

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of
Manning City Council**

Monday, July 21, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

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

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

News Media: Bobby Baker, The Item

Others: Steve Harrington, Grants Coordinator for Clarendon County
Attorney William Johnson- Johnson, McKenzie & Robinson, LLC

- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Ervin Davis.

- III. Pledge:** Mayor Pro-tem Johnny E. Gordon.

- IV. Approval of Agenda:**

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

- V. Minutes:**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council, June 16, 2008.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to approve the minutes as presented. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

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VI. Citizens' Comments: None.

VII. Committee Reports: None.

VIII. Mayor's Report: Included in Council's packet as information. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that Council had returned from attending the 68th Annual Meeting of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that the conference was a very good and enjoyable conference. Following, Mayor Johnson congratulated Councilmember Georgia for graduating from the Municipal Association's Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government. In addition, Mayor Johnson also stated that he was elected as Second Vice President of the Municipal Association and that he looked forward to fulfilling his duties on the Board.

Mayor Johnson stated that there was a ribbon cutting for the opening of Papa Bello's Pizza located within the new Wal-Mart Shopping Center. Mayor Johnson stated that although he was out of town during the opening, he had the opportunity to stop by and meet the manager and employees. Mayor Johnson welcomed the new business and asked that everyone support them as much as possible.

IX. Finance Director's Report:

Mrs. Prince stated that because the finance department is in the process of closing out the 2007-008 fiscal year, the finance report was not included in the packet. Mrs. Prince stated that under the advice of the Auditor, the fiscal year 2007-2008 would be closed on July 25th in order to capture late invoices and revenues that are to be posted in that fiscal year.

Bank balances as of July 21, 2008	
General Fund Unrestricted:	\$2,299,378
Total Unrestricted GF	\$2,299,378
General Fund Restricted:	\$ 122,999
Total Restricted GF	\$ 122,999
Interest Earned (GF):	\$ 2,992
Utility Fund Unrestricted:	\$ 893,809
Total Unrestricted UF	\$ 893,809
Utility Fund Restricted/Reserved:	\$1,073,017
Total Restricted/Reserve UF	\$1,073,017
Interest Earned (UF)	\$ 1,624
Special Fund:	\$ 45,149
Total Special Fund	\$ 45,149

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Mrs. Prince stated that three certificate of deposits matured in July, 2008. Mrs. Prince stated that from the matured CD's \$300,000 was transferred out of the contingency account and deposited into the Utility Fund Accounts Receivable Checking Account for future projects and renewed the CD for \$224,104.

Mayor Johnson asked Mrs. Prince her opinion of how she felt the budget year ended as far as budgeted figures versus actual figures were concerned.

Mrs. Prince stated that although some line items may have gone over the budgeted amount, overall the year ended up in pretty good shape.

At this time, Mayor Johnson reminded Council of the Joint Meeting with County Council on Wednesday, July 23th at 6:00 p.m. at the F.E. DuBose Career Center.

X. Administrator's Report:

Mrs. Rhodes thanked Council for the invitation to attend the Municipal Association's Annual Meeting and stated that she attended some very good meetings.

Next, Mrs. Rhodes discussed the following:

- 1) **Have Faith Community Development Corp.-** Work has begun on the project and an invoice had been received from the Corporation. The service agreement had been signed by the officers of the Corporation. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had received an award notice from the State Budget and Control Board for \$100,000. Mrs. Rhodes stated that this would complete Council's requirements that Have Faith Community Development Corporation have their funding in place before the project had started. Next, Mrs. Rhodes stated that she had asked that the officers of the Corporation review each invoice, verify that the service provided was for the sewer line and approve it before forwarding to the city for payment. Following, Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city would then pay those invoices up to \$50,000.00 as agreed by Council.
- 2) **State Competitive Grants Program-** Written notice was received that the city would receive a check in the amount of \$70,000.00 within four to six weeks to be used for the I-95 water line extension to Paxville. The engineers have finished the PER and the environmental report and are currently working on obtaining easements from property owners to get to the interstate and under the Interstate.
- 3) **Black River Electric-** Mrs. Rhodes received a call from Mr. Herb Leaird of Black River Electric stating that the company had a board meeting and voted to allow the city to use \$1,000,000.00 from their REDLEG Program for the water line extension to Paxville. Mrs. Rhodes stated that \$350,000 of the funding would be considered a grant and the remaining \$650,000 would be a 0% interest loan.

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Mrs. Rhodes stated that Mr. Liaird would be forwarding a packet of information with the specifics of the program and that additional information would be forwarded to Council.

Councilmember Welle asked if there was potential for additional funding from Santee Electric.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that there is a possibility that Santee Electric could have funding available for different areas within the County.

- 4) **Request to extend the franchise area to Hwy. 260-** Clarendon County Planning Commission met July 15, 2008 and the city's request was tabled. Mrs. Rhodes stated that there were a number of smaller existing systems already franchised in which the County did not have maps or legal descriptions for those areas. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the County Planning Commission asked that she work with Mrs. Maria Rose of the County Planning Department and Clarendon County's Attorney David Epperson to create a map of those areas to properly show what the city is requesting.
- 5) **Streetscaping Project-** Almost complete. The removal of the remaining utility poles may be delayed because of scheduling problems within Progress Energy.
- 6) **Get Going Weldon!-** Steven Harrington, Grants Coordinator for Clarendon County submitted a letter from a contractor performing work on the Weldon Auditorium requesting that the business license fee be waived.

Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Harrington to come forward to discuss the request.

Mr. Harrington stated that he was informed by the contractor that this would be their only job within the city limits of Manning and requested that Manning City Council consider waiving the fee that has already been paid.

In addition, Mr. Harrington stated there would be a ground breaking ceremony on July 28, 2008, at 4 p.m. and that invitations have been mailed to Manning City Council.

Councilmember Davis asked Mrs. Rhodes the amount to be waived and also asked if there were any city ordinances prohibiting Council from waiving the fee.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the amount of the fee paid was \$1,000.00 and that there was no clause within the ordinances that would prohibit waiving the fee. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city has an Economic Development Policy that would allow the city to reduce business license fees for incoming businesses.

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A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve the request to waive the business license fee for the contractor working on the Get Weldon Going! Project. In discussion, Mayor Johnson stated that the city was heavily involved in the project. There was no further discussion. All favored the motion.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that there are several donation opportunities available and recommended that Council consider a donation towards the project.

A) Departmental Reports: Included in packet as information.

XI. Old Business:

A. Discussion of Council Appointments to Boards.

Zoning Board of Appeals Term Expired June 30, 2008
Thomas James, Jr. (Replacement needed)

Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Thomas James, who did an outstanding job as a member of the board, chose not to be reappointed to the Board. Mayor Johnson asked for nominations for a replacement and asked if those nominated had agreed to serve on the Board. Mayor Johnson opened the floor for nominations.

Mayor Pro-tem Gordon nominated Mr. James Zimmerman as a replacement.

Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Zimmerman had agreed to serve and that Mr. Larry Williamson, Chairman of Manning Zoning Board of Appeals had also recommended Mr. Zimmerman as a replacement.

Councilmember Welle nominated Mr. Bruce Powell as a replacement.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that if appointed, Mr. Zimmerman would have to resign as a member of the Municipal Election Commission.

Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Zimmerman stated the he would be willing to resign.

There being no other nominations, Mayor Johnson asked for a show of hands of those in favor of Mr. Bruce Powell as an replacement on the Manning Zoning Board of Appeals.

Those in favor were Councilmember Welle and Councilmember Davis.

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Following, Mayor Johnson asked for a show of hands of those in favor of Mr. James Zimmerman as a replacement on the Manning Zoning Board of Appeals.

Those in favor were Councilmember Georgia, Councilmember Pack, Councilmember Witherspoon and Mayor Pro-tem Gordon.

Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. James Zimmerman would be appointed to the Manning Zoning Board of Appeals. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that Council would now have to find a replacement for Mr. Zimmerman's seat on the Municipal Election Commission. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that this appointment is also another important appointment. He asked Council to check with the citizens and make sure they understand the duties of the position and whether they are willing to serve and to bring those nominations to the next Council meeting.

XII. Councilmembers' Comments:

Councilmember Davis

Councilmember Davis congratulated Councilmember Georgia for graduating from the Municipal Association's Elected Officials Institute. Councilmember Davis also congratulated Mayor Johnson for his election as Second Vice President of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

Mayor Pro-tem Gordon

Mayor Pro-tem Gordon expressed his concerns for the trash in his district and the condition of the roads. In addition, Mayor Pro-tem Gordon stated that although SC Department of Transportation (DOT) owns the ditches, asked if there would be a way to get pipes placed in the ditches and have them covered to eliminate any health problems.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would forward those requests to DOT. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that although DOT has a limited amount of funding for maintenance and new construction, she could submit the request so that it would be on their list.

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson asked Mrs. Rhodes to also update Council on the drainage ditch along Drayton Street. Mayor Johnson stated that Council had been discussing the same problems for years and asked Mrs. Rhodes to give Council and update on the ditches along Drayton Street and the Bellwood area.

Mrs. Rhodes stated some of the problems concerning the ditches are a result of ditches located on private property which DOT nor the city could fix. Mrs. Rhodes stated that

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before a ditch can be repaired on private property, the ditch must be owned by DOT, or the property owner must give DOT permission to maintain the ditch.

Council also expressed concerns for ditches along Paul Smith Drive, Drayton Street, the Bellwood Subdivision, Spencer Street and asked Mrs. Rhodes to give Council an update on DOT's status.

Councilmember Davis suggested that the public be made aware that the property owner will be liable for any problems occurring with ditches that are covered up on private property.

Councilmember Georgia asked Mrs. Rhodes to also ask DOT about the status of installation of sidewalks along Alfred Henry Drive.

At this time, Mrs. Rhodes spoke about Council's concerns last month about the traffic at the intersection of Barfield Street and Hwy. 521. Mrs. Rhodes stated that the city is working on a Habitat Village as part of a CDBG Project in Mayor Pro-tem Gordon's district. Mrs. Rhodes stated that this project would include improvements to the sidewalks, lighting, address traffic issues and also make the area more pedestrian friendly.

In addition, Mrs. Rhodes stated that there was funding available through the school districts that could be used for sidewalks. Following some discussion, Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would continue to inform DOT about Council's concerns so that it would be on their list.

Councilmember Pack

Councilmember Pack stated that he had concerns about trash accumulation on Alfred Henry Drive along the wooded area next to Manning Garden Apartments and asked Mrs. Rhodes to let him know the name of the property owner and to advise why it has not been cleaned.

Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle stated that she had concerns about trash being dumped on Pickwood Drive by the bridge going into the Pine Knoll subdivision.

After much discussion, Mayor Johnson stated that the Police Department should be able to go through the trash to identify and cite the person dumping the trash. In addition, Mayor Johnson encouraged Council to contact City Hall with any concerns with trash accumulation.

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Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson asked Mr. Rubin Hardy the status of installing new water meters throughout the city. Mr. Hardy stated that new meters are being phased in over time and that he is installing approximately 200 new meters each year. Mr. Hardy stated that the city has approximately 2,800 meters and that approximately 1,400 meters have been replaced with new meters. In addition, Mr. Hardy stated that any new subdivisions built automatically get the new meters and that defective meters are changed out with new meters.

Next, Mayor Johnson spoke about his concerns of guys going shirtless, wearing their pants below their waist in public which exposing a majority of their undergarments creating a problem of indecent exposure. Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to see Council address this issue through law enforcement.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would check with Chief Garrett to see what could be enforced.

Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle stated that she was extended an invitation to serve on the Main Street Promotion Committee and had accepted the invitation.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that under the Main Street SC program, the city is required to start four different committees and to develop work plans and goals under each committee.

Next, Mayor Johnson stated that while attending the Awards Breakfast at the Municipal Association's Annual Meeting, the City of Manning received a certificate for participating in the Main Street SC program.

XIII. Executive Session:

- 1) Police Department- Personnel Matter.
- 2) Administration Department- Contractual matter concerning economic development.

A motion was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department and to discuss a contractual matter in the Administration Department concerning economic development. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Following Executive Session no action was taken.

Mayor Johnson stated that Council would have a Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

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XIV. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilmember Pack and was seconded by Councilmember Georgia to adjourn. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daun Davis
Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk