

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

Monday December 8, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Breedin Assembly Room
City Hall

Members Present:

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

Members Absent-

E=Excused /U=Unexcused:

Mayor Pro-tem Gordon-E

- I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:** Mayor Johnson welcomed all present and stated that the media was notified. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that the City Administrator, Mrs. Rhodes would not be in attendance, but would be making a presentation at the Clarendon County Council Meeting on behalf of Manning City Council.
- II. Invocation:** Councilmember Ervin Davis.
- III. Pledge:** Councilmember Clayton Pack.
- IV. Approval of Agenda:**

Mayor Johnson stated that the Agenda would need to be amended to table Item XIII, Executive Session, a Personnel Matter in the Administration Department to discuss the Administrator's Evaluation. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that since all of the evaluation forms had not been turned in, and the Administrator had an excused absence, this item would be placed on the Agenda for January 2009.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Welle to amend the agenda to table Item XIII. In discussion, Mayor Johnson stated that since the next meeting would fall on a holiday that the city observes, Council would meet on the fourth Monday in January. Mayor Johnson asked Council to turn in their evaluation forms as soon after January 1, 2009 as possible. There being no further discussion, all favored the motion.

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V. Minutes:

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Mayor Johnson stated that there was a correction to the minutes on Page 3, the first sentence in the next to the last paragraph. Mayor Johnson stated that the sentence should read "Mayor Johnson stated that the economic news had not been good and the unemployment rate in Manning is amongst the highest in the state of South Carolina". There were no other corrections.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Pack to approve the minutes with the corrections noted. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

VI. Committee Reports: none.

VII. Mayor's Report: Included in Council's packet as information. Mayor Johnson congratulated Mrs. Rhodes for successfully completing the requirements to become a certified planner. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that the registration forms for the 2009 Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce Retreat were placed at Council's station and asked that Council return the forms to the Clerk by the end of the meeting. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that the City would pay for Council's cost to attend the retreat and asked that each Councilmember submit payment for their spouse/guest with either a personal check or credit card.

Following, Mayor Johnson stated that there has been discussion concerning the economy and various stimulus packages. Mayor Johnson stated that he and Mrs. Rhodes have heard from Congressman James E. Clyburn's office concerning stimulus packages that may be available for infrastructure projects that the city currently has. Mayor Johnson stated that he and Mrs. Rhodes have submitted several projects that the city would like to be considered under the stimulus package. These projects would include:

- 1) The waterline going to the Town of Paxville
- 2) The water/wastewater line to Royal Oaks subdivision
- 3) Wastewater line going to the Town of Summerton
- 4) Waterline to Summerton.

Information has been provided to Congressman Clyburn's office with the stipulation that if funding is obtained the city must be prepared to begin the projects within 60 days. Mayor Johnson stated that this would get people to work and stimulate the economy. Other programs that were submitted, but may not qualify were:

- 1) City Hall renovations
- 2) Fire Department renovations
- 3) Judicial Department renovations.

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Next, Mayor Johnson congratulated the Manning High School Band for being chosen to participate in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in January 2009. Mayor Johnson stated that Manning High School Band was one of approximately five bands chosen and the only band from South Carolina. Mayor Johnson stated that the city could help them, if needed, to ensure that they would be able to attend. Mayor Johnson stated that it was a great honor for Manning High School, their Band and for the City of Manning.

Next, on Behalf of the City of Manning, Lt. Col. Alexander Conyers of Manning, SC, sent the city a United States flag that was flown over Camp Delta on September 11, 2008 as a tribute to those who lost their lives during the attacks on September 11, 2001. Also included with the flag was a certificate of authenticity. Mayor Johnson read the certificate and asked that the flag and certificate be framed and displayed at City Hall.

VIII. Public Hearing:

A proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance to re- zone property located along West Boyce Street/South Carolina Highway 261, Tax Map No. 169-09-00-021-00 from Development District (DD) to General Commercial (GC).

Mayor Johnson asked those in favor or against the amendment to come forward and complete the sign-in sheet.

Mr. Todd Simmons, Civil Engineer, Freeland and Kaufman, 209 W. Stone Ave., Greenville, SC 29609

Mr. Simmons stated that he and Nikki Wagoner, representative of Lowe's Home Center, were available to answer any questions that Council may have. Mr. Simmons expressed his gratitude for the good working relationship they have had with the City's staff.

Mayor Johnson asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that he appreciated the comments on the cooperation they received regarding the staff. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that his only regret is that the press reported some things incorrectly. Mayor Johnson stated that Council had made it clear that they are looking forward to Lowe's coming to Manning, that the citizens would be able to buy quality building products and appliances at competitive prices, while spending their monies in Manning. Mayor Johnson stated that Council looks forward to the beautiful building being built, and more importantly, the jobs that would be provided. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that although Council may not please everyone, the vast majority of citizens are pleased with their decision. There were no other comments. Mayor Johnson brought the public hearing to a close.

IX. Finance Director's Report:

Mayor Johnson stated that since Council was meeting a week earlier than scheduled, the financial books had not been reconciled and financial report was not available for this meeting. Mayor Johnson asked Mrs. Prince to mail the Finance Report to Council once it is completed so that Council would entertain this month and last month's report at the January 2009 meeting.

X. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Rhodes had an excused absence. Mayor Johnson stated that most of the Administrator's Report was covered under the Mayor's Report. However, Mayor Johnson stated that Mrs. Rhodes left budget amendment requests for Council's consideration. They were as follows:

1) **Thermal Imaging Camera- Fire Department.** The cost is \$8,500.00. Mayor Johnson stated that this item was removed from the budget during the budget deliberations, but is an item that the Fire Department is asking Council's approval to purchase. The Administrator's recommendation was that \$6,000 would come from the Fire Department's Bunker Gear line item and \$2,500.00 would come from the Fund Balance. A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Witherspoon to approve the purchase of the Thermal Imaging camera with the budget amendments. In discussion, Councilmember Georgia asked why the camera was taken out of the budget. Mayor Johnson stated that when Department Heads present their budgets, they may have to take items out that they initially requested in order to balance the budget. Mayor Johnson stated that the Fire Department sees that the camera is something they need to perform their job effectively. In addition, Mayor Johnson stated that in the past Council has reviewed each Department Head's request so that they are aware of their needs before the final budget is approved. Then through either the Administrator level, or Council level, the decision would be made on what is approved. Next, Mayor Johnson stated that in preparing for next year's budget, Council would get a copy of the Department Head's initial request and work with the Administrator on what things to approve or not to approve. There was no further discussion. All favored the motion.

2) **GIS System- All Departments-** \$14,250.00. The Administrator's recommendation was to make the following transfers:

- a) Police Department-\$4,500 transferred from the vehicle cameras line item
- b) Utility Department- \$5,500 transferred from the Utility Department unforeseen repairs line item
- c) Fire Department- \$1,000 transferred from the computer hardware line item and \$2,000 from the FEMA Grant Expense line item;
- d) Administration Department-\$250 transferred from the zoning line item and \$1,000 from the ordinance codification line item.

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Mayor Johnson asked if the equipment would be used by all departments. Mayor Johnson stated that representatives who would be providing the equipment to the city, WTH, Inc., were available to answer questions. Mrs. Prince, Finance Director, stated that monies coming from Fund 30, Utility Department from unforeseen repairs line item would not be a transfer, but a check would be printed from the Utility Fund for \$5,500.00. Councilmember Davis asked if the equipment would be a replacement or an addition. Mr. Todd Shafer of WTH Technology explained that their company has an interface with the data that the County has developed for parcels, addresses and roads. This data would be combined with the city's software on layer technology to allow the city to do incident mapping, assist in putting in water lines, hydrants, create zoning layers for the planning department and many other departmental uses. Mr. Shafer stated that there are three editor licenses would that allow someone to make changes, 25 user licenses, and software to link the data together. Mr. Shafer stated that the County currently has parcel data and address data that they are maintaining that would also be a part of the city's package. However, an agreement between the City and County would have to be obtained to share the data. Councilmember Welle asked if the Department Heads were in agreement with the changes to their budget? Councilmember Davis had a concern of taking monies out of the Utility unforeseen repairs line item. Mayor Johnson stated that his understanding was that these are funds that the departments can spare. Mayor Johnson stated that the Police Department did not buy any vehicles so that the funds in the vehicle camera line item are not needed. In addition, Mr. Mayor Johnson stated that Mr. Hardy felt that he could spare \$5,500 in the Utility unforeseen repairs line item and the other departments are stating that the funds are not needed for the original purpose. Next Mayor Johnson stated that without the purchase of new cars there is no need for new cameras.

Councilmember Welle stated that when the budget was set it was set for the year knowing what we're spending and the projected revenues. Councilmember Welle stated that she did not have any problems with the amendment but wanted to make sure that the departments were in agreement with the transfers.

Mayor Johnson stated that Mrs. Prince was included on the budget amendments.

Mrs. Prince stated that she had received the information after Mayor Johnson received his. Mayor Johnson stated that the memo he received from Mrs. Rhodes memo stated that she would check with Mrs. Prince on the transfers. Mrs. Prince stated that Mrs. Rhodes had emailed some information to her but she was unable to open the attachment.

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Welle and was seconded by Councilmember Witherspoon to approve the purchase of the GIS system with the noted transfers. There was no additional discussion. All favored the motion.

Mayor Johnson stated that the two pieces of equipment would be of great benefit to the city.

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

Mayor Johnson stated that when Council meets again, Major Blair Shaffer would have been sworn in as Police Chief for the City of Manning. Mayor Johnson congratulated Major Shaffer for his promotion and stated that Council is happy to promote from within and looks forward to Major Shaffer continuing the great things that are being done by the Police Department. In addition, Mayor Johnson commended all departments and employees for the fine job that they do.

XI. Old Business:

A. Zoning Ordinance No. 2008-09M- (Second Reading). An Ordinance to re-zone a portion of property, located along West Boyce Street/South Carolina Highway 261, Tax Map No. 169-09-00-021-00 from Development District (DD) to General Commercial (GC).

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

XII. Councilmembers' Comments:

Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle stated she had received concerns about the Little League park in her district. Councilmember Welle stated that there are children playing in the park which is dangerous and it needs to be cleaned up. Councilmember Welle stated that she has been asking for a park in her district for approximately five years and if the city is not going to move forward in obtaining the property for a park, then the property owners should be contacted to clean it up. Councilmember Welle stated that Lee Stogner as well as other people have approached her about a park because there are a number of children in that district that could utilize a park. Mr. Hardy stated that Mrs. Rhodes approached Mr. Beau King last week concerning available property in that district. Mr. King will be meeting with Mrs. Rhodes and Mr. Hardy to look at some potential property that could be used as a park.

Councilmember Davis

Councilmember Davis asked if the city could obtain new bows for the Christmas Wreaths on the light poles downtown next year. Councilmember Davis stated that the bows are fading. Councilmember Welle stated that maybe the city could approach the Garden Clubs to make a contribution to purchase the bows. Councilmember Welle stated that if a request was sent to her on behalf of the city and addressed to the Garden Club, she could forward the request. Mayor Johnson asked that the information be passed on to the Administrator to follow up with the Garden Club and to follow up with the owners of the Little League Park about the upkeep.

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Councilmember Welle

Councilmember Welle, along with others, congratulated the Police Department for their hard work on the recent drug arrests made in the City of Manning.

XIII. Adjournment:

A **motion** was made by Councilmember Davis and was seconded by Councilmember Witherspoon to adjourn. There was no discussion. All favored the motion.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daun Davis
Administrative Services Coordinator/Clerk