

CITY OF HARTSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

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

Staff: City Manager (Interim) Myers
City Clerk/Admin Services Director Skipper
Deputy Clerk DuBose
Finance Director Douglas
Fire Chief Burr
Parks & Leisure Services Director Gardner
Police Chief Kemp

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 SEPTEMBER 10, 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 Shirley lead in the invocation and pledge to our flag.

MOTION BY MAYOR PRO TEM ANDREWS TO WAIVE READING OF AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2010; SECOND: GRAHAM; CARRIED: ALL AYES.

PRESENTATIONS

Sharman Poplava, Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, introduced Allison Peterson as the new Darlington County Tourism Director. Allison has 15 years experience in marketing and public relations. She is a Hartsville native and will be moving home from Florida with her husband and three children. The previous day was her first on the job; her office is located in the Chamber's offices on Fifth Street, Hartsville.

Fire Chief Burr announced the promotion of Captain Jason Bell, Captain Larry Bess, Lieutenant Jacob Patrick, and Lieutenant Darren Terry.

Judi Elvington gave an update on the Veterans Memorial. Several members of the Veterans Memorial Dedication Committee were present: Warner Dehart, James Ousley, Frankie Bush and staff liaison Sherry Griggs. The committee will meet at 10am tomorrow to focus on the event program. Due to an anticipated high attendance by the elderly, the program will be kept to a minimum. The dedication will be Thursday November 11th at 11am. It is a work and school day but we hope with such advanced notice people will be able to attend. Charlie Pate, sculptor and Hartsville native, will attend. The ceremony will dedicate the sculpture and raise the flag. Hartsville will be immensely proud of this project. The deadline to purchase memorial plaques for installation prior to the ceremony has passed. However, for those who purchase plaques prior to the ceremony we are working on having a mock up of the plaques on display at the ceremony; the end of September is the deadline to be included on the mock up. All who purchase plaques will receive invitations to dedication ceremony.

Sherry Griggs stated there were 204 plaques purchased; we are working on completing the third wall.

Vern Myers thanked Ms. Griggs for offering to help get this project started when it began. The project has blossomed with her help and hard work. She inputs the information, ensures everything is correct, proofs the copy and much more. He presented a certificate of appreciation to Ms. Griggs in recognition of her hard work and dedication to this project.

The Mayor thanked Griggs, Elvington, and the committee members.

Mr. Myers thanked Jim Faile, *The Messenger*, for his coverage of the Memorial; it helped get the project complete.

Ruth Iseman, Chair, gave the Design Review Board Annual Update. The Board's goal is to help applicants highlight their buildings through design assistance. The Board had 38 applications this year; one is First Citizens new plans for a smaller structure at the old Pizza Hut location. They have also worked with PDRTA. The Board received word that Bank of America has promised to fix the clock; repair of clock was part of the approved

façade improvements in 2008 but it was not completed. She thanked City Manager Myers for his assistance with this issue.

Parks and Leisure Services Director Gardner just returned from Orlando, Florida. Hartsville has bid on hosting the 2012 Dixie Girls Ponytail World Series; out of the twelve states represented, Hartsville was awarded the bid. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 27, 2012.

Lenora Lefew, HDDA, Jazz!Carolina 2010 will be October 2nd. This is the 13th year of this signature event. Traffic will be detoured around the 100 block of East Carolina Avenue for the event. Coker College will finish its alumni week with Jazz!Carolina. Those who would like to reserve a table for the event may do so by contacting HDDA. Several jazz groups will play followed by Bhakti Project, the headliner. A band member is heavily promoting this event on his radio station in Timmonsville. She reminded everyone of HDDA's new office location on West Carolina Avenue.

Mayor Pennington reminded everyone of The Taste of Society Hill on Thursday. The WBTW Our Town project will kick off in Hartsville on October 6th. Bob Juback and Nicole Boone will broadcast the 5pm and 6pm newscast live from downtown Hartsville. The City received a \$474,000 grant for water improvements to the South Hartsville area; funding will allow for ten new fire hydrants, bigger pipes, and better service to area.

MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Painting in downstairs of City Hall began today, please be careful of wet paint.

City Manager Myers spoke with Coleman Lew regarding the city manager search today. They are in contact with candidates to arrange schedules to interview with council. We are getting close.

CONSENT AGENDA – Received as Information Only

Monthly Financial Statements
Committee Minutes/Reports
Monthly Revenue Report
Development Report
Monthly Airport Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING ORDINANCE 4020: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY AMENDING THE ZONING OF FIVE PARCELS, TAX MAP NUMBERS 056-07-01-051, 056-07-01-052, 056-07-01-053, 056-07-01-054, AND 056-07-01-058, CONSISTING OF 1.93(+/-) ACRES OF PROPERTY OWNED BY COKER COLLEGE AND LOCATED ON EAST CAROLINA AVENUE AND SECOND STREET FROM M-1 (INDUSTRIAL) TO CA (CAMPUS) ZONING – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: the Planning Commission recommends the rezoning.

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: James; Carried: all ayes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL READING ORDINANCE 4021: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 22,874 SQ. FT. OF THE CARGILL SITE – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager

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: James; Carried: all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4022: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HARTSVILLE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY AMENDING THE ZONING OF NINE PROPERTIES; THREE PROPERTIES WITH FRONTAGE ON RAILROAD AVENUE BETWEEN CHINABERRY STREET AND COKER AVENUE (TAX MAP NUMBERS 056-07-01-039, 056-07-01-040, AND 056-07-01-042 FROM INDUSTRIAL (M-1) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS (B-1), TWO PROPERTIES WITH FRONTAGE ON RESERVOIR STREET (TAX MAP #'S 056-07-01-081 AND 056-07-01-038) FROM INDUSTRIAL (M-1) TO PROFESSIONAL (P-1), FOUR PROPERTIES WITH FRONTAGE ON SOUTH FIFTH STREET BETWEEN LAURENS AVENUE AND DAVIS STREET (TAX MAP #'S 056-10-02-025, 056-10-02-023, 056-10-02-022 AND 056-10-02-021) FROM INDUSTRIAL (M-1) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS (B-1) AND ONE PROPERTY WITH FRONTAGE ON SOUTH FOURTH STREET BETWEEN LAURENS AVENUE AND DAVIS STREET (TAX MAP #056-10-02-020) FROM INDUSTRIAL (M-1) TO CENTRAL BUSINESS (B-1) – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager – the Planning Commission recommends the rezoning.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Andrews stated we are trying to expand the business district of downtown by one block along Fourth and Fifth Streets. The Planning Commission addressed the concerns of business owners.

FIRST READING ORDINANCE 4023: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A ONE YEAR LEASE RENEWAL OF THE OLD RAIL PASSENGER STATION TO THE OLD DARLINGTON DISTRICT CHAPTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – APPROVED.

Reading by Title and Presentation – City Manager: this action renews the lease of the rail passenger station to the Genealogical Society.

Approval of First Reading and Waiving of Complete Reading: Motion: Graham; Second: Shirley; Carried: All ayes. Mayor Pro Tem Andrews abstained from discussing or voting on this issue due to his membership with the Genealogical Society.

RES 62-10: TO REQUEST THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE CITY CODE SECTION(S) ON NUISANCES IN RELATION TO OVERGROWN OR UNKEMPT LOTS ALONG WITH ORDINANCES AND/OR PROCESSES FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES AND PRESENT A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL – APPROVED.

City Manager Myers complaints are submitted to City Hall about unkempt lots; the lots need to be addressed. The proposal is along same lines as the City of Darlington. The Planning Commission has three issues they are currently reviewing for Council but the chair assures the City Manager they can handle this issue as well. Motion: Andrews; Second: James; Carried: all ayes.

Henry Gibson, 717 8th street, requested detailed information on the South Hartsville project; what does the project entail, what can citizens expect, and what area is affected?

Mayor Pennington the City has two grants; one upgrades to larger lines and will affect 98 households and six streets in the South Hartsville area. The new lines will be laid parallel to the existing lines in order to minimize interruption of service. The second grant upgrades all water meters in Hartsville to radio read meters; the meters will improve service to detect leaks and improve reading accuracy.

Gibson asked if any work be done on the drainage system.

Mayor Pennington stated staff has been working on drainage. A major project at Forest Ridge and Campbell Street was just completed. City staff has been keeping ditches cleaned out but the areas not cleaned out in the county cause the flooding in the city limits.

James Simmons, 508 South 11th Street, the last time the area flooded he pulled three cars out of the water. The intersections need to be cut properly and the trees need to be trimmed because people cannot see stop signs. Public Service Director Clemons we have started the engineering process to solve problem.

Mayor Pennington stated we are working with the county and school board, which means delicate process. If grant funding comes through, we will be better able to work on the problem.

James Simmons asked if a sign could be put out prior to rains to help and prevent someone from being injured or killed.

Mayor Pennington assured him staff is working on the problem and law enforcement keeps an eye on the area to try to make sure to put signs out.

Marilyn Flowers, 107 North Lee Street, asked about the current ordinance on unkempt lots.

Mayor Pennington the current ordinance has prescribed penalties but doesn't mean they have always been enforced to fullest extent. For example, Mrs. Lighty keeps her properties well maintained but next to her are three problem properties with overgrown areas and a burned down house. The proposal will allow the City to come in and cut the grass after homeowner has many opportunities to correct a problem. If the property owner does not pay the fine, a lien will be placed on the property tax notice and the property will be sold at tax sale if it is not paid. The proposal is not looking at going out to measure grass height but to address blighted sites.

Marilyn Flowers has called about problem properties but in the meantime what do we do.

Mayor Pennington stated her area is difficult because there are places in and out of the city limits. In addition, the city does not have funds to cut everybody's grass; we have struggled to keep grass at city locations cut.

Marilyn Flowers stated the house at corner of Lee Street and Carolina Avenue is so bad there is going to be an accident.

Teresa Mack, 426 Sumter Avenue, has unique position because of her contacts for SHNA. She has people who are willing to clean these properties up. The problem with some of the properties is the properties are in probate with many heirs. In some cases, there are heirs who are willing to clean up properties. She doesn't want to see a lien put on a property because the proper heir who is willing to clean up property could not be reached.

Johnnie Woods, 1000 Edgewood Drive, would like to speak someone about street paving. Edgewood Drive was last paved in the 1960's. Whom can she speak to about repaving? Mayor Pennington told her paving is a tough issue. Council really doesn't have anything to do with paving. SCDOT is the authority that says paving funds are available. SCDOT designated the County Transportation Committee (CTC) to look at assigned criteria and determine which streets are paved. They are limited in what paving they can do because their funds were cut. Contact the CTC on this issue.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Braddock welcomed Allison Peterson back home; the Chamber and HDDA will keep her busy promoting Hartsville. He congratulated Chief Burr and those who received promotions. He is excited about this afternoon's check presentation; we needed it for a while. He is looking forward to more grants. Director Gardner did a good job in Florida; looking forward to hosting the World Series in 2012. He's glad to hear comments tonight.

Councilmember Shirley thanked staff for doing a great job. He thanked Mr. Myers for his service. As you can see if you don't come to many of our meetings, we're trying to do a whole lot with a little bit of money. We don't have any control over paving; he came home from vacation one year and his street had been paved but didn't have anything to do with it and didn't even know it was going to happen.

Councilmember Graham in the past Council gave a list of streets to the CTC but they used their own judgment and formulas for paving. We only have a little bit of money; we have 7,556 residents and 30,000 people that use the City, we need more annexation. She thanked staff for their work.

Councilmember James congratulated those promoted. She welcomed Allison Peterson back to Hartsville; you have much support. She commended citizens who came with solutions to issues; always great to hear input on solutions. She thanked Director Clemons for the work on water system upgrade grant and thanked Mayor Pennington for his efforts to pull community together.

Mayor Pro Tem Andrews thanked the Veterans Memorial Committee; this will be a destination for folks all over SC. He welcomed Allison Peterson; she once was in his classroom. Applauded the citizen involvement; please don't wait until there is a crisis to come out please come out regularly. He thanked all those who attended.

Mayor Pennington welcomed Allison Peterson; glad to have you here. The big checks are nice to get but only happen when citizens and staff work together. He thanked the Veterans Memorial Committee; it is good to see the project coming to fruition. He thanked the citizens for coming out. His own yard floods so he understands their concerns. We are focusing on these concerns and as soon as we can get funding we will be addressing it. Thank you for coming and voicing your concerns. Many good things are going on Hartsville; some things take longer but he is learning to be patient.

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, AND TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS – approved.
Motion: Andrews; Second: James; Carried: all ayes.

MOTION: TO VERIFY THAT ONLY THE ITEMS STATED IN THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION.
Motion: Graham; Second: Shirley; Carried: all ayes.

RES 39-10: APPOINTMENTS TO CITY AD-HOC COMMITTEES – TABLED.
Tabled until the October 2010 meeting.

Adjournment at 9:55pm with no objections.

Carl M. (Mel) Pennington IV
Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Sherron L. Skipper, CMC
City Clerk