

Councilwoman Clyburn pointed out that Council could give the Scouts a lease with the option to buy and not disrupt the services being provided there. She felt this would give Council the option of honoring a long standing history and heritage of having the facility used by the Scouts. She pointed out the Scouts have stated they are willing to buy the property.

Mr. John Church, stated he represented Historic Aiken Foundation, and asked Council to make a long term decision for the Girl Scouts. He said he felt the present location of the Girl Scout hut on Dupree easily equals or exceeds the other parks. He felt the Dupree location was ideal for the Girl Scouts to meet and that it is adjacent to Hitchcock Woods. He asked that Council grant the Girl Scouts a lease in perpetuity to the lot on Dupree Place.

After much discussion Councilmembers felt the City should extend the lease for 25 years. They asked that the City Manager work with the Scouts and bring a lease back to Council for consideration.

Aiken City Council Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

March 22, 2004

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Clyburn, Cuning, Price, Smith, Sprawls and Vaughters.

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith, Bill Huggins, Anita Lilly, Richard Pearce, Larry Morris, Glenn Parker, Ed Evans, Pete Frommer, Sara Ridout, J. C. Lexow of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinias of the Augusta Chronicle, and about 30 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to approve the agenda. Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that the agenda be approved as submitted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the work session and regular meeting of March 8, 2004, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Clyburn moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITION

Recreation Commission
Youth

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council would like to recognize the youth members who have been appointed to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. LeDuc stated last year the City established a Recreation Commission to help review issues and to discuss with staff and Council future important items concerning our Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. In addition to Council selecting the seven members, they asked that four youth members be chosen to provide input to this Board. Staff has worked with Commission members to generate interest in these positions and have interviewed several young men and women about the possibility of serving on this Commission.

Mr. Glenn Parker stated that he would like to introduce the four youth members on the Recreation Commission. He said these youth are extremely busy in their school, church and the recreation programs. They are as follows:

Amanda Teresa Morelli, who is a sophomore at Aiken High School
Walker G. Talbert is also a sophomore at Aiken High School
John Aitchison is a junior at South Aiken High School
Alex Lindburg, a freshman at South Aiken High School, was not present at the meeting.

A brief description of each of the members was given to Council for their information. We are excited to have these four young individuals working with our Commission to help us formulate future programs and to advise us concerning our existing ones.

COLONY PARKWAY – ORDINANCE 03222004

Mid-America Apartment Communities

Colony at South Park Apartments

South Park Apartments

Median

Parkway

Whiskey Road

TPN 30-056.0-01-001

City Property

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to grant the median along Colony Parkway to the Colony at South Park.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE AND CONVEYANCE OF A PORTION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF AIKEN LOCATED ON COLONY PARKWAY, IN AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA, KNOWN AS A PORTION OF TAX PARCEL NUMBER 30-056.0-01-001.

Mr. LeDuc stated the Colony at South Park Apartments, owned by Mid-America Apartment Communities, is requesting the City of Aiken to deed them the three parcels of parkway land in the center of Colony Parkway. Since 1998, they have been maintaining this property, and they feel a formal deeding of these parcels would benefit all owners in the South Park development. Should Mid-America Apartment Communities sell their apartment complex, these parkways would automatically be deeded back to the City of Aiken. In addition, they intend to replace the sign to allow additional businesses along Colony Parkway to be identified on the sign. This would include the current businesses of Fairfield Inn Suites and Verizon. The Colony Park roadway would continue to be maintained by the City, and only the landscaped parkway would be deeded to Mid-America Apartment Communities.

Mr. LeDuc stated the matter was considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals, however, the BZA placed the matter on hold until the matter regarding deeding the property could be resolved.

Mr. LeDuc stated the proposed sign will identify the businesses in the area. He said everyone is working together on the sign and will go back to BZA to get final approval for the sign.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Cunning and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading to deed the parkways on Colony Parkway to Mid-America Apartment Communities.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she felt Mid-America did a great job in maintaining the parkways on Colony Parkway. She suggested that perhaps the Park Commission could have a "Most beautiful yard of the month" and recognize businesses for their landscaping.

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT - ORDINANCE

Willow Run Business Park

Aiken Corporation

Beaufort Street

By-Pass

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Development Agreement with Aiken Corporation for Willow Run Business Park.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AIKEN AND THE AIKEN CORPORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WILLOW RUN BUSINESS PARK.

Mr. LeDuc stated that in July, 2002, City Council approved a developer agreement with the Aiken Corporation for the development of the Willow Run Business Park. Since that time, the SCANA Corporation has given the City \$150,000 to be used for installation of infrastructure in the Willow Run Park. Aiken Corporation recently received bids for this work and is ready to proceed. They would like to modify this agreement to reflect the donation from SCANA and a couple of other conditions within the agreement.

The proposed changes to the agreement are as follows:

Under Item 6, they would like to delete the sentence that states "all streets with driveways directly serving the industrial buildings will include curb and gutter."

Item 10, which stated that the City would reimburse Aiken Corporation for all utilities, would be deleted.

Item 14, which states the sign will be installed within 90 days from initiation of the spec building construction in the Park, would be deleted.

Item 8, the amount of funding should be amended to include an additional \$150,000 for a total of \$250,000.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to amend the Development Agreement with Aiken Corporation for the development of Willow Run Business Park, and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilman Cunning was concerned about the plat showing future expansion when property is sold. He felt that before any property is sold that the plat should show future expansion.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out that the city will be building a road that extends off the existing Hampton Avenue for the Willow Run Business Park. He pointed out that Mr. Brightharp, who owns the funeral home in the area, felt there was a discrepancy in the property line, and he thought when he purchased his property that he had part of the right of way that will be used for the road. Presently his parking lot is on part of the right of way, and if the city is correct about the property line then Mr. Brightharp will have to ask the city for some property so his parking lot will not be on the right of way.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

Henry Street 694
Segres, Nathaniel
Segres, Sharon
TPN 30-077.0-01-004
Virginia Acres
Pine Log Road

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to annex 694 Henry Street.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF .26 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY NATHANIEL AND SHARON SEGRES AND LOCATED AT 694 HENRY STREET AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-10).

Mr. LeDuc stated Nathaniel and Sharon Segres would like to annex a 0.26 acre residential property at 694 Henry Street with a proposed zoning of RS-10. The applicant would like to receive the services currently offered by the City. The applicant has a Type 2 Home Occupation of caring for young children. There currently is a free-standing sign on the premises which would not be permitted under this zoning, and they would need to seek BZA approval for a Type 2 Home Occupation.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved the annexation with the following two conditions:

1. That the annexation not become effective until the BZA grants a Type 2 Home Occupation; and
2. That the existing free-standing sign be removed prior to annexation taking effect.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex property at 694 Henry Street under the proposed RS-10 zoning, and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

Whiskey Road 1940
Beam, Clarence
Beam Supply
Barber, Tad
TPN 30-059.0-01-004

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to annex property at 1940 Whiskey Road.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 1.64 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY BEAM SUPPLY, INC., AND TO ZONE THE SAME GENERAL BUSINESS (GB).

Mr. LeDuc stated Clarence Beam currently owns a business at 1940 Whiskey Road and would like to annex a 1.64 acre lot under the proposed zoning of General Business (GB). The property is surrounded by the city. The prospective purchaser of the property, Tad Barber, plans to redevelop the site and is interested in receiving city services. The GB zoning is compatible with the adjacent properties currently fronting on Whiskey Road. There currently is a two-sided billboard on the northwest corner of the site.

The Planning Commission discussed whether or not the billboard should be removed prior to the annexation and decided, since the lease expires in January, 2005, that the annexation should move forward and unanimously approved the annexation under the following conditions:

1. That a copy of a notice to the billboard company, Lamar Corporation, be submitted advising that the lease agreement shall be terminated and the billboard removed on or before January 4, 2005, and a copy of a response from the Lamar Corporation and/or its successors in interest would be received that the billboard would be removed on or before January 4, 2005.
2. That there would only be one curb cut on Whiskey Road.
3. If possible, the stormwater would be designed to be combined with the adjacent property owner's detention in a regional detention pond.
4. That any obstructions would be removed from the right-of-way; and
5. That the right-of-way of Whiskey Road adjacent to the property be included in the annexation.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the condition that there is a billboard on the property and that the annexation would not become final until there is a letter from Lamar stating that the sign will be removed and the lease agreement terminated as of January 4, 2005. He pointed out in the past the city annexed property and the billboard was supposed to be removed in three years, but the billboard was not removed in three years. He said that is why it is felt that there needs to be something in writing from Lamar stating that the billboard will be removed and the lease terminated.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the Planning Commission had recommended the five conditions. He said, however, after talking with Mr. Evans of the Planning Department, Council may want to consider some other conditions. He said the staff hopes to bring some formal thoughts concerning Whiskey Road to Council within the next 30 days. He pointed out as property such as Beams and the Church of Christ property annexes and is developed, and the property near Powderhouse Road is developed, this may be the time to consider having the developers develop the property to the standards Council may want. Council has talked about certain standards on Whiskey Road and may want to take this opportunity to start the Whiskey Road improvements. He pointed out the LDR report called for curb and gutter, sidewalk, and street trees. He said the study was adopted and the suggestions were to be considered for future development, but Council has never formally said what the right of way should look like.

Council discussed the matter and felt standards should be started and then be consistent with developments along Whiskey Road. It was pointed out that some of the properties are already in the city and will be handled by the staff, but the staff needs to know what standards Council wants along Whiskey Road. It was pointed out that some of the work could not be done at this time, but money could be set aside for the work to be done when other areas along Whiskey are developed.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex property at 1940 Whiskey Road under the General Business zoning with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission and with the additional condition that the developer follow the standards set aside by LDR in their report and that of the Planning Department staff for developments along Whiskey Road, with an escrow set aside for future improvements, and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated Council could put conditions on the annexation for development standards along Whiskey Road, but it would need to be a condition that could be satisfied prior to the annexation of the property. He also stated that he felt the LDR Study at some point should be encompassed into the Zoning Ordinance somehow so it is clear that Council is making this requirement for all properties along Whiskey Road even if they are less than five acres.

CHESTERFIELD NORTH – ORDINANCESale of PropertyJames Town Court 112Gray, LoresaCommunity Development and Improvement CorporationTPN 30-067.0-05-029

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to sell property at 112 James Town Court.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY OF AIKEN, AND THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, LOCATED IN CHESTERFIELD NORTH SUBDIVISION AT 112 JAMES TOWN COURT, TO LORESA GRAY.

Mr. LeDuc stated a couple of years ago the City of Aiken entered into a contractual agreement with the Aiken Housing Authority's Community Development Investment Corporation (CDIC). At that time the Corporation had purchased a tract of land off of Chesterfield Street N. and developed eleven residential lots. Nine of the homes within this development have been purchased and we seek Council's approval for the sale of another house in this development. This home at 112 Jamestown Court, is for sale at \$96,090.55 to Loresa Gray. The City would use HOME grant money to reduce the cost of this home by approximately \$27,000. Upon the sale of this home only one other house will remain for sale in this development.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance approving the sale of property at 112 Jamestown Court, and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

GARBAGE – ORDINANCERoll Cart ServiceNew Developments

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to require roll cart services for new developments.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 32-1, OF THE AIKEN CITY CODE TO REQUIRE PLACEMENT AT AND REMOVAL FROM THE STREET, WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, OF ROLL CARTS, USED IN LIEU OF GARBAGE CANS, BY RESIDENTS.

Mr. LeDuc stated at our recent Horizons Retreat City Council discussed several items regarding the sanitation collection system. He said the use of roll carts in a voluntary pilot program was one item discussed. The city has continued to increase the number of homes in the city, and we are at the point of either adding another truck and full crew or trying to come up with another system. He said the staff had suggested a voluntary roll cart program. The pilot program would be initiated by our Public Works Department in specific neighborhoods for approximately 1,000 homes. Individuals within these developments would be asked to participate in this program and sign an agreement to voluntarily take the roll cart to the curb on their designated day and to return it within 24 hours of their collection. Individuals within the subdivision who don't want to be included in the program would continue to receive backyard garbage service by the City. Most of the residents in these targeted areas already take their garbage to the street, and the roll cart would help facilitate the resident in taking the materials to the curb. The roll carts could also be used by residents for construction material that is now collected by our trash crews. We feel this will help eliminate some of the trash now being collected at many of these residential locations.

The proposed ordinance would require all new developments in the City of Aiken to use roll carts for the city's garbage collection program. The new residential customers would be given a roll cart along with the recycling bin after they have applied for their water or sewer service. If the roll cart pilot program is successful, it would be expanded to other areas in the city over the next several years to allow other residents to participate in this program.

As discussed, the use of roll carts will not only help reduce the amount of time necessary to pick up garbage, but will also greatly reduce the number of worker injuries we receive when picking up the material from the cans.

Mr. LeDuc stated the Public Works Department has received many calls wanting to know when they can get a roll cart for garbage service. He said he had not received any negative calls regarding the program at this time. He pointed out the proposal is for a voluntary program, so people do not have to participate if they don't want to. He also pointed out the proposed ordinance would require all new developments to have roll cart service. He said the pilot program does not require an ordinance change. He said one company has stated they have never seen an experimental program in any other city not expand to include more houses. He said they were willing to give the city the roll carts for free, and when the city decides to buy roll carts in the future the city would pay them whatever the low bid price is for the roll carts. He said there would be no expense to the city for the experimental program.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance requiring new developments to use roll carts for garbage collection and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council.

Council then discussed the proposed program at length. It was pointed out that Deodar was a new subdivision and already had some homes occupied. It was stated the next phase of the subdivision would be required to have roll cart service. Council was concerned about the practicability of one phase with roll cart and the other back yard service. Mr. LeDuc stated staff would try to work with the current residents to encourage roll cart service. It was also pointed out that in other areas residents could volunteer for the program or choose to have back yard pickup, with all the same charge for garbage pickup. It was also pointed out that, even in new subdivisions, if people were elderly or handicapped and could not take the roll cart to the street the city would provide back yard pickup.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the garbage trucks already have the flippers for emptying the roll carts because the city presently uses a roll cart to empty the garbage when picking up the garbage from the backyard.

Ms. Al Payne was present and expressed concern about people moving from a house and putting a lot of material at the street for pickup. Mr. LeDuc pointed out that the issue of trash pickup would be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Councilwoman Vaughters asked if the program would eliminate any jobs. Mr. LeDuc stated probably no jobs would be eliminated, but at this point the city would not have to hire a new crew if a roll cart system is used.

Councilwoman Clyburn was concerned about persons leaving the roll carts at the street rather than taking them to their back yard. She asked what type of enforcement program the city would have.

Mr. Morris stated the staff had considered this matter at length. He said currently there is an ordinance on the book which says the cans cannot be left at the curb. He said this is an ordinance summons. He said the proposed program is for six months and then the participants will be asked to complete a survey. He said if the program is a success, the staff will be asking Council to do the program city-wide in a phased-in approach. He pointed out the crews are presently working overtime to complete pickups, which have

increased dramatically. He pointed out the city is still growing, and there are several other proposed developments. He said either the city is going to have to have additional equipment and people or change the system. He said the proposal is to start the program where people bring their materials to the curb now. He said many injuries happen to people who pick up garbage. It is felt the roll cart system will help with this problem.

Mr. LeDuc stated whether the city goes with the roll cart system or not, there will still have to be an increase in garbage fees to make the system pay for itself. It was also pointed out that the landfill fees charged to the city have increased. He said his proposal for next year's budget is to increase the garbage fees \$1.25 per month, and this would increase the next several years until the full cost of service is reached.

Council continued to discuss the program at length. It was pointed out that Council wanted the citizens to know that the full plan, if the program is a success, is that the whole city would go to roll cart service over a period of time. Some Councilmembers pointed out they had had some negative comments about the proposed program. Councilman Cunning pointed out there would always be some people who want to keep the backyard pickup. He said, however, the decision is whether to try the program, and then if the citizens want to keep the present back yard system the fees will have to go up more than they will go up with the roll cart service.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she felt the program would be positive. She said the only problem she sees is the summons for those who do not return the carts to the back yard. She felt the city needed to put some teeth into enforcement of returning the carts to the back yard. She felt that might be a problem with the program city-wide. She felt the ordinance really needed to be enforced to be sure the carts are returned to the back yard.

Councilwoman Vaughters pointed out the cost discussed included all the stuff picked up. She felt it was not fair to make individual property owners pay for some people emptying inordinate amounts of garbage on the road. She felt the matter of garbage and trash pickups were hard to separate. She said the cost forcing the increase may be taken care of if something fair is done for the trash pickup. She said she had already had a lot of negative comments about the roll cart system. She said some people never put out more than two garbage cans, and she felt it was not right for their fees to increase because others were putting out a lot of garbage and trash. She felt people should be charged for the amount of trash they ask the city to pickup.

Mr. LeDuc stated Council had asked that the public be informed of the proposal. He said information was in the monthly newsletter regarding the proposal to increase garbage fees. The next newsletter will discuss the roll cart experiment. Then there would be an article regarding yard trash and what the city plans to do about this issue.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion to pass the ordinance on first reading to require new developments to use roll carts for garbage collection with second reading and public hearing at the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 in favor and 1 opposed. Councilwoman Vaughters was opposed to the ordinance.

TOOLE HILL

Sell Lots

Resolution

Memorandum of Understanding

Second Baptist Church

Aiken Corporation

Aiken Housing Authority Community Development Investment Corporation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration to sell lots in Toole Hill.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOOLE HILL REAL ESTATE IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE NORTHSIDE REVITALIZATION PLAN.

Mr. LeDuc stated for the past 12 months the City has been acquiring property in the Toole Hill neighborhood. The property the City acquired is now being subdivided and will consist of a minimum of 39 new lots for the construction of homes ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Aiken Corporation, the Aiken Housing Authority Community Development Investment Corporation, and Second Baptist Church states the City will sell 13 lots to each of these agencies. Through this agreement, the three entities will apply for federal and state grants to purchase these lots at \$10,000 each and build new homes in this area. This grant proposal will be developed in the next few weeks, and grants should be awarded in June, with funding available by the end of the summer. The Memorandum of Understanding outlines what their responsibilities would be and the city's responsibilities.

We hope to receive over \$1 million for the construction of these houses. Prior to June, some new housing construction may start with funding through the state. The City in turn will begin construction of sidewalks on the east and west sides of Morgan Street and south side of Toole Hill. Additionally, new water and sewer lines will be installed as needed. Another component of this development will be fiberglass street lights on Edgefield and Morgan, along with the planting of street trees where possible. City staff is now working with the existing home owners in the area for façade improvements, new driveways and fencing on a case by case basis.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council approve a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aiken, Aiken Corporation, Second Baptist Church and Aiken Housing Authority Community Development Investment Corporation for development of lots in the Toole Hill area.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

CDBG
HUD
Housing and Urban Development

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider approval of the Community Development Block Grant Funds.

Mr. LeDuc stated every year the City of Aiken receives funding from HUD for Community Development projects. At the last Community Development Committee meeting they unanimously recommended funding of the following projects:

Emergency Housing Renovation \$60,000

These funds would be used for emergency repair of low and moderate income homes. The \$5,000 per home is intended to correct housing deficiencies that are life threatening and to help eliminate hazards or unsanitary conditions in these homes.

Paint Program \$20,000

The City is establishing a new program to provide paint and other materials to assist owner-occupied homes in low income neighborhoods with labor to be supplied by Neighborhood Associations, churches, civic groups and other volunteers.

Housing Counseling \$16,000

This program continues our home buyers' education program to assist prospective low and moderate income buyers how to successfully purchase a home. Classes include how

to manage money, house selection progress, legal rights, working with banks, and maintenance and repairs of the new home.

Neighborhood Initiatives \$10,000

Through a Matching Grant Program, various neighborhood groups can obtain matching funds for projects within their neighborhoods.

Playgrounds \$ 7,000

The City would purchase and install playground equipment in one or more of the affordable housing developments located on the north side of Aiken.

Lot Acquisition \$54,052

These funds will be used to purchase lots in order to construct affordable housing under the Northside Plan.

Streetscape \$30,000

To continue the renewal on the northside major streetscape improvements are needed, including sidewalks, street trees, street lighting, and other features to enhance public safety.

Lot Clean Up \$15,000

These funds would help in the clean up of vacant lots and demolish dilapidated structures.

Administration \$43,948

Total \$256,000

The Housing Development Funds will help us continue our northside renewal plan. We have replaced our Rehabilitation Program with the Emergency Housing Renovation Funds. At \$5,000 each, a minimum of 12 structures should be able to be repaired during this next year. Since many structures will not need the full amount, we hope to be able to renovate 15 to 20 homes each year over the next few years. Priority would be given to those homes already on the Rehabilitation list. This money will be available in the fall, and is a reduction of \$5,000 from the amount we received last year.

Council discussed the proposed projects. Councilwoman Vaughters asked if some money could be available to clean up the trash containing appliances behind the project on Barnwell Avenue across from Schofield School. She was concerned about the appearance of the appliances and the building designated as the Aiken Housing Authority. Mr. LeDuc stated these appliances had been stored there for many years and come from the units when the Housing Authority replaces an appliance. Mr. LeDuc was asked to talk to the Housing Authority about this matter.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council approve the distribution of the Community Development Block Grant Funds of \$256,000 as recommended by the Community Development Committee.

HISTORICAL MARKER

Aiken County Historical Society

Original Survey

Newberry Street

Downtown Aiken

Time Capsule

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider a request for permission to place an historical marker in the downtown area.

Mr. LeDuc stated in January the Aiken County Historical Society requested permission from the City to install an historical marker concerning the original survey of the City established in 1834. They suggested two possible locations, at Laurens and Park or Newberry and Richland. Three groups have joined together to provide and install the proposed marker: Colonial Dames of XVII Century, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and National Society of the Daughters of the War of 1812. The proposed reading for the historical marker has been researched by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and they approved the marker for historical display.

At the March 9, 2004, Planning Commission meeting, they unanimously approved locating this marker at Newberry Street and Richland near the Time Capsule.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that Council approve the placing of an historical marker at the intersection of Newberry and Richland Avenues, near the Time Capsule commemorating the original survey of the establishment of the City.

STREET NAME

Road Name

Arby's

Krystal

Hitt, Ola

Ola Hitt Lane

Whiskey Road

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider naming a roadway between Arby's and Krystal's on Whiskey Road.

Mr. LeDuc stated recently the City received a request from the Aiken Department of Public Safety to name the recently built connector road between Arby's and Krystal's. This new roadway leads to WalMart from Whiskey Road and is opposite Corporate Parkway. Currently there are no addresses off the connector road, but in the future a lot behind Krystal's could be developed under this new road name.

Several names have recently been considered and at the March 9, 2004, Planning Commission meeting, they unanimously supported the name of Ola Hitt Lane be considered for her interest in Aiken's history and long term involvement with Veteran's Affairs. She was recently contacted and had no objections to the road being named in her honor.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council approve the naming of the connector roadway between Arby's and Krystal's on Whiskey Road as Ola Hitt Lane.

Councilman Sprawls stated the next time a street needs to be named he would like for the name of Rufus Rogers be considered. He said the family has made this request. He pointed out Officer Rogers was the first policeman killed in the line of duty in Aiken and the family would like to have a road named after him. It was pointed out there is already a Rogers Terrace and another similar name might be confusing for emergency services.

STAND FOR CHILDREN

Aiken Stand for Children

Mr. LeDuc stated a relatively new organization called Stand for Children would like to introduce themselves to Council. Nationally they are a member driven child advocacy organization. They are now organized in Aiken County.

Ms. Susan Graham reviewed for Council the purpose of Stand for Children, stating the organization is a member-driven child advocacy organization. Rather than help one child at a time, they make a much greater impact by successfully advocating for funding for

schools, child care, and other effective programs that directly help many, many children over time.

Ms. Graham stated the Aiken County Stand for Children held its Chapter Kick-Off on Monday, November 3, 2003 with over 100 people at the First Presbyterian Church in Aiken. She stated that on June 1, 1996 more than 300,000 people went to Washington, DC to attend the Stand for Children March, the largest rally for children in American history.

She stated that Aiken's Stand for Children is part of a national organization that lobbies for programs and services to give children a healthy educated start in life. In pursuit of this vision, Stand for Children Chapters have taken actions that have helped more than 275,000 children. And has secured more than \$184 million in funding for children's programs and services.

Ms. Graham stated the organization is looking forward to working with the City to improve the life of children in Aiken. She said members will be contacting the City Council to meet one on one to find out some of their concerns facing the children in Aiken County.

Council then briefly discussed the purpose of the program and asked questions regarding coordination with other organizations and funding for the organization.

Council then adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 9 P.M. and went back into work session to consider the items not finished before the regular meeting.

WORK SESSION

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Sales Tax Sales Tax Committee One Cent Sales Tax Referendum

Mr. LeDuc stated that last Tuesday he received information from Aiken County stating that elected officials cannot be members of the One Cent Sales Tax Committee. Therefore, Councilmember Dick Smith cannot be appointed by City Council for that position. City Council will need to select a City of Aiken resident as soon as possible for the committee to get started on this referendum.

Councilman Smith stated he would like to suggest that John Paveglio be appointed to represent the City of Aiken on the One Cent Sales Tax Committee.

Mayor Cavanaugh suggested that Wade Brodie be considered for the One Cent Sales Tax Committee.

Councilman Sprawls stated he would like to submit the name of Henry Krippner for the Committee.

Mr. LeDuc stated he planned to attend most of the meetings of the committee and be available for any help that they may need at the meeting regarding information or expense, etc.

Council discussed briefly the role of the committee and the person selected by Council with Councilmembers wondering if the committee could change Council's list. They were concerned about the list being changed from what Council approves. It was pointed out the Committee will have to set the formula for the funding for the various entities and will have authority to list priorities.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated the State law does require that a Commission be created and the Commission is responsible for the projects that will be put on the referendum with input from the various cities. He said he understood that the Attorney

General has ruled that an elected official cannot serve on the commission, as this would be a dual office holding violation of the constitution.

Council discussed the process briefly with Keith Coones who was on the committee for the last sales tax referendum.

After discussion Council decided to select the person to represent the City of Aiken on the Sales Tax Committee at the next regular meeting of Council. The voting would be done by secret ballot.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE

Appointments

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to make appointments to the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out that at the last work session Council discussed appointments to the Accommodations Tax Committee and were to contact their appointees and decide on appointments to meet the state regulations. He pointed out that Council has to have appointments from the cultural arts and from the lodging industry.

Councilman Cunning stated he had checked with Jim McNair his appointment, and he wished to continue on the Accommodations Tax Committee. Mayor Cavanaugh stated he also wanted to continue his appointment, Jan Cwalina, on the committee, as she had experience on the committee.

Council suggested that names be drawn to decide who will have to replace their appointee with someone from the lodging industry.

Council drew lots and Mayor Cavanaugh drew the straw to replace his appointee, Jan Cwalina, on the Accommodations Tax Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk