

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

Monday, July 31, 2006
7:00 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: Cathy Gilbert, The Manning Times
Sharon Haley, The Item

Others: Larry Williamson, Manning Zoning Board of Appeals
Judge James Dingle, Municipal Judge
James Zimmerman, Municipal Election Commission

Mayor Johnson congratulated Councilmember Davis and Councilmember Pack for graduating from the Municipal Institute of Government Classes and to Councilmember Georgia and Administrator Mary Adger for attending the First Timers Program at the Municipal Association Meeting at Hilton Head, SC.

- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Ervin Davis.
- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Mayor Pro-tem Gordon.
- IV. Public Hearing**

Mayor Johnson stated that the Public Hearing was on the proposed Rural Development Project consisting generally of upgrade and improvements to the existing fire station.

Mayor Johnson stated that the Public Hearing, which was not completed by the former Administrator, had to be held before the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting in August to remain eligible for the grant.

Mayor Johnson asked if anyone in the audience was either in favor of or against the project to come forward and sign the sheet to be heard.

At this time, Mayor Johnson asked the Administrator to elaborate on the project.

Mrs. Adger stated that the proposal is to build a new fire station. Mrs. Adger also stated that the City had applied for a grant through USDA- Rural Development. Mrs. Adger also noted that the existing police and fire department shared the same building which provides minimal adequate space for offices and fire department equipment. However, the building addition would fulfill the critical needs for the fire department sleeping quarters, which currently have three beds, and allow the police department to expand in the office space vacated by the fire department.

The proposed facility will be approximately 5,400 square feet and provide the fire department with space for three offices, a training room and serve as additional space for the city court room when necessary. There will be a fireman's day room, kitchen, supply pantry and storage room. The second floor will provide space for six sleeping quarters, community restroom, showers and storage rooms.

In addition, the second floor will have approximately 1,000 square feet of unused finished space for future development expansion. The second floor area is directly accessible to the ground floor fire truck parking area with a staircase and brass fireman's pole.

Mrs. Adger stated that drawings of the proposed building were available for inspection.

Mayor Johnson stated that the proposed building, which would be built on the lot the city owns adjacent to the city's current Protective Services Building, would give more room for the police, fire and judicial departments.

Next, Mrs. Adger stated that Drakeford Architects of Sumter, SC is the firm that provided the drawings.

Mayor Johnson stated that Drakeford Architects was the firm selected by the former Administrator several years ago. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that the former Administrator had applied for grant funding through USDA Rural Development and received notification of a grant award of \$35,000.00 along with a low-interest loan of \$800,000.00.

Mayor Johnson also stated that the city would match the grant with \$100,000 budgeted this fiscal year and \$5,000.00 would be donated by Clarendon County.

At this time, Mr. Hartswell Doughty of 417 Holden Street asked Council to clarify which fire department the public hearing was for.

Mayor Johnson stated that the Public Hearing was for the expansion of the Manning City Fire Department on vacant property owned by the city and located on West Boyce Street next to the Billie S. Fleming Protective Services Building which is located at 42 W. Boyce Street.

Other comments by the audience were as follow:

Cathy Gilbert asked about additional parking. Mary Adger stated that off-street parking would be available.

Sharon Haley asked if a lot located on S. Mill Street next to the office of *The Item* be checked for overgrowth.

Mayor Johnson stated that this information would be given to the city's Codes Enforcement Officer.

V. Resolution appointing a representative as a Commissioner of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency.

Mayor Johnson stated that the former administrator, Mr. Bjorkman, had served as the appointed representative at the Lake Marion Regional Water Authority. Mayor Johnson asked that Council appoint another representative to serve on the city's behalf to attend various meetings.

Mayor Johnson stated that the Administrator recommended Mr. Rubin Hardy, Public Works Director, to serve in that capacity.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Evans to appoint Rubin Hardy to represent the City of Manning as a Commissioner of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. There was no discussion. All favored.

VI. Interview of Candidates for Finance Director Position (Closed Session)

Mayor Johnson noted that the position had been advertised by the former Administrator several months ago and needed to be filled.

In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that the position was not a new position, but one Council saw based on recent audits and financial statements that indicated that a person with a stronger knowledge and experience in accounting was needed to oversee that department.

VII. Executive Session

- 1. Contractual Matter: Contract with Clarendon County**
- 2. Personnel Matter: Conduct Interviews for the Position of Finance Director**

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Evans to enter into an executive session to discuss a contractual matter concerning a contract with Clarendon County and a personnel matter in the Finance Department. All favored the motion.

Following executive session, the following action was taken:

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro-tem Gordon and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to enter into a lease agreement with Clarendon County on the land adjacent to the City Fire Department. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Next, Mayor Johnson stated that one interview for the position of Finance Director scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment:

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

Time: 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daun Davis
Interim City Clerk