

Aiken City Council Minutes

February 5, 2005

Aiken's Horizons

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

Absent: Councilmember Price

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Bill Huggins, Gary Smith, Ed Evans, Anita Lilly, Pete Frommer, Larry Morris, Glenn Parker, Kenneth Cook, Sara Ridout, Steve Hale, and Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard.

The Aiken City Council met at Rye Patch at 100 Berrie Road for continuation of their annual Council retreat called Horizons 2005, beginning at 8 A.M. with breakfast.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Cavanaugh commended the staff for their work and efforts in serving the citizens each day. He also expressed concerned for the Savannah River Site and its future and a proposal regarding multiple contractors at the site. He expressed concern about Westinghouse or the Washington Group and how the plant may be organized in the future.

Mayor Cavanaugh reviewed a listing of proposed bills that will be considered by the legislature this year. He stated he felt Council should be more involved with the legislators and keep them informed on how they feel on matters before them. He said the MASC is pushing a campaign to emphasize the importance of cities. It was suggested that staff set up a meeting for the Councils of the City of Aiken and North Augusta to meeting with the Delegation to discuss proposed bills coming up this year.

MUNICIPAL CUPChanging DirectionAsheton Oaks

Mr. Larry Morris, Public Works Director, made a presentation on a program called Changing Direction to be considered for submission for the Municipal Cup. The program involved learning to read and being able to supervise and make decisions.

Mr. Bill Huggins, Assistant City Manager, made a presentation on the development of the Asheton Oaks Subdivision and the many things involved in bringing this development about.

After voting Changing Direction was selected as the program to submit for the Municipal Cup.

CAPITAL PROJECT SALES TAXLOST ProjectsSales Tax

Mr. LeDuc stated that in November, 2004, the citizens of Aiken County approved the One Cents Capital Sales Tax. He said the City of Aiken should begin receiving approximately \$4 million per year starting sometime in 2006. The money can only be used to fund the projects that were listed on the referendum ballot.

He said there are six projects that will receive money on a yearly basis over the seven year period. These include \$250,000 yearly for street resurfacing, \$250,000 for the Northside Neighborhood Renewal Project, \$600,000 for stormwater, sanitary sewer, and water infrastructure improvements, \$100,000 for Whiskey Road streetscape improvements, \$125,000 for streetscape improvements, and \$200,000 per year to place electrical lines underground in the downtown area. This amounts to \$1,425,000 per year

through 2012 for these projects. Mr. LeDuc stated Council may want to move some projects up and use interfund loans until money is received from the sales tax.

Council then reviewed the projects listed for each year. After discussing traffic along Dougherty Road, it was felt the Dougherty Road Corridor Study should be moved up to 2006-07. It was also felt that possibly the streetscaping, landscaping, fencing and roadway improvements for the Pinelawn Cemetery could be moved up to 2006-07. This is a project for the good of the Northside community. It was felt that staff should start seeking funds from Aiken County and the State for help with the Hitchcock Woods drainage project.

Council then discussed the garbage problems in the downtown area and the possible use of roll carts as there is no room for dumpsters or compactors in the downtown area.

It was felt the band shell over the stage at Hopelands Gardens should be moved up to 2006-07. It was also felt that the Northside roadway study could be moved up a few years.

GOALS

Mr. LeDuc stated each year at Horizons Council reviews the programs and operations of the city and sets goals as to what they would like to see accomplished next year. He asked that Council review last year's goals and set goals for budget year 2005-06. The goals proposed will be presented to Council for formal adoption.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk