

**CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2009**

Present: Mayor Holt

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

Staff:

**City Manager Pennington
City Clerk/Admin Services Director Skipper
DEEPS Director Clemons
Finance Director Douglas
Fire Chief Heathman
Parks & Leisure Services Director Gardner
Police Chief Kemp
Public Works Director Welch**

Press

PURSUANT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SC CODE 30-4-80: WRITTEN NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE PRESS BY EMAIL ON MARCH 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 Mayor Pro-Tem McFarland lead in the invocation and pledge to our flag.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER WILSON TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2009; SECOND: GRAHAM; CARRIED: ALL AYES.

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Money, Darlington County Tourism Director, invited Council to a tourism meeting on March 24th from 9am to 11am at the Darlington Raceway Presidential Suite. This meeting is an opportunity for the Tourism Office to present information to and receive input from those with a vested interest in tourism in Darlington County.

Judi Elvington, HDDA Executive Director, reminded Council of the 12th Annual Renofest Bluegrass Festival that will be held the weekend of March 28th and gave an overview of the festival events. Burry Park will be used for the Downtown Hoedown on Friday, please bring lawn chairs. On Saturday there will be concerts. The festival will end on Sunday at Wesley United Methodist Church with a gospel sing and spaghetti dinner. Ticket sales are on track with previous years.

The City of Hartsville received a clean audit with no findings from the auditing firm of Phillips, Hursey & Farrell, CPAs, LLC. The firm thanked staff for their assistance; staff is excellent to work with.

Johnnie Woods, Edgewood Drive, asked if Hartsville will receive any of the stimulus package money. Hartsville needs to annex more people in order to keep costs down.

City Manager Pennington a portion of the SC funding the governor has control over and some he does not. Not a lot of the funding will affect us too much.

Alice Tucker, 307 Jasper Avenue, lost her house to a fire on January 28th. Thanked the Hartsville Fire Department and Hartsville Police Department for their response. We use to have a shelter and the Red Cross has also cut back. She encouraged the re-establishment of a shelter in Hartsville. She also encouraged the installation of a restroom at Pride Park and removal of old buildings across from Jerusalem Baptist Church.

Mayor Holt recognized Dr. James Pennington, City Manager, and congratulated him on receipt of his doctorate.

MANAGEMENT UPDATE

After passage of the stimulus package funding is available under two sources for police officers. The funding is for entry level personnel only, a frozen or laid off position. The caveat of the grant is that the position must continue for three years after the funding has stopped. Staff will determine if this is feasible.

Some funding is available through Rural Development. Staff will check to see if we are eligible for any funding.

The budget has not improved since the Council Retreat.

There has not been much of a change in the hospitality tax, sales are holding their own.

CONSENT AGENDA – Received as Information Only

Monthly Financial Report

Committee Draft Minutes/Reports

Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Monthly Reports

Monthly 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” – DEFEATED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this code change has been reviewed, revised and will be presented later during this meeting as a new ordinance due to the significant changes made to the ordinance.

Approval of Final Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Andrews; Second: McFarland; Defeated: All nays.

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

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: recommend tabling until the April meeting.

Approval of Final Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion to table until the April 14, 2009 meeting:

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 3087: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING OF THE VISTA PROPERTY, 101 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, TAX MAP PARCEL #056-06-02-070, FROM INDUSTRIAL (M-1) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS (B-1) AND THREE ADJACENT PROPERTIES ALONG RAILROAD AVENUE, TAX MAP PARCEL #056-06-02-049, 056-06-02-081, 056-06-02-082, FROM PROFESSIONAL (P-1) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS (B-1) – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this recommendation comes from the Planning Commission and affects the old railroad office building.

Vern Myers, Planning Commission Chair, the current zoning is manufacturing. The railroad is gone and the Vista needs zoning other than manufacturing. The Planning Commission recommends a more appropriate zoning of B-1.

Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Graham; Second: Andrews; Carried: All ayes.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 3088: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A NEW MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND PROGRESS ENERGY – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this ordinance approves a new electric franchise with Progress Energy. The fee will be 5% for five year contract.
Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Andrews; Second: McFarland; Carried: All ayes.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 3089: 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” – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this code change has been revised to comply with SCDOT regulations and removed the section on the Tree Committee. Ed Fort, Trees for Tomorrow Chair, agrees with the changes and sent his regrets that he could not attend tonight’s meeting. Betty Wiggins, Trees for Tomorrow, thanked the City for their cooperation; this is a win-win situation.
Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Wilson; Second: Graham; Carried: All ayes.

RES 06-09: AUTHORIZING THE WAIVING OF BUSINESS LICENSE FEES FOR THE GOOD LIVING MARKETPLACE EVENTS IN APRIL, MAY, AND JUNE 2009 – APPROVED.

Mayor Holt appreciates the organizers; this is a very successful way to improve the quality of life for Hartsville citizens.

Vern Myers, Planning Commission Chair, the March event had 64 vendors and approximately 2,000 people attended the marketplace.

Councilmember Graham asked if vendors pay a fee to participate.

Mayor Holt stated they pay a fee to HDDA but do not pay a business license fee.

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

RES 07-09: TO REQUEST THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AND PRESENT A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – APPROVED.

City Manager: there are requirements to becoming a Certified Local Government but the certification would make the City eligible for a number of grants. Because a historic preservation ordinance is required, we are asking the Planning Commission to review this issue and send a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Holt all the available information on this issue will be sent to the Planning Commission in order for them to make a recommendation back to us. He appreciates the draft minutes Council received with the agenda.

Councilmember Andrews the Planning Commissioners are volunteers and we need to make sure they have the resources they need to get the job done.

Vern Myers, Planning Commission Chair, as long as we have the background information and support we are glad to move along. The Commission would like to have a priority list from Council with the other issues referred to the Commission by Council.

RES 08-09: APPROVAL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE AND THE GREATER HARTSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE’S TREES FOR TOMORROW COMMITTEE – APPROVED.

City Manager: Ed Fort, Trees for Tomorrow Committee Chair, agrees with this agreement.

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

RES 09-09: APPROVAL OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 2009 LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS – APPROVED.

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

RES 10-09: APPROVAL OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICE (COPS) HIRING RECOVERY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT POSITIONS – APPROVED.

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

RES 11-09: DESIGNATION OF AUDITING FIRM FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009 AND AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN THE BID PROCESS FOR AN AUDITING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 – APPROVED.

City Manager: staff will put together a request for proposals (RFP) immediately and approve the firm right after the beginning of the new fiscal year.

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Wilson we're still trying to do what is right for the City. We may be slow at times but we are trying. Council has a lot on the table; asked constituents to please be patient. We all love Hartsville.

Councilmember Braddock thanked everyone for their thoughts, concerns, and prayers during his recent illness. He saw his doctor today and everything is fine. The love that Hartsville has is incredible. The Palmetto People episode on Hartsville was a good segment. He thanked Finance Director Douglas for assisting during audit process. He enjoyed the Council retreat.

Councilmember Andrews no news is good news on a financial audit. Thanked City Manager Pennington, Judi Elvington, and Marty Driggers for their hard work on Renofest. He would like to see Darlington County involved in a Swamp Fox Trail.

Mayor Pro-Tem McFarland the Mayor did a good job selling Hartsville. Thanked Marty Driggers and Judi Elvington for their hard work on Renofest.

Councilmember Graham is happy to see all those who come out to the Council meetings. Council and Staff are working to solve problems in the City.

Councilmember Shirley thanked staff for doing a great job. Staff is doing more with less and we will give you less again next year.

Mayor Holt thanked Vern Myers and the Planning Commission. We need to give priorities to the Planning Commission, may need to schedule a sit down meeting with commissioners. Police Chief had discussions with area hotel to see if criminal activity is there and take recommendations. He urged the continued support of the Good Living Marketplace and Renofest. Council tabled the Rental Housing Ordinance and asked DEEPS Director Clemons to take a look at it, accommodate the concerns, and bring accountability through quality housing and tenants. Council wants an update on Clemson-Butler Project; the students have graduated but Butler is still here. Asked staff to look at dilapidated buildings at Myrtle Street and Washington Street and make a recommendation to remedy the situation. He also asked staff to remove debris on Pleasant Drive.

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: McFarland; Second: Wilson; Carried: All ayes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – APPROVED.

Motion: McFarland; Second: Shirley; Carried: All ayes.

Adjournment at 7:25pm.

Michael S. Holt, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Andrea McDonald, CMC
Deputy Clerk