

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2019

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

Absent: Councilmember Gregory

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Kim Abney, Jessica Campbell, Tim Coakley Charles Barranco, Ryan Bland, Sara Ridout, Angela Hales, Kymberley Wheat, Joy Lester, Mike Przybylowicz, Gary Meadows, Tracy Lott, Colin Demarest, of the Aiken Standard, and about 35 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the regular meeting of February 11, 2019, to order at 7:02 P.M. Mayor Osbon led in prayer. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Boy Scouts from Troop 146.

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 Item 1 under Presentations: a Presentation from the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs 2018 Silver Palmetto Award needs to be removed from the agenda. She asked if any Councilmembers had any other additions or deletions to the agenda. Councilwoman Diggs moved that the agenda be approved with the deletion noted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Woltz and unanimously approved.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of January 28, 2019, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that the minutes for the meetings of January 28, 2019, be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
2018 Silver Palmetto Award

Mayor Osbon stated the item had been removed from the agenda.

SEWER PROJECT

Downtown

Arcadis

Sand River Basin Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Grouting Project

Mayor Osbon stated the next item on the agenda is an update on the downtown sewer project.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Jim Shelton from Arcadis was present to update City Council on the status of the Sand River Sewer (Downtown) Project regarding the Sand River Basin Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Grouting Project. This project involves 45 miles of sanitary sewer work in the downtown area.

Mr. Shelton stated he would review the progress to date, benefits, upcoming work, and projection for finishing the project. He said there are almost 300 miles of sewers in the system. This project covers 44 miles of the most highly prioritized pipe primarily in the downtown area. It is the oldest pipe in the system. It is mostly vitrified clay pipe. Presently they are 67% of the way through the 44 miles of pipe which are scheduled to investigate. They are about two-thirds of the way done. In terms of doing the rehabilitation work they are about 60% through the grouting process.

Mr. Shelton then noted some of the things which they have found in working on this project. There are about 1,000 manholes in the project. They had difficulty in finding about 207 of the manholes. To date they have located 192 manholes. However, they have found most of the manholes now. A lot were buried and could not be found. They had to be dug up. When they opened the manholes to get into the sewer, they found that a lot of the diameters and a lot of the materials in the records were wrong. A lot of the pipe listed as 8 inches is actually undersized 6 inch pipes. A lot of the pipes were shown as one material in the records, but were actually another material. He pointed out an interesting thing is that when you build a sanitary sewer there is usually a manhole at either end. Many of the sewers in the oldest part of town don't have manholes on the upstream side which make them impossible to maintain. They are very difficult to get in and clean and impossible to rehabilitate. He pointed out that is an issue. The homes that are connected that come out to the mains in the street are connected by a lateral which is a 4 inch or 6 inch pipe. Those usually have cleanouts that a plumber can use to remove clogs or that can be used for rehabilitation or inspection. He noted that many of the houses in town do not have those cleanouts, so they are very hard to maintain, inspect and rehabilitate. All the findings they are collecting will go into an updated GIS system which will update those 44 miles to an accurate reflection for what is actually in the system.

Mr. Shelton stated the bulk of what they are doing is a grouting technology. He then reviewed for Council what the failure rates have been on each of the mainline joints. He pointed out that very few of them actually hold water. The majority of them are leaking. He noted that about two-thirds on average of the joints fail to hold water or an air test. He said that is about what they expected when they put the job together. He pointed out that it is taking much more grout to get the joints to seal than expected. He said the amount is about twice the normal rate. He pointed out that the technology that they are applying to the pipe is yielding a tremendous amount of benefit to how much longer they will last and how much better they will perform over the coming years. He showed an image of what the sewer lines look like inside. He pointed out what they had found was that almost one-half to two-thirds of the joints are not only not holding air, but when they were installed they were broken as they were put in. He said they have a new technique they have developed called low pressure grouting. He said this is the first place it has been done, and they have been very pleased as to how successful that has been. He said the job to date has saved the city about \$2 million by applying that technique to the broken pipes versus the next least expensive approach to fixing them.

Mr. Shelton stated they are also addressing all of the tap connections which are the lines that go to the houses. He said 95% of the lateral connections from the houses are leaking. That is about twice the rate they had expected. He said they have been able to seal them with grout, but it is twice the leakage rate. On the 6 inch lines almost none of those laterals could be addressed with the techniques. The pipes are too small and too poorly laid to be able to use the technique. It is also important to note that they are only doing the first 6 ½ feet of the lateral. He said they still have all of the remaining lateral that goes back to the house, and much of that is under private right of way which has not been addressed under this phase of work. It will need to be addressed.

Mr. Shelton stated they are finding that the manholes are structurally sound in almost all cases. He said they are not seeing any bad collapses. However, they are finding two things which impact the amount of flow that comes through the pipe. Almost all of the manhole covers are below grade. They have not been raised, but the streets have been paved. The manholes are acting as storm inlets. In addition many of the sanitary covers which are supposed to carry the sewerage from the house have covers with holes in the top, in some cases up to 24 holes. They are basically storm covers. He said the sanitary

sewers are being used as stormwater sewers in order to carry the flow through. He felt this should be addressed if we are to make any significant reduction in the amount of flow that the city sends down through the interceptor and on to the County treatment plan. Some manholes do not have bottoms, and those will need to be rebuilt. There are about 20 to 30 of those in the project. There are some, especially off of Grace, that are strongly impacted by the sewer gases, which are corrosive. It was noted that putting the right manhole cover on would involve changing the collar as well. He noted that they all have to be raised. He pointed out when the streets are paved, a riser ring has to be put in or otherwise the stormwater is going into the sanitary sewer. He said this is a construction characteristic which can be fixed.

Mr. Shelton then reviewed the findings. There are 30 excavated point repairs before rehab can be done. So far 19 of them have been completed with half being done in-house and half by Arcadis. He said there are 5.8 miles of sewer lines that cannot be fixed with the grouting technology. 1.6 miles of those are broken, but fixable with the next technology. He said currently there is almost 4.5 miles of pipe which is so badly broken or are so small that the only way to fix them is pipe bursting, and they are digging them up. He said they are in the process of developing a technique for those 6 inch pipes which they hope will greatly reduce the scope of work.

Mr. Shelton stated because of all the defects they are finding, which is basically twice the failure rate of what they expected, the work is taking longer than anticipated. Presently they are expecting the work to go to around Thanksgiving, 2019. The good news is that they are under budget. There will probably be enough money in the budget to do an additional 3 or 4 miles of pipe. He said that decision will be made before the next quarterly report to Council. In terms of the field observations, there are many pipes that were not included in this prioritized section which flow into the pipes which they have been working on. In looking down the pipes, he said it is clear that those pipes are in just as bad a condition as the pipes included in the contract. He said although the prioritized pipes are in the first phase of the work, there are still a lot of pipes in bad shape.

Councilwoman Price noted that in listening to Mr. Shelton, she wondered what if the City had not done anything and had not contracted for this project. She asked if Arcadis had finished with the Sand River Basin which is the oldest sewer. Mr. Shelton pointed out that they had not finished that. He pointed out that 44 miles is about half of what is in the old sewer inventory in Sand River. He noted there are three basins with Sand River being the biggest and oldest. There is still another 40+ miles in Sand River and another 50 miles outside of Sand River. He pointed out that the newer the pipe, the better condition. He pointed out that a lot of the pipe they are fixing is nearly 100 years old. He said they are getting much of the worst, but not all of the worst.

Councilwoman Price asked Mr. Shelton to share more information regarding the footnote about the tremendous reduction in root penetration and likelihood of backup, sinkhole potential, and leakage reduction and what should be done in terms of penetration of roots. Mr. Shelton noted that when driving down a road and you see a sinkhole, that is almost always related to either storm sewer or sanitary sewer. Leaking water pipes next to that exacerbate this. Sealing the pipes shut with the grouting work and the lining work they are doing will prevent that from happening. The sink holes that have developed in these areas will drop off. In addition to that there are a lot of trees in Aiken. Those trees love to go to the sewers because they are wet and have a high nutrient content. He said they put a chemical in the grout which is a root retardant. In the areas where the tree roots are very bad, they use a chemical which is an herbicide that kills the roots out of the sewer but does not harm the trees. He said the grouting and the chemicals they are using will go a long way toward reducing the amount of damage caused by the roots and reduce the number of backups caused by the roots. The same techniques are being used in the laterals and will help reduce the issues to the homeowner as well.

Councilwoman Price asked what will be next when this job is completed. Mr. Shelton stated in looking at the pipes and how bad they are, he felt there will be at least one or two more phases of work. He felt there is probably another 50 miles of highly at risk sewer work that needs to be done before the city is in a stable situation with regards to the

very old sewers. He pointed out that sewer lines are meant to last for 40 to 60 years and most of the sewer lines are pushing 100 years.

Councilman Dewar asked what the homeowner could do when the pipe between the sewer and the house is bad. He wondered if the homeowners could use the chemicals that Arcadis is using. Mr. Shelton stated the chemicals are not available to the homeowners. He stated probably a plumber could apply the chemicals to the private side of the sewer lines to eliminate the roots. Installing cleanouts would also help. Mr. Shelton pointed out that there are two projects going on. Another firm is in the process of building a hydraulic model for the sewer system. Mr. Shelton noted that his firm is opening the manholes and doing inspections. They use robotic cameras in all of the sewer lines within the 44 miles of the project.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

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

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Council has 32 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. No nominations for appointments were made at the last Council meeting. However, a list of boards, commissions, and committees needing appointments by City Council was provided for Council's information. Council may have some nominations for appointments to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

Staff would request that Council consider the appointment for the Election Commission that expires in August, 2019, since there will be an election this year. Ms. Rebecca Vigne' was appointed to this position in August, 2016, filling an unexpired term. Ms. Vigne' has completed the election training courses and has expressed a willingness to continue to serve on the Election Commission. Election Commission members are appointed by Council at large and terms are for six years.

Mayor Osbon stated he would suggest that Council consider the reappointment of Ms. Vigne' to the Election Commission. Mayor Osbon stated the appointment of Ms. Vigne' to the Election Commission would be on the next Council agenda.

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any other appointments for consideration at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Diggs nominated John Brecht for reappointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals and nominated Bill Goodson for reappointment to the Senior Commission.

Councilman Girardeau nominated Chan Carman for appointment to the Equine Committee.

ZONING – ORDINANCE 02112019

901 Hayne Avenue
Harold B. Pridgen
Lynn McKeown Pridgen
TPN 105-07-07-002

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to rezone 901 Hayne Avenue from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 901 HAYNE AVENUE, SW FROM LIMITED PROFESSIONAL (LP) TO RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-15).

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to rezone property at 901 Hayne Avenue SW from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15) owned by Harold Pridgen and Lynn McKeown Pridgen.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Harold B. Pridgen and Lynn McKeown Pridgen, owners of 901 Hayne Avenue SW, have requested that their property be rezoned from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15) in order to ensure future residential use.

The structure on the property was built in the 1900's and is considered a Contributing Structure to the surrounding Historic District. The Comprehensive Plan shows the future land use to be primarily residential in character. The surrounding zoning and land uses to the north and east are zoned Limited Professional (LP), and to the south and west zoned Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

The Planning Commission at their January 15, 2019, meeting voted 5-0 (Commissioner DeBruhl absent and one open seat) to recommend approval of the request to rezone 901 Hayne Avenue SW to Residential Single-Family (RS-15) without conditions.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 28, 2019, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to rezone 901 Hayne Avenue SW from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to rezone property at 901 Hayne Avenue SW owned by Harold B. Pridgen and Lynn McKeown Pridgen from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15) in order to ensure future residential use. The motion was unanimously approved.

TOWING FRANCHISE – ORDINANCE

Rotation List

South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Wrecker Rotation Fee Schedule

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to amend the involuntary towing franchise ordinance fee schedule.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 46-264(11) OF THE AIKEN CITY CODE REGARDING CHARGES AND STORAGE FEES FOR INVOLUNTARY TOWING WITHIN THE CITY OF AIKEN.

Councilman Woltz moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to amend the involuntary towing franchise ordinance fees.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated in September, 2013 City Council approved the current Involuntary Towing franchise agreement. It is time to review the fees. Public Safety staff and representatives of the rotation wrecker companies met in October, 2018, to discuss the Involuntary Towing fees.

The wrecker companies unanimously agreed with adoption of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety yearly Wrecker Rotation Fee Schedule. Adoption of the SCDPS schedule would allow for annual rate adjustments, a single rate and simplicity of the rates. The Aiken County Sheriff's Department uses the South Carolina Highway Patrol's Wrecker Rotation Fee Schedule.

The reason for rate adjustments is the increased cost to wrecker companies for insurance and certifications.

A memo from Public Safety Director Charles Barranco shows a comparison of our current rates and the rates of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Included in the information are lists for Class A, B and C Rotation Lists.

For City Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to adopt the South Carolina Department of Public Safety Rate schedule for Involuntary Towing within the City of Aiken.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilman Woltz, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to amend the involuntary towing franchise ordinance fees. The motion was approved unanimously.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE

Small Alley Project

Aiken Downtown Development Association

The Alley

Park Avenue

Tailgate Taverns

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading for a budget adjustment for the “Small Alley” Project.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment for the “Small Alley” Project.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated at the last Council meeting Haley Knight, the Aiken Downtown Development Association (ADDA) Director, gave a status report of the ADDA. She pointed out that the Aiken Downtown Development Association (ADDA) would like to see improvements made to the “small alley” between The Alley and Park Avenue next to Tailgate Tavern. The plan is estimated to cost up to \$25,000 and other improvements are being made in the downtown parkways. These costs were not included in the annual budget for the fiscal year 2018-19, so a budget adjustment is necessary and has been prepared for Council consideration. The funds are available since the historic railroad cut storm water project came in under budget, so we have additional funds available in the Hospitality Tax. It is proposed to increase the Park and ROW Improvements account (014-1801-418-75-06) and decrease the Stormwater expense account (014-3170-467-75-05) in the Hospitality Tax Fund to pay for these improvements.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to adjust the 2018-19 budget for the “small alley” project and other parkway improvements.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Woltz asked about the cost for the Small Alley project and if the project would be on private property and who would maintain the alley. Mr. Bedenbaugh noted that the Small Alley project would be about \$15,000 and improvements to the downtown parkways would be about \$10,000. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated permission would have to be obtained from the property owners of the property to make the small alley improvements. That would be similar to what we did when we got permission to close The Alley. The City owns a portion of the alley from The Alley to about where the Nandina building starts. There are two other property owners. Verbal permission has been obtained from

those property owners to do this work. We are working to get the permission in writing. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the small alley would be maintained by the City.

Councilwoman Price noted that the proposed improvements would be a tremendous improvement in the appearance of the alley, and she was happy about the project.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment for the "Small Alley" Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE

Aiken Senior Youth Center

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading for a budget adjustment for the Aiken Senior Youth Center Construction.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment for the Aiken Senior Youth Center Construction.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated in February, 2018, Council approved using \$325,000 in Hospitality Tax funds to complete the Aiken Senior Youth Center. This cost was not included in the annual budget for the fiscal year 2018-19, and since the funds are now needed to complete the project, a budget adjustment is necessary and has been prepared for Council consideration. The funds will come from fund balance that has built up in the Hospitality Tax fund, so we will increase the Transfer In revenue (014-0000-391-30-20) and increase the Building expense account (014-5150-455-72-00) in the Hospitality Tax Fund to pay this portion of the building costs.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to adjust the budget for the construction of the Aiken Senior Youth Center.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment for the Aiken Senior Youth Center Construction. The motion was approved unanimously.

HITCHCOCK PARKWAY – RESOLUTION 02112019A

Municipal Highway Project

US 1

SC 118

SCDOT

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Mayor Osbon stated the next item was consideration of a Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for the improvements at US 1 and SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway).

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve a Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for the improvements at US 1 and SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway).

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the proposed resolution is one of two resolutions provided by the South Carolina Department of Transportation for approval by City Council as part of the Hitchcock Parkway improvement project, regarding several items as noted in the

resolutions. The first resolution is the intersection improvements which are part of the overall Hitchcock Parkway Project. He noted that this project goes back to 2012. First we got funding from the Infrastructure Bank and other sources to do a full blown improvement, adding additional lanes to Hitchcock Parkway. After much public input, in 2014 City Council asked the Infrastructure Bank to reduce the project scope. Presently we are looking at safety improvements, which include turn lanes at key intersections, addition of traffic signals, plus we are also putting in a multi-use path from Hickory Ridge Road towards Huntsman Drive that will cross Hitchcock Parkway at certain spots. In the first resolution we are looking at the component of the project which is at US Highway 1 and Hitchcock Parkway. Some turn lanes will be added and other improvements to the egress off SC 118 onto US 1. He said based on state law all of the agreements require that any utility conflicts would be addressed by the owner of the utility. He pointed out that as noted on the Silver Bluff Road project that can be an expensive item. He said staff had looked at the project and for the most part this project stays within the existing right of way. Regarding the component at US 1 and SC 118 there are two utility conflicts, however one is a sewer line which is about 18 feet below the surface of the road. It is not anticipated to be a conflict with the improvements. There is a water line that could be in conflict, but staff has said this would be a minor relocation. The resolutions require:

1. The City will waive any and all requirements with regards to construction in the City limits.
2. The City will relocate all City-owned utilities that may fall within the new right-of-way.

SCDOT requires the signed resolutions to begin the process for letting the project.

For Council consideration is a resolution approving a Municipal Highway Project Agreement for improvements at US 1 and SC 118.

Mr. Bedenbaugh noted that Adam Humphries of SCDOT is present to answer any questions about the agreements or the project. He also distributed a comment sheet that provides information about the project. He pointed out his comments were for the two resolutions on the project.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Dewar pointed out that this portion of the project is putting a traffic signal at Dibble Road which the city has wanted for some time. That will be a great addition. The multi-use path would go from Silver Bluff Road to Varden and would cross the street and go from Houndslake Drive to Huntsman Drive. It will be 10 feet wide. A traffic signal would be installed at Hickory Ridge. He said the reason we are doing this is that we ran out of money to do the multi-lane project. He noted that some people still feel we should have made Hitchcock Parkway a four lane road, but we did not have the money. He said he felt DOT had done a great job and that this is a very good project. Construction should start the second quarter in 2020.

Councilwoman Price asked the timeline for the project. Mr. Humphries, of SCDOT, stated they feel the second quarter of 2020 is when the project would be let. To work out the contracts takes a couple of months so towards the end of summer in 2020 construction should begin. He noted the project contains multiple intersections and Hitchcock Parkway is a long corridor. There are six intersections with the US 1 at SC 118 project, as well as resurfacing the entire corridor and shared use path so the project could take from 18 months to 2 years for construction.

Councilman Girardeau noted that all of these things need to be done, and he feels that more could have been done and should be done, and we are just putting it off until we have to do it.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilwoman Price, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve a Municipal State Highway Project

Agreement for the improvements at US 1 and SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway). The motion was approved unanimously.

HITCHCOCK PARKWAY – RESOLUTION 02112019B

Municipal Highway Project

SC 118

SCDOT

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Mayor Osbon stated the next item was consideration of a Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for corridor and intersection improvements along SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway).

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve a Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for corridor and intersection improvements along SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway).

SCDOT requires this signed resolution to begin the process for letting the project.

For Council consideration is a resolution approving a Municipal Highway Project Agreement for corridor and intersection improvements along SC 118 [Hitchcock Parkway].

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council. Mayor Osbon noted that comments from staff had been made when considering the previous resolution.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve a Municipal State Highway Project Agreement for corridor and intersection improvements along SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway). The motion was approved unanimously.

DEED – RESOLUTION 02112019C

Whiskey Road Traffic Congestion Relief Program

Aiken County

Pawnee Street

Dougherty Road

Mayor Osbon stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration accepting a deed from Aiken County.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED FROM AIKEN COUNTY.

Councilman Girardeau moved, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve a resolution authorizing acceptance of a deed from Aiken County for a paper roadway.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated this is a procedural cleanup. In October, 2018, Council approved a resolution for the potential construction of a road parallel to the Pawnee-Neilson and to Whiskey Road. All of the property in that road footprint is owned by the Michael D. Rubin Family, LP with the exception of the "paper road" that Aiken County owned.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated as part of our Whiskey Road Traffic Congestion Relief Program, Aiken County agreed in July, 2018; to deed us a "paper road", a portion of which could be used for construction of a connection from Pawnee Street, near the regional storm water detention pond, to Dougherty Road. It needed to be transferred to the City by a Quit Claim deed. That process was done. This is a cleanup to accept the "paper road" from Aiken County.

For City Council approval is a resolution authorizing the acceptance of a deed for a "paper road" from Aiken County off of Dougherty Road.

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 a resolution authorizing acceptance of a deed from Aiken County. The motion was unanimously approved.

BANNERS

Parks Recreation and Tourism

Hopelands Concert Series

Horses and Courses

Market in The Alley

Dixie Boys & Jr. Boys Baseball World Series

Citizens Park

Trunk-or-Treat

Mead Hall Parent Teacher Organization

Strawberry Festival

Banners

Mayor Osbon stated Council had received several requests from various organizations regarding placement of banners in the downtown area.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve the requests for banners in the downtown promoting various events with staff having the ability to determine where the banners will be placed since there are other requests for banners for other events.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated we have received requests from the following to place banners in the downtown area promoting various events:

A. **Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department.** A request has been received from the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department for permission to place banners in the downtown to promote their events in 2019. They are requesting banners be placed on the arches at both ends of the entrance to The Alley and on the traffic light poles at Richland and Laurens (both directions) or at South Boundary and Chesterfield Street (both directions). They are requesting permission for banners to be placed for the following events:

1. **45th Annual Hopelands Concert Series - Monday evenings - April, May and June.** They are requesting permission to hang banners on April 10 - May 1, 2019.
2. **Horses and Courses - Tuesday, April 9 from 5 - 8 p.m.** They are requesting permission to hang banners on March 10 - April 10, 2019.
3. **Market in The Alley - Thursdays in June.** They are requesting permission to hang banners on May 30 - June 28, 2019.
4. **Dixie Boys & Jr. Boys Baseball World Series - Citizens Park August 3 - 7, 2019.** They are requesting permission to hang banners on July 15 - August 8, 2019.
5. **Trunk-or-Treat - Saturday, October 26 - Citizens Park 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.** They are requesting permission to hang banners on October 14 - October 28, 2019.

B. **Mead Hall Parent Teacher Organization.** A request has been received from Dianne Goodson, of the Mead Hall School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), for permission to hang four banners in the downtown promoting Mead Hall's 36th annual Strawberry Festival on April 27, 2019. She is requesting permission to place four banners from April 12 - 27, 2019, with the preferred locations being at Whiskey Road and South Boundary, Park and Laurens, Richland and Laurens and York and Richland.

For City Council consideration is approval to hang banners for the events listed, with staff having the ability to determine where the banners will be placed since there are other requests for banners for other events.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar that Council approve the requests for banners in the downtown, with staff having the ability to determine where the banners will be placed since there are other requests for banners for other events. The motion was unanimously approved.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE

Funding Requests

Mayor Osbon stated Council needed to consider approval of recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Committee for funding requests from the 2019-20 cycle.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee for distribution of the Accommodations Tax funds for the 2019-20.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated on January 29 and 31, 2019 the Accommodations Tax Committee met to review requests amounting to \$404,834.90 for events to be held during Fiscal Year 2019-20. The Accommodations Tax Committee is recommending to City Council that funding in the amount of \$308,600 be allocated as recommended by the Accommodations Tax Committee. Staff has estimated that \$350,000 will be available for the funding requests. The Committee would like to have a second funding cycle to award the remaining funds for projects that did not apply in this round.

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT	Amount Requested	Committee Recommendation
Aiken Music Festival d/b/a Joye in Aiken	Joye in Aiken Festival and Outreach Program	\$27,500.00	\$22,300.00
Bulls Soccer Club	24th Annual Aiken Soccer Cup	\$20,000.00	\$11,000.00
Aiken Electric Cooperative	Touchstone Energy Run United	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Aiken Land Conservancy	Aiken Spring Classic Horse Show	\$15,377.40	\$12,200.00
Hitchcock Woods Foundation	Hitchcock Woods Marketing & Aiken Horse Show	\$7,847.50	\$6,800.00
Aiken Symphony Orchestra	Marketing Performances of the New Aiken Symphony Orchestra	\$17,500.00	\$17,000.00
USC Aiken Etheredge Center	*2019-2020 Cultural Series	\$10,565.00	\$10,000.00
Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce	Aiken's Makin'	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Aiken Performing Arts Group	Encouraging Cultural Tourism through the shows of APAG	\$18,645.00	\$13,000.00
Aiken Center for the Arts	Exhibition and Arts Center Marketing	\$13,465.00	\$8,500.00
Aiken Center for the Arts	Aiken Antique Show	\$17,395.00	\$13,000.00
Center for African American History, Art and Culture	*Celebration of Black Excellence	\$10,000 .00	\$7,500.00
Center for African American History, Art and Culture	Juneteenth	\$18,000.00	\$10,000.00

Aiken Downtown Development Association	Promotion of Downtown Aiken	\$39,100.00	\$27,800.00
Denizens of the Deep Base (US Submarine Vets)	The Aiken Trials	\$38,475.00	\$30,000.00
Aiken Polo Club	Aiken Polo Club Promotions	\$26,720.00	\$21,500.00
Brig. General Barnard E. Bee Camp 1575, SCV	The Battle of Aiken	\$39,500.00	\$31,000.00
City of Aiken PRT	Christmas Craft Show	\$4,000.00	\$2,500.00
Great Oak	Bluegrass Festival	\$29,015.00	\$23,300.00
Aiken Steeplechase Association	Aiken Fall Steeplechase	\$26,730.00	\$21,200.00
<i>*new applicant or project</i>		\$404,834.90	\$308,600.00

For City Council consideration is approval of the recommendations of the Accommodations Tax Committee for allocation of Accommodations Tax funds in the amount of \$308,600.

Mayor Osbon asked for any comments from the audience or City Council.

Councilwoman Diggs asked if there would be another opportunity for other organizations to apply for the Accommodations Tax funds. Mr. Bedenbaugh responded there would be another opportunity to apply for the remaining money that is available in this cycle.

Mr. Bedenbaugh noted that the Accommodations Tax Committee is appointed by City Council with persons from certain categories such as hoteliers and others involved in bringing heads on bed to the city. The funding is a reimbursement to the organizations. The organizations must spend the money and present their receipts to be reimbursed for marketing money on their event.

Ms. Campbell pointed out that the funding cycle will be reopened on February 18, 2019, through April 18, 2019. The request will be back before Council on May 13, 2019, to award the remaining \$31,000. The Accommodations Tax Committee hopes to have a work session in the future so those who apply will know the requirements to be in compliance to receive funding. Applications can be picked up from the Tourism Supervisor or be completed on the website.

Mayor Osbon asked for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Price, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve the recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Committee for funding requests for Accommodations Tax funds. The motion was unanimously approved.

ISSUES AND UPDATES

Mr. Bedenbaugh reminded Council that the City did get funding from the South Carolina Department of Transportation through the County Transportation Committee for \$328,921.07 for intersection improvements at Columbia Highway North (US 1) and Generations Park.

Mayor Osbon reminded everyone that the State of the City Address would be on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the AECOM Performing Arts Center on Newberry Street.

Mayor Osbon recognized and thanked the Boy Scouts from Troop 146 for being present at the meeting. He also recognized those present from Leadership Aiken County.

The official ribbon cutting of the J. Carrol Busbee Public Safety Headquarters Building will be Sunday, March 31, 2019, at 2 p.m. on Beaufort Street.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

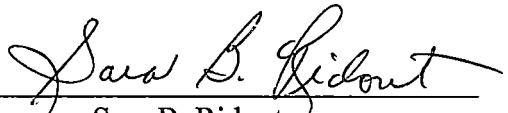
Mayor Osbon stated City Council needs to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss negotiations incident to a proposed contractual arrangement and proposed sale or purchase of property. Specifically, City Council will discuss a proposed contractual arrangement with the owners of real estate regarding the possible purchase and/or acquisition of land in the City of Aiken.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council go into executive session to discuss the matter as noted by Mayor Osbon. The motion was unanimously approved. Council went into executive session at 7:52 P.M.

After discussion, Councilman Girardeau moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council come out of executive session. Council came out of executive session at 9:29 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilwoman Diggs moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Girardeau and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout