

Aiken City Council Minutes

July 14, 1997

Executive Session

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

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Frances Thomas, and Gary Smith.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. Councilwoman Papouchado moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session for a legal briefing by the City Attorney regarding a suit by the Augusta Chronicle. After discussion, Council asked that the matter regarding payment of the legal fees incurred for the suit brought by the Augusta Chronicle be placed on the agenda for Council action. After discussion Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the executive session end. The executive session adjourned at 5:50 P.M. Then Council held a work session discussion on the South Carolina Department of Transportation project on the widening of the bypass, discussion with the Park Commission regarding parking in the parkways, and review of City Council retirement options.

Regular Meeting

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

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Gary Smith, Frances Thomas, Carrol Busbee, Roger LeDuc, Andy Anderson, Anita Lilly, Glenn Parker, Sara Ridout, Tom Smith of the Aiken Standard, Chandra McLean of the Augusta Chronicle, TV Channels 6, 12, and 26, and 12 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of the regular meeting of June 23, 1997, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Papouchado moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

G.F.O.A. Award
Certificate of Achievement for
Excellence in Financial Reporting
Finance Department

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that Mr. Paul Jarvis, of the Office of the State Treasurer, was present to make a presentation.

Ms. Anita Lilly, Finance Director, introduced Mr. Paul Jarvis of the State Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Paul Jarvis stated that the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was established by the Government Finance Officers in 1945. The program is designed to recognize and encourage excellence in financial reporting by state and local governments. The Certificate is a nationally recognized award and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental finance. Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment for a government and its management. The GFOA instituted the certification program to encourage all government units to prepare and publish an easily readable and understandable Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). CAFR's provide users of government financial statements with a wide variety of information useful in evaluating the financial condition of a government. CAFR's meeting program standards are awarded Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Mr. Jarvis presented the City of Aiken's award to Mayor Cavanaugh. He said this was the fifth year the City of Aiken has received this Certificate of Achievement.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked Ms. Lilly and her staff for their work in earning this certificate.

July 14, 1997

Mr. Jarvis also presented the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement to Ms. Lilly, Finance Director.

Ms. Lilly thanked the City Manager, City Council, the department heads and her staff for their support in helping to earn this award.

Heritage Preservation Association

Ambush

Painting

Carr, Tony

Arnold, Larry

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the Heritage Preservation Association would like to present a painting to the city.

Mr. Tony Carr, President of the Heritage Preservation Association, stated that on behalf of the Heritage Preservation Association, Camellia Galleries, and artist Larry Arnold, he would like to donate a print of Larry Arnold's painting of the City of Aiken to be placed on public display at City Hall. The painting is known as Ambush and comes with a certificate of authenticity and a brief history of the Battle of Aiken. He said the group feels that the painting represents an important part of the rich and diverse history of Aiken. He said they would like to permanently share the feeling with the residents and guests that visit Aiken. He said the painting brings a part of Aiken's history to life and felt that it should be shared with all people for all times. Mr. Arnold presented the painting to Mayor Cavanaugh.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Arnold and Mr. Carr for the painting.

AIKEN HISTORIC REGISTER - ORDINANCE 071497

Landmark

Johnson, C.C. Building

300 Park Avenue SE

Historic Site

Tax Parcel No. 30-048-01-007

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to designate the C. C. Johnson Building on Park Avenue to the Aiken Historic Register.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE C. C. JOHNSON BUILDING AT 300 PARK AVENUE SE AS A LANDMARK UNDER THE CITY OF AIKEN HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE.

Mr. Thompson stated City Council has received a recommendation from the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission to designate the C.C. Johnson Building, located at 300 Park Avenue SE to the Aiken Historic Register as a landmark.

Under the designation of historic properties a building or structure may be designated either within a historic district, or individually as a landmark. In this instance, the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson, have requested designation of the building as significant to the Aiken community and to the lives of persons significant in history. In the description, the owners note that the building was constructed between 1899 and 1904, on the site of the former Park Avenue Hotel. Dr. Charles Calett Johnson was the first black physician to practice in Columbia, and in 1919 Dr. Johnson purchased the building on Park Avenue in Aiken as an investment. According to the Aiken Standard, "Dr. Johnson was successful in the drug and pharmaceutical business here. Dr. Johnson organized the Palmetto Medical Association."

The Preservation Commission unanimously recommended adding the C.C. Johnson Building to the Aiken Historic Register as a landmark. The Commission's recommendation for designation includes both the rear building and the one-story side annex on the east side. The Planning Commission has reviewed this recommendation and unanimously recommends that the designation request be approved.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved that the ordinance to designate the C.C. Johnson Building, located at

300 Park Avenue SE in Aiken, to the Aiken Historic Register as a landmark be passed on second and final reading to become effective immediately.

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Request for Funds

Funding Request

Anniversary Campaign

Distance Learning Center

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a request had been received from Aiken Technical College for funds for their Anniversary Campaign. He said Dr. Kathy Noble and Mr. Dennis Rogers were present to make comments.

Dr. Kathy Noble stated Aiken Technical College is in the middle of an Anniversary Campaign for \$1.75 million. The strategic plan for the campaign is economic and workforce development in Aiken County. Part of the plan includes the establishment of some facilities for Aiken Technical College within the City of Aiken. She said they would like to ask for a pledge from the City of Aiken to the Anniversary Campaign that would supplement helping with the building of the facilities which would include a distance learning teleconferencing center. It would also include some classrooms or a conference center and a computer training center. She said Aiken Tech is asking the city for a pledge of \$30,000 each year for five years which would be a \$150,000 pledge.

Dr. Noble stated a workforce development center would help with economic development and workforce development. She stated there would be potential for offering various training and technical programs of various natures which would bring people into the area. She pointed out that the workforce development especially in computers is located in North Augusta. She said Aiken Tech would like to establish a computer training center in the City of Aiken. She said there is a large need for a center in Aiken. She said Aiken Tech was also working with DSS and some other agencies to establish a one-stop shop in Aiken.

Council discussed the request at length with Councilmembers asking questions. Council expressed an interest in the proposal and support for Aiken Tech, but Councilmembers were concerned about budget restraints, the present commitments for funds, and requests for funds from other organizations. Council expressed the desire to talk about the concept and proposal and to learn more about the proposal. Councilmembers expressed an interest in seeing the facilities of other tech schools which have facilities similar to the proposed facilities.

Mayor Cavanaugh moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council accept the request from Aiken Tech for funds as information at this time with a decision on the request to be made at a later time.

Mr. Ray Glinski stated as a taxpayer he was opposed to the city giving money to Aiken Technical College.

VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY - ORDINANCE 071497A

Agreement

Loan

Sewer Lines

Increase in Fees

Fire Service Fees

Water District

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance amending the agreement with the Valley Public Service Authority.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE TO CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF AIKEN WATER SERVICE DISTRICT.

Mr. Thompson stated the city has an agreement with the Valley Public Service Authority that was essentially a court ordered agreement from the early 1980's. The agreement has several weaknesses. Mr. Thompson stated for the past several years the city has been working with the Valley Public Service

Authority (VPSA) to amend the agreement and to resolve the outstanding loan balance due to the city from the VPSA. An ordinance has been prepared for Council's consideration amending the agreement between the City and the VPSA to correct the problems in the agreement and resolving the outstanding loan.

Under the present Court Order and agreement with the VPSA for service to the properties around the American Hearth Motel, the terms of the payment from the VPSA are subject to a great deal of interpretation. Over the last 10 years we have been attempting to clarify this agreement with a new ordinance and agreement between the City and the VPSA. The proposed ordinance includes these modifications. City Council approved this ordinance on first reading in February, 1996, but the staff was unable to resolve several issues prior to the second reading of the ordinance. So the first reading of a new ordinance was passed at the last meeting of Council.

Mr. Thompson stated the city benefits most from the ordinance in a financial sense by asking the VPSA to collect fire service fees from the customers on the VPSA system within the city's fire service area. Problems were encountered on the collection issue, and although the VPSA will continue to collect fire service fees the city's revenue will not be as great. Therefore the staff is recommending that the VPSA pay a greater portion of the outstanding balance due. The agreement also permits the following:

1. Water and sewer rates are to be adjusted every five years, based on cumulative CPI. In the past the city has not been able to adjust the water and sewer rates in this area.
2. The agreement specifically identifies the properties to be included in the agreement.
3. The city originally loaned the VPSA a total of \$20,665.89, at an interest rate of 10%, compounded from the bond date of March 1, 1984. The city received a partial payment on this, but the cumulative interest brought the total amount due from the VPSA to \$43,473.31. The staff's recommendation is to reduce this amount to a total of \$34,173.25, based on the amount that had accumulated by January 1, 1994. During the discussions of the agreement, the city had offered to allow the VPSA to make the payments on this over a two year period. The VPSA countered with a proposal that they would pay the entire amount due, at the negotiated lower rate, but they would like to have credit for the interest that the city would have received on this second year of service. This adjusted amount of \$34,173.25 gives the VPSA credit of approximately \$840 for interest.
4. The VPSA will continue to collect fire charges and other charges levied on out-of-city customers at the rates provided by the city, with the revenues to be remitted to the City of Aiken less a 5% collection fee. The monthly revenues for fire service charges are estimated at approximately \$438.

The VPSA Board has agreed to the terms and conditions outlined in the proposed agreement, including the amount due to resolve this issue. Mr. Thompson stated his recommendation is that if Council approves the agreement that the City Attorney be authorized to include the proposed changes in the new agreement and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the agreement for the city.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance amending the agreement with the Valley Public Service Authority be passed on second and final reading and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the amended agreement with the provisions included in the ordinance with the ordinance to become effective immediately.

BUDGET 1996-97 - ORDINANCE 071497B

Amendment

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the 1996-97 budget.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1996 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1997.

Mr. Thompson stated throughout the year the city has expenses that will adjust the budget and instead of submitting these budget adjustments with each individual expense, City Council approves these at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Thompson stated generally the budget adjustments include equipment that was budgeted in the previous fiscal year, but the equipment was not delivered until the next fiscal year. The adjustments for 1996-97 include several major projects, including the purchase of a new ladder fire truck, renovations of Public Safety Station 2, the purchase of the new traffic control poles for the downtown, replacement of the Newberry Street bridge, parkway and street renovations, the widening of the Odell Weeks walking track, the Weeks Gym, and installation of a portion of the new sewer system in Crosland Park. There are also many smaller expenses, including computers and radios, and in each case these projects have been approved in the previous budget or approved as an exception by City Council on the open City Council agenda.

The budget amendments were delayed until after June, to allow the staff to include all expenses that actually change the budget. On first reading City Council approved the ordinance with a total budget adjustment in the General Fund of \$1,742,290. The staff is recommending that the General Fund be adjusted by a total of \$1,755,720. The changes include decreasing the amount of money for the Public Safety Station contract by approximately \$70,000, increasing the right-of-way improvements by \$14,000, increasing the gym expenses by \$60,000, and adding a \$5,000 leadership grant from Walmart. Most of these adjustments are timing issues--many of the items were approved in the previous fiscal years, at the amounts expended, but the projects were not completed in that fiscal year. A few of the items, including the Newberry Street Bridge Project, were not budgeted, but the amounts spent are within the amounts approved by City Council.

The budget adjustment will also increase the Utilities Fund budget by a total of \$104,165. This amount did not change from the first reading.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved, that the ordinance amending the 1996-1997 budget be amended to adjust the amount amending the General Fund budget as reported by the City Manager.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved, that the amended ordinance amending the budget for fiscal year 1996-1997 be passed on second and final reading to become effective immediately.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like for Council to consider adding two items to the agenda under New Business. He said the first one was the Augusta Chronicle Freedom of Information request and consideration of the city paying 50% of the attorney fees involved in the suit. The second item is the request for approval of signs for the Aiken County Historical Museum.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated also Mr. Ray Glinski had given a copy of a proposed resolution to Council for Council's consideration and approval regarding the cablevision rates of Intermedia. He said this item would come under Petitions and Requests if Council wanted to add it to the agenda.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that the three items mentioned by Mayor Cavanaugh be added to the agenda.

CENTENNIAL OFFICE PARK - ORDINANCE

Detention Pond
Dedication
Whiskey Road
Estates, Inc.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been presented for Council's consideration to accept the deed of dedication for a detention pond at Centennial Office Park.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1.15 ACRES OWNED BY ESTATES, INC. CONSISTING OF A DETENTION POND IN THE CENTENNIAL OFFICE PARK.

Mr. Thompson stated the city accepts the dedication of detention facilities within new developments after the facilities have been approved by the city. In effect, this accepts these detention facilities into the city's stormwater system and allows the city to maintain the ponds and to divert water from different areas as necessary to fully maximize the use of these ponds. Estates, Inc. has asked that Council consider accepting the deed of dedication for the Centennial Office Park detention pond.

City Engineer Larry Morris has inspected this facility, and has recommended that the detention pond meets city standards and is acceptable for inclusion in the city stormwater system. This detention pond has also been incorporated into the drainage plans for the new shopping and retail center on Whiskey Road, across from Walmart.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on first reading accepting the Centennial Office Park detention pond into the city's stormwater system and that second reading and public hearing be set for the August 11 regular meeting of City Council.

BIDS

Municipal Building
City Hall
Roof
Building Repairs
Caldwell, Q. M.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider the bids for repairs to the Municipal Building roof and building interior repairs.

Mr. Thompson stated since the renovation of the Municipal Building in 1986, there have been roof problems, and after working with the contractors and the architects on the project for the past eleven years, the staff is recommending substantial repairs to the building. The staff is recommending acceptance of the low bid of the Q.M. Caldwell Company, of Aiken, at a bid price of \$62,200.

Mr. Thompson stated one can see the damage due to roof leaks throughout the building, and based on the information received from the contractors and architects involved, it is felt that the leaks are partly due to age and use. Under the proposed bid, the roof will be reworked over the Council Chambers, the flat roof over the map room will be replaced, and the door and building exterior will be resealed in several locations. We will also replace the wall paper and window trim in the Council Chambers due to water damage.

The project does seem to be justified. Two bids were received on this project. The local vendor, the Q. M. Caldwell Company, bid a total of \$62,200 for the project, and the staff is satisfied that the company is capable of this work. Funds are available in the maintenance accounts for the Municipal Building for this work. The other bid was from State Roofing Company for \$79,300.

Council discussed the proposed work and the warranty for the work. They were concerned that the leaks be fixed.

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council accept the bid of Q.M. Caldwell Company for Municipal Building roof repairs and building interior repairs with a total bid price of \$62,200. Councilman Anaclerio did not participate in the voting because of a possible conflict of interest.

BIDS

Radios
Public Safety Department
Communications Unlimited, Inc.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider bids for the purchase of portable radios for the Public Safety Department.

Mr. Thompson stated each year the city replaces portable radios throughout the city, to upgrade the UHF fire and police radio systems. The staff is

recommending acceptance of the low bid of Communications Unlimited, Inc., of Augusta, at a total bid price of \$31,990.

Four bid invitations were distributed to vendors, and the bid of Communications Unlimited, Inc., is the low bid. Of the four bids received, three are from the Augusta area, including the bid submitted by Communications Unlimited, and the fourth bid was submitted by Mobex, South Carolina, out of Columbia.

The staff is familiar with the equipment bid by Communications Unlimited, and is satisfied with the bid for this equipment. Funds are available for this purchase.

The bids received are as follows:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID PRICE</u>
Communications Unlimited, Inc.	\$31,990.00
Bailey's C & E, Inc.	32,850.00
C.S.S.I Sales	32,942.50
Mobex, SC	33,775.00

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved, that Council accept the bid of Communications Unlimited, Inc. with a bid of \$31,990 for the purchase of replacement radios in the Department of Public Safety.

AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

Freedom of Information Request

Attorney Fees

Suit

Southeastern Newspapers Corporation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider a proposed settlement to pay a portion of the attorney's fees for the suit brought by the Augusta Chronicle requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated Council had discussed in executive session the law suit filed by the Augusta Chronicle seeking a reply to a Freedom of Information request. He said Council was aware that Judge Pleicones had ordered 16 of the 22 internal affairs reports that were generated by the Public Safety Department to be turned over to the Augusta Chronicle either fully or in some sort of redacted format. He said the reports have been turned over to the Augusta Chronicle and Judge Pleicones has scheduled a hearing in Columbia in August to determine the issue of how much attorney's fees the City of Aiken would be required to pay to the Augusta Chronicle for the city not providing those documents prior to the Augusta Chronicle filing a law suit. The attorney for the Augusta Chronicle has submitted an affidavit to Judge Pleicones showing that he has incurred almost \$7,500 in attorney's fees. The Augusta Chronicle through their attorney issued a letter indicating that they would be willing to settle the matter for \$3,750, roughly one-half of the fees that the attorney for the Chronicle has submitted to the Judge. The question for Council is whether or not Council would be interested in entering into a settlement agreement. He said if Council is interested in a settlement agreement Council would need to pass a resolution authorizing the City Attorney to enter into a settlement agreement with the attorney for the Augusta Chronicle and having this law suit dismissed.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council talked about the matter at length in the executive session. He said the Judge has said that he will charge the City of Aiken a portion of these fees. He said Council does not feel that the city should have to pay the attorney's fees as the city followed the procedures passed down by the State Law Enforcement Division of S.C. which generally stated the files are personal and confidential files and recommended that the files not be given out to protect all parties. He said it was not a case of not wanting the public to see the files, but people have privacy rights as well. In August, 1997, there was a case involving the City of Columbia in a very similar case. The Supreme Court ruled that the city could not keep the records from the public. However, they gave no definition of what could be given or not given. The ruling stated that each case would be reviewed by the court. When the ruling came out the City of Aiken said they would follow the Supreme Court decision and go to the Court and let the Judge determine what is

and what is not available under the Freedom of Information Act. He said Judge Pleicones reviewed the files and determined what could be released. Mayor Cavanaugh stated the City of Aiken was following the procedures, but the Judge has ruled that the City of Aiken will pay some of the attorney's fees. He said Council feels that the city would be better off to pay half of the attorney's fees involved in the case rather than letting the case be appealed and there being more costs involved.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council authorize the City Attorney to enter into a settlement agreement with the attorney for the Augusta Chronicle and pay \$3,750, or one-half of the attorney's fees so the law suit can be dismissed. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 in favor and 1 opposed. Councilwoman Papouchado was opposed to the motion.

AIKEN COUNTY MUSEUM

Museum

Signs

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had received a request for approval of two signs to be placed in the street right-of-way for the Aiken County Museum.

Mr. Thompson stated the County Museum, located at Banksia has had four signs in the past advertising the Museum. These signs were placed in the street right-of-way. The Museum recently replaced these four signs with two new signs, but did not obtain approval through the city. The Museum is asking for city permission for the signs and for placement of the signs within the right-of-way.

Generally an appeal on the sign regulations would be through the Zoning Board of Adjustments, the Historic Preservation Commission, or the Planning Commission, depending on the type and location of sign, but since these signs are within the street right-of-way, the normal appeals process would not apply. This appeal is therefore submitted directly to City Council.

Ms. Carolyn Miles, Director of the Museum, has pointed out the Museum has reduced the number of signs from four to two, and is replacing signs that were in poor condition. The Museum would like to have the city approve the two new signs for the Museum, including one on Newberry Street and one in the little triangle beside South Boundary. The request for signs has been discussed with Ed Evans and with Pete Frommer on the different requirements, and overall the signs meet the city's size requirements and seem to be quite nicely prepared. Unless Council has strong feelings that they would prefer not to allow these signs in the right-of-way, the staff is satisfied that the signs would meet the requirements of the normal review process.

Council discussed the request pointing out the signs meet the city's requirements and the number of signs have been reduced from four to two however the signs are located on street-right-of-way.

Mr. Bill Ollif, President of the Friends of the Museum, appeared before Council regarding the request. He pointed out the sign on Newberry Street in front of the Museum is essentially where the old sign was located. However, the sign is a much better looking sign than the old sign. The previous sign on South Boundary was misleading as far as the location of the Museum. He said Aiken County asked the state for permission to place a sign in the triangle on South Boundary at Newberry Street and the state agreed. He said the signs help visitors in the area to find the Museum. He pointed out the location of the two signs are in ideal locations, and he would like for Council to consider the locations as a permanent change for the signs.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council approve the placement of signs in the street right-of-way for the Aiken County Historical Museum as requested on Newberry Street and in the triangle on South Boundary at Newberry Street.

CITY PROPERTY - ORDINANCE

756 Laurens Street NW
Talk to Me Program
Manning, Beatrice
Vanwood Subdivision
School District

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the city had received a request for donation of property at 756 Laurens Street NW to the Talk to Me Program.

Mr. Thompson stated City Council has received a request from Ms. Beatrice Manning, the founder and director of the Talk to Me/A Listening Ear service. Ms. Manning is asking that the city donate the building and property located at 756 Laurens Street NW to the Talk to Me Program.

The building at 756 Laurens Street NW until recently was occupied by the Administrative Offices of the School District. The city purchased this property and several other buildings in the Vanwood Subdivision in 1966, and the School District leased this property from the city. A few months ago the School District moved out and into other offices, and the building is presently empty.

Ms. Manning has asked that City Council consider donating this building and property to the Talk to Me Program. Ms. Manning states that the present office of the Talk to Me Program is used to tutor sixth through ninth grade children and children that are expelled or suspended.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out Council had discussed the request in the work session, and it had been suggested that the property be leased to the Talk to Me Program rather than donating the property.

Councilwoman Price stated she would like for the city to provide use of the building and property at 756 Laurens Street NW for use by the Talk to Me Program under the same conditions that the Aiken County School District used the building with an agreement to be prepared by the City Attorney covering liability and legal use of the property. She said she felt the property should remain the property of the City of Aiken.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LEASE OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 756 LAURENS STREET TO MS. BEATRICE MANNING, CHAIRMAN OF TALK TO ME/A LISTENING EAR FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOUSING THE TALK TO ME/A LISTENING EAR PROGRAM.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado that the ordinance be passed on first reading authorizing the City Attorney to prepare a lease agreement for the Talk to Me Program to use the building and property at 756 Laurens Street NW under the same conditions that the School District used the buildings with liability for use of the property being covered in the lease. The motion included that second reading and public hearing be set for the July 28 meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved with Councilwoman Clyburn not participating in the voting since she is a member of the Board of the Talk to Me Program.

CABLEVISION

Intermedia
Glinski, Ray
Rates

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Mr. Ray Glinski had requested to appear before Council regarding cablevision rates.

Mr. Ray Glinski, of 164 Governors Lane, again appeared before Council regarding the rates charged by Intermedia Cablevision for cablevision service. He had prepared a proposed resolution and copies had been given to City Council. Mr. Glinski stated he was asking that Council consider adopting the resolution opposing the high rates of Intermedia Cablevision and send the resolution to the state and federal legislative bodies representing Aiken.

Council discussed the proposed resolution briefly pointing out they had just received the copy of the resolution and were not prepared to take action on the resolution at this time. Council pointed out the staff had asked for a

July 14, 1997

rate comparison of cablevision rates in the Georgia-South Carolina area and 18 providers charge more than Intermedia and 11 charge less, putting Aiken's rates in the lower third of the rates.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the resolution proposed by Mr. Glinski would be on Council's agenda for August 11, 1997. He pointed out he felt, however, the greatest power was for the citizens to present a petition to the legislative bodies.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk