

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETINGFebruary 28, 2011

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Clyburn, Dewar, Ebner, Homoki, Price and Wells.

Others Present: Richard Pearce, Gary Smith, Glenn Parker, Pete Frommer, Kim Abney, Ed Evans, Ben Moore, Larry Morris, Alicia Davis, Sara Ridout, Amy Banton of the Aiken Standard and about 25 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Councilwoman Price led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like to add consideration of approval of a resolution for the SRS Heritage Foundation to the agenda under Petitions and Requests. Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Alicia Davis

Mr. Pearce stated he would like to introduce to Council the new Human Resources Director, Alicia Davis, who started on the job today.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2011, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Wells, that the minutes of the February 14, 2011, meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Brendan Doherty
Planning Commission

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needs to consider an appointment to boards and commissions of the city.

Mr. Pearce stated there are ten pending appointments to boards and commissions of the city, and one appointment is presented for Council's consideration.

Councilman Dewar has recommended that Brendan Doherty be appointed to the Planning Commission to replace Peter Seaha, who has resigned. If appointed Mr. Doherty's term would expire December 1, 2012.

For Council's consideration, this is approval of one appointment to the Planning Commission of the city.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve the appointment of Brendan Doherty to the Planning Commission with the term to expire December 1, 2012. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Dewar stated he would recommend that Stephen Mueller be reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Councilwoman Price stated she would like to recommend that Betty Gyles be appointed to the Senior Commission.

WOODSIDE PLANTATION – RESOLUTION 02282011

Deed of Dedication

Streets

Water Lines

Storm Sewer Lines

Sanitary Sewer Lines

The Village at Woodside

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's approval for a deed of dedication for streets, water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer lines for The Village at Woodside.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF TWO DEEDS OF DEDICATION FOR STREETS ALONG WITH STORM SEWER, SANITARY SEWER AND WATER LINES LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE AT WOODSIDE.

Mr. Pearce stated Silver Bluff Development Company, LLC, Woodside Village Residential, LLC, Sidewood Development, LLC, Woodside Golf, LLC, Village Oncology Center, LLC, and The Village Imaging Center, LLC are ready to dedicate to the City of Aiken roads located in The Village at Woodside, along with storm sewer lines, sanitary sewer lines, water lines, and related equipment. Council had several questions regarding this Resolution and proposed dedication at the December 13, 2010, meeting. Our Staff Attorney has discussed these issues with the developer's attorney. We believe Council's concerns have now been addressed. These issues concerned the maintenance of the median at the entrance to the Village at Woodside, access to the city water plant to be constructed in the area, and the traffic signal to be installed at the entrance to the Village.

Our Engineering staff reviewed the roads and other utilities and have found no deficiencies. The water and sewer lines have been tested and approved by DHEC. We, therefore, recommend that City Council accept the deeds of dedication.

For City Council consideration is approval of a Resolution accepting the deeds of dedication for streets, along with storm sewers, sanitary sewer, and water lines located in The Village at Woodside. Mr. Pat Cunning is present representing the developer to answer any questions Council may have.

Mr. Ben Moore, Staff Attorney, stated there were basically three issues with the dedication. One was the impact fees for the traffic signal. In reviewing the documents it was found that the impact fees were agreed to in a Development Agreement that has been recorded. Additionally, there was a concern about maintenance of the parkways. Language was included in the Resolution that the Village at Woodside and the Homeowners Association, or whoever takes over after the developer, would have the right to maintain the parkways at the level that they desire. The City will be obtaining the roads and parkways, so the City will have the right to go on the parkways as well. In the event the maintenance level drops below the City's maintenance standards, the City would have the ability to maintain the parkways. Another issue was where the water line to the well site would be located. Larry Morris had the area for the line surveyed and has a plat that shows exactly where the water main will be located.

Councilman Dewar stated he understood it had been stated the impact fee was for the traffic signal. However, the documents in the agenda packet regarding the \$210 impact fee stated it would be used for roadway improvements, which would satisfy a condition of left turn lanes going into the area. He wondered if there would be enough money from the lots to pay for a traffic signal as well. He also pointed out that the resolution includes

language that if Woodside wants to keep the medians looking prettier than the City would, they have the right to do so.

Mr. Moore stated it was his understanding that the impact fee was to include the traffic signal. He also stated the resolution gives Woodside the right to maintain the medians, but not the obligation.

Mr. Pat Cunning pointed out that the \$210 impact fee was for Phase 4, and this resolution is for acceptance of streets and utilities in the Village. He said the \$210 impact fee is for about 1,000 to 1,200 lots, so there should be enough money for the signal. He pointed out the annexation for the Village was in 2001 and was Phase 3. The impact fee is for Phase 4. He pointed out Woodside would be glad to contribute the \$210 for the lots in Phase 4. He said the Village, Phase 3, does not have the \$210 impact fee. He said Phase 4 is 650 acres, which was annexed several years ago. In that phase Woodside agreed to do a Traffic Impact fee for the 1,000 to 1,200 lots at a fee of \$210 for each lot. The traffic light agreement was in 2001, ten years ago. He said there was no dispute about the \$210 and what it covers.

Mr. Pearce pointed out that the traffic signal is part of the Silver Bluff widening project. There should be a public information session on the widening in April.

Mr. Cunning pointed out the agreement dated April 30, 2007, by and between the City of Aiken and Hollow Creek Preserve, LLC, owner of 661.5 acres as a condition of the annexation of Phase 4 agreed to the \$210 per lot road and traffic improvements. He said the Village is not covered by the \$210 per lot traffic impact fee. He said Woodside wants the traffic signal installed at the corner of Richardson's Lake Road, Village Green Boulevard and Silver Bluff Road. If the City of Aiken gets approval for the traffic signal, Woodside will install the light at their expense. He said they want the light and they want it sooner rather than later. He pointed out the annexation agreement took place ten years ago. He said they had been prepared to write a check to put the light in for ten years. He stated if the State of South Carolina puts the light in, and they do it at their own expense, their time, and own leisure, and it takes another ten years to get the signal installed, and the City is not responsible for installing the signal, he was not sure that Woodside should reimburse the State for the signal. He said their agreement is with the City, and Woodside will honor that agreement.

Mr. Cunning pointed out as far as the landscaping there is a Homeowners Association which covers the commercial area and the residential area in the Village. He said they do want the entrance median maintained, and the legal entity can maintain it.

Councilman Ebner stated he had a couple of stormwater questions for clarification. He asked if the main stormwater line that goes from the detention pond behind the office area and goes into Magnolia Lake was an existing line or if a new line was put into Magnolia Lake. He pointed out the stormwater lines within Woodside are maintained by the property owners. He wondered if they had tied into an existing line or whether a new line was installed and who would maintain it.

Mr. Wesley Elijah stated the original design on the DRA was to be a discharge of a surface runoff as it reached its max. Experience became that it impacted some of the homes in Magnolia Lake. It was reengineered to tie into the existing storm line. As a result it does discharge into one of the ponds in Woodside. It did tie into an existing line.

Councilman Ebner stated as the other side of the hill is developed that runs towards Silver Bluff, he wondered if Woodside would participate in repavement of the detention pond. He said presently the water runs towards the Woodside area. Once the other side of the hill is developed going towards Silver Bluff, water will run the other way.

Mr. Morris, Public Works Director, stated Woodside has the right to buy back some of the property the City bought from Woodside and increase the size of the detention pond to take care of the stormwater. The consultants have been instructed to design the pond big enough so there should not be a problem with stormwater.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn, that Council approve the Resolution accepting the deed of dedication for streets, along with storm sewers, sanitary sewer, and water lines located in the Village at Woodside. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANIMAL SHELTER – RESOLUTION 02282011A

SPCA

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Memorandum of Understanding

One Cent Sales Tax

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the SPCA for funding for an animal shelter.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF AIKEN AND THE AIKEN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Mr. Pearce stated a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Aiken Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) had been given to Council for review. He stated during the time of the Local Capital Sales Tax project discussions there were preliminary discussions with the SPCA. It was not listed on the November ballot, but there were subsequent discussions with the SPCA and the prior City Manager. Council met to discuss the options for an animal shelter. These included partnering with Aiken County, building a city facility, or partnering with the SPCA to have a publicly owned shelter as part of the SPCA facility that will be constructed on Willow Run Road. He pointed out a color rendition of the proposed facility had been given to Council. He stated the SPCA should break ground in May, 2011. He pointed out the blue area in the upper left corner is the portion of the building described in the MOU that would be owned by the City of Aiken. The agreement with the SPCA would use the \$1 million that was approved on the November ballot for an animal control shelter to construct an animal shelter shown in the blue area and provide access. The City of Aiken will own that portion of the facility. Ben Moore, Staff Attorney, has been in discussions with Mary Guynn about how to set up the agreement. There were discussions about a services agreement, and a copy of the present service agreement has been provided to Council. The service agreement is the ongoing agreement that the City has had with the SPCA for a number of years. The Memorandum of Understanding is for the construction of the facility and the City taking \$1 million designated for an animal shelter from the Capital Sales Tax project money in order to pay for the construction of the portion of the building that the City will own.

Ben Moore is present to answer any questions. The MOU appears to follow the guidance Council provided when we last discussed this situation.

For Council's consideration is approval of a MOU with ASPCA for the construction of an animal shelter, without agreeing to indemnify any party by doing so.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated Mary Guynn is his law partner in his law firm. She is representing the SPCA so he was going to recuse himself from the discussions. He left the Council Chambers at 7:25 P.M.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilman Wells, that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the SPCA for the construction of an animal shelter.

Councilman Dewar asked for a response to Mr. Johnny Johnson's challenge to the legality of using \$1 million of the Capital Sales Tax funds for the animal shelter being constructed in conjunction with the SPCA.

Mr. Ben Moore, Staff Attorney, stated the City will actually own a portion of the animal shelter, which means it will be publicly owned. The City of Aiken is a public entity political subdivision of the state. He stated he was satisfied that the MOU solidifies the position and is comfortable in saying the City is in compliance with the Capital Projects Sales Tax regulations. He stated a lease is mentioned because the parties have to have a lease until the city's wing is completed.

Councilwoman Price asked several questions. She wondered if the city's portion of the building would be attached to the SPCA's portion of the building, and if it would be one structure.

Mr. Pearce responded that it would be one building, but one area is defined as the City of Aiken's area. He said it was similar to the URS and the Community Theater building set up. He said for Council to work out the partnership with the SPCA, and with the ballot question saying a publicly owned animal shelter, it had to be set up this way. He said for the \$1 million the City is actually buying something which is an area of the building that will be city owned. There will be some shared common space, similar to a condominium. In response to a question about a lease agreement, Mr. Pearce stated the package is a Memorandum of Understanding, and then at the time we need to disburse money the rest of the documentation will be given to Council.

Mr. Moore pointed out that at the present time there is nothing to lease, as there is no structure. He stated once the building is constructed the lease will go away, as the City will own a portion of the building. The lease is temporary and expires when the city's portion of the building is operational. In response to a question regarding the wording "to own in fee simple," Mr. Moore stated the wording means that it is the highest title to land that an individual, corporation, or municipality can own. It is absolute title to the land.

Councilman Dewar asked Mr. Moore if he was saying the City does not need a formal lease document until the SPCA has built the facility and we are ready to use it. He pointed out the MOU talks about a lease, the rate per year, etc.

Mr. Moore stated the MOU is an agreement to agree what will be in the lease. He stated his understanding from the project is parts of the facility will be operational before the City's portion is operational. When enough of the building becomes operational that the City can start using it in the interim, that is the point where the City would sign a lease. Currently the City just has a service agreement with the SPCA. Until the new facility is operational where they can house the city's animals there will just be a service agreement.

Councilwoman Clyburn asked for clarification of the portion of the building that the City would own. Mr. Pearce pointed out the city's portion on the rendering that was given to Council. Councilwoman Clyburn asked for services other than bringing animals in and holding them, will the City use other portions of the building.

Ms. Barbara Nelson pointed out the City's portion of the building, which is marked by the robin egg blue area on the rendering. She reviewed the set up of the portion of the building the city will own. She stated other portions of the building will be used by the City for medical facilities. The City's portion of the building does not include a medical center. Animals brought in will be treated in the SPCA's medical facility.

Councilwoman Clyburn was concerned about liability and who would be responsible if something happens to an animal that is brought in to the facility and is using the SPCA portion of the building.

Ms. Mary Guynn stated there would be a lot of things to consider. It may depend on who is performing work on the animal, whether it is a SPCA employee or a City employee.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated some of the City animals will need to be taken care of in facilities of the SPCA.

Ms. Nelson stated the services will be similar to what is presently being done. There is a separate building where all the city animals are brought. If some service is needed, they are brought to the main building. This is similar to how the new facilities will work. There is a separate contract which covers services provided by the SPCA and the fees. Council continued to discuss the building and the facilities that will be provided.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked about maintenance of the Dog Park. He pointed out the agreement states the SPCA will be responsible for maintenance of the Dog Park, not including the fence, which the City is responsible for.

Ms. Nelson responded that as far as the Dog Park is concerned, the only thing the City is responsible for is maintenance of the fence and replacement of the fence. The City built the fence. The rest of the Dog Park was built by the SPCA.

Mayor Cavanaugh also questioned the statement "the office space may be shared space with employees of the SPCA." He also questioned the statement "priority must be given to the animals brought to the shelter by the City of Aiken animal control officer for assistance."

Ms. Nelson responded the statement referred to office use during the lease time. During the time before the build out of the City's space, the City and SPCA will have to live together. SPCA will provide office space for up to two animal control officers. She stated the first space that is occupied is obligated to the City of Aiken, which is the way it works now. She said they do transfer animals from the Aiken County Shelter, Ridge Spring, Barnwell, Saluda, etc., but there is always space guaranteed for the City of Aiken. She said the City of Aiken has first priority because of the contract the City has with the SPCA. Sixty percent of the animals that are admitted to the Aiken SPCA are city source animals.

Councilwoman Price again asked who would own all the space. Ms. Nelson responded that the SPCA, which is a 501(c)3 entity will own everything except for the square footage that the City of Aiken will own. The lease agreement involves everything except the space owned by the City of Aiken.

In response to a question by Councilwoman Clyburn regarding the City owning a portion of the building, Ms. Nelson stated in the interim before the build out the lease agreement is temporary. When the build out occurs, the City of Aiken, in fee simple, will own a building and the land underneath. At that time the City owns the building, maintains it, etc. but there are other services that the City will need. The SPCA will not charge for those other services. The City of Aiken will be receiving services that the SPCA will not be asking the City to pay for. The square footage of the City's portion of the building is 3,238 square feet.

Councilman Ebner stated when this matter was discussed previously there were some comments on the percent of payment. He stated the city payment would be made quarterly on construction completed and would not be up front money, but payments made as the building is constructed.

Mr. Pearce stated the City anticipates a quarterly billing for 25% of the money commencing in the fall.

Ms. Nelson stated the SPCA will be receiving big bills in April and May from the contractor. She said they would hope that the City of Aiken will be participating in the cost in the fall on a quarterly basis.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilman Wells, that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the SPCA for the construction of an animal shelter. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, returned to the Council Chambers.

DEODAR PLANTATION – RESOLUTION 02282011B

Deed of Dedication

Lift Station

Detention Pond

Pendula Court

Utilities

Easements

Crowell & Co., Inc.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration accepting deed of dedication for utilities and easements in Deodar Plantation Section 4.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED OF DEDICATION FOR THE LIFT STATION, DETENTION POND, PENDULA COURT, UTILITIES AND EASEMENTS FROM CROWELL & CO., INC. LOCATED IN SECTION FOUR OF DEODAR PLANTATION.

Mr. Pearce stated Crowell & Co., Inc. would like the City of Aiken to accept the sanitary sewage collection system, lift station, a 20 foot sanitary sewer forcemain easement along with ingress and egress to reach the lift station, a portion of Pendula Court, and storm water collection system including the 20.65 acre detention pond located in Deodar Plantation, Section Four. The dedication does not include any water lines in Section Four of Deodar Plantation.

Our engineering staff reviewed the utilities and road and have found all deficiencies to be corrected. It is recommended that Council accept the deed of dedication.

For City Council consideration is approval of a resolution accepting the deed and easement to sewer lines, lift station, detention pond, storm water lines and Pendula Court in Section Four of Deodar Plantation.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn, that Council approve the resolution accepting the deed and easement to sewer lines, lift station, detention pond, storm water lines and Pendula Court in Section Four of Deodar Plantation. The motion was unanimously approved.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations.

Mr. Pearce stated the Accommodations Tax Committee meets every year to determine how to distribute approximately \$170,000 in A-Tax revenues pursuant to state law.

The Accommodations Tax Committee met on February 23, 2011 to review applicants' requests for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Additionally, they reviewed a request from the Aiken Performing Arts Group (APAG) for an upcoming project in the current year 2010-2011.

The Accommodations Tax Committee had 14 requests totaling \$329,472.23. The Committee has approximately \$170,000 currently available for funding. After the close of the 2010-2011 funding cycle the Committee may have leftover funding that could be applied to the 2011-2012 projects. At that time the Accommodations Tax Committee would come back to City Council with a recommendation for any additions for the 2011-2012 funding allotments.

This year the Aiken Performing Arts Group has a time-sensitive request for funding the Frederica Von Stade event in the amount of \$10,000 from the 2010-11 funds.

Total requests for funding for 2011-2012 are \$329,472.23. The requests and the A-Tax Committee recommendations are as follows:

PROJECT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Citizens Park Bid Fees	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Aiken Fall Steeplechase	\$ 24,250.00	\$ 15,000.00
Woods Promotion (includes Aiken Horse Show)	\$ 15,224.98	\$ 7,500.00
302 Polo USPA Silver Cup/USPA Aiken Ladies Invitational	\$ 60,070.00	\$ 18,000.00
Aiken Trials	\$ 19,062.00	\$ 7,500.00
Battle of Aiken	\$ 27,900.00	\$ 26,250.00
Aiken's Makin'	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Aiken Polo Club Promotions & Magazine	\$ 48,865.00	\$ 18,000.00
Aiken Spring Classic	\$ 12,477.50	\$ 12,477.00
Exhibition and Arts Center Marketing	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 10,200.00
Antiques in the Heart of Aiken	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 12,700.00
Juneteenth/Center for African American History, Art & Culture	\$ 9,602.75	\$ 3,500.00
Promotion of Downtown Aiken	\$ 15,020.00	\$ 12,500.00
Aiken Bluegrass Festival & Mini-Fest	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
	\$ 329,472.23	\$ 170,627.00

For Council consideration is approval of the Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations for funding, in the amounts specified in their report from their February 23, 2011, meeting.

Councilman Dewar asked a couple questions. One question concerned the listing of Aiken Makin for \$10,000 and 302 Polo for \$14,000 in the minutes of the A-Tax Committee. He wondered if those reimbursements were from last year's funding.

Mr. Glenn Parker stated the reimbursement for those two events were from the 2010-2011 funding, the current budget. The recommendations for approval at this time are for the 2011-2012 funding cycle which starts July 1, 2011, except for the Aiken Performing Arts Group which is funding from the 2010-2011 cycle.

Councilman Dewar stated it would be good if the items for the Citizens Park Bid Fees and Promotion of Downtown Aiken could be worked into the budget rather than from Accommodations Tax Funds so there would be more funds available for other projects. It is appropriate use of A-Tax funds, but if it were in the regular budget there would be more money for projects.

Mr. Pearce stated money is included in the General Fund budget to supplement the requests. These projects are expensive and they do put heads on beds and are an appropriate use of A-Tax funds.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve the funding recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

SIGNS

Directional Signs

Business Signs

Downtown

ADDA

Aiken Downtown Development Association

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a request had been received from the Aiken Downtown Development Association for permanent business directional signs in the downtown area.

Mr. Pearce stated that at the November 8, 2010, meeting Council approved the placing of business directional signs in the downtown area during the 2010 holiday season on a temporary basis. These signs indicated some of the businesses or services available on the side streets off of Laurens Street. There were positive comments about the signs.

The Aiken Downtown Development Association's board members are now requesting that the directional signs be installed permanently. They state that during the trial phase of the project no negative comments were received. They believe these signs benefit the downtown businesses, especially during these economic times.

For City Council consideration is approval of the business directional signs in downtown Aiken on a permanent basis.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if the signs would stay in the same locations where they are presently located.

Ms. Cloud stated the current location of the signs is acceptable with the board.

Councilwoman Price stated she felt the directional signs had helped visitors to the area to locate some of the businesses.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn, that Council approve the permanent installation of the business directional signs in the downtown area. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Dewar stated that at the last Council meeting Council took a lot of heat for our relations with the business community, and he felt this was an act on the part of the city to enhance the business community.

RESOLUTION

SRS Heritage Foundation

Savannah River Site

Walt Joseph

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an item had been added for approval of a resolution supporting the work of the SRS Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Walt Joseph stated the SRS Heritage Foundation was established in 2005 as a non-profit organization to preserve and interpret the history of the Savannah River Site. He stated the SRS Heritage Foundation had provided programs to educate the public about the history of the Savannah River Site. They financed a video "Displaced," which recounts the recollections of former residents of small towns displaced to make room for the Savannah River Site. He pointed out they hosted the Neutrino Celebration last year, which put the Neutrino on the map. They also funded and produced a 30 minute version of the "Displaced" video which was accompanied with a lesson plan, references to the state curriculum guide, supplementary materials, exercises, etc. This was distributed to eighth grade Social Studies teachers in Aiken, Barnwell, and Edgefield counties. He said he was not asking for money at this time. He said he was present to ask for a resolution. He said they were applying for some grants and need community support for the project.

Councilwoman Price stated Mr. Joseph had been a champion for preserving history of the Savannah River Site for a long time. She said his service had not gone unnoticed. He and his wife had given a lot of their time and talents to the community.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Wells, that Council approve the resolution in support of the SRS Heritage Foundation and their efforts to preserve the history of the Savannah River Site. The motion was unanimously approved.

MEETINGS

Mr. Pearce stated at the Horizons Retreat there were several requests for specific items to be discussed either at a special meeting or as part of the Council agenda. He pointed out the following dates had been set for discussion of these items. The Business License review will be on March 21, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. Employee benefits will be discussed at the April 11, 2011, regular meeting of Council. The meeting with the Planning Commission for discussion of the Action Agenda is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. Discussion of fluoridation in the water supply will be discussed at the April 25, 2011, regular meeting of Council.

Councilman Dewar asked what the employee benefits included.

Mr. Pearce stated discussion of the employee benefits was a goal of Council set at Horizons. This includes discussion of the employee pension plan.

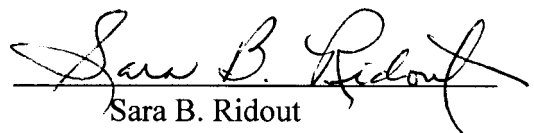
Councilman Dewar stated there needs to be some rules. He said as a Councilmember if he asks a question he felt he should be able to get an answer instead of being ignored. He said he had some specific questions about the pension plan that he had asked. He said he thought Mr. Pearce was researching the questions, but he had received no answer yet. He felt someone on staff should be able to answer his question in 20 minutes. He said he wanted to learn what he would like to learn about the city's benefit package, specifically the retirement plan, which is 100% funded. He said he wanted to learn enough about that so he can make an intelligent decision on the budget. The budget is coming up in April. He said the questions came up in January, and he was afraid we would get to the crunch time. He said he would not approve the budget if he did not understand the questions for the retirement plan.

Mr. Pearce stated he was researching the questions and had met with the pension plan people to go over that portion of the benefits package. He said staff was in the process of gathering the information. He said he always strives to answer Council's questions. He said he wanted to get an accurate answer to the question. He said there is additional information that he has to gather. He said he wanted to be sure that if Council has questions about any item on the Council agenda, that all of Council has all the information they need to make an informed decision. He said if a question has been asked, staff is in the process of researching the answer to give Council an accurate answer. He said he had understood that Councilman Dewar's question was a part of the review of the pension plan and staff is in the process of gathering the information.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not intend for it to be a part of the review of the pension plan and also he got nothing back indicating that it was to be part of the review of the pension plan. He said this was the first he had heard about a session on April 11 about the benefits plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk