

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2010

Present: Mayor Pennington IV
Mayor Pro-Tem Andrews
Councilmember Braddock
Councilmember Graham
Councilmember James
Councilmember Shirley
Councilmember Wilson
City Attorney Driggers

Staff: City Manager (Interim) Myers
City Clerk/Admin Services Director Skipper
Deputy Clerk DuBose
Finance Director Douglas
Fire Chief Heathman
Police Chief Kemp

Press

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON APRIL 13, 2010 AND DULY POSTED IN CITY HALL. PURSUANT TO CITY CODE SECTION 2-36 AND 2-47 UPON MOTION(S) MADE TO WAIVE THE READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY; THEY ARE READ BY TITLE ONLY. APPROVED ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS ARE FILED WITH ORIGINAL MINUTES AND NOT REPRINTED HEREIN.

Mayor Pennington called the meeting to order and asked Councilmember Braddock lead in the invocation and pledge to our flag.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER ANDREWS TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2010 AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2010; SECOND: GRAHAM; CARRIED: ALL AYES.

PRESENTATIONS

Boy Scout Troop #523 from Saint Luke United Methodist Church attended the Council meeting. The troop has twenty-five members who camp every month – even in the snow! The ten Scouts in attendance are working on their Citizenship and Community badges.

Mayor Pennington presented a proclamation declaring April “National Alcohol Awareness Month” in Hartsville to Cindy Shipman, Carolina Family Counseling.

Calvert & Dolly Wright live behind Pride Park. They love the park but are tired of the drugs, the through traffic, crime, and other issues. An alley runs between the park and several properties owned by citizens; residents are unsure of the status of the alley whether it is private property, an alley, or a road. Closing the alley would help the situation; the residents can handle the rest.

City Manager Myers informed the Wright’s the City applied for a grant for Pride Park that includes putting up a fence, adding restrooms, and more equipment. The grant awards announcement is this summer; if we receive the grant, the work done should help the situation.

Councilmember Wilson in the beginning the alley was a walk through path and wasn’t on anyone’s property. Can we do anything about the situation?

Calvert Wright if the HPD pulls through every half hour it would help. He is harassed because they know he calls the police.

City Attorney Driggers the City does not own the alley. The property owners all around the alley have an interest in the alley property; this is a private matter for the property owners.

Mayor Pennington can we assume ownership?

City Attorney Driggers it would take litigation to do so. The alley extends down between private properties and discrepancies in the landline would require a survey.

Calvert Wright asked about the signs put up by SCDOT on his property; he can’t cut the grass because of the signs.

Councilmember Wilson the signs are out because of the upcoming street-paving project on Sixth Street.

Mayor Pennington staff will contact SCDOT to see if they can get a timeline for removal of the signs. One of the Wright's neighbors has also contacted him about the signs; we'll work on it.

Lenora Lefew gave an event recap of the 13th Annual Renofest; it was her first as Executive Director of HDDA. She thanked the volunteers who kept her on track and helped her with the event. This was the second best Renofest in history, an accomplishment in such economic hard times. People from all over the country attended, including a couple that drove an RV from Florida and a group of Navy sailors who planned their leave specifically to come to Hartsville for Renofest. She thanked Marty Driggers for his help with Renofest.

Mayor Pennington the communications meetings included a discussion on better promotion of local events such as Renofest. Thanked her for the hard work and looks forward to future events.

Mary Alice Wilson, PDRTA Board Member, gave an annual update to Council. PDRTA provides transportation for the six Pee Dee area counties (Florence, Darlington, Marion, Dillon, Chesterfield, and Marlboro). They provide service for clients of Medicaid, Counsel on Aging, Pee Dee Active Day Care, and the Workforce Initiative Act as well as the public. In Darlington County in 2009, PDRTA drivers traveled 298,376 miles in 34,942 trips. PDRTA is in the process of examining routes for both Darlington and Hartsville with a shuttle service between the two cities; this expanded route would require an office with two to three employees and two to three drivers. Federal funding for the expanded route is in place but PDRTA requests \$25,000 in funding from the City to help with the matching funds required for the grant to expand service.

City Manager Myers spoke with PDRTA Director Baroody; in addition to the \$25,000, they request office space and a location to park vehicles as "in kind" compensation.

Mayor Pennington asked if the \$25,000 is already included in the budget.

City manager Myers the amount is not currently included in the budget figures, adding it will put expenditures \$200,000 over the expected revenues.

Mary Alice Wilson Director Baroody is willing to meet with Council while working on the budget to discuss funding.

Dr. Lee Gardner, Chair, gave the annual update to Council from the Airport Advisory Board. There have been many changes at the airport in the past year. After the death of long time FBO Johnny Payne a new FBO, Russell Fauver with Skyline Aviation, came on board in December 2009. He introduced Mr. Fauver to Council. The Board and those who utilize the airport are very pleased with him. Along with other needed repairs, he has remodeled the terminal building into a comfortable room for visitors with a business area and pilot supplies. The Board looks forward to working with Mr. Fauver. The construction of an eight bay open hangar should be complete any day now; once the electrical work is complete, the hangar will get a certificate of occupancy. An old hangar was demolished and the clean up is almost complete. Bad weather and the economy hurt the airport although business traffic is steady. There are tall trees at the end of the runway that are almost encroaching into the safety zone. The FAA has said the airport will receive no further funding until the problem is fixed; the Board is looking at funding possibilities for the project. Things are looking up at the airport and we are looking forward to 2010.

MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Darlington County Complete Count Committee is working hard to get the word out about the 2010 Census. The response rate for SC is 72% and the response rate for Hartsville is 75%. Liz Taylor, Complete Count Committee member, thanked Teresa Mack for her hard work and urged everyone to complete the Census questionnaire.

Teresa Mack the South Hartsville Neighborhood Association hosted the Census Road Tour. The South Hartsville area, Census Tract 107, currently has a response rate of 68% and the Fourth Street area, Tract 106, has a response rate of 62%. We are getting the message out that we are trying to get funding to the neighborhoods.

Mayor Pennington sheer will is getting people counted. Thank you all for your efforts.

City Clerk Skipper reminded Council that the annual Ethics Commission filing is due by April 15. Council may file the information electronically or by paper but the Ethics Commission must receive it by April 15 or a \$100 per day penalty is assessed on the Councilmember personally. If anyone needs a form, the Clerk's Office can get one for you but this is a personal obligation.

CONSENT AGENDA – Received as Information Only

Monthly Financial Statements

Committee Minutes/Reports

Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Reports

Development Report

Monthly Airport Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING ORDINANCE 4010: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY AMENDING THE ZONING OF TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 057-06-02-028 CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 5.5(+/-) ACRES OF PROPERTY OWNED BY DEBBIE MYERS AND LOCATED ON THE UNIMPROVED PORTION OF HEATLEY DRIVE FROM RESIDENTIAL (R-1) TO RESIDENTIAL (R-2) – Tabled until the May 11, 2010 Meeting.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: we received correspondence requesting a continuance until the May 2010 Council meeting on this item.

Motion to table until the May 11, 2010 meeting: Andrews; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

RES 16-10: AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE TO THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM – APPROVED.

City Manager Myers: as previously discussed, this grant will fund a project for infrastructure improvements in the South Hartsville area.

Motion to approve: Andrews; Second: James; Carried: All ayes.

Mayor Pennington hopes this project will give residents relief from some issues.

RES 17-10: ADOPTING A 504 COMPLIANCE PLAN – APPROVED.

City Manager Myers: under the Council-Manager form of government, the City Manager normally approves policies but as part of the Paint the Town grant the state requires Council adopt this policy by enacting a resolution.

Motion to approve: Andrews; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

RES 18-10: TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE LEASE DOCUMENTS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT – APPROVED.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrews asked the approximate delivery time on the ladder truck.

Chief Heathman the delivery schedule is mid to late June.

Councilmember Shirley asked if this is a lease to purchase the truck.

City Manager Myers yes.

Motion to approve: Wilson; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

RES 19-10: AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND INVESTMENT FUND FOR PURPOSES OF COMPLETING THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – APPROVED.

City Manager Myers: this resolution will approve using money from the City's investment fund to complete the base and install the Veteran's Memorial at Burry Park with the funds repaid when funds are received from donations and grants. Staff looked at a number of options to make up the deficit. A recommendation to sell plates on the back of each monument will bring in approximately half of the cost; selling bricks, seeking donations and grants will also raise funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Andrews the City asked SCDOT if the grant could be used for this project and SCDOT said no.

City Manager Myers there may be other grants available. The artist, Charlie Pate, is going to Atlanta on May 15 and will take the panels back to his studio for storage and safekeeping.

Councilmember Braddock how long before installation is complete if this action is approved?

City Manager Myers preparation of the base will take approximately six weeks; installation would be whenever the foundry can install the panels.

Councilmember Graham any tiles sold would be installed after the Veteran's Memorial is complete?

City Manager Myers yes, selling of the tiles will begin in two to three weeks.

Mayor Pennington this will be the largest Veteran's Memorial in SC.

Motion to approve: Andrews; Second: James; Carried: All ayes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Graham thanked Boy Scouts and everyone else for attending the meeting. She thanked the Wrights for voicing their concerns about the Pride Park area. She is looking forward to receiving the grant to help with problems in Pride Park. We had 90% participation with the survey for this grant; we hope this gives us a good chance of approval.

Councilmember James thanked the Boy Scouts for attending, commended Lenora Lefew on her efforts with HDDA, thanked all those who worked with the Census, is glad the fire truck will be here soon and hopes for success with the Pride Park grant. She is glad the Veteran's Memorial is close to completion as the project is close to her heart. She invited Council to Byerly Park on Friday, April 16 from 9am to 1pm for a Week of the Child Celebration.

Councilmember Shirley thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor Pro-Tem Andrews commended everyone for their efforts on the Census; your efforts will really help Hartsville. He is glad to see the Boy Scouts attending and invited them back to future meetings.

Councilmember Braddock enjoyed the City/County/School Board dinner meeting, we all share the same concerns. He is excited about potential grants and the delivery of the ladder truck. He encouraged staff to keeping tweaking the budgets.

Councilmember Wilson has seen more progress in two months than he has in two years. He is glad to have the Scouts and citizens at the meeting and hopes the Wrights will soon have good times at their residence and at Pride Park.

Mayor Pennington thanked Interim City Manager Myers for all his work; a great staff backs him. He invited Scouts to participate in the Veteran's Memorial Ceremony and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He assured everyone that Council is working tirelessly to move Hartsville forward.

Council was invited to the Great American Clean Up on Saturday, April 24 from 9am to noon at Pride Park, which will be the staging area.

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SC CODE FOIA 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) FOR RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE, TO DISCUSS LEGAL UPDATES ON OUTSTANDING LEGAL ISSUES AND PENDING LAWSUITS, PERSONNEL MATTERS, TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS - APPROVED.

Motion: Andrews; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

MOTION: TO VERIFY THAT ONLY THE ITEMS STATED IN THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION – APPROVED.

Motion: Andrews; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

RES 20-10: APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH CONSULTANTS FOR THE CITY MANAGER SEARCH – APPROVED.

Motion: Andrews; Second: James; Carried: All ayes.

RES 21-10: SETTING OF AND APPOINTMENTS TO CITY AD-HOC COMMITTEES – TABLED UNTIL THE MAY 11, 2010 MEETING.

Motion: Andrews; Second: Wilson; Carried: All ayes.

Motion to amend the agenda to hear Resolution 22-10: Andrews; Second: Wilson; Carried: All ayes.

RES 22-10: AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE WITH PROGRESS ENERGY – APPROVED.

Motion: Andrews; Second: Wilson; Carried: All ayes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – APPROVED.

Motion: Andrews; Second: Wilson; Carried: All ayes.

Adjournment at 8:45pm.

Carl M. (Mel) Pennington IV
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sherron L. Skipper, CMC
City Clerk