

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETING

April 22, 2019

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Girardeau, Gregory, Price, and Woltz.

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Kim Abney, Jessica Campbell, Tim Coakley Charles Barranco, Sara Ridout, Kymberley Wheat, Mike Przybylowicz, Ryan Bland, Gary Meadows, Angela Hales, Tim O'Briant, Colin Demarest, of the Aiken Standard, and about 50 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the regular meeting of April 22, 2019, to order at 7:04 P.M. Reverend Paul Bush, of the Concerned Ministers Fellowship, led in prayer. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chief Barranco.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Osbon reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Osbon recognized Mayor Pro Tem Diggs for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Diggs stated there had been a request to delete Item 1 under Old Business – Second Reading and Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend the City Code to increase the Number of Appointments to the Equine Committee. Also, there is an addition to the agenda – Resolution to Name the Senior and Youth Center the Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center. There being no other changes to the agenda, Councilwoman Diggs moved that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilman Girardeau and approved with Councilwoman Price abstaining from voting.

Councilman Dewar asked what the rules were for adding an item to the agenda. Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated it is unusual, but the item added was designed to be a surprise so that is the reason it was added.

RESOLUTION 04222019

Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center
Eustis Park

Mayor Osbon recognized Councilwoman Diggs.

Councilwoman Diggs read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE SENIOR AND YOUTH CENTER THE LESSIE B. PRICE AIKEN SENIOR AND YOUTH CENTER.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve the resolution naming the center at Eustis Park as the Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated a resolution has been prepared naming the center at Eustis Park as the Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center. He asked that Councilwoman Diggs read the resolution.

Councilwoman Diggs read the resolution.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience.

Reverend. Brendolyn Boseman stated it was an honor and a privilege to stand with petitions from the community in support of naming the center. It is a delight to see the face of Lessie B. Price whose fingers are on the pulse of the community and of whom nothing escapes her unnoticed. She said it was a major feat to get this done without her knowing. There was a meeting at the new center last week, and we asked her to dismiss herself from the room to accompany our Neighborhood President, and she was in total confusion as to what they could possibly be discussing without her presence. They were able to obtain signatures of support from the immediate Toole Hill community. Ms. Boseman stated she was the newest resident of the new Toole Hill living in the first home built on the north side of Aiken in 35 years. She said she takes her residency and her stewardship of the community very seriously. Ms. Boseman stated with her is Reverend Paul Bush, the President of the Concerned Ministers Fellowship, representing more than 25 churches throughout the CSRA with the total constituency and membership of over 20,000 members who stand in full support of the resolution. She said there is support from Mr. Eugene White, of the Aiken County Branch of the NAACP, Michelle Meriwether of the Joy of Walking Club, and others. She pointed out that Councilwoman Price's family is present. She stated they were all asking that the Senior and Youth Center be named after Lessie B. Price. She thanked Councilwoman Price for all her efforts and work for the citizens of Aiken. She pointed out that with Councilwoman Price's humility if they had told her about the plan, she probably would have nixed it. She presented the petition of signatures to the City Clerk.

Reverend Paul Bush noted that Mr. Eugene White as well as Dr. Melencia Johnson, Vice President of Aiken NAACP, are not present tonight as they are taking care of business in Lexington, South Carolina. He thanked Council for their time and consideration.

Councilman Dewar stated he could not think of a person more deserving of this honor than Lessie Price who influences not only the city, but the county, state and probably on the national level. He said as Skipper Perry before him, he had a feeling that we should not name buildings after people living. He said, however, he certainly applauds the recognition from the community, and he hoped they understand his feeling.

Councilwoman Diggs noted that Lessie Price had always been her friend, but for the last 8 years she has been her special friend, her mentor, and her sister from another mother. She said she appreciates Lessie Price's advice and her direction. She said she wanted to be Lessie Price because she exemplifies everything that is good. She pointed out that it was very difficult to keep this a secret from Lessie Price. She expressed her special thanks to the Mayor and Council who made it happen and to Lessie's family. She pointed out that the residents of Toole Hill had approached her and asked that this be done because of what Lessie has done for that community and the entire City of Aiken. She pointed out that Lessie Price had dedicated 35 years to Council and 50 years just serving the community. She thanked Lessie, congratulated her, and said she hoped she does not go anywhere any time soon as she still has work to do.

Councilwoman Gregory stated she felt that what Reverend Bush and Reverend Bozeman said exemplifies and pinpoints the reason why the center should be named after Lessie. She said 50 years being an active member of our community and putting her finger on it, she felt is exemplary. She also noted that the community and different groups came in support of this. She pointed out the support of 20,000 people from the community churches in addition to the Toole Hill area. She felt it was so important that the community is showing their support for the naming of the center. She said this makes it so much more special than just Council showing their support of this. She thanked the community for showing their support and Councilwoman Diggs for her efforts behind this. She said it is exciting and when she goes there, she will say she is going to Lessie's place.

Councilman Girardeau stated if he makes it on Council for 35 years, he would be 95 years old. He said Lessie is amazing.

Councilman Woltz noted that he and Lessie had worked together some 20 years ago when he was on the Planning Commission. He said he learned one thing then that is still true today, if Lessie calls you better answer the phone.

Mayor Osbon stated he supports the name on the building, but not just because it was built on Toole Hill, but because of Lessie's service and support of the city. He felt that Lessie had been a representative in a marvelous way to every person in our city, and he was very thankful for that service. He said he was very excited to have this opportunity to do this.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve the resolution naming the center at Eustis Park as the Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center. The motion was approved by a majority vote. Councilman Dewar stated he was abstaining from voting but was not voting "no." Councilwoman Price abstained from voting.

The resolution was presented to Councilwoman Price and her family.

Councilwoman Price stated she was shocked and more than honored with the naming of the building for her. She noted that the things that we do are not for this kind of recognition, but because it is the right thing to do. She said if nothing had ever been done, what she does is what she is called to do. She thanked Council and the citizens of Aiken with heartfelt appreciation. She said she was indeed honored.

CITY CODE – ORDINANCE

Equine Committee

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the City Code to increase the number of appointments to the Equine Committee. He noted that this item had been removed from the agenda for this meeting.

In response to a question from Councilman Girardeau regarding the reason for removing the item from the agenda, Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that the Ad Hoc Equine Committee had met on Thursday, and we are waiting to hear from a number of the Ad Hoc Equine Committee members as to their interest in serving on the Equine Committee. He pointed out that Council had wanted a list of those who might be interested in serving on the Equine Committee. He said staff will have that list for the May 13 Council meeting.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

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

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Council has 46 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. One appointment is presented for Council's consideration and vote at the meeting tonight.

Councilman Dewar has recommended the reappointment of Kena Black to the Accommodations Tax Committee. If reappointed Ms. Black's term would expire March 25, 2021.

For Council consideration is the reappointment of Kena Black to the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs that Council reappoint Kena Black to the Accommodations Tax Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any nominations for the next meeting of Council.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to nominate Dr. Rose Fox for reappointment to the Arts Commission.

REZONE – ORDINANCE

Union Street
Williamsburg Street
Park Avenue
Barnwell Avenue
Downtown Business (DB)

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to rezone properties in the area from Union Street to Williamsburg Street and from Park Avenue to Barnwell Avenue to Downtown Business (DB).

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF REAL ESTATE FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT ZONING DESIGNATIONS TO DOWNTOWN BUSINESS (DB).

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to rezone properties in the area from Union Street to Williamsburg Street and from Park Avenue to Barnwell Avenue to Downtown Business (DB).

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated at the March 12, 2019, meeting the Planning Commission considered the rezoning of properties east of the downtown area to Downtown Business (DB).

The area considered for rezoning is bounded by Union Street, Park Avenue, Beaufort Street and Barnwell Avenue. The rezoning to Downtown Business (DB) would allow for a mixture of uses that include commercial retail uses, a variety of housing, including single-family housing and institutional or religious uses. Currently the area is predominantly General Business (GB) west of Williamsburg Street with the exception of six parcels zoned Single-Family Residential (RS-8 and RS-10), and predominantly Light Industrial (LI) east of Williamsburg Street with the exception of four parcels zoned GB.

At a May, 2018, City Council work session, Council requested that the Planning Department review zoning in and around downtown Aiken for agreement with the Comprehensive Plan.

In order to ensure zoning can facilitate the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, zoning is being reviewed in a number of areas defined in the plan, including the area east of downtown. In this area most properties are zoned GB or LI, which allow for a variety of commercial and light industrial uses, but do not allow for stand-alone single family residential. Also, a number of existing properties in the area do not conform to setback requirements of the GB or LI districts, which limits changes to those properties. For these reasons, the Planning Commission considered a rezoning to DB, which allows for a mixture of uses and design standards that more closely fit the traditional or historic development pattern for the area.

On June 26, 2018, following a mailing from the Planning Department to approximately 200 property owners in the East of Downtown Area, a neighborhood meeting was held at the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum to discuss land use in the area. Feedback from the community meeting was discussed in a July 2018 Planning Commission work session, and staff was directed to advertise a public hearing for August, 2018 in order to obtain additional input. There were other work sessions and meetings with letters being sent to property owners in January, 2019, and public notices posted regarding the Planning Commission considering rezoning of the area bounded by Union to Williamsburg and from Park to Barnwell.

After review the Planning Commission at their March 12, 2019, meeting voted 5-2 (Commissioners Matthews and Brookshire opposed) to recommend to City Council to rezone to Downtown Business (DB) the area bounded by Union Street, Park Avenue, Williamsburg Street, and Barnwell Avenue, excluding 600 and 604 Park Avenue, which

are currently occupied by the Salvation Army. The Planning Commission also recommended to further evaluate the current Light Industrial zone district at a later date.

Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out that Council and staff had several additional meetings in addition to the Planning Commission hearing that was held on March 12, 2019, to answer a lot of questions. A major rezoning of this sort engenders a lot of comments and questions from affected property owners. Some of the questions were: Will this cause my taxes to go up? Will I be able to continue to use my home as a residence? We addressed a lot of these questions through a number of public meetings, small group meetings, phone calls, and one on one conversations.

For City Council consideration, is first reading of an ordinance to rezone the area bounded by Union Street, Park Avenue, Williamsburg Street, and Barnwell Avenue, excluding 600 and 604 Park Avenue (the Salvation Army) to Downtown Business (DB).

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Ms. Laura Lance, Old Powderhouse Road, stated she had been out of the loop for the better part of the past year because of major surgery. She said she had just noticed in March the signs down Richland Avenue about the rezoning. She said she was just trying to get up to speed on the matter. She pointed out it had been stated there had been a lot of calls, emails, and conversations about gentrification, and a lot of the questions had been answered. She wondered if there had been anything in writing and any basic approaches, strategies, promises to ensure that does not happen and the property values and taxes don't go up so that people would essentially be moved out and that it does not become an area of boutiques and things that don't really serve the community. She asked if it had been discussed specifically the things that would ensure gentrification does not happen.

Mayor Osbon noted there had been multiple things in writing that have been reviewed. There have been community meetings, etc. He pointed out that presently in this district multi-family is not allowed. It was pointed out that Downtown Business would be a zoning that would protect the neighborhood more than it is protected now. It was pointed out that Downtown Business would allow for multi-family residential. It was noted that presently all the homes in this area are non-conforming to the zoning. The proposed zoning would bring the zoning of the area more to what it is now. Presently there are homes in areas not zoned for residential, but are zoned to be General Business.

Ms. Lance pointed out the area between Richland Avenue and Barnwell contains a lot of single family residences. She wondered if the property values would go up with the new zoning. She pointed out that some cities take that into account and there are accommodations made to ensure that people are not priced out of their homes.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that presently there are some boarded up houses in the area, and it is hoped that people will develop the area with nicer homes, refurbish some of the homes, and clean up some of the lots.

Ms. Lance continued to ask questions and express concern about the property values increasing in value.

Councilman Girardeau pointed out that it may help to know some of the history. He pointed out that the zoning goes back to the 1970s when the property was zoned as GB, but he has no idea why it was zoned GB. He noted that the homes in the area are older than the zoning of GB. He does not know why the area where the homes are located was not zoned as residential. He pointed out that GB zoning does not allow residential at all. It grandfathers all the residential in, but once the house is gone or if it were to burn down, you can't put a house back in that zoning without an exception. He pointed out that DB is better for residential because DB is downtown and Downtown has residential properties. He pointed out presently there are many lots zoned GB on which you can't build a house. Changing zoning does not make property worth more.

Ms. Lance noted that if someone comes in and builds newer homes, she felt that would escalate the property values.

Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out another point is that General Business has setback requirements that a home has to be so many feet from the front line and on the side yards, whereas, Downtown Business zone does not have setback requirements. Presently a lot of the residential property in the area that is being discussed that is zoned General Business is non-conforming with setbacks. If the house were to burn down, they may not be able to rebuild on the lot zoned General Business because of the setback requirements. That complicates things. He pointed out that in looking holistically at the Zoning Ordinance, staff and the Planning Commission, with a charge from Council looked at this to try to help these residents. It is thought this zoning will help the area.

Ms. Lance asked if demolition would be something more likely under the Downtown Business zoning. Mr. Bedenbaugh responded that demolition is not covered necessarily by zoning. It is more historic overlay or a particular overlay district where there could be extra steps involved before demolition takes place.

Ms. Kathy James, 918 Colleton Avenue, stated her understanding is that Council is no longer considering the Light Industrial that is east of Williamsburg Street, but she would like to ask that when Council does reconsider that zoning that you move the boundary south to Colleton to include all of the Light Industrial in the same zoning.

Lt. Randull Tiller, of the Salvation Army in Aiken, stated he wanted to comment in favor of the proposed ordinance. He said originally there were a lot of questions about what this would mean for the community. He commended Council as they were very patient in explaining to help them understand how this could be positive. After a lot of patience, communication and meetings, he can see how this could be a good thing. He thanked Council and staff for working with them and communicating back and forth. He said they look forward to seeing how this works out. He introduced Clark McCants Board Chair of the Salvation Army and also his wife Lt. April Tiller.

Councilman Dewar stated he had missed some meetings so he had some questions. He wondered why we were doing this. He wondered if this would adversely affect the downtown area by calling downtown from Hayne all the way down to Williamsburg Street.

Councilman Woltz stated he felt it would protect the neighborhood. He pointed out that presently a store could come in and buy multiple parcels and erect anything they want in the GB zone. He felt the rezoning would give the neighborhood protection. He pointed out presently there are 45 vacant lots that can't be rebuilt with homes because of the zoning. Another 20 buildings are scheduled for demolition. That will be 65 vacant lots that will just sit there. With the Downtown Business zoning homes could be built back on the properties and the neighborhood rebuilt. The DB zone is more restrictive than GB. He felt the DB zone is protection for the neighborhood as opposed to anything else. The proposed area for DB would include the Farmers Market which is presently not considered a part of the downtown.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not understand why we would allow the Salvation Army to not participate and not be rezoned to DB as they are within the area considered for rezoning. He pointed out included in the packet are other letters from businesses asking not to be included in the rezoning as well. He wondered whether we would give other business owners the choice to not be included as well.

It was asked whether at the March 12 meeting businesses were given the opportunity to ask in writing to be omitted from the rezoning to DB. Mr. Bland, Planning Director, stated most of the properties that we received letters from to be omitted from the rezoning were located in the Light Industrial zone. Councilman Dewar asked if there were other businesses in addition to the Salvation Army that will not be part of the rezoning in the designated area.

Councilman Woltz pointed out that no one would be forced to change now, but if they go "dark" and stay "dark" for 12 months then the zoning would change. Presently they can keep operating their business in the DB zone if the area is rezoned.

Councilman Dewar asked if people in the proposed DB zone could request to be exempt from the DB zoning. Mr. Bland stated Council can exempt certain properties if they wish.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to rezone properties in the area from Union Street to Williamsburg Street and from Park Avenue to Barnwell Avenue to Downtown Business (DB), with the exception of 600 and 604 Park Avenue (Salvation Army). The motion was unanimously approved.

CONCEPT PLAN – ORDINANCE

Revision

Village at Woodside

Maintenance Storage

Woodside Plantation

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to amend the Concept Plan for the Village at Woodside to provide maintenance storage.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONCEPT PLAN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE AT WOODSIDE.

Councilwoman Gregory moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approved on first reading an ordinance to amend the Concept Plan for the Village at Woodside to provide maintenance storage.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Silver Bluff Development LLC is requesting revision of the concept plan for the Village at Woodside. They are proposing to locate a maintenance yard storage facility and recycling center within the development. The request for the change is to improve efficiency and provide better service to the Village patrons and residents.

Any development in the Planned Residential (PR) zone must provide a concept plan for review by the Planning Commission and approval by City Council.

The Planning Commission reviewed this request for concept plan revision at their April 9, 2019, meeting. The Planning Commission recommended to City Council that the concept plan revision be approved with the following conditions:

1. That a site and landscape plan be submitted for review to ensure there are no conflicts with the existing streets, drainage, or utility systems.
2. That the building design be consistent with the materials and dimensions of the surrounding structures as deemed appropriate by the Planning Director.
3. That the development comply with the landscaping, tree preservation, open space, and signage requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.
4. That the applicant sign an agreement stating the conditions of approval within 90 days.
5. That the developer submit a revised concept plan listing conditions of approval within 90 days.

For City Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to amend the Concept Plan for the Village at Woodside to allow a maintenance yard, storage facility and recycling center within the Village at Woodside with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approved on first reading an ordinance to amend the

Concept Plan for the Village at Woodside to provide maintenance storage. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 04222019A

Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium
Lower Savannah Council of Governments

Mayor Osbon stated a resolution had been prepared for Council consideration to continue to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND AGREEING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOWER SAVANNAH REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve the resolution agreeing to continue to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated in 2016 City Council approved a resolution to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium for a three year period. The Lower Savannah Council of Governments has contacted us regarding the city adopting a resolution to continue to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

We believe that it would be very beneficial for non-profit CDC's in the City such as Second Baptist and Friendship for the City to participate in the Home Consortium. By being a member of the Consortium our partners such as Second Baptist CDC and the City could apply for HOME funds via a competitive grant process. It is felt this would be a great opportunity, and the City should be involved since we receive CDBG funds and have to complete the Fair Housing A1 Plan. HUD encourages partnerships such as this.

Program funds are used to support activities that benefit people at 80% or below the median income with affordable housing needs. The program promotes the partnership of local nonprofits that support low income housing initiatives. These program funds are allocated through competitive grants applied for by members of the Consortium.

This will not affect our CDBG money we annually receive, nor will extra staff time be needed to participate in the HOME program since it is administered by the Lower Savannah Council of Governments.

Since Councilwoman Price is on the Board of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, she left the room and did not participate in the discussion or voting on this matter.

For City Council consideration is approval of a resolution agreeing to continue to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve the resolution agreeing to continue to participate in the Lower Savannah Regional Home Consortium. The motion was unanimously approved with Councilwoman Price abstaining. Councilwoman Price did not participate in the discussion or the voting on the item.

Councilwoman Price returned to the Council Chambers.

WATER AND SEWER RATES – ORDINANCEIncrease RatesFY 2019-20

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to adjust the water and sewer rate charges.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated historically, City Council has asked staff to operate our enterprise water and sewer utility as efficiently as possible. This mandate from Council continues today. Staff has done so by constant monitoring of our system, making repairs in-house when they are within our knowledge and capacity and operating with the minimum number of employees as required. Council has assisted staff in our ability to operate efficiently, but effectively, by recognizing the need to fund infrastructure repairs, upgrades and equipment replacement through the annual budget, allocations through several rounds of the Capital Projects Sales Tax, interfund borrowing and issuing revenue bonds and other external financial instruments.

Council and staff have also recognized that costs are passed on to our operating system by the Aiken County Public Service Authority and others. We need to periodically examine our rates and revenues, and after much thought and deliberation, increase rates, since our water and sewer utility is an enterprise fund that must be run as a self-supporting entity.

Earlier this year, we were notified by Aiken County that our regional Public Service Authority sewer provider [Horse Creek Waste Water Treatment Facility], was increasing their charges for Operations & Maintenance to the City of Aiken by 1.8%. After discussion with Council, staff recommends increasing our sewer rates to pass on this charge to our end users, our residential and commercial customers. A residential user whose rate is based on 800 cubic feet of sewer [our baseline rate] would see their bill increase 32 cents (0.32) per month. However, many of our elderly and fixed-income residents are billed at a rate less than 800 cubic feet, so their increase would be less than this amount.

We have also discussed with Council a 3% water rate increase for users as recommended by our rate study that we presented to Council in Spring 2018. This is needed to keep up with normal cost escalation and inflation that occurs when managing a complex utility system such as ours. A residential user using 800 cubic feet of water [our baseline rate] would see their bill increase 27 cents (0.27) per month. However, many of our elderly and fixed-income residents use much less than 800 cubic feet per month, so their increase will be less than this amount. This rate increase also includes an increase in the base meter rate for all meters greater than ¾ inch. These meters are those used almost entirely by non-residential properties.

The total increase for the average residential user should be around 59 cents (0.59) per month.

One other recommendation, based on City Council work sessions, is to consider increasing our water and sewer charges for non-city residential and commercial customers to 3 times [triple] the in-city rate. Currently, out-of-city residents and commercial customers pay 2 times [double] the in-city rate. This annual increase in rates would lead to potential revenue of \$1.5 million per year which would be used to continue to maintain our existing infrastructure and other projects and a portion would be allocated for system depreciation.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Council had a work session before the Council meeting. He said there are a couple of things from the work session that he would like to note. He pointed out that he gathered from the work session that it was the sense of Council that they

would like to amend the proposed ordinance to not increase the outside city rates for residential and commercial customers three times the in-city rates, but wished to keep the outside city rates at double the in-city rates. He pointed out if that is Council's sense, any motion would need to reflect the desire to amend the ordinance to keep the water and sewer rates at double in-city rates for outside city customers and not three times the in-city rate.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff will provide other options to Council between now and second reading and will post publicly the other options. Because the water and sewer system is an enterprise system, we realize that our infrastructure needs upgrading and updating on a regular basis. While the sewer rate will basically hold steady, staff will provide several other increments as discussed in the work session to show the impact of rate increases of other percentiles. He said staff will do the same for the water rates with various percentiles and discuss the rates in a work session before it comes back to Council for second reading. Any amount, other than the sewer increase that is the pass through from the County Public Service Authority to the City, will be put towards system depreciation and projects.

For Council consideration is first reading and public hearing of an ordinance to establish new charges for water and sewer service. The motion should be to keep the out of city water and sewer rates at two times the in-city rates.

Mayor Osbon stated he would entertain a motion for water and sewer rate changes with the amendment that the out-of-city water and sewer rates remain two times the in-city rate as opposed to three times the in-city rates.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, that Council approve on first reading the ordinance to establish new charges for water and sewer with a 3% increase in water rates and 1.8% increase in sewer rates, and that the charge for water and sewer for out-of-city residential and commercial customers remain at two times the in-city rate, as opposed to three times the in-city rate.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to establish new charges for water and sewer with a 3% increase in water rates and 1.8% increase in sewer rates, and that the charge for water for out-of-city residential and commercial customers remain at two times the in-city rate, as opposed to three times the in-city rate. The motion was unanimously approved.

BANNERS

Home Ownership Expo
Downtown
Banners

Mayor Osbon stated Council had received a request to place banners in the downtown to promote the Home Ownership Expo on June 22, 2019.

Councilman Girardeau moved, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve the request for banners in the downtown promoting the Home Ownership Expo to be held on June 22, 2019.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated a request had been received from Jane Page Thompson for permission to hang banners in the downtown promoting the Home Ownership Expo to be held on June 22, 2019. The event is to be held at the Weeks Center and the Virginia Acres Park.

The request is to place six to eight banners on the traffic arms in the downtown from June 1 - 22, 2019. Staff is recommending permission for four banners with staff having the ability to determine where the banners will be placed since there are other requests for banners for other events during this time.

For City Council consideration is approval to hang banners in the downtown area promoting the Home Ownership Expo to be held on June 22, 2019.

Councilmember Diggs noted that the request was for three weeks and questioned having the banners up that long. It was pointed out that the length of time for the banners depends on the event, especially if the event is a multi-day event. Normally two weeks is the length of time for banners to be displayed.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that Public Safety has to juggle the display of banners when there are several events. He suggested that staff judge the length of time for banners to be displayed and that Council not necessarily vote on the length of time for the display of the banners but that be left up to the judgment of the staff.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Girardeau, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve the request for banners in the downtown promoting the Home Ownership Expo to be held on June 22, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 04222019B

Eastgate Drive
Whiskey Road
Richard W. Smith
Dick Smith
Roundabout

Mayor Osbon stated a request had been made to name the roundabout on Eastgate Drive after Richard (Dick) Smith, a former Councilmember.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION TO NAME THE ROUNDABOUT ON EASTGATE DRIVE AFTER RICHARD (DICK) SMITH.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, that Council approve the resolution to name the roundabout on Eastgate Drive after Richard (Dick) Smith, a former Councilmember.

A request had been received from Councilmember Dewar that Council consider naming the roundabout on Eastgate Drive just off Whiskey Road after Richard (Dick) Smith. It has been suggested that the roundabout be known as the "Richard W. Smith Memorial Roundabout."

For Council consideration is the naming of the roundabout on Eastgate Drive just off Whiskey Road as the "Richard W. Smith Memorial Roundabout."

Councilman Dewar thanked Council for consideration of the request to name the roundabout on Eastgate Drive just off Whiskey Road after the late Dick Smith who was a major factor in the roundabout which he understood that a lot of people did not like until they got used to it. He also recognized members of Dick Smith's family who were present at the meeting.

Councilman Dewar read the resolution.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mr. Mike Smith, son of Dick Smith, former Councilmember, thanked Council so much for the honor. He noted that his father truly put a lot of thought into smart growth initiatives and that was one of the drivers when he first came to Aiken. He came from Hilton Head where he had seen massive sprawl. So when he came to Aiken he got involved and was a citizen who believed in stepping up to the plate and if a person could make a difference then they should do so. He said he remembered when his father was pushing for the roundabout. He did not get it done in his first term, but was able to get it

in his second term. He pointed out that his family thanks Council so much for the very kind remembrance.

Councilman Girardeau stated every time he went through the circle, he would said he was going through Dick Smith's roundabout. He said in his mind, it is already called Dick Smith's roundabout, and this designation makes it official.

Councilwoman Gregory stated having spoken to family in the past about this, she wished it could have been done sooner, but she felt it is a wonderful testament for Dick Smith.

Councilman Dewar stated he only had the pleasure of working with Dick Smith for two years, but they were two exciting years.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote of those in favor of the resolution. The motion was unanimously approved to name the roundabout on Eastgate Drive after Richard (Dick) Smith.

Mayor Osbon and Councilmembers Dewar and Gregory presented the resolution to members of the Smith family.

Councilwoman Gregory pointed out that Becky and Jim Lorraine are an asset to our community for a different reason. She pointed out that Jim Lorraine is the Executive Director of the American Warrior Project which started in Aiken and Augusta, and they have basically taken it national to provide support to our troops and veterans.

ISSUES AND UPDATES

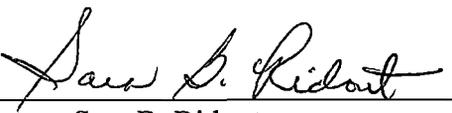
Mr. Bedenbaugh reminded Council of the ribbons cutting for the Lessie B. Price Aiken Senior and Youth Center on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 4 p.m.

Mayor Osbon thanked the Energy and Environmental Committee for the Earth Day event on Saturday. It was a terrific event. He also thanked staff for the Easter Egg Hunt at Perry Park. He felt there was a great turnout.

Councilwoman Gregory pointed out that the Energy and Environmental Committee had donated two electric car charging units to be installed downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Girardeau moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk