

August 26, 2002

few months the young foxes will be finding their own territory, and there will be a lot of road kills, so there will not be a problem in a few months. She said every year about this time there are a lot of foxes, but this year is worse and because of the drought there is not much food. She said normally grey foxes are shy and you do not see them much, except when they are looking for food. She said, however, the problem will fix itself in a few months. She said some people are concerned about rabies and their pets. She said rabies is a concern but the real concern about rabies in the southeast is raccoons, as they are the biggest carriers of rabies, not foxes. She said one reason the foxes are coming into the neighborhoods is that people leave food out for their animals, and the foxes are getting the food. She recommended that people not feed their pets outside and not do anything to encourage the foxes to come to the home because of the concern about rabies. She said, as far as diseases, rabies is a concern, but usually not in foxes. She said foxes frequently get a dumb form of rabies, and another disease is distemper, and sometimes this is confused with rabies. Distemper is fatal to the foxes. She suggested that people not put food out and not try to corner the foxes, and the problem should disappear in a few months.

After discussion of the matter and hearing Dr. Weston's information on the foxes, Council felt the city should continue its present policy of primarily helping citizens with dog and cat complaints, as the city is not equipped to deal with wild animals unless the problem becomes a safety issue. Council asked that information be given to the news media to inform the citizens about foxes and the city's policy.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Terms

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had discussed drawing for terms on boards and commissions to make terms on the boards staggered. He said the staff was prepared for the drawing. He asked Council to draw numbers from a box. For the Community Development Committee the one year term was drawn for Councilwoman Price's appointment. For the Board of Zoning Appeals two appointments needed to have a one year appointment and those drawn were for Councilwoman Price's appointment and for Councilman Sprawls' appointment. On the Environmental Committee the one year term was drawn by Councilwoman Vaughters' appointment. On the Historic Preservation Commission the one year term was drawn by Councilman Sprawls' appointment. On the Planning Commission two one year terms were needed and those were drawn by Councilwoman Clyburn and Mayor Cavanaugh's appointments.

Mayor Cavanaugh gave Council some information on Ms. Essie Patterson who has been Council's appointment to the Aiken County Transit Commission and stated Council needed to make an appointment to the board. Council asked that the appointment be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting. He said this is a general appointment by Council.

REGULAR MEETING

August 26, 2002

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Clyburn, Cuning, Price, Smith, Sprawls and Vaughters.

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Bill Huggins, Gary Smith, Pete Frommer, Larry Morris, Ed Evans, Glenn Parker, Anita Lilly, Sara Ridout, Karen Daily of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinias of the Augusta Chronicle, and 25 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to approve the agenda. Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that the agenda be approved.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting and work session of August 12, 2002, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Price moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Aiken Fire Soccer Team Soccer Team

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council would like to recognize the Aiken Fire Soccer Team.

Mr. LeDuc stated Council was very happy to have the members of the Aiken Fire Soccer Team present who recently competed at the U.S. Soccer National Championships. He said Council wanted to say thanks for what the team has done for the community of Aiken in representing Aiken so well at the state, regional and the national tournaments. The young men on the under 15 division of the Aiken Fire Soccer Team won their division for the State of South Carolina and went on to win the Southeast Regional. Next they competed for the National Championships in Germantown, Maryland, and faced three other regional winners from New York, Chicago, and California. This was the first South Carolina male team to go on to the national championship. The coach, Justin Rhodes, described his athletes as blue collar and hard workers, with the best part being they played as a team. The Aiken Standard stated that although they did not have any glamour sponsorship or any nationally ranked players, they were hard working kids from Aiken. At the Championship they beat the Chicago team, tied the California team, and lost to the New York team, but, based on their play in the first round, they went on to the Championship match against the New York team. After a hard fought battle with outstanding defense and leaving nothing on the field, the team was narrowly defeated 1 – 0. They were awarded the Fair Play Award and received the National Runner Up Trophy. This boys' team was the first to ever represent the state of South Carolina at a National Championship.

Mr. LeDuc recognized Frank Wise and Jim Victor for the years of work they had put into making soccer the premier sport that it is in Aiken.

Mayor Cavanaugh read a proclamation that had been prepared to recognize the team and their Coach Justin Rhodes and Team Manager, Jim Victor.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked Coach Rhodes and Team Manager Victor to come to the front so Council could recognize each team member and present a Certificate to each.

Coach Rhodes thanked Council for their kind words for the team, program and parents. He said the team members had worked hard and he felt they deserved to be recognized. He said he was proud of the way they played soccer and prouder of the way they represented themselves and the community of Aiken. Council presented a Certificate to each team member and the proclamation signed by Council to the Coach.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSAppointmentsMcKie, EugeneHarrison, JosephCommunity Development CommitteeRedd, TimothyBouknight, AndrewBuilding Code of Appeals CommitteeWilliams, JosephGeneral Aviation Commission

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider appointments to the various boards and commissions of the city.

Mr. LeDuc stated five appointments are presented for Council's consideration.

Mayor Cavanaugh has recommended reappointment of Eugene McKie of 615 Lincoln Avenue to the Community Development Committee. If reappointed the term would expire September 2, 2004.

Councilwoman Clyburn has recommended reappointment of Timothy Redd of 1015 Westcliff Drive to the Building Code of Appeals Committee. If reappointed the term would expire May 12, 2004.

Councilwoman Price has recommended reappointment of Andrew Bouknight of 528 Lincoln Avenue NW to the Building Code of Appeals Committee. If reappointed the term would expire May 12, 2004.

Councilwoman Price has also recommended reappointment of Joseph Harrison of 414-B Richland Avenue W. to the Community Development Committee. According to the drawing held at the work session, if reappointed the term would be for one year and would expire September 2, 2003.

Councilwoman Price has recommended reappointment of Joseph Williams of 128 White Willow Place to the General Aviation Commission. If reappointed the term would expire September 1, 2004.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council reappoint Eugene McKie to the Community Development Committee for a two year term to expire September 2, 2004, Joseph Harrison to the Community Development Committee for a one year term to expire September 2, 2003, Joseph Williams to the General Aviation Commission for a two year term to expire September 1, 2004, and Timothy Redd and Andrew Bouknight to the Building Code of Appeals Committee for two year terms to expire May 12, 2004.

EASEMENT – ORDINANCE 08262002SCE&GSouth Carolina Electric & Gas Co.Camellia StreetSundy Street

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to grant an easement to SCE&G in the area formerly known as the Camellia Trailer Park.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY.

Mr. LeDuc stated the city has plans for development of the former Camellia Trailer Park as discussed with Council at the last meeting. The proposed ordinance is for an easement

for South Carolina Electric & Gas Company to install electrical lines in the former Camellia Trailer Park area, which is being developed by the City of Aiken. Much of this easement is intended to be within the right of way to avoid trenching in locations near the trees and will exit between units to Bamberg and Gwinnett. A drawing showing the proposed easement was given to Council for review.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be approved on second and final reading granting an easement to SCE&G for the location of underground wiring at the new subdivision to be located at Camellia and Sundry.

ZONING – ORDINANCE 08262002A

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Marriott-Fairfield Inn

Colony Parkway

Holiday Inn Express

Shah, Ramesh

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to rezone property for the Fairfield Inn & Suites on Colony Parkway.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF COLONY PARKWAY FROM LIMITED PROFESSIONAL TO GENERAL BUSINESS.

Mr. LeDuc stated as City Council discussed at their last meeting the Shahs would like to begin construction of a Fairfield Inn & Suites off Colony Parkway. They came before Council in February, 1996, asking that the property be rezoned from Neighborhood Business to Professional with expansion of the motel's property. In May, 1999, the owner of the property was granted an extension of three years to December 31, 2000 to build the motel. In November, 1999 under the new Zoning Ordinance all property previously zoned Professional was changed to Limited Professional. In November, 2000, they asked for an extension to December 31, 2001, to allow them to build a Marriott-Fairfield Inn & Suites on the vacant property next to the Holiday Inn Express. Since this time has expired they need to proceed through a complete rezoning of this property, which requires approval through the Planning Commission and a first and second reading by City Council. The rezoning would not occur until the owner places a restrictive covenant on the property that allows only a hotel or any other use permitted under LP zoning and prohibits a restaurant or lounge on the property.

The Planning Commission approved this unanimously in a special meeting on August 20, 2002 with five conditions.

1. only the construction of a motel, hotel, or residential use permitted in the Limited Professional zone would be allowed;
2. a restaurant or lounge would be prohibited on the property;
3. access for pedestrians through the parking lot to a walk-through trail at the end of the parking lot to The Carolina Bay would be permitted should City Council decide to proceed with the trail plans;
4. there be a buffer at least 35 feet wide adjacent to any lot used for single-family residential purposes, that the existing vegetation remain, and that where such vegetation is sparse, that additional vegetation be planted to form an effective screen; and
5. that there be no access from Westover Drive except for emergency purposes, if deemed necessary by the Department of Public Safety.

Council will need to amend the ordinance if they would like to include these new conditions. Once it is amended, the public hearing and second reading can then be concluded.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be amended to include the five conditions recommended by the Planning Commission.

Councilwoman Vaughters asked if condition 3 meant there could be a pathway from Westover Drive through the parking lot to the Carolina Bay. She was interested if there could be a path from downtown, off Whiskey Road into Westover Drive, around the motel and to the Carolina Bay.

The public hearing was held.

Councilman Smith stated if the city had not approved the rezoning in the past, he would not be in favor of the rezoning because it is not entirely consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. He said the question regarding not adding more traffic along this section of Whiskey Road had not been addressed. He said since the City had done this in the past he felt it should be carried on at this point. He said he was concerned about this intersection and the traffic. He said this is a problem intersection, and he felt this should be addressed. He said people have to stop in the fast moving lane to turn left into Colony Parkway. He felt the traffic problem should be addressed, possibly with a traffic signal. He felt the motel would create more traffic at an already dangerous intersection.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out that Council had granted a cut through about a year ago in the parkway on Colony Parkway. This cut through would allow the patrons of the hotel to use the cut through and go around to Kings Grant Road or to Price Avenue which both have traffic signals. It was felt this would help with some of the traffic in this area.

Councilwoman Vaughters suggested that a turn lane on Whiskey Road may help the situation.

Mr. LeDuc stated he would ask Public Safety to look at the intersection to see if some improvements could be made in striping to make turn lanes to help with traffic.

Councilwoman Vaughters noted that the Planning Department had recommended Office/Institutional zoning, and she was wondering why the O/I zone was not requested. Discussion followed on the process for the rezoning in the past and the conditions being placed on the property.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a letter had been received from Mr. Phillip G. Lockard, of 808 Legare Road, who was opposed to the motel.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance as amended including the five recommendations of the Planning Commission to rezone property east of the Holiday Inn Express for a proposed Marriott-Fairfield Inn & Suites from Limited Professional to General Business be passed on second and final reading to become effective at such time as the owner places restrictive covenants on the property as requested by the City in the conditions.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

Clifton Street 108
Keaton, Kathryn
Virginia Acres
TPN 30-057.0-03-006

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to annex 108 Clifton Street in the Virginia Acres Subdivision.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF .25 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY KATHRYN KEATON AND LOCATED AT 108 CLIFTON STREET AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-10).

Mr. LeDuc stated Kathryn Keaton owns a single family home at 108 Clifton Street in the Virginia Acres Subdivision. She would like to annex the .25 acre lot with an RS-10 zoning. This is compatible with the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood, which is currently served by city water but not city sewer. City sewer service may be available some time in the future, but is not available at this time. The right of way on Clifton Street would not be included in this annexation.

The Planning Commission at their August 13, 2002, meeting voted unanimously to approve this annexation.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex a .25 acre single family unit at 108 Clifton Street as RS-10 zoning and that second reading and public hearing be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

TOWER - ORDINANCE

Lease
Cell Tower
SBA Properties
SunCom
Town Creek Road
Silver Bluff Road
Seven Oaks Drive
Water Plant
City of Aiken
City Property

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to lease property to SBA Properties for a monopole cell tower.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE LEASE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF AIKEN LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE TOWN CREEK WATER PLANT BORDERING TOWN CREEK AND SEVEN OAKS DRIVE.

Mr. LeDuc stated SBA Properties, Inc., a company out of Boca Raton, Florida, would like to lease a 50' by 50' square foot area from the City of Aiken for the placement of a monolithic cell tower. This has been discussed with the city since February. The property they would like to lease from the city is off Town Creek Road and is immediately adjacent to the city's Town Creek Water Plant.

Our staff has been working with SBA, and they have negotiated a \$1,000 a month lease for the 250 square foot area with an initial term of 5 years and automatic renewals for up to four additional terms of 5 years.

In comparing this lease value to others within the two Carolinas, we would be receiving 2 to 4 times more than any other current lease. The lease agreement also provides that every 5 years there would be an increase of 15% to the monthly lease payment. The city also has a weak reception for their radio transmittal in that area, and this lease agreement will also allow us to co-locate at no cost on this tower.

Several months ago they erected a portable tower to test this area for suitability and found it to meet all their requirements. They feel that this tower will provide for better service in the area, both now and in the future. Since this tower will be 190 feet tall, there will

not be a need for a light at the top of the tower. This, and the fact that the tower is monolithic, should provide less visual interference for the residents in that area.

At the January Board of Appeals, the Board discussed this location for a new tower and approved the variance necessary for construction on property owned by the city. The only requirement placed on the property by BZA was for the installation of required landscaping as part of this approval process.

Mr. LeDuc noted that the property had not been posted, as this was not a requirement by ordinance. He stated if Council would like, the property could be posted for the public hearing.

Councilwoman Vaughters stated she felt properties should be posted for public hearings so people in the area would know of changes. She pointed out few people see the legal ads in the newspaper.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he had no problem with posting the property, but stated he felt Council should be consistent and if they post one should post all. He said it would be difficult to be selective in posting and to be fair. What is important to one person may not be important to another.

Councilman Cunning stated he was not sure Council should post all the public hearings. He pointed out it is important that the postings be made for the Planning Commission. He did state that usually the items come from the Planning Commission to Council sooner than this particular item did. He did feel that this particular item should be posted again.

Councilwoman Vaughters and Councilwoman Price suggested that the sign for the Planning Commission hearing could be left up for the Council hearing and possibly something taped over the sign indicating Council's public hearing date.

Mr. LeDuc was concerned about putting dates for the hearings before Council on the sign and then for some reason not holding the hearing and the responsibility of the city if the hearing is not held as advertised on the sign.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, expressed concern about posting a time for a hearing and then not complying with the notice given.

Council then discussed the time involved in posting the signs, the material used for the signs and how this could be improved. It was decided to post this particular property. Mr. LeDuc stated the staff would discuss the matter and see what kind of solution they could come up with. He did state one of his concerns was that the date be posted for public hearing and then the hearing not be held.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to approve a 190 foot cell tower lease for property at the Town Creek Water Plant to SBA Properties, Inc. and that second reading and public hearing be scheduled for the next regular meeting of Council.

EASEMENT – ORDINANCE

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.

SCE&G

Tennis Courts

Virginia Acres

Two Notch Road

Weeks Center

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to grant an easement to SCE&G for underground wiring for the Tennis Complex at Virginia Acres.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY.

Mr. LeDuc stated City Council earlier this year approved the construction of tennis courts at Virginia Acres off Two Notch Road. SCE&G needs to obtain some easements to underground the wiring for this tennis complex. A drawing showing the exact easements was given to Council for review. To grant an easement requires a city ordinance which gives the right to SCE&G to locate their lines on city property.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance granting an easement to SCE&G for location of underground wiring at the new tennis courts to be located at Virginia Acres and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – ORDINANCE

Southside
Amendment

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to approve the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan for the South Side. He said he had asked Gary Smith, City Attorney, to make comments on how to handle the matter since Council will be holding two public hearings. He said there had been questions as to when Council would vote on the ordinance on second or third reading.

Mr. Smith stated questions had come up regarding the process for voting on the Comprehensive Plan and whether Council would vote at the end of each public session or just vote twice on the ordinance as normally done. Mr. Smith stated he would like for Council to vote on the matter on first reading as normally done, but once the second reading and hearing is held at the conclusion of the comments Council could move to continue the final hearing of the ordinance until the third reading. At the third reading Council would vote on the ordinance. He said his understanding of having the third reading was to give as many people as possible the opportunity to discuss the ordinance. He said at the second reading the rules could be suspended so the second reading would just be a public hearing with no vote. The motion at the second reading would be to continue the public hearing to the next meeting. Mr. Smith stated one of his concerns was regarding the length of the meeting with everyone wanting to speak at the first public hearing and also the second public hearing. He felt that unless a person had new information that person should not speak and say the same thing again at the second public hearing. He said if there were amendments to the ordinance Council should make those at the second public hearing or third reading after the conclusion of comments.

Councilwoman Price pointed out Council had spent considerable hours on the Comprehensive Plan and she was in favor of the third reading to give the citizens ample time to study the Plan also.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council suspend the rules for the reading of the Comprehensive Plan to allow three readings with the second and third readings being public hearings, the second reading being a public hearing only with no action taken by City Council other than a motion to continue to allow the third reading. At the third reading whatever amendments Council wants to consider could be made and considered at that time and then final disposition of the ordinance considered.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF AIKEN COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

Mr. LeDuc stated on June 18, 2002, City Council began a review of the Comprehensive Plan revisions for the south side. Since that time Council has met on six different occasions to thoroughly review the Comprehensive Plan, which was approved by the

Planning Commission and developed by a Task Force appointed by City Council and the Planning Commission. A lot of hard work has gone into this plan by City Council, the Task Force and the Planning Commission and many major changes were made in the Plan for the south side. In the General Goals and Objectives many new items were discussed, including greenways, PUDs and changes to the Planned Commercial Development.

This is a very important document and because of it Council has asked that there be three readings on the Plan. This will allow for a public hearing on the second and third readings, currently scheduled for September 9, 2002, and September 23, 2002. On the third reading Council will then vote on adopting the Plan, which will guide our development for several more years to come. This is not a static document, but one that can be and should be revised by Council when needed at any time.

In this document we have made the changes as discussed by City Council after the last work session concerning PUDs and Planned Commercial Development, along with greenways for this area.

In July the Planning Commission approved the Comprehensive Plan for the remainder of the City. This will be brought to City Council once the south side Comprehensive Plan has been approved so we can incorporate any of those changes to the Goals and Objectives that you make in this plan.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn, that Council approve the ordinance to adopt the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan for the south side on first reading and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council.

Councilwoman Vaughters stated she was still opposed to 1.4 of the Plan regarding PUDs. She felt Aiken had done well without allowing PUDs within the city limits and she did not see a reason to change it.

Councilman Smith stated his comments concerned what is a "good reason" for varying from the Plan. He felt the proposed wording was "bare bones." He said it is his hope that if Council finds a reason to vary from the Plan that it be a really good reason, and that they all consider it to be in the public interest. Secondly, on the question of Planned Commercial along Whiskey Road the debate continues as to whether it should be 25% green space or 30%. He said he still feels it should be 30%. He said if the majority of Council feels it should be 25% then he felt there should at least be some language that at least says that it may be more than 25% under certain special circumstances if there is a neighborhood that really needs to be protected, and they all see that it is in the common interest to do so or if Council might see the advantage of a conservation easement on a particular property which would definitely be in excess of the 25% green space.

Councilman Cunning stated Council was spending a lot of time on the Plan as it is a serious matter and whatever is adopted would be worth it for the time and effort the citizens have put in the Plan.

Mr. LeDuc stated he would like for Council to be sure that the language the staff used in the sections discussed is what the majority of Council would like. He asked that Council review 1.4 on page III-2 regarding the PUD, Planned Commercial Development page III-4, and greenways on page III-10.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like to address a few items that he feels strongly about since he will not be at the next meeting. He felt that the Plan is a guide and should continue to be a guide. He said as time goes on there needs to be flexibility to some degree as things change. He said he did feel that Council needed a reason to make a change from the document and the reason should be so stated. He said it should be a reason Council feels is in the best interest of the community. He said on 1.4 he did feel that PUD, Planned Unit Development, should be included. He said Council would get to plan what they want in that particular development. He said he saw no problem with having the PUD in the Plan to be available should the matter come up. He said he saw no

reason to wait until the question comes up before adding it to the Plan. He said on 2.2 Planned Commercial he supports 25% green space. He felt this was a fair amount.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion to pass the proposed Comprehensive Plan on first reading with second reading and public hearing at the next regular meeting of Council, September 9, and third reading on September 23, 2002. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Opposed were Councilmembers Smith and Vaughters.

VERENES INDUSTRIAL PARK

Grant
SCANA
Shinsho
Aiken Precision Technology
Beloit Street

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider acceptance of a grant for the Verenes Industrial Park for extension of a road.

Mr. LeDuc stated earlier this year the City sold property to Shinsho for the addition of a new plant in Verenes Industrial Park. This new plant is called Aiken Precision Technology and one of the requirements that we agreed to when we sold the property was to help extend the road. A third of the money was to come from SCANA Corporation, another third from the State Coordinating Council, and the final third from the City of Aiken.

The City has received the funding from SCANA amounting to \$16,500 and should soon receive funding from the Coordinating Council for their portion. The City will make up the remaining amount which will be less than the original \$16,500 since a large portion of it will be done in-house using City staff.

We would like Council to approve the acceptance of the funds from SCANA Corporation amounting to \$16,500.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council accept the grant of \$16,500 to help extend the roadway for Aiken Precision Technology in Verenes Industrial Park.

BIDS

Trash Collection
Loaders
Public Works Department
New Holland

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider the bids for trash collection equipment.

Mr. LeDuc stated in 1987 the City went to an automated trash pick up system which allowed the city to let residents know what day of the week trash would be picked up in each neighborhood. The mechanized trash loading equipment also allowed us to cut our manpower in half from over 25 employees to about 13 employees today. Although the City has grown since that time, we have basically not added any personnel to this operation since that time. The tink loader is the basic equipment used for this operation, and it allows us to move quickly when picking up large piles of trash and loading it into our trash trailers. Over the years we have tried different types of equipment to pick up this trash. This includes using equipment from Case, Kubota, JCB and most recently New Holland. We have also reviewed equipment from John Deere, Hundai and Pioneer Machinery.

Last winter, when the budget was made out by the Public Works Department, they had not anticipated needing to replace the current JCB units purchased in 1999. Since that time both of these units have failed. One is totally inoperable while the other one will

take an extensive amount of rebuilding to be operable. Meanwhile the New Holland unit has been performing with no problems, and we are using a grapple unit which is attached to one of our trash trailers. Because of the equipment failure we are now working 70 man hours of overtime a week, which equates to over \$2,100 per pay period. It has also slowed down and degraded our service due to the extended hours needed to pick up this material. The Public Works Department has received bids from New Holland to replace this equipment at a cost of \$81,795 for one machine or \$160,320 for two machines. Each of the machines would have a three-year warranty. It is the recommendation from Public Works that we approve the purchase of two machines to replace the two 1999 JCB units which are currently inoperable. Funding for this equipment will come from our Depreciation Account and funds from the disposed equipment account.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council approve the purchase of two New Holland trash loaders for a total cost of \$160,300.

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2001-2002

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to accept the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

Mr. LeDuc stated each year all departments prepare a summary of their activities from the previous fiscal year highlighting the various achievements made by each of them. This Annual Report includes a tremendous amount of information which you will be able to use over the year as we discuss various issues and projects. Each of the departments has put a lot of work into the report, and as you review it you will see the many accomplishments made by each of them.

Mr. LeDuc reviewed some of the accomplishments listed in the Annual Report. He stated these accomplishments are made possible by City Council through their funding and confidence in the staff. He said at the airport a terminal building was a big project and a major accomplishment. Approval has been received for extension of the runway. He pointed out the spec building was sold this year. He said the elimination of Camellia Trailer Park took place during the year. Fifteen new homes were built on the north side. A new service request line was installed so citizens at home can make inquiries. Mr. LeDuc pointed out that 7,000 cases were processed in the court system collecting \$800,000 in courts and fines.

Mr. LeDuc stated a major program of Public Safety was to get all the officers computer literate to fill out reports on the computer. He pointed out the First Offenders Program was established and four classes are held every month. The Aiken Youth Court was established and 38 youth appeared before the court, and it has been a great opportunity to resolve conflicts and get youth guided in the right direction. He said 18 parking spaces were added for the Public Safety Department by cooperation with Trinity Lutheran Home by use of some of their property. Public Safety Officers went to a 12 hour shift, which has helped reduce overtime and comp time by over 50%. Every car is equipped with medical equipment for the First Responders Program and 883 calls were answered.

Mr. LeDuc then commended the Finance Department for their outstanding job and for the 10th year of achieving the Financial Reporting Certificate. He said Finance now has about 15% water customers in bank drafting. He said last year the city newsletter and water bill were formatted to be mailed monthly in an envelope.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the city opened up Osbon Park, Crosland Park, Citizens Park, the soccer fields are completed and Schofield Park was completed.

He said it had been an incredible year for the Planning Department, with study of the Comprehensive Plan, connector roadway between Whiskey and Silver Bluff, traffic study, Landscaping Ordinance, Design Manual, and start of the Old Aiken Master Plan.

Public Works opened a new well, under the streetscape program Hampton Avenue was enhanced, improvements were made on East Gate Drive, Richland Avenue had improvements, Newberry Festival was completed. The Community Theater is almost completed. GIS mapping of valves, sewer manholes, water lines, sewer lines, storm drainage lines, driveways, etc. is completed. Numerous landscaping projects were completed.

Mr. LeDuc stated the staff had done an incredible job and Council had supported the staff.

Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council accept the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 as information and commend the departments for their achievements during the past fiscal year.

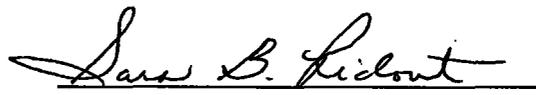
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Councilwoman Vaughters stated Council had received some information on alternatives to the current Historic Preservation Ordinance which was interesting and Council should meet at some time in the future to discuss the matter.

Mr. LeDuc stated he would like for Council to meet to discuss the matter. After discussion Council decided to meet to discuss alternatives to the historic preservation ordinance on Monday, September 16, 2002, at 7:30 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk