

Aiken City Council Minutes

January 24, 1994

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Absent: Councilwoman Papouchado

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Frances Thomas, Roger LeDuc, Sara Ridout, Mickey Johnson and Mark Graham.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Perry and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Council went into executive session at 6:25 P.M. After discussion Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved that Council adjourn the executive session. The executive session adjourned at 7:10 P.M. Council then held a pre-Council discussion of agenda items.

REGULAR SESSION

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

Absent: Councilwoman Papouchado

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Jim Holly, Frances Thomas, Roger LeDuc, Carrol Busbee, Margaret Marion, Kim O'Conor, Sara Ridout, Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard, Rolanda Hatcher of the Augusta Chronicle, 3 TV Stations and 160 citizens.

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

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 1994, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Clyburn moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Duchossois, Bruce

Wetzel, Jack

Downtown

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had been emphasizing quality development in Aiken, and as a continuing commitment to the downtown Council has been recognizing property owners and business persons that have contributed to Aiken's downtown.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that Jack Wetzel and Bruce Duchossois opened the renovated properties at 337 Laurens Street in 1993. The property has been a great addition to Laurens Street and has dramatically improved the character of the Bee Lane properties. The rear portion of these buildings were in dismal shape, and Mr. Duchossois and Mr. Wetzel installed a very attractive, functional, and exciting facade on the Bee Lane side of these properties. This is an extensive development and includes several shops and a total of 15,000 square feet. These improvements have served to spur additional improvements in other properties along this area.

Mayor Cavanaugh presented plaques to Jack Wetzel and Bruce Duchossois and thanked them for their part in redevelopment of properties in the downtown and their commitment to a quality downtown.

STREET NAME

Hampton Avenue

Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the city had received a request to rename Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had received a request from Ms. Deidre Brooks and Mrs. Gwen Brooks, of the Brotherhood for Opportunity for Leadership and Development (BOLD), that Hampton Avenue be renamed to Martin Luther King Avenue. He said a letter had also been received from James Gallman, serving as President of the Aiken Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), supporting the name change. Mr. Thompson stated Council had referred the request to the Planning Commission for study and a recommendation. The Planning Commission has recommended that Council approve the renaming of Hampton Avenue within the city from Vaucluse Road through the end of Camellia Street to Martin Luther King Avenue.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked those in favor of the name change to speak first.

Mr. Willie Hankinson, 1324 Hampton Avenue, stated he was in favor of changing Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue. He stated he felt that all of Hampton Avenue should be changed to MLK rather than just a portion of the street as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Deidre Brooks, 272 Dupont Drive, stated she is the BOLD Team President. She asked that Council honor the request to change Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue. She stated the request was not an act to make a disruption in the city, but a positive change for all Aikenites to feel a sense of pride. She stated the BOLD Team project was not just a project to make African Americans feel a sense of pride but it was a developmental process as well. She said they had seen the local government in action, and it had taught them the opportunities that Martin Luther King and other leaders had made possible for them. She said they had seen the Planning Commission at work, and the Planning Commission had recommended the name change to MLK. She asked that Council make the project successful by voting to change Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue.

Ms. Sheila Wells, 729 Washington Street, stated the residents were not present to cause any conflict, but were asking that a street name be changed. She said they were serious about the request they had made for the street name change and asked that Council seriously consider the request to rename Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King Avenue.

Mr. Willar Hightower, 682 Edrie Street, stated the people present were concerned that there be a street named Martin Luther King Avenue in the city. He said there had been some compromises as to the portion of the street to be renamed. He stated some people were concerned about the historic name of Hampton Avenue so a compromise was made to leave a portion of Hampton Avenue named Hampton Avenue so the historic concern would be addressed. He said the purpose was to provide a good role model in the black community that they could all identify with. He said he had grown up during the time Martin Luther King was alive, and he had made a tremendous impact on his life. He said the City of Aiken had always had a good community spirit because leaders of the community really cared about the City and had kept the community together. He asked that Council continue in that spirit.

Mr. Pete Peters, 14 Brookline Drive, stated that Hampton Avenue was named in honor of Hampton County which in turn honors what some historians call the greatest family in South Carolina history, the Wade Hampton family. He stated there was a Wade Hampton I, II and III. He briefly reviewed the life of the Wade Hampton family. He felt that Aiken should not dishonor the great American veterans and heroes by changing the name of the street that honors the Hampton family. He felt that Aiken should not start a precedent of renaming its historic streets. He said Aiken had taken steps to preserve its historic character. He said many veterans are buried in the cemetery that runs along Hampton Avenue and some served under General Hampton. He asked that Council not go on record as being anti-veteran, anti-Aiken history and anti-South Carolinian. He said the Hampton family was the greatest family in South Carolina's history. He said if Washington and the South Carolina State House can honor Hampton he felt Aiken should not dishonor Hampton. He stated he did feel that Aiken should have a road named Martin Luther King, but he did not feel it should be Hampton Avenue but possibly one more visible and less historic. He said he would like for Council to ask the Planning Commission to consider a resolution that all streets named prior to 1950 be declared historic and not considered for name changes. He said he would like for the Planning Commission to come up with

another street to be named after Dr. King. He said if Hampton Avenue is changed to MLK he asked that another street be named Wade Hampton Avenue.

Mr. Jim Arnett, 28 Chardonnay Lane, stated he was opposed to changing Hampton to MLK Avenue for the reasons stated by Mr. Peters. He stated he felt that some people associated with the name change had made it a racial issue. He said his family owns some property on Hampton Avenue where many of his family members are buried. He said he was against the compromise and only leaving a very small portion of Hampton Avenue remaining as Hampton Avenue. He said he was offended by the attack on the heritage of Aiken and the ethnic background. He said his grandfather had served under General Wade Hampton. He asked that Council and the NAACP be sensitive to the feelings of the people of the community. He said all residents of Aiken are Aikenites and Aiken must retain its heritage.

Mr. Tony Carr, 1825 Oriole Avenue, North Augusta, stated he was a veteran and a member of four veterans' organizations. He said they honor Wade Hampton, and he would strongly suggest that Council consider naming another road in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King and leave Hampton Avenue alone. He said, however, if the name is changed to MLK that another road be named Hampton in honor of the Hamptons.

Mr. E. M. Clark, Jr., West Columbia, SC, stated he was not a resident of the City or County of Aiken but he had been to Aiken on several occasions. He stated he was the Commander of Midlands Brigade S.C. Division Sons of Confederate Veterans. He said one of his charges in that organization is that he respect and defend the good name of the Southern fighting man. He said he had done some research on some people who were buried in a cemetery on Hampton Avenue and eleven were documented and tombstones were ordered. He said he was present on an historical standpoint. He said his charge was to honor the name of Confederate soldiers and Wade Hampton was one. He said his organization has Confederate Memorial days and he goes all over the state and honors Confederate soldiers and what they stood for and their devotion to God and country. He pointed out there were about 60,000 black men who fought in the Confederate army for the South and South Carolina. He said he had nothing against Reverend King and felt he was an honorable Christian man and had done everything in a peaceful way. He said he had never found anything where Dr. King said or wrote anything derogatory about a Confederate soldier, a battle flag of the Confederacy or the playing of Dixie.

Mr. Mark Herron, 381 East Pine Long Road, stated he does not presently live in the city but had in the past. He stated he was opposed to changing Hampton Avenue to MLK Avenue. He felt Hampton Avenue was a part of Aiken's history and heritage and felt changing the name would be blotting out part of Aiken's history. He stated he was in favor of naming a road, street or structure in the city or county to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and felt this would be adding to Aiken's heritage but did not feel it should be done at the expense of blotting out some of Aiken's heritage. He said he had a vested interest in Hampton Avenue and as a child had resided on Hampton Avenue. He said he also had relatives buried in the cemetery on Hampton Avenue.

Ms. Gloria Burnett, Hampton Avenue, stated she was speaking on behalf of her aunt Sally Cash who was a property owner on Hampton Avenue. She stated she agreed that something should be named after Martin Luther King as he was a great person, but she did not feel that it should be Hampton Avenue. She stated Hampton Avenue was to her like Martin Luther King would be to the African-Americans.

Mr. Robert Kerner, 3427 Hall Drive, stated he was not a Southerner but he respected the history and heritage of the South as well as he respected the image of Martin Luther King. He stated he was elated when Martin Luther King received the Nobel Peace Prize, and he felt he was a good role model and hero. However, he stated he did not feel it was fair to dishonor one to honor another. He felt it would be unfair to rename Hampton to Martin Luther King and undo something that was a heritage and tradition. He suggested that something else be named Martin Luther King.

Mr. John L. Samuels, Jr., 255 Cherokee Street, stated he was speaking in favor of renaming Hampton to MLK. He stated he also had relatives buried on Hampton Avenue. He stated he felt people should get along together and that this could be worked out.

Mr. Jack Knox, 840 Alfred Street, stated he was a veteran and had been in the military. He said all great leaders do what is best for the people. He said there are many minorities who serve in the military. He pointed out many minorities live along Hampton Avenue. He asked that Hampton Avenue be changed to MLK.

Ms. Charlotte Raiford, 719 Sundy Drive, spoke in favor of renaming Hampton to MLK Avenue. She pointed out Hampton Avenue had not been honored in maintenance through the years and if the people really cared about their dead then Hampton should have been better maintained through the years to honor them. She said suddenly everyone loves Hampton Avenue. She said Hampton Avenue is a part of her neighborhood and is a thoroughfare through the black community. She stated they would not come into another neighborhood and ask that a street be named MLK. She stated the original name was North Boundary and was renamed Hampton Avenue in 1904. She stated the blacks would like to have their name for their street because it means something to them. She stated there were no streets or reputable facilities named for a black person in Aiken. She stated they would like to have their street through their neighborhood to be reputable and to represent their likings and their choosings.

Mr. Lester Smalls, 117 Pipeline Road, and President of the BOLD organization spoke in favor of renaming Hampton to MLK Avenue. He stated he had some concerns about the truth in the issue. He said when he initiated the request to rename Hampton he did not feel that it would cause any problems. He said he had thought the people would see that black and white in Aiken was different from other cities. He said he had wanted the young people of the BOLD organization to learn about Council, people and how the government works. He stated he did not think they would learn a reality as they had. He said he did not think the young people would see the strategies that people who live on the other side of town have used in the issue and who do not understand the black experience. He stated he did not know that preventing the change of a street sign would mean more than the direction of a group of youth. He said changing the name of the street meant a lot to the morale of the youth and the black community. He stated he would like to see the community work together and come up with a program to make a difference. He stated the matter is a racial issue but it does not have to be a polarizing racial issue. He said before picking Hampton Avenue he thought about every street in Aiken. He said Hampton was the street that was most ideal to satisfy the criteria that the black community needed to have the street make a positive impact on the community. He stated the NAACP maintains Hampton Avenue in the Adopt a Highway Program. He said Hampton Avenue is in their neighborhood, but it belongs to all residents. He asked Council to consider the importance that the request has for the community that lives on Hampton Avenue.

Ms. Tenica Moore, 237 Reid Drive, stated she felt the name change from Hampton to MLK was being made into a racial issue. She said MLK helped all races, not just blacks. She said it had been stated in a letter to the newspaper that black pride can be bought for the name of a street. She stated the request was to honor a person that helped everyone. She stated no one wanted to harm the ancestors who were buried in the area. She pointed out the black people wanted to learn about black people who had a part in history too. She stated people working against each other because of color is not good for the community.

Ms. Julian Brayboy, 725 Oriole Street, stated she grew up on Williamsburg Street near Hampton Avenue. She felt that having a role model for the children would help reduce crime by using self value to raise people's morals. She was in favor of renaming Hampton to MLK.

Ms. Delores S. Johnson, 611 Camellia Street NE, stated she was speaking for the older residents of Camellia Street. She stated they support the renaming of Hampton Avenue to MLK Avenue as Dr. King was a great citizen, a Christian and he was for harmony and peace among the races. She stated, however, they would like for Camellia Street to remain separate and to remain Camellia Street.

Mr. William Clyburn, 664 Edrie Street, stated Hampton Avenue may not be the best looking street nor have the most educated people, but the people who live there are good people. He stated the black people are asking for a street to be renamed for someone who looked like them and has stood for them. He felt the atmosphere that has been generated keeps the people

apart, and felt they should be dealing with ties to bring the people together. He asked Council to consider the renaming of the street to give the black community someone that they could make a part of history.

Mr. Joseph S. Harrison, Jr., 414 Richland Avenue, stated no white person had spoken in favor of renaming Hampton to MLK Avenue. He stated racism does exist here. He said Dr. King is honored in over 117 countries and not just in South Carolina like Hampton. He said Martin Luther King is a good name and stands for something good. He asked Council to rename Hampton to MLK Avenue.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated one respondent in the telephone pole for renaming Hampton to MLK had stated that she believed changing the name would promote a spirit of unity and cooperation between the white and black community and would demonstrate an acceptance and understanding by the white community of a matter that is of deep importance to the black community. She stated there was mention of 25% that are in prison, but this leaves 75% that are not. She pointed out a prison is not always found in a building, but is sometimes in the mind. She stated education is a key to keep the mind free and which will unlock a lot of doors. She stated renaming of the street has been a sensitive issue for all the citizens of Aiken. She pointed out, however, that she thought only one citizen from the City of Aiken had spoken in opposition to the renaming of the street. She stated the citizens of Aiken had always worked together, and she felt the citizens did not need to let the outside forces come in try to tear the community apart. She stated the request is a complicated request and she hoped that those present believe strongly enough in Dr. King that they will persevere if the request is not granted.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved that Council approve the request to rename Hampton Avenue starting from Vaucluse Road through Camellia Street, ending at Rutland Drive, to Martin Luther King Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price.

Councilwoman Price stated when the request came up several weeks ago she did not feel the matter would be an issue, but felt it would be something everyone would want. She stated, however, it had become an issue. She pointed out there are constant changes in society which we must become accustomed to. She stated she also had relatives buried on Hampton Avenue and currently lives within a block of Hampton Avenue. She pointed out the African American community is unified in wanting the street name changed. She pointed out the people who want this are taxpayers.

Councilman Anaclerio stated all who have spoken seem to think Martin Luther King has done a fine job and was a leader in the 20th century. He pointed out the city has just gone through a strategic review with the citizens and one thing brought out was an historical Aiken. He said one of the histories of Aiken is Hampton Avenue and it has been Hampton for about 90 years. He said he felt Martin Luther King should be honored in the City of Aiken with a significant road. However, he did not agree that it should be Hampton Avenue. He felt there were other roads in the city which would be better. He said the only compromise he had heard was that it had to be Hampton Avenue. He said he understood the need of the black community to realize their goals. He said, however, he felt there was another road in the City of Aiken that could be renamed to MLK that would be just as important to the black community as Hampton Avenue. He said he was willing to try to work out another street to be named MLK rather than Hampton. He said he was willing for the by-pass to be named MLK from Park Avenue around to Rutland Drive.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she felt there had been time since December 13 for other areas and other streets to be considered to be named MLK. She pointed out every time a street is chosen someone has an objection and wants another street chosen. She stated she understood the reason Hampton Avenue was chosen to be renamed was not to dishonor Wade Hampton but was because of the location of Hampton Avenue, as it runs through the black community and most blacks live only a few blocks from Hampton. She said if Aiken wants to be historical it needs to reflect the history of all citizens including the blacks. She pointed out a grant had been received for a study of the black history of Aiken but Council did not provide matching funds for the grant. She stated since there was some concern about the historical value of the name of Hampton then perhaps another street could be named Hampton.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she would like to withdraw her original motion and make another motion. Councilwoman Price who had seconded the motion agreed to withdrawal of the motion.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved that Council approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission that Hampton Avenue be renamed to Martin Luther King Avenue from Vaucluse Road through Camellia Street to Rutland Drive (by-pass) and ask the Planning Commission to consider the renaming of a portion of the by-pass from Park Avenue to University Parkway to Hampton Drive or Boulevard. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price.

The group representing the Sons of Confederate Veterans stated the proposed motion was agreeable to them. However, they did point out that there would still be a few blocks named Hampton from where it intersects with Horry and Camellia to Beaufort Street named Hampton and it might be better to rename the by-pass Wade Hampton so there would not be confusion with street names.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the matter was a sensitive issue and there were many views. He stated he was concerned about the citizens working together to come to a consensus. He stated Aiken's citizens had always worked together, and he hoped the situation could be resolved. He said he was in favor of naming another street Hampton because of historical reasons. He said he was in favor of naming the present Hampton Avenue to Martin Luther King as it does run through the heart of the African American community, and it means something to them. He said he felt only a small portion of the community would not be in favor of renaming Hampton Avenue to MLK if they knew the facts and the deep feelings that people have who live in the area. He said if renaming of the street to MLK would help the community and if it would help the young people to have a feeling of pride and understanding and remembrance of getting along with people and nonviolence such as Dr. King had that it would be something to help the community. Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out the Planning Commission had unanimously recommended to Council that Hampton be renamed to MLK and he felt Council should consider that in their decision.

Councilwoman Price pointed out the vision that Reverend Slaughter had for the area with minority businesses along Hampton, sidewalks and other potentials of what the community could look like. She pointed out other cities had named streets in their community for Martin Luther King, and it had not been an issue and she did not want it to be an issue in Aiken.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion that Hampton Avenue be renamed to Martin Luther King Avenue from Vaucluse Road through Camellia Street to the by-pass at Rutland Drive as recommended by the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission consider renaming the by-pass from Park Avenue to University Parkway to Hampton Drive or Boulevard. Those in favor of the motion were Mayor Cavanaugh and Councilmembers Clyburn and Price. Opposed to the motion were Councilmembers Anaclerio, Perry and Radford. The vote was 3 to 3 so the motion did not pass because it did not have a majority vote.

The question was discussed whether the matter could be brought up at the next Council meeting. Mr. Holly stated Roberts Rule of Order require that a person voting on the prevailing side has to make a motion to bring a matter which has not passed before Council again. He stated in this situation he would like to do some research before giving advice on the matter.

Councilwoman Clyburn encouraged the young people not to give up but to keep trying. She stated there was no shame in failure, but the shame was in not trying again. She stated they did not need to feel defeated, but needed to keep trying.

ANNEXATION - ORDINANCE 012494

Bell, Marsha
127 Silver Bluff Road
Tax Parcel No. 30-057-07-007

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to annex 127 Silver Bluff Road and zone it R-1B Residential.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 0.21 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY MARSHA BELL LOCATED AT 127 SILVER BLUFF ROAD AND TO ZONE THE SAME R-1B, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL.

Mr. Thompson stated a request had been received from Ms. Marsha Bell, of 127 Silver Bluff Road, that her property be annexed and zoned R-1B Residential. Ms. Bell is interested in receiving sewer service and the property is contiguous to the city limits. The city has a policy which requires annexation prior to extension of new water or sewer services.

The Planning Commission reviewed the request and recommended annexation under the R-1B zone to allow the lot to conform with the zoning ordinance. The lot is about 9,200 square feet which is less than the 10,000 square foot minimum required in the R-1A zone. This would not be spot zoning as this is a residential use within residential zones.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading to annex 127 Silver Bluff Road to become effective immediately.

ZONING ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE 012494A

Amendment

Fire Sprinkler System

Sprinkler

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding fire sprinkler systems.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION III.L. OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE REQUIRING SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN CERTAIN BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES.

Mr. Thompson stated in 1989 the Zoning Ordinance was amended to include a requirement that all new structures exceeding two stories in height, 20,000 square feet in area, or more than four dwelling units have a sprinkler system installed. This has been a tremendous improvement to the city fire service capabilities and helps protect the Class 2 fire rating. Several changes have been recommended to clarify the ordinance. The Planning Commission has recommended that the Zoning Ordinance be amended to extend the sprinkler requirement to all facilities that have individual rooms that may not be technically dwelling units, including hotels, motels, dormitories, and assisted living facilities. The Planning Commission has also recommended that expansion of existing facilities would require a sprinkler system when buildings are expanded to exceed two stories in height, 15,000 square feet in area, or if there are four or more living or sleeping units with or without cooking facilities.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding fire sprinklers and that the ordinance become effective immediately.

LICENSE ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE 012494B

Contractors

Plumbing Contractors

Electrical Contractors

General Contractors

Decals

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this is the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to require display of contractor decals.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8 OF THE CITY OF AIKEN BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE SO AS TO REQUIRE ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, MECHANICAL, AND GENERAL OR SERVICE CONTRACTORS TO PURCHASE AND DISPLAY VEHICLE DECALS AND OTHERWISE CLARIFY THE PROVISIONS THEREOF.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had received a letter from Mr. Harris Nix, President of the Aiken Licensed Plumbing Contractors Association, and a letter from John Owens and Debbie Nix suggesting that the city adopt a decal system to require licensed contractors to display a decal on their vehicles showing that they have been licensed by the city.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had discussed the matter in February, 1993, and Council was concerned that the decal requirement may place an additional regulatory burden on the contractors. The plumbers and electricians involved in the request feel that the contractors that are going to be regulated are the contractors that are supporting the proposal. They would like the additional requirement because this would help to avoid the use of unlicensed contractors taking up business in Aiken.

Under the proposed ordinance contractors would be required to purchase and display vehicle business license decals on each vehicle in use at the job site. Mr. Nix stated in his letter that the cities that have passed similar requirements have been pleased with the results of the program.

Mr. John Owens was present at the last meeting representing the Aiken Licensed Plumbing Contractors Association. He stated the Association felt the decal program was a good program and that it would help upgrade the standards in the industry. He felt the decal program would be an effective way for the enforcement officials to be sure that licensed contractors are doing work at a site.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading to require a licensed decal on all vehicles at the job site for contractors and that the ordinance become effective immediately.

SANDSTONE SUBDIVISION - ORDINANCE 012494C

Street

Dedication

Sandstone Boulevard

Spring Forest Circle

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to accept a street in the Sandstone Subdivision.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF A STREET IN PHASES I AND II OF SANDSTONE SUBDIVISION.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had received a request from Mr. Jerry Waters, of Sandstone Subdivision, asking the city to accept ownership of a street in Sandstone Subdivision which connects Phases I and II of Sandstone.

Mr. Thompson pointed out the street is really two lots with a single street crossing the lots, and is the access street that City Council required between the two phases of Sandstone. The access streets were required based on the Planning Commission's recommendation and the recommendations of the Public Safety Department that the two phases have more than a single exit. The street has been constructed to the city's specifications and standards and is presently unnamed. The street connects Sandstone Boulevard and Spring Forest Circle.

Mr. Holly stated that at first reading the ordinance was submitted to Council based on a verbal description by the developer. The original ordinance references "portions of two streets," however the acceptance is for a single street covering two lots. He pointed out the ordinance needed to be amended deleting the reference to two streets and substituting one street in the ordinance.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be amended to refer to a street rather than two streets.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading as amended to accept the street in Sandstone Subdivision which connects Phases I and II of Sandstone.

FUND RAISING PROGRAM

Downtown Development Corporation
Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Partnership
Report and Recommendation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that the National Community Development Services would make a report and recommendation on the feasibility study conducted on a fund raising campaign conducted in December.

Mr. Thompson stated that in November Council approved the use of the National Community Development Services Company to conduct a feasibility analysis for a fund raising effort to support economic development and education in the Aiken community. The company has completed this analysis and is prepared to report to Council.

Mr. Steve Dorough of NCDS presented the report to Council. He stated his company was retained in November to conduct a comprehensive analysis to test the feasibility of raising from private and public sources a total of \$4.75 million to underwrite a five year program of economic and community development known as Aiken 2020. He said to research the level of support in the community for the proposed initiative they conducted 59 confidential interviews with key business and community leaders. He stated a questionnaire and a prospectus was prepared to facilitate the interviews. He said a copy of the report and recommendation had been given to Council. He said there was recognition among those interviewed of the need for a realistic, workable plan to enhance economic growth and the quality of life in the city and county of Aiken. He said there was almost unanimous agreement among those interviewed that the Aiken 2020 initiative should be undertaken. However, some refinement of the program is still needed to ensure the broadest possible investor support. A minimum campaign goal of \$3.5 million is realistic and obtainable from the combined private and public sectors provided recommendations in the report are implemented. However, the City of Aiken will be expected to lead the way and without significant support from the city the suggested goal will not be obtainable. He said the official campaign goal should not be set or announced until the Aiken 2020 program has been carefully refined and the financial capacities of all potential investor prospects have been evaluated. The report recommends that a funding campaign to raise a minimum of \$3.5 million should be launched immediately.

Council briefly discussed the report with Mr. Dorough. Mr. Dorough stated he felt it was important to publicize the results of the report and recommendation. He felt some type of town meeting should be held to make a formal presentation of the report to entertain questions from the public sector and the general public. He said he would like for his company to make a proposal to conduct a comprehensive funding campaign to raise \$3.5 million for the Aiken 2020 initiative. Councilwoman Clyburn was concerned that no black males were listed as being interviewed. Mr. Dorough pointed out there would be another opportunity for involvement of the general public and additional interviews in the initial stages of a campaign.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that the report and recommendation be accepted by Council as information for further study.

DESIGN MANUAL

Historic Preservation Commission
Siding

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had received a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission regarding the city's policy on the use of siding on buildings.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had received a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission regarding the use of siding. The Preservation Commission has been reviewing the Design Manual guidelines concerning the use of siding in response to several requests to allow the use of vinyl and aluminum siding. The Commission has been concerned that the present guidelines are not adequate to assist property owners with this issue. The Commission has extensively reviewed the policy on the use of substitute siding, and has recommended changes in the guidelines to strongly discourage the use of substitute sidings for the natural wood frame siding on structures within the historic districts.

The Historic Preservation Commission has pointed out that the use of substitute siding, primarily vinyl and aluminum, does hide the design details of many historic and landmark buildings. The policy proposed by the Historic Preservation Commission specifically eliminates the use of substitute siding for any individually designated landmark buildings, and with other structures limits the use of siding for any structures within historic districts.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had adopted the Design Manual when the Historic Preservation Commission was formed and if Council feels use of substitute siding should be limited then Council will need to amend the guidelines.

Council discussed the proposal from the Historic Preservation Commission. It was pointed out the guidelines were based primarily on the guidelines of the City of Columbia. They were concerned about the cost of having to paint rather than use siding. It was pointed out it was difficult and costly to repaint some of the bigger, older homes, and they were concerned about the owners being able to maintain some of the older homes.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that Council adopt the policy change in the Design Manual as recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission concerning the use of substitute siding by eliminating the use of substitute siding for any individually designated landmark buildings, and limit the use of siding for any structures within historic districts.

STREET LIGHTS

Central Business District Downtown Bids Streetscape

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider the bids received for furnishing downtown streets lights for the new streetscape plan.

Mr. Thompson stated that for several months the city has been reviewing the new streetscape plan and has been working closely with the designers, the Downtown Development Corp., the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Planning Commission to develop the details of the plan. The city has advertised for the purchase of the street lights for the downtown and the staff is recommending acceptance of the low bid of Shakespeare Industries with a total bid price of \$597.

Mr. Thompson stated that at the last meeting Council discussed a recommendation from McDonald Law who served as one of the three designers on the streetscape plan. Mr. Law suggested that the city consider reducing the length of the street light poles bid from 12 feet to 10 feet. Mr. Law provided a great deal of justification for this reduction. On January 17 the city staff met with McDonald Law and with representatives from the Downtown Development Corporation and SCE&G. After discussion the groups agree with Mr. Law that 10 foot poles would have advantages for the new streetscape plan. There was concern that the street lights at 10 feet would cast light into the eyes of motorists, that the street lights would be more open to vandalism, and that the light would not be adequate for the width of Laurens Street and the other affected streets. The group reviewed the analysis from SCE&G concerning the light patterns distributed by the different types of lights. Overall it was found that neither the 10 foot nor the 12 foot poles will provide light all the way to the center of Laurens Street, but that both pole heights will provide adequate light between the poles on 50 foot centers. He said the city will have to look at providing lights on the median of the wider streets and will be evaluating

January 24, 1994

the need for these interior lights after the installation of the lights along the sidewalk areas. It was found that the 10 foot lights would not greatly impact motorists, and that the 10 foot pole should be adequate to avoid some of the vandalism problems. He said overall the discussions were very positive, and it is recommended that Council accept bids for the 10 foot poles.

Mr. Thompson stated the city originally accepted bids for 12 foot poles and Shakespeare submitted the low bid for the 12 foot pole. Based on a 12 foot, tapered and fluted pole, Shakespeare submitted a bid of \$619. The Sternberg Company submitted a separate bid for aluminum poles, and provided a price of \$704. Bids were also received from Atlantic Technical Sales, Glendon Industries, Midstate Manufacturing, and Main Street Lighting. Most of the bids were incomplete. There was interest in reviewing the bid submitted by Glendon Industries as Glendon manufactures the poles that are on display in the pilot area along Park Avenue. The comparable pole for Glendon Industries totaled \$1,200. This bid is substantially higher than the poles bid by either Shakespeare or Sternberg. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Downtown Development Corporation have supported the purchase of the fiberglass poles, with a custom base, to match that of the pole in use in Aiken back in the early 1900's.

In the work session discussion of Council on January 10, Council asked that the staff negotiate with the apparent low bidder of Shakespeare Industries to develop a competitive price for a 10 foot pole. The original bids submitted were based on a 12 foot pole. With the new bid for a 10 foot pole, the poles would be \$597. The initial purchase is estimated to be 133 poles. At \$597 per pole the cost would be \$79,401.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that Council accept the bid from Shakespeare for 10 foot street light poles at \$597 per pole and also that the city purchase a ring which would go around the base of the pole which would include three horse heads to symbolize the Triple Crown and also the city seal.

JURY BOX 1994

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to adopt a jury box for 1994.

Mr. Thompson stated that each year Council is required to adopt a jury box. He stated Sara Ridout, City Clerk, as agent for Council, had prepared a jury box under the guidelines required by the City Code. The box prepared includes 11,265 electors eligible for jury duty.

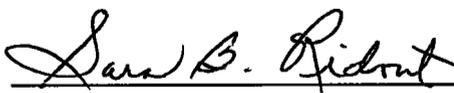
Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved that the jury box as prepared be adopted for 1994.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Anaclerio moved seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Council went into executive session at 10:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Perry and unanimously approved, that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk