

Aiken City Council Minutes

June 10, 1996

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Anaclerio, Clyburn, Perry, Price, and Radford.

Absent: Councilwoman Papouchado.

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Frances Thomas, Carrol Busbee, Anita Lilly, Stanley Quarles, Gary Smith, and Sara Ridout.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 5 P.M. Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh that Council go into executive session to discuss two personnel matters and a contractual matter. After discussion, Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn that the executive session end. The executive session adjourned at 7 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Anaclerio, Clyburn, Perry, Price, and Radford.

Absent: Councilwoman Papouchado.

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Gary Smith, Frances Thomas, Roger LeDuc, Carrol Busbee, Stanley Quarles, Ed Evans, Andy Anderson, Anita Lilly, Terry Rhinehart, Sara Ridout, and Chasiti Kirkland of the Aiken Standard, Chandra McLean of the Augusta Chronicle and 14 citizens.

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

The minutes of the special meeting of May 23, 1996, and the regular meeting of May 27, 1996, were considered for approval. Councilman Anaclerio moved that the minutes of both meetings be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONRecognitionAiken High SchoolTennis TeamNational Championship

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council would like to recognize the Tennis Team for Aiken High School which has won the AAAA State Championship. He stated the team not only represented the high school but the City of Aiken as well. He said for many years Council had made it a point to recognize teams when they reach excellence both in academics and athletics. Coach Gail Johnston and School Principal David Caver were present on behalf of the Tennis Team of Aiken High School to receive the presentation. It was pointed out the Tennis Team is presently away in a tournament and could not be present for the presentation. He said the city would make arrangements to have the team members present at a later Council meeting.

Mayor Cavanaugh presented a plaque to Coach Johnston recognizing the Tennis Team's efforts and their success.

ANNEXATION TASK FORCEAppointments

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider appointments to the special Annexation Task Force Committee which Council had established at the special May 23, 1996, meeting of Council. He said Council had discussed possible appointments during the worksession before the Council meeting with each Councilmember selecting two members and the Mayor selecting three from a suggested list plus the Annexation Study Committee. He pointed out Councilmember Papouchado was not present and needed to make two appointments, making a committee of 22 members. He stated many of the people suggested for

appointment had not been contacted so Council would like to contact the persons before making the appointments at the next meeting of Council.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the purpose of the committee is to study the issue of annexation of the donut holes and make recommendations to Council on ways to encourage annexation. He said the committee will have up to 8 months to study the matter and make a recommendation to Council.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council continue the item of appointments to the Annexation Task Force Committee to the June 24, 1996, meeting of Council.

VERENES INDUSTRIAL PARK - ORDINANCE 061096

Restrictive Covenants  
Covenants  
Airport  
Industrial Park

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time set for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Restrictive Covenants at the Verenes Industrial Park.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS UPON THE AIKEN AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK, NOW KNOWN AS THE CITY OF AIKEN VERENES INDUSTRIAL PARK.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had been reviewing the industrial development efforts of the city for some time and had reviewed the city's present development efforts with Verenes Industrial Park. The Verenes Industrial Park was developed in 1972 and has been successful, however, there are still vacant properties in Verenes Industrial Park. With the proposed change in the restrictive covenants for Verenes, Council would encourage industries to purchase property for future development.

At the request of the Economic Development Partnership, the city has been developing additional sites to offer attractions for potential industries. Some of the existing industries in Verenes Industrial Park have been concerned that any new restrictive covenants might apply to existing industries. City Council has emphasized that the city's commitment for these industries has not changed. Based on Council's discussions, it is the staff's understanding that the existing industries would not be required to annex into the city, and that the industries should have an opportunity to expand into adjacent property without the requirement for annexation. Council has also suggested that new industries within the Verenes Industrial Park should not be required to annex and that new industries will pay the standard utility rates now offered to the other industries outside of Verenes Industrial Park.

The present restrictive covenants for the Verenes Industrial Park include a restriction that essentially requires anyone purchasing property in the Verenes Industrial Park to build within two years of the date of the deed. At Aiken's Horizons City Council discussed lifting this restriction to encourage existing industries in the Park to purchase land for future expansions, and to encourage further development within the Park. With passage of the proposed ordinance Council will amend the restrictive covenants for the Verenes Industrial Park to allow industries to build at their schedule.

During the initial development of Verenes Industrial Park, the city essentially committed to three concepts in this Park. The first was that the property would be developed as an inexpensive, low amenity park. The second is that the industries in the Park would have an opportunity to purchase water and sewer service from the city at in-city rates, and the third is that the city will serve as backup on fire protection services for industries within Verenes Industrial Park. During the Horizons sessions Council discussed encouraging the sale of property within the Verenes Industrial Park, foregoing any requirement for annexation for these industries within the Park, and essentially meeting all commitments for the industries now in the Park. City Council also discussed notifying industries that all existing industries would have an opportunity for in-city rates, without an annexation requirement. In doing so the city will honor all commitments to existing industries, and notify new industries that the industries would not be

required to annex to the City of Aiken within Verenes, but that new industries would not receive the in-city utility discount.

Council discussed encouraging existing industries to purchase property at the present rate within a defined window of time, and the staff is recommending that the city allow industries to purchase property at the present \$7,000 per acre rate through December 31, 1996. After this point the staff is recommending that the cost for land within Verenes Industrial Park increase to recover the cost for new stormwater facilities and other improvements in Verenes Industrial Park. Council may wish to also consider selling available land remaining in Verenes Industrial Park to an outside marketing firm or to other groups that could assist in fully developing Verenes Industrial Park.

With the opening of the new industrial park of Aiken County, Council has to consider whether conditions have changed and whether the city should take a different approach towards incentives in these parks. The proposed ordinance eases the restrictive covenants in Verenes to encourage further development. The change would encourage existing business to build or to expand. Verenes remains a very competitive industrial park, with industrial property that meets a certain niche for industries, but the sites are essentially being offered without a requirement for annexation and without the need for additional infrastructure that will require a tax increment finance overlay or other funding mechanisms available to the city.

The proposed ordinance was approved on first reading at the meeting of March 11, 1996. The ordinance amends the covenants and restrictions of the Verenes Industrial Park to delete the requirement that the industries build on new land purchased within two years of the date of the sale of the property.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that the ordinance amending the covenants and restrictions of the Aiken Verenes Industrial Park deleting the requirement that industries build on new land purchased within two years of the date of sale of the property be passed on second and final reading to become effective immediately.

REZONING - ORDINANCE 061096A

Shugart, Mary H.  
131 Silver Bluff Road  
Tax Parcel No. 30-057-07-027

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to rezone 131 Silver Bluff Road from R-1A Single Family Residential to Professional.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 131 SILVER BLUFF ROAD WHICH IS ALSO DESIGNATED AS AIKEN COUNTY TAX MAP PARCEL NO. 30-057-07-027, FROM R-1A, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, TO PROFESSIONAL (P).

Mr. Thompson stated this is the third request for the rezoning of 131 Silver Bluff Road. In the earlier requests, both City Council and the Planning Commission were concerned that rezoning to Professional would place professional or commercial property within a residential zone. The area is continuing to change. The Silver Bluff Commons Shopping Center has been constructed near this property, and South Aiken Presbyterian Church has been rezoned to Neighborhood Business. The area remains primarily residential with the majority of the lots running on Silver Bluff Road occupied by single-family dwellings. However, there are some commercial and professional uses nearby.

The Planning Commission reviewed this request at length, and voted 4 to 3 to recommend approval of the rezoning request on the condition that right turn only access be allowed onto Silver Bluff Road from the property and that the parking area provided for any professional use should be defined with curbing.

Mr. Thompson stated City Council had discussed the proposed rezoning at length. Council was concerned about changing the character of the area along Silver Bluff Road. It was also pointed out that there are mixed uses in the area. However, the block that Ms. Shugart's house is located in is primarily residential. Council looked at the uses and zoning in the area from Whiskey

Road to the by-pass, pointing out that most of the offices and business uses were outside the city. Councilmembers were concerned about protecting the houses across Silver Bluff Road on the Aiken Estates side which are all residential and in protecting and possibly reclaiming the east side of Silver Bluff as residential also. It was pointed out that Silver Bluff Road is a heavily travelled road and mixed uses along Silver Bluff Road is sort of a transitional area. It was felt that Professional use would be a better zone than Neighborhood Business zoning in the area.

The public hearing was held.

Ms. Mary Shugart, owner of 131 Silver Bluff Road, was present. Ms. Shugart stated many changes had been made in the area with rezoning of the South Aiken Presbyterian Church to Neighborhood Business. The County has rezoned some properties in the area to Professional or Neighborhood Business, and there are other professional uses or businesses in the area. She stated Silver Bluff Road is a heavily traveled road and would be an area for good exposure for businesses.

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that the ordinance to rezone 131 Silver Bluff Road from R-1A Single Family Residential to Professional be passed on second and final reading to become effective immediately.

REZONING - ORDINANCE 061096B

Applebee's

Colony Parkway

Robbins, Royal

Bush Field Aircraft

Whiskey Road

Tax Parcel No. 30-056-01-036 & 038

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to rezone property located on the south side of Colony Parkway east of Applebee's

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF COLONY PARKWAY EAST OF APPLEBEE'S, TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBERS 30-056.01-036 & 038, FROM PROFESSIONAL TO NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS.

Mr. Thompson stated the Planning Commission had considered the rezoning request at a special meeting on Thursday, May 23. A request was received for the rezoning of 1.3 acres of property located on the south side of Colony Parkway east of Applebee's. The property owners have asked that the property be rezoned from Professional to Neighborhood Business.

The developers would like to build a cellular telephone sales and service facility at the location. The retail sales side of the business would not be allowed under the Professional Zone. The Planning Commission was concerned that Neighborhood Business zoning would allow other high traffic uses that might be inappropriate for this area. On review of the request, the Planning Commission has recommended approval of the rezoning on the condition that the applicant enter into a contractual agreement that the property would be used only for this or a similar activity.

Councilman Anaclerio pointed out a concern was that if the property was rezoned to Neighborhood Business the rezoning would allow a wide range of businesses in the area which might not be appropriate for this area. He pointed out the Professional zone includes businesses such as a florist, hairdressers, etc. He asked if the Professional zone could be amended to include cellular telephone sales. He said if the use were allowed in the Professional zone then there would not have to be an agreement restricting the use in the Neighborhood Business zone. He said he would prefer that the zoning not be restricted but be a true zone for whatever zone is chosen. He pointed out it is difficult for the staff to follow zonings with special restrictions as properties change hands.

Mr. Evans, Planning Director, stated to change the uses allowed in the Professional Zone would mean the request would have to go back to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Perry also expressed the feeling that the zoning for the property should be Professional or Neighborhood Business without restrictions. He felt putting restrictions on the rezoning is not really rezoning the property.

Mr. Buzz Jackson, the Planning Commission representative, stated the Planning Commission had discussed the alternatives and businesses allowed in the Professional Zone versus the Neighborhood Business zone. He pointed out many uses allowed in the Professional Zone would generate more traffic and require more parking than the proposed use for a cellular telephone office. He stated it was pointed out that perhaps another transition zone should be established. After discussion the Planning Commission felt the applicant's request was reasonable and the way the Planning Commission tried to address the request was to make the rezoning a contract zone or a conditional approval.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that the ordinance to rezone property adjacent to Applebee's be amended to delete the condition that the property owner enter into a contractual agreement that the property be used only for a cellular phone business or similar activity.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance as amended be passed on second and final reading to rezone the property as Neighborhood Business to become effective immediately.

#### ZONING ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE 061096C

##### Amendment

##### Annexations

##### Public Notice

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding public notice for annexations.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

#### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF AIKEN ZONING ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THAT PUBLIC NOTICE BE GIVEN OF FUTURE ANNEXATIONS.

Mr. Thompson stated the Planning Commission has been concerned that the present requirement for posting of notices for annexation may not be sufficient and has suggested that the city increase the posting requirements for property under consideration for annexation.

Mr. Thompson stated years ago all annexations were posted and the residents of Aiken and the residents outside the city voted on annexations. State law changed and subsequently the city laws changed to limit the posting requirements for annexations. With the recent discussion of the annexation for property at Silver Bluff and Town Creek Roads, the Planning Commission was concerned that area residents may not know of an annexation effort in their neighborhood. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to ask City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance to require posting for annexations using the same guidelines that are now required for rezoning. The requirement includes posting a sign on the property and publishing some legal ads prior to the public hearing at the Planning Commission level.

Mr. Thompson stated the Planning Commission has recommended posting and legal ads for annexations in the past, but Council did not adopt the recommendation as Council felt such postings would put a burden for cost and time on the person requesting annexation and the city wanted to make annexations as easy as possible. The Planning Commission has asked that Council reconsider the issue.

The Planning Commission is recommending that the city post the property and pay for advertising for a legal notice at least 15 and 30 days prior to the public hearing of the Planning Commission.

After discussion at the last Council meeting, Council felt that posting a sign on the property would be sufficient and asked that the proposed ordinance be amended to require posting of the property thirty days in

advance of a public hearing only and that a legal ad not be required at this time. Through this requirement, the city would be responsible for posting the property with a Public Notice sign on each street frontage of the property, no later than 30 days prior to the public hearing to be held before the Planning Commission. This ordinance would not include ads in the newspaper, but the city does advertise all ordinances before City Council.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance which would require posting a sign on the property of proposed annexations and that the ordinance become effective immediately.

#### BUDGET - ORDINANCE 061096D

##### 1996-97

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to adopt a budget for fiscal year July 1, 1996.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE CITY MANAGER, CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1996, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1997, AND DECLARING THAT THE SAME SHALL CONSTITUTE THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR; CONTINUING CERTAIN MONTHLY WATER AND SEWER CHARGES; AND CONTINUING CERTAIN FIRE SERVICE RATES FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CITY.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had received a copy of a proposed budget for fiscal year 1996-97. The budget does not include a great deal of growth or expansion. The staff is not recommending any tax or rate increases at this time. However there are factors affecting the budget that may require reconsideration of this issue in the next few months. One factor is how the weather cooperates with the city on the sale of water. The utility system is very weather dependent, and this has been recognized by placing the utility system in an Enterprise Fund. Revenues and expenditures for the utility system stand entirely on their own. Finances of this system are paid for out of the fees generated through the sale of water and other services of the system.

Many speculative projects are included in the proposed budget, and if funding comes through and Council decides to move forward, then these projects will move forward. However, if the funding does not become available then these projects would not be developed. One of the largest projects is the money included for the development of the new industrial park. If Council chooses to move forward with the industrial park targeted for the northeastern section of the city, then the city will have these expenses and will need to raise the funds from the Aiken 20/20 organization and through different financing sources available. These projects are outlined in the budget message in the budget.

The proposed budget has required a great deal of time from City Council and the city staff and to move forward requires a commitment from Council to the budget and Council's leadership on the issues. The budget is broken into several enterprise funds. The proposed budget includes \$15,034,570 for General Fund operation and \$2,089,350 for capital improvements in the General Fund. The Utilities Fund includes \$8,897,660 for operations and \$935,400 for capital improvements. Other funds included in the budget are the Stormwater Fund, Economic Development Fund, Downtown Development Fund, Verenes Industrial Fund, Community Development Fund, and HOME II New Construction Fund for a total budget of \$25,038,750 for operations and \$7,085,500 for capital items.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out Council had discussed the proposed budget in the pre-Council meeting and the consensus of Council was that construction of Public Safety Station 5 would not be included in the budget but the funds would continue to be held in Holding Funds for future construction of a Public Safety Station. Council also asked that the \$100,000 included for beautification of the junk yard areas outside of the city at the entrances to the city be changed to entrance beautification projects inside the city.

Mayor Cavanaugh made a motion, seconded by Councilman Perry and unanimously approved, that the budget be amended by deleting the funds for construction of Public Safety Station 5 and leaving the funds in Holding Funds and that the \$100,000 included for junk yard beautification be changed to be used for entrance beautification projects inside the city.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the budget for fiscal year 1996-97 be approved as amended by Council to become effective July 1, 1996.

TAX MILLAGE RATE - ORDINANCE 061096E

Millage Rate

79 Mills

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to adopt a millage rate for fiscal year beginning July 1, 1996.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY CITY PURPOSES IN THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1996, SET THE MILLAGE THEREFOR AT SEVENTY-NINE (79) MILLS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had discussed taxes and the budget for the city for fiscal year 1996-97. With adoption of a budget Council also sets the millage rate for the new fiscal year.

Mr. Thompson stated the proposed ordinance sets the millage rate at 79 mills which reflects Council's intent to avoid tax increases in the city. The millage rate is based on the current information the staff has received on reassessment from Aiken County. As the county moves through appeals on reassessment it is hoped that the rate will remain stable or possibly even allow Council to reduce the millage rate.

Council discussed the proposed ordinance. Councilman Anaclerio pointed out Council had discussed the fact that if revenues from taxes increase due to reassessment, then Council wanted to roll back the millage rate to reduce taxes. Mr. Thompson stated at this time the city does not expect to have a surplus based on a millage rate of 79 mills. He said the staff understands from Council that they do not want to generate more money due to reassessment. He said at this point there will probably be a shortfall on taxes of about \$50,000 which is a very good record. The value of a mill is about \$77,000.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading the ordinance adopting a millage rate of 79 mills for fiscal year 1996-97 to become effective July 1, 1996.

SEWER RATES - ORDINANCE 061096F

Sewer Rate Cap

Cap

Maximum Charge

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to establish a cap on sewer charges.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 061394F REGARDING THE CALCULATION OF MONTHLY SEWER CHARGES FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMERS.

Mr. Thompson stated the city bills for sewer consumption based on the amount of water that flows through the meter for an individual property. The staff is recommending that Council consider increasing the present cap on sewer fees to limit sewer charges to a maximum of 2400 cubic feet on a single family residential property.

The city presently controls sewer fees by using a winter averaging system which benefits most customers. Based on the winter average, the city takes the three lowest months on consumption during the winter to calculate the sewer fee that is applied to the account throughout the year. At least in theory, the customer is not using the water that is flowing through the tap during these winter months for watering the lawns and filling of swimming pools, and this gives the customer more of an accurate estimate of actual sewer consumption. However, some sewer bills will exceed 2400 cubic feet per month, and it is felt that all of this water does not go down the drain and into the sewer system. A cap of about 2400 cubic feet should capture most or all of the consumption that actually goes down the drain, and this would place a reasonable cap on the sewer consumption for the residential customers. The proposed ordinance sets a monthly average water usage cap not to exceed 2400 cubic feet for the maximum charge for residential sewer fees using the billing months of February, March and April for the calculation.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that the ordinance establishing a cap on residential sewer rates at 2400 cubic feet based on the monthly average water usage for February, March and April, be passed on second and final reading to become effective immediately.

AIKEN CORPORATION - ORDINANCE

105 Richland Avenue East  
JimBo's

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to transfer property at 105 Richland Avenue East to the Aiken Corporation.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO TRANSFER ALL OF ITS RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF RICHLAND AVENUE EAST AND CHESTERFIELD STREET, FORMERLY KNOWN AS JIMBO'S GAS N' GOODIES, TAX MAP PARCEL NO. 30-047-02-008.

Mr. Thompson stated in May Council had discussed the request of the Aiken Corporation that Council donate the property at 105 Richland Avenue East, formerly known as JimBo's to the Aiken Corporation.

In the motion to request this property, the Aiken Corporation voted to reimburse the city for hard costs associated with the clean up and acquisition of the land. The Aiken Corporation is considering sale of the property to either commercial customers or to the Chamber of Commerce. The appraised value of the property totals \$40,500. The city presently has a total of \$33,051 invested in the property. The County also holds outstanding back taxes for the property totaling between \$6,000 and \$8,000 which brings the total investment in the property to almost \$41,051.

At the last meeting Council discussed this at length and suggested that the property be donated to the Aiken Corporation at the cost of the environmental assessment, or a total of about \$8,000. The new property owner would be responsible for any outstanding taxes due on the property.

Council also discussed whether any city taxes would be due on the property and whether Council could waive the city taxes due on the property. Mr. Smith, City Attorney, is to check on the matter of city taxes.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance transferring property located at the intersection of 105 Richland Avenue East and Chesterfield Street to the Aiken Corporation be passed on first reading and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council with the City Attorney to check on the matter regarding waiving of city taxes.

GRANTSchool Resource Officer Program  
Public Safety Department  
Drug Control and System Improvement Program  
State of S.C.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider acceptance of the grant from the State of S.C. for the School Resource Officer Program.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had received notice from the Governor's Office that the city will receive the next year of grants funding the School Resource Officer Program. This includes a total of \$71,878 and will allow the city to continue this program.

The city works very closely with the School District on this program. This has been a very positive addition to the school district and to the city's public safety efforts. The grant primarily covers the cost of the officers assigned to this program, and the city pays for the cost of equipment. The officers work at the schools and during the rest of the day after school the officers work with patrol of the city.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that Council accept the grant from the State of S.C. in the amount of \$71,878 for funding of the School Resource Officer Program for fiscal year 1996-97 and authorize the Mayor to sign the application and accept the grant award.

BIDSSprinkler System  
Citizens Park  
Recreation Department  
Soccer Fields

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider bids for the purchase of a portable sprinkler system for use in the Recreation Department.

Mr. Thompson stated with the development of the new soccer fields at Citizens Park the city is trying to find ways to prepare the fields as quickly as possible and to keep costs as low as possible. The staff is recommending acceptance of the bid for a portable sprinkler system from KIFCO with a total bid price of \$10,518.70.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had tried to purchase a system locally but the local vendors cannot provide this system. The closest supplier is located in Lexington, SC. The basic unit costs \$6,370, but with the options necessary to make the system work, the total cost will rise to \$10,518.70.

The volunteers on this project are interested in moving forward as quickly as possible on the opening of the new soccer fields. To have grass in place the city needs to move forward with a sprinkler system as quickly as possible. Mr. Rhinehart has been authorized to purchase this sprinkler system and this is presented to Council for consideration and confirmation. The sprinkler system was purchased under the emergency purchase procedures outlined in the City Code. This is not a budgeted expense, but is necessary for the development of the soccer fields. If this cannot be funded out of the existing accounts, the staff will bring this back as a budget adjustment.

Mr. Thompson pointed out the city is accelerating the construction of the soccer fields, as Council suggested, and the construction of the tournament field will cost about \$37,000. This includes the purchase of the water cannon, fill and grading, and related expenses.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had tried to emphasize that the soccer fields should be in keeping with the master plan and should be located in the permanent location. He pointed out the city has had to relook at the master plan because of the stormwater problems on the site.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council authorize acceptance of the bid of KIFCO for the purchase of a portable sprinkler system for use at the new soccer fields at Citizens Field at a bid price of \$10,518.70.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Reimbursement  
Sumter Street  
Newberry Street

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider reimbursement to Habitat for the purchase of lots in exchange for property on Sumter Street.

Mr. Thompson stated Council has committed to reimburse Habitat for the acquisition of up to six lots to replace property donated to the city on Sumter Street. Habitat proposes to purchase two lots, making a total of three lots purchased under this reimbursement program.

Mr. Thompson stated Habitat is requesting reimbursement up to \$5,916.10. This funding will enable Habitat to purchase two lots in the grid area of the city. One lot is located on the corner of Newberry Street and Hampton Avenue. The other lot is on Newberry Street between Hampton and Abbeville Avenue. The request is made under the agreement between the City and Habitat which states that the City will reimburse up to \$18,000 for no more than six lots in the grid area of the City in exchange for wetlands land behind Schofield Middle School. Habitat will build a single family home on each lot using City of Aiken HOME funds. Council has previously approved the architectural designs drawn by Hank Mooremann which Habitat will utilize for these lots. Habitat indicates that they are ready to commence construction immediately upon purchase of the two lots. Habitat has approximately 14 months in which to construct at least four homes in the grid area of Aiken. The city has already reimburse Habitat for one lot under this program in the amount of \$2,906.38. With the purchase of the additional two lots, this will be a total reimbursement of approximately \$8,822.48.

Mr. Thompson stated the City of Aiken maintains the right to approve the location of each lot, and the staff has determined that the lots are appropriate for this program and has verified that the lots meet zoning and all environmental review requirements.

City Council discussed the reimbursement program.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that the city reimburse Habitat for the acquisition of two lots on Newberry Street for the construction of housing under the HOME program in the amount of approximately \$5,916.10 under the reimbursement program for replacement of property on Sumter Street.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

  
Sara B. Ridout  
City Clerk