

Aiken City Council Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

February 8, 2016

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Ebner, Homoki, Merry and Price.

Others Present: John Klimm, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Tommy Paradise, Sara Ridout.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. He stated an executive session had been advertised. He asked that Council go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property and the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. Specifically, City Council will discuss the pending request for annexation of property owned by William Putnam.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded Councilman Homoki, that Council go into executive session to discuss the pending request for annexation of property owned by William Putnam. The motion was unanimously approved.

Council went into executive session at 6:32 p.m.

After discussion Council returned to the Council Chambers at 6:57 p.m. Mayor Osbon stated Council had been in executive session and no action was taken by Council.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council come out of executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

Aiken City Council Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

February 8, 2016

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Ebner, Homoki, Merry and Price.

Others Present: John Klimm, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Charles Barranco, Jessica Campbell, Kim Abney, George Grinton, Tommy Paradise, Tim Coakley, Alicia Davis, Sara Ridout, Emory Langston, Dan Brown of the Aiken Standard, and about 50 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Reverend Jake Edwards, of Crossroads Church led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag with Colonel David Lobb leading the pledge.

Mayor Osbon asked Colonel Lobb to tell the audience about the organization for which he works. Colonel Lobb stated he was recently elected President of the Military Officers Association for South Carolina. The organization represents active, reserve, guard, retirees both officer and warrant officers, in issues that would affect personnel on a federal and on a state level. They are currently involved in moving legislation through the state that would exempt military retirement pay for all military personnel. This would not only help the veteran, but the primary reason is to make South Carolina a veteran friendly state which would be in the interest of the state and the community and it will

bring outstanding citizens to reside in South Carolina. Also these people are noted for taking part in community activities. It is felt this would be a win-win for South Carolina.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that Pastor Jake Edwards is at Crossroads Church which is across from Crosland Park. They have agreed to host a neighborhood government meeting February 23, 2016. He thanked Pastor Edwards for his hospitality to the community for hosting the meeting.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Osbon reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting. He welcomed comment from the audience on the agenda items listed for public hearing. He asked that comments be limited to five minutes; that persons speak only one time per topic. He asked that those who would like to speak raise their hand and be recognized and come to the podium and give their name and address. All comments are to be addressed to the chair.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. He pointed out that Item 2 under Petitions and Requests regarding permission to display banners at 133 South Boundary advertising Tall Pines Charter School is to be removed from the agenda. Attorney Gary Smith pointed out that under New Business Item 1 regarding a resolution authorizing acceptance of a deed of dedication from Powderhouse Development for streets and utilities in Phase I and II of Powderhouse Landing needs to be removed from the agenda. It was pointed out that the item will come back to Council at a later date.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that under New Business Item 1 regarding deed of dedication for Powderhouse Landing and under Petitions and Requests Item 2 regarding display of banners at 133 South Boundary are to be removed from the agenda.

Councilman Dewar moved that the agenda be approved as revised. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ebner and unanimously approved.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Worksession of January 19, 2016, the Regular Meeting of January 25, 2016, and the Worksession of January 26, 2016, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that the minutes of January 19, 25, and 26, 2016, be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

Mary Beth Fields

Lynda Bassham

Senior Commission

Juanita Palmer

Angela Key

Accommodations Tax Committee

Mayor Osbon stated Council needed to consider appointments to the various city boards, commissions, and committees.

Council has 13 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. Three appointments are presented for Council's consideration and vote at the meeting tonight.

Councilman Ebner has recommended the appointment of Mary Beth Fields to the Senior Commission to replace Lynnda Bassham who has retired. If appointed Ms. Fields' term would expire March 14, 2018.

Councilwoman Diggs has recommended the reappointment of Juanita Palmer to the Accommodations Tax Committee, and if reappointed Ms. Palmer's term would expire March 25, 2018.

Councilwoman Price has recommended the reappointment of Angela Key to the Accommodations Tax Committee. If reappointed Ms. Key's term would expire March 25, 2018.

For Council consideration is the appointment of Mary Beth Fields to the Senior Commission, the reappointment of Juanita Palmer and Angela Key to the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Mary Beth Fields be appointed to the Senior Commission, and that Juanita Palmer and Angela Key be reappointed to the Accommodations Tax Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any appointments to be considered at the next meeting. He said he had recently appointed K. T. Ruthven to the Board of Zoning Appeals but he will not be able to serve in that position. He said he would like to nominate Nancy Dukes to the Board of Zoning Appeals for consideration by Council at the next meeting.

EASEMENT – ORDINANCE 02082016

Encroachment

Utility Easement

Storm Water

Sanitary Sewer

Village at Woodside

Woodside Plantation

Agreement

Silver Bluff Development Company, LLC

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to grant an encroachment for a utility easement at the Village at Woodside.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SILVER BLUFF DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC TO ENCROACH ON SANITARY AND STORMWATER SEWERS IN THE VILLAGE AT WOODSIDE.

Mr. John Klimm stated the City of Aiken is the owner of a non-exclusive easement for sanitary and storm water sewers over property in the Village at Woodside. Silver Bluff Development Company, LLC has asked that they be allowed to install a gazebo, landscape planters and related features for the benefit of the community as shown in their Site Plan over this easement. They have indicated that there would be no structures occupied on more than a temporary basis within the City's easement area and the installation and use of the structures would not interfere with the city's easement. Silver Bluff Development Company has signed an agreement that if their installation causes any damage to the City's utility lines it will promptly repair the damage at their cost and expense. They have also agreed that if any of the structures impede the City's work to repair the utilities in the easement, they will temporarily remove the structures at their expense or provide alternative access acceptable to the City to make the repairs needed in the easement.

For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance authorizing the City of Aiken to enter into an agreement with Silver Bluff Development Company, LLC to modify the sanitary and storm water easement at the Village at Woodside as indicated in the proposed agreement.

A public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance authorizing the City of Aiken to enter into an agreement with Silver Bluff Development Company, LLC to modify the sanitary and storm water easement at the Village at Woodside as indicated in the proposed agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

UTILITY SERVICE – ORDINANCE 02082016A

Whiskey Road

Talatha Church Road

Beazley Development Co, Inc.

Charles Holley et al

Jerry Waters

Sanitary Sewer Service

TPN 123-20-01-001

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to provide sewer utility services to 102.27 acres located at the intersection of Whiskey Road and Talatha Church Road.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SEWER UTILITY SERVICES TO PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF WHISKEY ROAD AND TALATHA CHURCH ROAD.

Councilman Merry recused himself from discussion and voting on this item because the owner of the company for which he works owns the property being discussed. Councilman Merry left the Council Chambers at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Klimm stated Beazley Development Co., Inc. and Charles Holley et al, applicants, are proposing the development of a 102.27 acre site located on Whiskey Road at Talatha Church Road known as Talatha Oaks. The development will consist of approximately 330 to 350 single-family detached dwellings. The open space amenities will include a pool, pool house and deck, and a covered pavilion. The property is currently undeveloped and has been used as a timber resource.

The Planning Commission considered the request for annexation and approval of the Concept Plan for this development at their December 15, 2015, meeting. The Commission recommended annexation of the property and approval of the Concept Plan to City Council.

At the Council meeting of January 25, 2016, City Council discussed this request for annexation and the request for sanitary sewer for the subdivision at length and heard from many of the residents of South Meadows, the adjacent subdivision.

After a lengthy discussion the Development Committee appointed by Mayor Osbon was asked to consider and study the request further with Jerry Waters, who represents the land owners and the developer, regarding annexation and the sewer request for Talatha Oaks.

The Development Committee met on Friday, January 29, 2016, to discuss this matter further. The Development Committee has recommended that the City of Aiken provide a sanitary sewer connection for Talatha Oaks without annexation of the property at this time with the following conditions:

- 1) That an executed "Agreement on Conditions of the Provision of City Services" listing

the conditions of approval be recorded at the RMC Office within 60 days of approval by City Council.

- 2) That the Developer signs an Annexation Agreement and this agreement shall be filed at the RMC Office.
- 3) That the City Engineer approves the sanitary sewer system.
- 4) That the Developer shall be responsible for all costs to install and maintain the sewer system until such time as the sewer system is accepted by the City.
- 5) That the Developer will work with the City and the New Ellenton Commission of Public Works to develop a billing system for the customers of this sewer system to allow billing for the City's sewer service and to allow cut off of water services in the event the sewer bill is unpaid.
- 6) That the property shall be developed in accordance with the Concept Plan set forth in Exhibit "A" to the extent deemed practical by the Planning Director.
- 7) That when the property is developed, the development shall comply with the landscaping and signage provision of the Zoning Ordinance and the City's subdivision regulations to the extent deemed practical by the Planning Director.
- 8) That there be no manufactured housing.
- 9) That the applicant's traffic study shall be approved by the City's on-call traffic engineer and the development shall include any recommended traffic improvements except for the recommendation that this development be connected with the South Meadows subdivision.
- 10) That in lieu of a roadway connection with the development to the north of this property, the Developer shall install a "crash gate" at the existing easement on Weyanoke Court as approved by Public Safety to allow emergency access between these two developments, provided this crash gate is allowed by Aiken County. This area shall not be paved.

City Council approved on first reading an ordinance to annex and provide sanitary sewer service to the 102.27 acres known as Talatha Oaks. For City Council consideration on second reading and public hearing is an amended ordinance to approve a sanitary sewer connection to the 102.27 acres on Whiskey Road at Talatha Church Road with the conditions as recommended by the Mayor's appointed Council Development Committee.

A public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to provide sewer utility services to property located at the intersection of Whiskey Road and Talatha Church Road. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Merry returned to the Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

William Putnam
Owens Street
Dougherty Road
Apartments
TPN 122-13-02-015
TPN 122-13-02-029

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to annex 5 acres owned by William Putnam located on Owens Street, approve the concept plan and zone the area Planned Residential.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 5 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY WILLIAM PUTNAM AND LOCATED ON OWENS STREET AND TO ZONE THE SAME PLANNED RESIDENTIAL (PR).

Councilman Homoki stated he would move that Council continue this item to allow more time to consult with staff regarding the request. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dewar. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon stated he knew there was a timeframe for Mr. Connelly’s project, and he asked if the item is continued until Council discusses the issues would the next Council meeting on February 22, 2016, delay his project. Mr. Kevin Connelly responded they would be okay as long as they get the request addressed at the next Council meeting.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – ORDINANCE 02082016B
Design Review Board
Jurisdiction
State Code

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding jurisdiction of the Design Review Board.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7.1.7J OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

Mr. Klimm stated recently City Attorney, Gary Smith, reviewed the Design Review Board sections of the Zoning Ordinance and found that the Zoning Ordinance references a dated statute that describes the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board in Section 7.1.7.J as being pursuant to Section 5-23-310 through 5-23-340 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. These sections of the State Code have been repealed and the sections that should be cited are Section 6-29-870 through 6-29-940. The Zoning Ordinance needs to be amended to reference the proper sections of the State Code for the Design Review Board.

The Planning Commission discussed the issue at their December 15, 2015, meeting and decided to place the item on their January 12, 2016, meeting for a public hearing and recommendation to City Council. The Commission discussed the matter and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to clarify the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 25, 2016, meeting. For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance to clarify the jurisdiction of the Design Review Board.

A public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding jurisdiction of the Design Review Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – ORDINANCE 02082016C
Maintenance Standards
Horses
Manure
Composting

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding maintenance standards for horses.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING MAINTENANCE OF HORSES.

Mr. Klimm stated at the March 25, 2014 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting the BZA heard a request for a variance to allow the composting of manure rather than requiring the removal from the property as required by the Zoning Ordinance. The BZA requested that the Equine Committee review the request and provide BZA with comments.

The Equine Committee met on November 11, 2015, and reviewed the maintenance standards for pleasure stables. In their review the Equine Committee looked at the maintenance standards and how they could be changed to allow composting and clarification of the removal of non-composted waste. The Equine Committee forwarded several proposed changes to the Planning Commission for review. The proposed amendment also changes the primary enforcement of the standards from the Zoning Official to the Environmental Control Officer.

The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed changes at their December 15, 2015 work session and scheduled a public hearing on the proposed amendments. At their January 12, 2016, meeting the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Maintenance Standards for Horses.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 25, 2016, meeting. For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding Maintenance Standards for Horses.

A public hearing was held.

Councilman Dewar asked if the Design Review Board had authority to deal with drones in the Horse District. Councilman Merry responded that is not in their scope of work.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding maintenance standards for horses. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE

Amendment

FY 2015-2016

Gem Lakes Extension

Roads

Budget

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading authorizing borrowing funds to repair the roads in Gem Lakes Extension Subdivision.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 BUDGET TO ADDRESS ROADWAY CONCERNS IN GEM LAKES EXTENSION AND TO AUTHORIZE BORROWING FROM THE WATER AND SEWER FUND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT TO FINANCE SAME.

Mr. Klimm stated at the January 25, 2016, Council meeting an update report was made to Council by the City Manager regarding the Gem Lakes Extension roads. It was reported that he had met with Mr. Todd Gaul and Mr. Steve Kisner, developers of Gem Lakes Extension, to ask for their participation in forming a partnership to solve the issues. Three basic options and the cost for repair of the roads in Gem Lakes Extension were presented to Council for consideration. The chosen option was Full Depth Reclamation [FDR] with a cost of up to \$222,000.

A plan for financing the option chosen was also presented to Council. The financing would include borrowing from the City's Reserve funds--the Water & Sewer Fund Equipment Replacement Account--the total project cost amount of up to \$222,000 and

pay back the Reserves over a 10 year period. Under this plan the annual payment back to the loan would be up to \$22,000. The developers would pay \$40,000 toward the loan in equal amounts of \$8,000 for the first five years of the program with the City paying up to \$14,000. Thereafter for the remaining 5 years the city would fund the remaining loan amount from the city-wide Roads Program which is to be implemented in the budget at \$500,000 per year.

After discussion of the options Council asked that staff prepare the necessary documents to fund Full Depth Reclamation at a cost of approximately \$222,000. The City will borrow up to \$222,000.00 from the Water & Sewer Fund Equipment Replacement Account [002-0000-103.30-01] and the amount will be paid back over a 10-year period. The developers have committed to pay \$40,000 of this cost, which they will remit in equal installments of \$8,000 per year during the first five years of the 10-year payback period

Mr. Klimm stated the request before Council fulfills the commitment that was made to address the issue of repair of the roads in the Gem Lakes Extension Subdivision. The dollar amount is what was discussed at the last meeting. This would be implementing the decision Council made at the last Council meeting. Staff is recommending that we borrow the money from our Reserves to be paid back in a joint partnership between the City and the developers.

For City Council consideration on first reading is an ordinance to amend the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget to fund the roadway concerns in Gem Lakes Extension and to authorize the borrowing from the Water and Sewer Fund Equipment Replacement Account as well as Promissory Notes by Todd Gaul and Steve Kisner for their share of the cost of the road repairs for \$40,000.

A public hearing was held.

Councilman Dewar had three questions. He asked if he could assume that based on what we are doing that the sewer line problem that caused the collapse is not part of this or has been taken care of.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that the issue was the storm water. Councilman Merry pointed out it was a combination of the sanitary sewer and storm water lines. The sanitary sewer line water was getting in the storm water system. He said that was a separate item.

Councilman Dewar stated someone had spoken to him who had indicated that in the process of doing the work on the roads that there is likely to be exposure of tar and substance from vehicles. He asked if that was something we need to make sure the neighborhood is aware of.

Mr. Klimm stated because this has gone on for such a long period of time there may be residents who may not have been able to keep up with the various issues. He said staff may need to make a mailing to every household in terms of what the City intends to do, the period of time will be and what they can expect as far as inconvenience.

Councilman Dewar also asked if someone from the City was going to supervise the repair work.

Mr. George Grinton, Engineering and Utilities Director, stated his recommendation would be to hire a consultant that is familiar with this type of construction technique and hire them to oversee and make sure the quality control and evaluations of the roads are conducted properly. In response to Councilman Homoki's question as to whether this would be an Engineer of Record, Mr. Grinton said if the City is going to be the project manager then they would be the City's Engineer of Record for the project.

Councilman Dewar stated this raises the issue as to whether the City needs to change our Engineer of Record to be employed by the City and not a developer. He wondered if that would come to Council soon.

Mr. Klimm stated he was just notified that we are set to go with that consideration and a recommendation for road standards. It will be a matter of scheduling a work session in the near future.

Mr. Grinton pointed out that we are looking at that. Another consideration the consultant suggested was whether or not the testing company should also be responsible to the City, paid for by the developer, but actually working for the City.

Councilman Dewar pointed out part of what we are doing is on one hand fixing a wrong, and hopefully promising the citizens we will not have something like this again. He pointed out that was his concern regarding supervision of the repair work. Mr. Grinton responded that has been part of the discussions with W. R. Toole in our Road Specifications reexamination.

Councilman Merry stated he wanted to make a comment about an observation. He said he was not happy about having to spend taxpayer dollars to fix this problem. It has been a torturous process, and he has not been comfortable with having to do it. He said he has great confidence that with a lot of the changes made before he was a Councilmember and with renewed vigor in the Engineering Department and with City Manager Klimm, and with consideration given to the road construction standards, he feels this might be the first and last time we will have to do this. He said he will vote in favor of the solution discussed, but he regrets every dollar of taxpayer money that is going into this. He said this may be a hard lesson learned.

Councilman Ebner stated he felt what Councilman Merry said is true for the future, but we still have some of the past history we have to take care of also.

Mayor Osbon stated aside from resolving the situation with a neighborhood that has endured and been patient, he is excited about moving forward with a roads program that we hope we can have funded within five years. This is important for our residents. Also, out of this is coming a review and recommendations and new standards and testing for future roads in our city. He said he appreciates everyone's patience and work in resolving this issue.

Councilman Homoki stated he agreed with the Mayor. He said he felt this had been an expensive lesson, but he felt we had learned, had put safeguards in, and changed our procedures so we don't have this in the future.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance authorizing borrowing funds to repair the roads in Gem Lakes Extension Subdivision. The motion was unanimously approved.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES – ORDINANCE

Crown Castle NG East, LLC

Agreement

Franchise

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading approving Crown Castle NG East LLC as a telecommunications services provider in the City of Aiken.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING CROWN CASTLE NG EAST LLC AS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES PROVIDER WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF AIKEN.

Mr. Klimm stated we have been contacted by Crown Castle NG East LLC, requesting that they be granted the right to provide telecommunications services within the Aiken City limits. State law provides that for a utility to construct and operate lines and facilities in a public street or on public property they must obtain the consent of the

governing body of the municipality. State law also requires that municipal governments act by ordinance in granting, renewing or extending a franchise.

The proposed franchise agreement has been reviewed by City Attorney Gary Smith, and he has recommended that the franchise be granted.

For City Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance granting a franchise agreement for telecommunications services within the Aiken City limits to Crown Castle NG East LLC.

A public hearing was held.

Councilman Dewar asked what Council would be approving and what Crown Castle would do.

Mr. Smith replied Council would be giving them the opportunity to use the right of way to provide telecommunications services. He was not sure that Crown Castle had told us exactly what they were going to do. He pointed out there is more information that can be provided to Council for the next Council meeting. It is not cell phone service nor cable service.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to know what they plan to do and where they want to do it. He felt it would be good to have a representative from the company present at the next Council meeting to answer any questions. The general consensus of Council is that they would like to have more information as to what the company plans to do and where.

Mr. Smith pointed out that the State Legislature has passed legislation that essentially obligates Council to approve the franchise agreement. Council felt they would like to be more informed as to what is to be done.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that previously the city had requirements regarding having lines underground. He wondered if that could be enforced within the city codes. He felt it is very important that there is an understanding and possibly written in for second reading that undergrounding must be done in certain areas.

Mr. Smith stated initially Crown Castle wanted to be able to put above ground lines where other above ground lines were located. Staff told them we wanted them to underground lines everywhere as practicable as possible and that just because older lines are above ground does not mean they get to keep above ground lines. It was pointed out the city has already underground some lines and we don't what wires running down those streets, such as The Alley.

Mayor Osbon asked for a full package of information for second reading and that a representative from the company be present to answer any questions.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance approving Crown Castle NG East LLC as a telecommunications services provider in the City of Aiken. The motion was unanimously approved.

CROSLAND PARK – ORDINANCE

713 Vincent Avenue NE

Memorandum of Understanding

Second Baptist Development Corporation

South Carolina State Housing and Development Authority

Neighborhood Improvement Program [NIP]

TPN 120-12-13-004

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading to approve the sale of 713 Vincent Avenue NE.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF 713 VINCENT AVENUE NE.

Mr. Klimm stated at City Council's January 5, 2015, meeting, Council approved a resolution adopting a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with Second Baptist Development Corporation to apply for funding with the South Carolina State Housing and Development Authority's Neighborhood Improvement Program [NIP]. NIP's goal is to stabilize property values through the demolition of blighted or unsafe properties.

Seven properties were initially accepted into NIP. We were recently informed that 713 Vincent Avenue NE in Crosland Park now meets the eligibility standards for the program. We had a broker evaluation conducted and the recommended sales price is \$15,980.

Upon the sale, Second Baptist Development Corporation will raze the property, which could then potentially be used for new development or green space.

For City Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance approving the sale of 713 Vincent Avenue NE to Second Baptist Development Corporation as part of the Neighborhood Improvement Program [NIP].

A public hearing was held.

Councilman Dewar asked if 713 Vincent was the 8th property. Ms. Emory Langston stated the total allocation for the program is about \$365,000. We are looking at the program in two sections. The Crosland section is the one where the properties fall in a specific activity. There were previously seven properties and 713 Vincent Street is the 8th property for the program. There will be an additional activity they are looking at with some properties on Abbeville Avenue.

Councilman Homoki made a couple of comments, one being that he was glad to see that the City is getting out of the real estate business. He also commented that he has tremendous faith in Second Baptist Development as they did a great job with Dupont Landing, and he hoped this is the beginning of another effort to shape up neighborhoods.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance approving the sale of 713 Vincent Avenue NE. to Second Baptist Development Corporation as part of the Neighborhood Improvement program [NIP]. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE

Ordinance 06082015A

Aiken Entry Signs

FY 2015-2016

Hospitality Tax

Accommodations Tax Committee

Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Richland Avenue

Robert M. Bell Parkway

Beaufort Street

Aldrich Street

York Street

Crosland Park

Talatha Church Road

Whiskey Road

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading to amend budget Ordinance 06082015A to allocate funds for Aiken entry signs.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2016.

Mr. Klimm stated Council approved the FY 2015-16 budget in June, which includes money allocated from the Hospitality Tax. The Accommodations Tax Committee awarded \$7,500 in funding to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department for remodeling and installation of entry signs at four locations into the City:

- The western end of Richland Avenue, near the intersection with the Robert M. Bell Parkway;
- The eastern end of Richland Avenue near Beaufort Street;
- The intersection of Aldrich Street and York Street at Crosland Park and;
- A location near the intersection of Talatha Church Road and Whiskey Road.

We are requesting Council approval to transfer up to \$22,500 from the Hospitality Tax account line item designated for a Parking Garage [014-4135-435.72-00] to an account for Improvements Non-Buildings/Signs [014-5130-453.73-02].

For City Council approval is first reading of an ordinance to amend budget ordinance number 06082015A to allocate funds for Aiken entry signs.

Mr. Klimm pointed out there was a picture of the proposed entry signs in the agenda packet.

Councilman Homoki stated it is proposed to take money from the Hospitality Tax Fund line item Parking Garage for the entry signs. He pointed out that someone had expressed concern as to whether Council is whittling away “the Garage funds.” He pointed out that \$500,000 had been budgeted for a parking garage. He asked if the opportunity arises would we be able to act when the time comes for a garage.

Councilman Dewar stated he had the same question. He pointed out when Council did the Hospitality Tax Fund, it was very late in the budget process. He pointed out he voted against it, but the funds are in the budget for the year. He said he did not see a reason not to use the funds which at the time Council thought would be needed for a garage for other items now that are authorized by law to be spent from Hospitality Tax money. He said he had been assured that all the expenditures from the Hospital Tax fund are in compliance with the Hospitality Tax law. He said he did not see a problem.

Councilman Merry pointed out that if it ever comes to pass that a garage is considered and if the Hospitality Tax remains in effect, there will be monies still being accumulated. It may be that Council never does a garage, but it may be something else.

Councilman Dewar stated he hoped that sometime between now and April, that Council would vote on whether or not Council will continue the Hospitality Tax in the next budget year. He felt that should be done as early as possible so if it is to continue staff has the opportunity to determine where it would be spent.

Councilwoman Price asked how much money was in the Hospitality Tax Fund now. Mr. Klimm pointed out that the projection for the Hospitality Tax revenue was underestimated. Ms. Abney, Finance Director, stated the city had collected through the end of January \$780,000 from the Hospitality Taxes. Ms. Abney stated staff had projected \$100,000 from Hospital Tax every month. The amount collected has been slightly higher than projected.

Councilman Merry pointed out the amount collected represents \$78 million worth of buying prepared food since June, 2015. He stated it did not seem that the tax had slowed anything down as far as buying prepared food.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that at one time we had a lot of plantings in front of our entranceway signs. She wondered if we could put plantings in front of the new welcome to Aiken entranceway signs. Ms. Campbell, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director, stated plantings could be included in their funding for maintenance of the signs.

Councilman Merry moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance amending budget Ordinance 06082015A to allocate funds for Aiken entry signs. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY – MOBILE DATA TERMINALS

CPST III Funds

Software Suite

Laptops

Mayor Osbon stated Council needed to consider approval to spend up to \$70,000 from CPST III funds for the purchase of mobile data terminals for the Public Safety Department.

Mr. Klimm stated at the City Council meeting on September 14, 2015, City Council authorized the purchase of a new Software Suite for the Public Safety Department that is scheduled to go on-line around July 1, 2016. As part of the upgrade project, we will need to replace 17 Mobile Data Terminal laptops that were purchased in 2008. These are not the laptops that were purchased with CPST III money in 2011.

Since the projects to renovate and upgrade the Public Safety Burn Building and Fire Tower [017-2150-425.7202 3PSTG] came in almost \$100,000 under budget, staff proposes reallocating up to \$70,000 to account 017-2110-421.74-05 3PSLT to purchase the 17 replacement laptops. There is adequate cash on hand in CPST III to do this, so an interfund loan will not be necessary.

For City Council approval is a request to spend up to \$70,000 from CPST III Funds to purchase mobile data terminals for the Public Safety Department.

Councilman Dewar stated he thought Council talked about this item before finishing the budget last year. He expressed concern that it will be July before this project will be finished. He stated it will be almost 14 months to get a software product installed. He stated he understood this software replaces a software suite that is no longer supported. He was concerned about the length of time to get the software installed.

Chief Barranco stated that it will take a length of time to install the software. The actual projected time to go live is September 1, 2016. As soon as the money was appropriated and bids sent out and awarded, staff started having meetings. There have been several on-site meetings. He said the transition of information to the new system and the writing of the programming has been at length. He pointed out there are ongoing meetings, the trainers are involved and have started training staff on the program. He said getting to the details and writing all the tables involves the software company. Councilman Ebner pointed out that his experience when you are replacing 10 years plus information, you almost start over again. He pointed out that Council talked about these older computers at the time that they probably would not work, and they did not.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve the request to spend up to \$70,000 from CPST III funds to purchase mobile data terminals for the Public Safety Department. The motion was unanimously approved.

TOMMY PARADISE

Planning Department

Mayor Osbon stated he wanted to recognize a very special city employee. He said Tommy Paradise has worked for the city for 39 years. For the first 24 years he was a Public Safety Officer. He pointed out that there may be people in the audience and watching on line to whom Mr. Paradise issued a traffic ticket. About 15 years ago Mr. Paradise moved to the Planning Department as the Zoning Official. He served these duties as well as a staff liaison to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and the Design Review. He has also served as Interim Planning Director over the last 19 months. He has been an invaluable resource for Council and staff. He said we wish him

the best as he begins his new endeavor on Friday, February 12, 2016, as Administrator of Edgefield County.

Mr. Paradise stated working with the City of Aiken had truly been a blessing and pleasure. He pointed out that he started working for the City of Aiken right out of high school in the cadet program at Public Safety. He said he was around a great group of people including Chief Busbee who were role models and mentors. He said he was blessed to work for an organization that valued education and pushing their employees forward and valued family. He said he could have been somewhere else, but he was lucky enough to be with the City of Aiken. He said in leaving he hoped they would not say "he is gone," but he hoped they would look at him as someone the City of Aiken raised and who is going on and doing good things. He hoped the City of Aiken would not lose those values that the organization has. He said he leaves with mixed emotions in taking the next job.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that it was certainly to the city's good that Mr. Paradise served with the City of Aiken. He said he appreciated the service that Mr. Paradise gave to the City of Aiken. He said our loss is Edgefield County's gain. He thanked Mr. Paradise for all the time he had given the City of Aiken.

Councilwoman Price stated serving as a Councilmember she had probably known Mr. Paradise longer than most of the Council members. She said she appreciates Mr. Paradise's commitment and dedication. No matter what the circumstances Mr. Paradise was always there and on the job and ready to work and give his all to his responsibilities. She thanked Mr. Paradise and wished him well in his new assignment.

AIKEN THIS WEEK VIDEO

Councilman Dewar stated he would add his congratulations to Mr. Paradise and best wishes in his new job. He stated he had watched the most recent video prepared by Emory Langston. He said Ms. Langston had done an outstanding job in bringing different people within the community. The current video was especially heartwarming. It brings together two young women not new to the community, but not ready to stand still and watch the community move around them. They were Brittney Diggs Alls and Jenifer DeHart Luton. They are two young ladies who have started an organization called Aiken in Motion. Their goal is to get young people into the community. He said it is heartwarming to see an effort like that because it is so needed. We need desperately to get the young people involved in the city. He said he hoped we can establish some kind of program where they can let us know when they identify people who want to work on a committee. He thanked Ms. Langston for doing a great job in the interview. He said it is great to have these two young ladies on board.

Councilwoman Diggs thanked Councilman Dewar for his positive comments. She said she would share it with her daughter. She said those two are very serious about the new project. They want to help Aiken to be the best that it can be. It is encouraging to hear Councilman Dewar's comments.

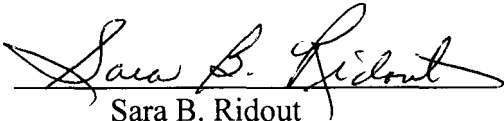
INFORMATION

Mayor Osbon reminded Councilmembers that Aiken has been accepted into the Main Street Program, being one of only two locations accepted in South Carolina. He stated there will be an input time with Main Street Tuesday, February 9, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center. Another session will be held on Wednesday morning, February 10, 2016, at 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. He encouraged everyone to make an effort to be there as it is important for this program to grow from a vision of the community.

Councilwoman Diggs noted that included in the packet was a report from DHEC letting us know that Aiken's drinking water is free of lead. That is especially important after hearing of the situation of lead in the water in Flint, Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Homoki moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merry and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7: 57 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk