

Council discussed the proposed rates at length. It was pointed out by Councilman Smith that a \$400 impact fee is probably the minimum and a higher fee could be justified. It was pointed out that the impact fee would be used for new lines and new wells to meet increasing demands for water. It was pointed out if an impact fee is implemented it will be on all new water taps and this may affect growth if the fees are too high, so it could have an adverse effect. It was also pointed out that the impact fees would need to be the same for everyone and could not be just charged to one area such as the southside. Councilwoman Vaughters stated she did not want to encourage providing water and sewer to areas not in the city. She stated she wanted the areas to come into the city if they want city services. She did not want the citizens of the city to pay higher rates in order to provide services for people who do not want to pay city taxes.

Mr. LeDuc stated from the discussion he understood that Council wanted to go forward with a water impact fee. He stated the city would also proceed with the consultant's study to justify the impact fee. He said he would have some suggestions on incentives for encouraging development, particularly on the north side, at the next meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

May 13, 2002

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

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Bill Huggins, Gary Smith, Larry Morris, Anita Lilly, Richard Pearce, Glenn Parker, Sara Ridout, Susan Mimmie, Karen Daily of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinas of the Augusta Chronicle, and 8 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. Councilwoman Price 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. Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning that the agenda be approved as presented.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2002 and the work session of April 29, 2002, were considered for approval. Councilman Sprawls moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

Ballentine, Sidney

Building Code of Appeals

Hunter, John

Brooks, Deborah

Housing Authority

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider two appointments to the various boards and commissions.

Mr. LeDuc stated Council has nine pending appointments to boards and committees of the city and two appointments are presented for Council's consideration.

Mayor Cavanaugh has recommended reappointment of Sidney Ballentine to the Building Code of Appeals Committee. If reappointed the term would expire May 12, 2004.

Also, Councilman Richard Smith has recommended appointment of Deborah Brooks to the Housing Authority to replace John Hunter who has resigned effective with the end of his term on May 28, 2002. Housing Authority terms are for five years and if appointed Ms. Brooks' term would expire May 28, 2007.

Mayor Cavanaugh moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Sidney Ballentine be reappointed to the Building Code of Appeals Committee with the term to expire May 12, 2004.

Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning and unanimously approved, that Deborah Brooks be appointed to the Housing Authority for a five year term to replace John Hunter who has resigned with the term to expire May 28, 2007.

RED CROSS - ORDINANCE

American Red Cross

Lease

Laurens Street

Colleton Avenue

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to lease property to the Red Cross.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE LEASE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED ON LAURENS STREET AND OWNED BY THE CITY OF AIKEN TO THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS.

Mr. LeDuc stated twenty-five years ago the City of Aiken initiated a lease with the American National Red Cross for the city's property on Laurens Street along the railroad tracks. This lease has now expired and the American National Red Cross would like to renew the lease for the property.

Staff has reviewed the previous lease and has prepared a new lease agreement for a five year period. This shorter period of time will allow future Council's and the American Red Cross to decide whether or not to continue the lease agreement at Laurens Street and Colleton Avenue on street right of way near the railroad tracks.

It was pointed out that even though the previous lease expired last year, the new lease if approved by Council would be effective when approved for a period of 5 years from that date, which would be in 2007.

Council discussed the possibility of the city needing the property for some possible housing development in the downtown area and the Red Cross being asked to vacate the property earlier. It was pointed out that possibility was covered in the proposed lease and it would need to be a mutual agreement between the two parties with 30 days notice.

Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on first reading authorizing a lease agreement with the American National Red Cross of Aiken for property at Laurens Street and the railroad at Colleton Avenue, and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

WATER AND SEWER RATES - ORDINANCERatesWater RatesSewer RatesWater TapsWater MetersConnection FeeFeesSewer Connections

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to establish new charges for water and sewer services, connections, etc.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.

Mr. LeDuc stated for the past few years Aiken has been experiencing a drought in the Aiken area. This has resulted in larger than normal revenues for our utilities system. However, even with these increased revenues, we have seen our reserves reduced by over \$1 million due to the number of capital improvements needed to keep up with the demands of our growing population. Also, daily operating, maintenance and capital expenditures have increased due to rising costs for personnel needs, supplies, electricity and the increasing price for chemicals. Thus, even with increased revenues during this drought period, they are not adequate to balance this year's budget. In addition to this our highest water user, Advanced Glas Fiber Yarns (Owens-Corning Fibers), has decreased their consumption since 1997 by 38%, which results in loss revenue of over \$300,000 per year. Over the last 6 years we have also experienced major increases in personnel cost for health and liability insurance. All these losses combined require us to increase our utility rates by a minimum of 4% plus revision to our fees for both taps and connections for water and sewer.

The last water increase was on September 8, 1997, and previously the city had 10 increases during a 13 year period. Sewer rates were last increased in December, 1996, with 5 increases over the previous 12 years. Previous to this the city increased these rates at regular intervals of no more than 3 years. The 4% increase would be less than 1% per year, and even with this increase the city may be facing an additional rate increase next year, dependent on the water usage this summer.

Along with the 4% rate increase staff is also recommending adjustments to some of our water and sewer tap fees for new developments and a \$5 increase for all initial turn-ons or reconnections. Council has suggested a water impact fee for new water taps to help cover future expansions of the water system. This will be reviewed by an independent consultant and will be brought back to Council next month for review.

The 4% rate increase would be effective with the July 1, 2002, billing. The new charges for water connections and water and sewer taps would also be effective on July 1, 2002.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Cunning, that the ordinance be passed on first reading to establish new charges for water and sewer services and that second reading and public hearing be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilman Cunning pointed out the proposed ordinance is only for water and sewer services and not for impact fees.

Mr. LeDuc stated the proposed ordinance is a 4% increase in water and sewer rates for residential and commercial usage. He stated originally he had recommended a 6% increase, but after discussion with Council at the budget work session the rate was reduced to 4%, with Council discussing imposing at least a \$400 water tap impact fee. He stated if the proposed impact fee is a higher fee possibly the water and sewer rates could be reduced to 3% if Council wished. He stated the rates needed to be set so the city

would at least receive the proposed revenue in the budget in order to balance the budget. It was pointed out that if rates increase 4% inside the city, the rates outside the city would increase 8%.

Council discussed at length the proposed fees and the fees that would be charged if a person were building a new home. It was pointed out the builder usually pays the tap fees, which are included in the cost of the home.

Councilman Sprawls stated he planned to vote against the proposed ordinance. He said he knew the city needed the revenue and it was justified. He stated, however, he could not say the city was not increasing taxes when the basic utilities were being increased.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out increases in the fees do not occur every year. He said these fees had not been increased since 1996 and 1997.

Councilman Cunning pointed out the city has a great water system, but if the city did not continue to plan for future needs it would hurt the city in the future and the city may have to restrict water usage like some other cities in the area. Councilman Cunning stated he had more problems with the proposed impact fee than with increasing the water and sewer rates.

Councilman Smith stated he understood that the expected shortfall of \$5 million over the next 5 years is really a product of new development. He stated he wondered if there could be a list of what is new infrastructure for new development in the county versus that already in the city.

Mr. LeDuc stated if the city does not plan for the future and improve the system as the city has been doing the city may have to restrict water usage.

Councilman Cunning pointed out that, on stormwater retention, all the new areas have a retention area and the stormwater is taken care of in the development. However, the old areas of the city are where there are stormwater problems, but the stormwater fee is charged to every new property owner and they are helping to solve problems of the past.

Councilwoman Price stated she felt Council needed more information to make a decision on the matter such as the study for proposed impact fees.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he was concerned about not accepting the proposed 4% increase. He stated the city has a good water system and he did not want to see the city begin to have problems with the water system.

Councilwoman Clyburn pointed out Council had talked about conservation and measures to save on water usage. She felt water conservation should be encouraged. She felt the proposed increases are really another form of tax and a burden on some citizens. She felt perhaps the impact fee could help in providing the needed revenues.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion to pass the ordinance establishing new charges for water and sewer services. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Those voting in opposition were Councilmembers Clyburn and Sprawls.

MILLAGE RATE - ORDINANCE

71 Mills
FY 2002-2003
Budget

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to set the millage rate for fiscal year 2002-2003.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY CITY PURPOSES AND FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES IN THE CITY

OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002, SET THE MILLAGE THEREFOR AT SEVENTY-ONE (71) MILLS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF.

Mr. LeDuc stated for City Council consideration, this is approval of an ordinance establishing the millage rate at 71 mills for the new fiscal year. With the adoption of this millage rate you will have experienced fourteen (14) consecutive fiscal years without a millage rate increase. Over this fourteen year period we have actually reduced the millage rate on four separate occasions, three times as a result of reassessment, from 120 mills to the current 71 mills. Although we have to pay careful attention to keep funding at an adequate level to continue all the city's services, we are proud that we have been able to control raising taxes for fourteen years, and we contribute this success to your careful stewardship of these funds.

Mr. LeDuc stated there had been some increases in other fees, however, none of the water, sewer or stormwater fees go into the General Fund. Those fees are to provide revenue for the water, sewer or stormwater funds, which must be kept separate by law.

Councilman Cunning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the ordinance be passed on first reading to set the millage rate for fiscal year 2002-2003 at 71 mills and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilman Smith pointed out that some citizens in Woodside stated the tax millage had not increased, but the amount of their taxes had increased. It was pointed out this was due to reassessment and the increase in the value of property.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out the city sets the millage rate, however, the city has no control over the value of property.

BUDGET - ORDINANCE

FY 2002-2003

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to approve a budget for fiscal year 2002-2003.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE CITY MANAGER, CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2003, AND DECLARING THAT THE SAME SHALL CONSTITUTE THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR.

Mr. LeDuc stated each year City Council adopts a budget for the City of Aiken presenting the policies and goals of the city for the upcoming year. The staff has prepared and is recommending a budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 for City Council's acceptance meeting the goals established.

At the budget review session of April 29, 2002, Council had the opportunity to review the budget in detail and discuss several of the goals included in this year's budget. As in years past, the budget has been developed based on the needs and services adopted by City Council to serve the citizens, plus the goals, which Council adopted from Horizons sessions. Within this budget are several major capital development projects, which have been initiated over the past few years. These include the Tennis Complex at Virginia Acres, the Public Safety Car Take Home Program, the rewiring and sprinkler improvements at the Rye Patch-Hopelands Complex, the streetscape program on Chesterfield, York, Fairfield and Union from Richland to Park, the landscaping and enhancement improvements along Whiskey Road from Pine Log to Arby's, the relocation of our Dispatch facilities and the enhanced E-911 System, funding for planning studies of Old Aiken, Traffic Impact and Management Ordinance and Connector Streets, a new parking lot in Hopelands and continuation of the brick pathways, the completion of the

Schofield Park, and funding to lengthen the major runway at the airport . Within this budget we are recommending the addition of 3 Fire Engineers, changing 3 part-time employees to full-time employees, and the addition of 2 employees to the Utilities budget. We are continuing to look for ways to use part-time versus full-time employees and to cross-train our employees wherever possible to job share. In addition, we are working to better enhance our relationship with other local agencies and businesses to improve our level of service and to increase our efficiency.

Staff is recommending a rate increase for water and sewer of 4% plus an increase in our connection and tap fees. These increases are due to the added expenses to meet personnel needs, several requirements imposed from DHEC and general inflationary expenses since our last adjustment in 1996 for water and 1997 for sewer. These increases are reflected in a separate ordinance reflecting the new rates for our water and sewer utility system. He said if the rate increases as recommended for water and sewer were not adopted the budget would have to be adjusted since the revenues would not be there to support the budget, and expenses would have to be cut.

We feel that this budget should meet Council's expectations for the coming year with the services desired for both Council and the citizens of Aiken.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to approve the budget for the City of Aiken for fiscal year 2002-2003 and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Councilwoman Vaughters asked several questions about specific line items in the budget to which Mr. LeDuc responded. Councilwoman Vaughters also asked to see the designs for the proposed streetscape improvements.

GLEN ARBOR APARTMENTS

Lincoln Avenue
SC 19 N
Apartments
Laurens Street

Mayor Cavanaugh stated some citizens wanted to discuss the Glen Arbor Apartments with City Council.

Mr. LeDuc stated some citizens from the Lincoln Avenue area would like to discuss with City Council the Glen Arbor Apartment Complex currently under construction on Lincoln Avenue. This project was approved by City Council last year when they asked the city for help with a state tax credit application. The land is zoned RML, which allows by right apartments at this location. The apartments have their entrance off Lincoln Avenue, and the site plan met all city guidelines and regulations and therefore was approved by the Planning Department.

Since they met all city regulations as permitted by right in the RML zone the city could not require any changes to the layout of the site. The citizens would like to discuss with City Council the option for traffic to enter and exit onto Laurens Street versus Lincoln Avenue, along with some other concerns such as management and screening. The developer owns the property to the east along Laurens and the land to the west. He said at one time the developer was planning on putting another apartment unit on the vacant property to the west. He said, however, to do this would require rezoning and annexation, and the developer withdrew the request.

Mr. LeDuc stated there was a meeting with 3 citizens of the area and a Councilmember last week to discuss the project. He said a representative of the developer has stated that he would meet with the citizens of the area next week. The representative stated someone who works with the apartment complex will be living in the complex. However, he would not discuss an alternate entrance off Laurens Street or additional landscaping and screening along Lincoln Avenue.

Mr. Elandus Mays, 920 Callahan Terrace, stated he lives off Lincoln Avenue. He said his concern was the exit onto Lincoln Avenue. He said if the developer owns the adjacent land he did not understand why the exit could not be made onto S.C. 19 rather than Lincoln. He said future development further down Lincoln would increase traffic on Lincoln. He was concerned about traffic on Lincoln Avenue.

Mr. LeDuc stated he had asked the developer, since an apartment complex was proposed for seniors on Laurens Street, why he could not tie the present apartment complex and the senior complex together. He stated that, according to the standards for the funds, the two developments could not be tied together. The senior complex had to have a separate entrance.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like for the developer to be present to answer questions. He did point out that traffic was already heavy on Laurens Street (SC 19).

Councilwoman Price stated she had attended two meetings with the citizens concerned about this area. She pointed out the proposed egress and ingress for the development is right in front of a senior citizen's home. She said the citizens in the area were concerned about the layout of the project. She said they are asking if the project can exit onto Laurens Street or Beans Court instead of Lincoln Avenue. She said the citizens are concerned about problems that may occur in the area.

Councilwoman Vaughters suggested there should be more than one entrance and exit for the number of apartments proposed for safety reasons. She also pointed out that the city should be sure they meet the landscaping requirements.

Councilman Cunning stated the apartments are under construction and the zoning was already multi-family. He said he understands they have met all the requirements and regulations of the city. He was concerned about what the city could do since the apartments are under construction and meets all requirements. Mr. LeDuc stated the development is doing everything according to law of what is required for the project.

Councilwoman Price stated the neighbors wanted to have some input into the project like the neighbors did on the south side when Excel wanted to build an office near Stratford Hall. She said the community wanted some rights to protect their community. She said they were concerned about what will happen to the apartments in the future. Mr. LeDuc pointed out the property near Stratford Hall was an annexation and Council could place requirements on the property with the request for annexation. However, the property on Lincoln was already in the city and already zoned multi-family.

Council discussed the matter at length including past requests for use of the property for a trailer park, senior citizens assisted living project, and presently multi-family and Section 8 housing.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated the city could appeal to the developers and ask them to work with the city in trying to be a good neighbor to the citizens in the area.

Gary Smith, City Attorney, pointed out once the building permit is issued and plans approved for the development the builder has the right to proceed, and the city does not have the right to require them to change. He said if the developer and city work together and agree to a change of course that is all right. He said the Planning Department would have to approve any revisions made to the plans.

Councilwoman Vaughters stated she felt Council should look at all the projects for this developer. She felt Trotters Run had not met all requirements.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Trotters Run keeps coming up at various meetings. He said he would like for the city to check this out to be sure the developer has met all requirements and has done everything he said he would do so this matter can be settled. He said if they have not complied with everything then the city needs to be sure they do.

Mr. LeDuc stated he has set up a meeting for May 23, at 4 P.M. to talk with the developer to see if anything could be worked out with the developer. Councilmembers Vaughters and Smith stated they would attend the meeting.

SOLICITOR

Deputy
Shumpert, Amy
City Court

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider appointment of a Deputy City Solicitor.

Mr. LeDuc stated Section 2-281 of the Aiken City Code requires City Council to appoint the City Attorney and City Solicitor or anyone who represents the city as Solicitor in court. Over the last couple of years the number of cases which go to City Court has continued to increase. In order for our Solicitor to defend the number of cases in City Court plus his current work on the Management Audit we are asking Council to appoint Amy Shumpert as a Deputy City Solicitor. She would assist Richard Pearce with prosecutions in Aiken City Court on an as needed basis. Most of this work would be done in the next few months while he is working on the Management Audit, and as we catch up with previous cases. Funding is available in the budget for this type of assistance.

Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved that Council approve the hiring of Amy Shumpert as the Deputy City Solicitor on an as needed basis.

COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting
Schedule
May 27, 2002

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to adopt a meeting schedule for May.

Mr. LeDuc stated the second Council meeting date in May falls on Monday, May 27, 2002, Memorial Day. Last year City Council asked that the staff consider not meeting on Memorial Day since this is a holiday for many people. If Council approves the schedule Council would not meet on Monday, May 27, 2002. If there are any items requiring immediate attention, Council could schedule a special meeting of Council.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that the May 27, 2002 meeting of Council be cancelled.

DISABILITY

Short Term Disability
Parker, William R.

Mr. LeDuc stated he had given Council a copy of a letter which he was sending to William R. Parker, an employee of the city, regarding short term disability and the process the city requires to be eligible for this benefit. He said the city's policy regarding disability was approved by Council in 1988. He said one of the requirements to be eligible for the disability was that the employee's sick leave be used first. Then the short term disability is funded by the city and the city's portion of the employee's health insurance is continued to be paid by the city for the first three months on disability. He said the short term disability can be as long as 6 months and then the employee may be eligible for long term disability if he cannot work. He said he was giving this information to Council, since several of the Councilmembers had been contacted by the Parkers regarding this matter.

Council agreed that it was a good policy and that the city had to be consistent and fair with each employee.

TENNIS COURTSBidsVirginia AcresLocal Option Sales TaxCapital Sales Tax

Mr. LeDuc reported to Council that bids had been opened for the tennis courts at Virginia Acres. He said \$2.3 million was available through the Local Option Sales Tax for the Tennis Complex. He said the bids were opened for 12 courts—8 will be clay courts and 4 will be asphalt courts. Presently there are 8 existing courts and 4 of those will be eliminated and used as a skate park. The other 4 will be overlaid. This will give 4 asphalt courts from the existing courts, 4 new asphalt courts with new lighting, and 8 hard true courts for a total of 16 courts. The bids were \$1,302,000, or about \$2,800 more than the estimate, which leaves about \$1 million to complete the rest of the project. He said Council will have to decide if they want to put in more courts or use the money for a Tennis Shop which has been estimated to cost about \$1 million. He said Council will have to make a decision on this later. He said unless Council has some questions the staff is ready to move forward with the bids for the 12 additional tennis courts. He pointed out the city will charge a fee to play on these courts. He said he was giving this to Council as information.

Mr. LeDuc stated work on the Skate Park will begin next year after the tennis courts are moved and \$200,000 is available for the Skate Park.

VERENES INDUSTRIAL PARKLot 16Aiken Precision Technology

Mr. LeDuc stated Council had authorized the sale of Lot 16 in the Verenes Industrial Park several months ago. He said that company was Aiken Precision Technology, and they have broken ground and the plant is under construction. The company hopes to be open next year and should hire 10 to 15 employees to make auto parts.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSBuilding Code of AppealsBishop, JerryAccommodations Tax CommitteeRamseur, HarveyEnvironmental CommitteeBrown, Marilyn

Councilman Smith stated he would like to nominate Jerry Bishop for the Building Code of Appeals Committee. He said Mr. Bishop has a degree in Chemical Engineering, worked his way through college as a construction worker, was Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce in Connecticut, and served on the Woodside Architectural Review Board.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she would like to call her appointment to the Old Aiken Master Plan in to Mr. LeDuc at a later date since she was not present when this was done at the last Council meeting.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she would like to nominate Harvey Ramseur, of 7 Whitmarsh Drive, for the Accommodations Tax Committee. She stated he was involved in budget and fiscal management, program and policy development, and he was a former member of the U.S. Diplomatic Corps serving in Haiti.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated that Al Carlton had resigned from the Environmental Committee and she would like to nominate Marilyn Brown, of 660 Camellia Street, to replace Mr. Carlton. She said Ms. Brown was the wife of Charlie Brown who is deceased and was a member of the Environmental Committee. Ms. Brown is an avid gardener.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Old Aiken Master Plan

Councilman Smith stated he noted that the Comprehensive Plan update would not be on the Planning Commission agenda for the May 14 meeting. He said he had been very concerned about the Comprehensive Plan and getting it done. He pointed out that on March 28, 2001, the Planning Commission had said they would have an update for the Comprehensive Plan in 90 days. He said they were to have considered the southside and Whiskey Road area first. He said this was changed and other areas were pursued. He said this is May, 2002, and Council still does not have the Comprehensive Plan. He said he was concerned about how the Comprehensive Plan had been handled and the delay in getting it done. He said another concern was that he understood some of the same people that led the Comprehensive Plan would be involved in leading the Old Aiken Master Plan study. He said he understood that Mr. Ed Woltz, who chaired the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, would also co-chair the steering committee for the Old Aiken Master Plan.

Councilman Sprawls stated Mr. Woltz had declined the co-chair for the Old Aiken Master Plan and the Planning Commission would be choosing another co-chair.

Councilmembers Smith and Vaughters stated they had a problem with the Planning Commission choosing a chair for the Task Force. They said usually the committee chooses its chairman. Councilwoman Vaughters stated she had a problem with the Planning Commission choosing a chairman. She said she did not want responsibility without authority. She said as a Council person she is responsible to see that the Old Aiken Master Plan works the best way possible. She said she wanted to exercise some authority as a Councilmember for Council to take a leadership role. She said she did not want to leave it up to the Chairman of the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission.

Council discussed at some length the appointment of the Task Force for the Old Aiken Master Plan and how the members are to be appointed. They also discussed the delay in presenting an update for the Comprehensive Plan. Council expressed a real concern for the Comprehensive Plan especially for areas along Whiskey Road.

Council asked that the Task Force present their suggestions for the Comprehensive Plan for the southside to the Planning Commission and to Council at the same time so Council will have the benefit of seeing what is being recommended. It was pointed out it has been a long time and Council is anxious to get this completed. It was the consensus of Council that they would like to have the southside portion of the Comprehensive Plan reviewed by the Planning Commission at their June, 2002, meeting. Council suggested that the Task Force needs to make a decision on the plan so it can be submitted to the Planning Commission for their June, 2002 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

City Manager

Contract

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter with the City Manager.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilwoman Vaughters and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session to discuss a contract for the City Manager.

Council went into executive session at 10:15 P.M. After discussion of the matter Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved that the executive session end. The matter will be placed on the next Council agenda for Council's consideration. The executive session ended at 10:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk

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