

**CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2009**

**Present: Mayor Holt**

**Mayor Pro-Tem McFarland  
Councilmember Andrews  
Councilmember Braddock  
Councilmember Graham  
Councilmember Shirley  
City Attorney Driggers**

**Staff:**

**City Manager Pennington  
City Clerk/Admin Services Director Skipper  
Deputy Clerk McDonald  
DEEPS Director Clemons  
Parks & Leisure Services Director Gardner  
Police Chief Kemp  
Public Works Director Welch**

**Press**

**Absent: Councilmember Wilson**

**PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON JANUARY 9, 2009 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 Michael S. Holt called the meeting to order and requested Councilmember McFarland lead in the invocation and pledge to our flag.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER GRAHAM TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2008; SECOND: ANDREWS; CARRIED: ALL AYES.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Employees with years of service ranging from five to thirty-five were recognized and presented with longevity awards by the City Manager.**

**Police Chief Kemp introduced new officers Brian Webbe, David Fortin, and Mike Anderson.**

**MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

**Mayor would like a delegation of Council to attend the County Transportation Committee meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> to express Council's support for the re-paving of Sixth Street. Mayor Holt, Mayor Pro-Tem McFarland and Councilmember Graham will attend the meeting.**

**Councilmember Wilson will be out for approximately 30 to 60 more days but he hopes to join us for the Council retreat on February 27<sup>th</sup>.**

**A revenue and expenditure analysis by the Finance Department was distributed to Council. Revenues are down in Hartsville as they are across the state and nation due to the economic downturn. Property tax and business license revenues are slow to come in this year and there has been a noticeable decline in hospitality tax funds received for the first time since it was implemented. As of January 12<sup>th</sup> total revenues are down \$494,000 from this date last year. The good news is we are watching every penny and put many purchases on hold, which has caused a decrease in expenditures of \$287,000 compared to December of 2007 but the continued cut of expenditures is going to affect services. We have to cut expenditures even further so a hiring freeze has been instituted, over time has been cut out, fees will no longer be reduced upon request, and at the February Council Retreat we will be looking at how this will effect staffing and salaries. A rental fee for the gym at the Sports Center will be presented soon; staff is looking at a fee akin to a similar facility at the beach. Economist project the economic downturn will last until 2010 but keep in mind local governments feel the effect for a longer time period than other entities.**

**CONSENT AGENDA – Received as Information Only**  
Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Reports  
Development Report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**FINAL READING ORDINANCE 3076: AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL HARTSVILLE CITY CODE CHAPTER 86 “VEGETATION” ARTICLE III “TREES” DIVISION 2 “TREE COMMITTEE” AND TO AMEND AND ADOPT CHAPTER 86 “VEGETATION” ARTICLE III “TREES” DIVISION 2 “PLANTING, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL” – TABLED UNTIL THE MARCH 2009 MEETING**

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager – staff recommends tabling until the March meeting. The Trees for Tomorrow Committee has been notified of this recommendation and is agreeable. Motion to table until the March 2009 Council Meeting: Andrews; Second: McFarland; Carried: All ayes.

**FINAL READING ORDINANCE 3078: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HARTSVILLE CITY CODE BY ADOPTING CHAPTER 11 “RESIDENTIAL RENTAL LICENSING PROGRAM” – TABLED UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 2009 MEETING.**

Motion to table until the February 2009 Council Meeting: McFarland; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

**Evelyn Dampier**, 614 Barefoot Street, is interested in this issue and wants to participate in any discussions held.

**Mayor** we have been looking at this issue for about a year and a half. The City has rental investors who are doing a great job of taking care of their property but others who are not doing so well. We are not trying to regulate rental housing but want to help improve the living conditions and other issues. There is an element to the ordinance that addresses problem tenants. The landlords concerns seem to be fees and degree of inspection. We encourage people to read and understand what the ordinance is and what it does.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING ORDINANCE 3084: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HARTSVILLE CITY CODE CHAPTER 46 “FLOODS” ARTICLE I “GENERAL STANDARDS” SECTION D “LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES” – APPROVED.**

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this is a clean up ordinance, it corrects a date on a map.

Open/Close Public Hearing (State name and address for record) – Mayor: No public input.

Approval of Final Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Andrews; Second: Braddock; Carried: All ayes.

**PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING ORDINANCE 3085: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING OF TAX MAP PARCEL # 036-12-01-011 CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 8.29 (+/-) ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1009 FOURTEENTH STREET FROM PD (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT) TO CA (CAMPUS) – APPROVED.**

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this approves the re-zoning of property on Fourteenth Street owned by Cornerstone Baptist Church. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the re-zoning.

Open/Close Public Hearing (State name and address for record) – Mayor: No public input.

Approval of Final Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: McFarland; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RES 01-09: APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR STREET LIGHTING SERVICE TO PROGRESS ENERGY FOR STREET LIGHTING AT THE VISTA – APPROVED.**

**City Manager**: Progress Energy requires that Council approve the execution of a contract to put up street lights in and along the Vista Property.

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

**RES 02-09: APPROVAL OF USER FEES FOR THE COACH T.B. THOMAS SPORTS CENTER – APPROVED.**

**City Manager** staff will probably come back with a recommendation of higher fees but this gets the minimum fee on the record as a start.

**Martha Bryant**, 306 Fourteenth Street, asked if the hours of operation could be extended to include evening hours in order to accommodate people who work until 5pm.

**Parks and Leisure Services Director Gardner** stated the hours of operation will be from 8am to 8pm once the fees are established. These hours will be for the exercise facility and walking trail.

**Councilmember Andrews** asked if the fees could differentiate between city residents and county residents. He feels city residents should get a break on their fees. Can we make these fees effective for three months and then re-examine them?

**City Manager** staff is looking at ways to determine residency. We need to get fees established as a beginning. Staff will review this issue and bring a proposal back in three months.

**Councilmember Graham** asked if the month was pro-rated if the person did not use the facility for the entire month.

**City Manager** no, the fees are set and are not pro-rated.

Motion to amend to state that set fees are effective for three months at which time a revised fees schedule will be presented to Council: Andrews; Second: McFarland; Carried: All ayes.

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

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Councilmember Braddock** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Please be assured we are dedicated to making this work.

**Councilmember Andrews** the Good Living Marketplace is doing well. I am always critical of the General Assembly when they do across the board budget cuts. As we go through our budget process and look at items I urge staff to save the essentials.

**Mayor Pro-Tem McFarland** thanked the City employees for their dedication. They do a wonderful job.

**Councilmember Graham** thanked the City employees for their service. Please know we are going to work hard to make this work.

**Councilmember Shirley** we will have to tighten our belts but we will get through it.

**Mayor Holt** hopes Councilmember Wilson will be back with us soon; he sounded good the last time I spoke with him. The Marketplace events are neat and wonderful opportunity. He looks forward to getting the Rental Housing Ordinance moving again.

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

Motion: Andrews; Second: Braddock; 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: McFarland; Carried: All ayes.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN – APPROVED.**

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

Adjournment at 7:30pm.

(Signed)  
Michael S. Holt, Mayor

ATTEST: (Signed)  
Sherron L. Skipper, CMC  
City Clerk