the General Election held in the City of Manning, South Carolina on April 4, 2006.** A **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve to the resolution. All favored.
- D. A Resolution to declare one person filed for office for District #3 and no write-in candidate was declared.** A **motion** was made by Councilmember Witherspoon and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon to approve to the resolution. All favored.
- E. Discussion of funding for amphitheater.** Mayor Johnson extended an invitation to Cleve Dowell, past chairman of the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce, to give an update on the amphitheater progress.

Mr. Dowell stated that he had conversations with the County, the Chamber of Commerce and others on funding and other kinds of support for the amphitheater project.

The following items were discussed by Council.

- Drawings
- Planning and Zoning requirements (approved)
- Grant (applied for through Kathy Harvin and Senator John Land)
- Budget
- Support (financial/in-kind; partnering) It was noted that the County had committed to provide in-kind services and other members agreed to assist financially.

Next, Mr. Dowell asked Council if it would commit to supporting the amphitheater project.

Following, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to support the amphitheater project and to discuss the amount of funding when the request for funding is brought back to Council. All favored the motion.

- F. Discussion of funding for *Relay for Life*.** Mayor Johnson stated that the City would not have a team this year; however, Chief Garrett stated that it was requested that the City provide a presence of security by dressing in uniform. Therefore the City is participating and Chief Garrett is the Captain.

Following, Mayor Johnson asked Council if was interested in donating to this cause and noted that in the past that Clarendon County was high on the list for contributing to the cause.

In a response, a **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to forward \$500 to the team for Relay for Life. All favored the motion.

- G. Discussion to purchase vehicles for police and fire Chiefs.** See Administrator's Report.

XV. Councilmember's' Comments:

Mayor Kevin Johnson

Mayor Johnson stated that a request was received from the Item to update file photos and asked each member of Council to come dress at the next meeting of Council (May 15th) prepared to take photos. Also, Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Sam Levy would be taking pictures to update a group photo for the web site and asked all men to wear a coat and tie. Time noted was 6:00 pm.

Following, Mayor Johnson welcomed Ms. Georgia again to Council.

XVI. Executive Session:

Utility Department: Contractual Matter for water and sewer.

Council did not enter into executive session.

XVII. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Evans and was seconded by Councilmember Witherspoon to adjourn. All favored.

Time: 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary G. Adger, Clerk