

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETINGJune 9, 2003

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

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith, Bill Huggins, Ed Evans, Larry Morris, Anita Lilly, Pete Frommer, Glenn Parker, Sara Ridout, Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinas of the Augusta Chronicle and about 27 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:50 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. Mr. LeDuc stated the city had received a call from Mrs. Payne, who lives in Hidden Haven, concerning the item on the agenda for the sale of the lot in Hidden Haven. She stated the property for sale might not be owned by the City of Aiken. He said the attorney had been checking this out, but was not able to determine at this time how the city received the property. He pointed out the Hidden Haven Association had a lease on the property at one time, so when they gave the property to the City of Aiken, it might not have been owned by the Hidden Haven Association. He said since there is a question about ownership of the property he would request that the matter be continued until the matter is researched further and is cleared.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that James Matthews of the Edgewood community would like to bring a drainage concern to Council's attention.

Councilman Smith moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that the agenda be approved with two changes—continue the item concerning the sale of a lot in Hidden Haven and add Mr. James Matthews of the Edgewood Community under Petitions and Requests to speak on drainage problems.

MINUTES

The minutes of the work session and regular meeting of May 12, 2003 were considered for approval. Councilwoman Clyburn moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sprawls and unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSAppointmentsGibbs, JohannaRecreation Commission

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider an appointment to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. LeDuc stated Council has 7 pending appointments to boards and committees of the city and 1 appointment is presented for Council's consideration.

Councilman Sprawls has recommended an appointment to the newly created Recreation Commission. His recommendation is Johanna Gibbs, of 1021 Colleton Avenue, for a two year term with the term to expire in 2005.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council appoint Johanna Gibbs to the Recreation Commission for a two year term with the term to expire in 2005.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he had a nomination that he would like to present for Council's consideration at the next meeting. He said he would like to nominate Lisa Pelfrey, 4 Sandshifter Court, for a two year term on the Recreation Commission.

ZONING ORDINANCE – ORDINANCE 06092003

Public Hearings

Zoning Ordinance

Public Notice

Rezoning

Annexation

City Services

Posting Hearings

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on posting property for public hearings.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-61, AIKEN CITY CODE, AND SECTION 6.1.4, ET SEQ., AIKEN ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON MATTERS AFFECTING REAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY LIMITS OF AIKEN, OR TO BE ANNEXED INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF AIKEN, BY POSTING THIS PROPERTY WITH NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL.

Mr. LeDuc stated in February, 2003, City Council passed on first reading a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which requires posting public notice signs announcing second reading for every rezoning, annexation, and request for City service before City Council. The Planning Commission has now had a chance to review this and has recommended, unanimously, their approval. Our intent is when property is posted for the Planning Commission's public hearing, the sign will also give tentative dates for City Council's second reading and public hearing. This would give citizens who want to know more about the subject a minimum 20 day notice prior to the public hearing. The only problem that we may have concerning the posting would be when the applicant withdraws their petition, or when we are waiting for further information based on the Planning Commission meeting. In those cases, we will try to identify through the posting that the public hearing has been delayed or postponed. Should Council approve this ordinance, we will continue for the next year using this procedure, and if anything needs to be modified, we will bring it back to Council for further review.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding posting for public hearings by City Council for rezonings, annexations, and requests for city services, and that the ordinance become effective immediately.

HIDDEN HAVEN - ORDINANCE

Silver Bluff Road

Sale of Lot

City Property

TPN 134-01.0-01-106

Cole, Irene and Sylvia

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this matter was continued until the staff has time to research whether the City of Aiken owns the property proposed to be sold.

GARBAGE FEES- ORDINANCE 06092003ASolid Waste Fees
Fees

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing to increase the charges for garbage pickup.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS GARBAGE SERVICE.

Mr. LeDuc stated every year staff reviews the various service fees that the City charges to determine if we are recovering our full cost for those services. At this year's Horizons meeting we discussed various options for city collection of garbage, recycling and trash for our residential customers. The actual cost for this service is \$15.50 per month. Currently the city charges \$8.75. It was suggested at the meeting that Council may want to consider a curbside service for the collection of garbage with the rate to remain at \$8.75 per month, or increase the fees to continue backyard pickup. After discussion Council felt they wanted to continue the backyard garbage pickup service.

After analyzing our services and the cost, especially in comparison to other cities, it was recommended that we increase the fee this year by \$2.50 to \$11.25 per month. This rate compares favorably with Tyler's Sanitation, which provides service to those residents just outside the city and North Augusta, both of whom provide a curbside service, and charge \$15.50 per month and \$13.50 per month respectively. The City of Augusta charges \$16.25 per month for collection of garbage, recycling and trash services.

With this new fee we will begin a program of removing all trash on the assigned collection day, even if it consists of mixed piles. This will expand the service that we currently provide our residents and allow a quicker pickup of mixed piles, which have caused us a problem in the past in trying to get them separated.

The garbage fee will be reviewed again next year, especially since we are still not fully recovering all of our expense for this service. For this year's budget, though, we are recommending a \$2.50 increase for garbage to all city residents.

Mr. LeDuc stated he felt that with the increase the city residents would still have a tremendous bargain for garbage and trash pickup, with the fee several dollars lower than others in the area. He said staff is recommending continuing the backyard service. Also, the service would be increased on the collection of mixed piles so they will be picked up immediately. Some extra equipment is recommended to be able to accomplish this.

The public hearing was held.

Mr. Ernest H. Hickman, 207 Dunbarton Circle, stated he was speaking in favor of the fee because he wanted backyard garbage pickup to continue. He said the increase was only 57 cents per week. He pointed out that older people and incapacitated people cannot take their garbage to the curb. He pointed out there could be problems with people leaving containers at the curb with curbside pickup.

Mr. Ray Glinski, 164 Governors Lane, stated he was speaking in opposition to all the fee increases including the garbage, water, sewer and stormwater. He stated the service fees are really tax increases. He stated he was opposed to the fee increases as there are many people who are on fixed incomes who cannot afford the increases. He said if some of the projects had not been done there would be more money to take care of the garbage pickup.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that the recommended increase is \$2.50 per month. He pointed out the charges which other cities charge for garbage pickup and that those fees are for curbside pickup. He said the city has good service and picks up everything, but is still lower than other cities in the area.

Councilman Cuning stated the input he received from citizens was that they were willing to pay more to continue the backyard pickup, rather than keep the fee the same and go to curbside pickup.

Councilwoman Vaughters stated the city had spent money on major projects, and if that money had not been spent on major projects there would possibly be more money for services. She said it is always a dilemma as to whether there are projects which are worth doing that need to be done so we don't stand still, or that we achieve a goal or give a particular benefit to the citizens. She said that is always a question. She said she did not agree with all the projects, but she did agree with some. She said if the city spends money on a project, there has to be money for it. She said she felt it was fairer to bill the user of the service and to increase the fee a nominal amount to be able to provide maintenance of the systems, but also allow other amenities which make Aiken a very special place.

Ms. Winifred Curry, 29 Deerwood Drive, stated she was concerned about raising rates for people on fixed incomes. She said the proposed increase is a lot of money for people on fixed incomes. She also pointed out that she currently puts her garbage at curbside for pickup and questioned why she should pay the increase when she takes her garbage to the curb.

Council continued to discuss the proposed increase at length. Mr. LeDuc pointed out one of the big increases for the city in garbage pickup is that the city now has to travel to SRS to dispose of the garbage, whereas previously the landfill site was only about eight miles away. Also, the city has to pay an increased fee per ton to dispose of the waste.

Councilwoman Clyburn stated she did not support the increase on first reading and would not support it at this time. She expressed concern about the way garbage is picked up in some areas of the city versus other areas of the city and asked that staff check on this matter. She said she wanted to be sure that the same service is delivered in all areas of the city.

Councilman Cuning pointed out the increases mandated to the city and the increases that the city has received in disposing of the waste. He pointed out salaries had increased for the workers. He said he did not want to increase fees, but if the citizens want the service the fees have to be increased.

Councilwoman Price stated the garbage workers work very hard, but are probably the lowest paid employees of the city. She said she did not support the increase on first reading and would not support it tonight largely because of the phone calls which she received regarding people on fixed incomes not being able to afford an increase.

Councilman Smith pointed out that when Council first started talking about the garbage fees, Council was offered the possibility of curbside service and maintaining the fee at \$8.75. He said the vast majority of people in his district have curbside service presently and do not have backyard pickup. He said he wanted to keep the fee at \$8.75, however, other Councilmembers stated their constituents wanted to continue the backyard service. He pointed out to have and to continue the backyard pickup the fee has to be increased. He said Council can't be asking to continue the backyard service and not raise the price. He said there are members of Council who say the backyard service must continue but they are not willing to support the increase.

Councilman Cuning also pointed out that with the new fee the program will remove all trash on the assigned collection date even if it consists of mixed piles. He pointed out mixed piles are a problem in the city.

Councilwoman Vaughters stated she had had calls from people who stated they wanted to keep backyard service because it would be difficult for them to get the garbage to the curb, and they were willing to pay the increased fee. She pointed out there are some expensive projects in the proposed budget, and she was concerned about supporting them. She said that money could be used to pay for the increased cost for garbage pickup. She

particularly pointed out the \$600,000 for the Northside Project. She felt it was a good project, but it was going to take money for the project. She pointed out these projects are good because they make the quality of life better for people in the community. She said she did not want to increase the fees either, but felt if we were going to support other projects, fees would have to be increased in order to maintain the proper services for the citizens who are paying taxes.

Councilman Sprawls stated he did not like to vote for increases either, but he had not had anyone from his district to complain about the proposed increases. He said the people he had talked to were willing to pay for the service.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out he would like to review for information for Council some of expenses facing the city and the loss of revenue for the next year. He pointed out the next several ordinances are a part of consideration of the proposed budget. He stated the changes were needed to provide revenue for the proposed budget. He then reviewed the changes which impact the proposed budget. He pointed out the Pension Plan cost was increasing because the stock market had been down. Costs for fire and liability insurance were increasing. Historically the city has given a 4% pay increase, but this year the recommendation is a 3% increase, with the base salary being increased \$500 and then a 1% COLA and another 1% COLA in January, 2004. He pointed out two positions in the Utilities Fund were being eliminated in this budget. The Aiken County Public Service Authority, which treats the sewage, is increasing their fees 6%, the second increase of 6% in three years. Advanced Glass Fiber Yarn has had a 50% reduction in their water usage, which amounts to a loss of revenue for the Utilities Division of \$400,000 per year. one state impacts is reduction of telecommunications fees, which will result in a loss of revenue of \$450,000. The vehicle tax will be reduced over a period of years from 10.5% to 6.5%. Currently that is a loss of revenue to Aiken of \$250,000. He said these two fees amount to a loss of \$700,000, or a loss of about 7 mills of taxes. There is also a loss of revenue from state shared revenues. There are new stormwater regulations that EPA and DHEC have mandated. One is that all the streets be swept on a regular basis about once a month. We also have to hire someone to do monitoring of all the outfalls, test this and provide education for the citizens as to how we can have less pollution of the streams. Worker's Compensation for the inmates has been discontinued. Also, the Department of Corrections has increased their fee to \$10 per day for each inmate. He said, however, to hire 18 new people to replace the inmates would cost \$360,000 to \$400,000. He said this was general background in considering the budget. He said some of the increases don't seem like a lot, but they all add up. He said these increases in expenses and loss of revenue are the reason Council is considering what to do and has to decide whether we reduce city services or increase some of the fees.

Councilman Cuning pointed out the State revenues had decreased and the State had cut across the board. He said he didn't think the citizens of Aiken wanted to do that for the city. He said he was concerned that this was only a start in the loss of revenue.

Councilwoman Price stated her concern was that this is only the beginning. She was concerned about what is happening in the state government, and the state and federal government imposing mandates on local governments.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Vaughters, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to establish new charges for garbage fees, increasing the fee by \$2.50, to \$11.25 per month, with the fee to become effective on the July 1, 2003 bill. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed. Councilmembers Clyburn and Price opposed the motion.

FIRE FEES – ORDINANCE 06092003B

Fees

Outside City Fire Fees

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing to increase the outside city fire fees.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW CHARGES FOR FIRE SERVICE.

Mr. LeDuc stated this year our Public Safety and Finance Departments both reviewed our fire fees, and it has been over 10 years since we last increased those fees. Based on the Consumer Price Index, this cost in the last 10 years has risen by 27%. We feel that a 10% rate increase to all of our outside customers, both residential and business, would be a fair increase at this point in time. He pointed out the city charges individuals outside the city who receive city water service and others who are on a well system in the city's fire district a fee for fire service. Because of the city's fire rating class, those outside the city receive a tremendous decrease in their fire insurance premiums. The fire fee will be reviewed again next year, especially since it is still not fully recovering all of our expense for this service. He pointed out the city had built two more substations since the last fire service fee increase. He said it is proposed that, within the next 18 months, the city will be constructing another substation in the Whiskey Road-Brookhaven-Mall area. For this year's budget though we are recommending a 10% increase on all fire fees for properties located outside the city limits. He pointed out the base rate of \$10 for a \$20,000 value home would remain the same, but the fee would increase to 25 cents, from 20 cents per thousand dollars of appraised value exceeding \$20,000, with the total monthly charge not exceeding \$36.00. For those outside the city not on city water service the fee would increase from \$75 to \$100 per year.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to increase the fire service fees outside the city limits, with the ordinance to become effective with the bill received on July 1, 2003.

WATER AND SEWER RATES – ORDINANCE 06092003C

Water Rates

Sewer Rates

Fees

Rates

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing to increase water and sewer charges.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NEW CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE.

Mr. LeDuc stated for the past several years we have experienced a major drought in the Aiken area. This has resulted in larger than normal revenues for our utility system. Even with these increased revenues, we have seen our reserves reduced every year. The revenues we have received have not been able to keep up with the added expenses, due to increased costs for salaries, chemicals, electricity and other items needed in our utility system. We have added three new wells in the last four years. Our reserves have also been reduced over the last three years by over three million dollars due to the large number of capital improvements needed to keep up with the demand of the growing population and to provide maintenance for our older water and sewer lines. The reserves have been reduced from a high of \$8 million down to a little under \$4.5 million. Thus, even with increased revenues during this drought period, we have not been able to maintain an adequate reserve balance in this year's budget and have eliminated most of our capital projects. He pointed out, with the growth projected for the next five years, the city will need approximately \$5 million in new water and sewer projects for expansion. He said the reason the reserves are down is that the city has had to use them for capital projects. He reviewed proposed future water and sewer line construction costs for projects which will have to be done over the next 10 years. These costs for sewer and water total about \$4 million each. These projects are for replacement, rehabilitation or maintenance on our existing systems and do not include expansion.

In addition, our highest water user, Advance Glassfiber (Owens Corning) has decreased their consumption since 1997 by 50%, which resulted in loss revenue of over \$400,000 per year. We recently also received our second 6% rate increase in the last three years from the Public Service Authority, which provides Aiken County sewer service. This is equivalent to a 2% increase in overall rates for the City of Aiken, or an increased expenditure of approximately \$150,000. Last year we raised our rates by 2% and added a water impact fee, which resulted in approximately a 6% overall increase in revenue. We are anticipating a wetter than normal year and therefore feel our revenues will be down in relationship to previous years. Prior to this year's increase, the water had last been adjusted on September 8, 1997, and previously the city had ten increases during a thirteen year period. He reviewed the past increases, pointing out the percentage of increase for those years. He pointed out that, even with the rate increase going up to \$11.65 for 800 cubic feet, the City of Aiken will still be 33% below the state average for water. He said he is recommending a 7% increase in water rates.

Also, the sewer rates were last increased in December, 1996 with five increases over the previous twelve years. Therefore, even though we had a slight increase last year, the City needs to bring the revenues in line with our expenses, and we are requesting a 7% rate increase this year, which would make the sewer rate \$19.57 for 800 cubic feet. Even with the 7% rate increase, the City's combined water and sewer rate of \$31.22 for an average user will be 33% less than the average 2002 rate throughout the state of \$41.57. The new rates will still be lower than any other municipality in the local Aiken area, including towns like North Augusta, Saluda, McCormick, Edgefield and New Ellenton.

With this budget, we are also proposing to upgrade our water meter system. We hope that this will bring our billing more in line with our water production, and hopefully with the new rate increase, we will not need another adjustment for several more years. The proposed rate increase would be effective July 1, 2003.

The public hearing was held.

Mr. Ray Glinski, 164 Governors Lane, spoke in opposition to the proposed increase in water and sewer fees. He pointed out the city sprinkler systems being used frequently and the streets being watered by the sprinkler systems. He felt the citizens should try to conserve on water usage so the city would not have increased costs. He also pointed out the impact on people on fixed incomes.

Mr. John Wade, 1180 Cornish Street NE, asked about the city's watering of the parks.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the city has put most of the parks, like Citizens Park, etc. on wells. He also pointed out the city had cut back on its watering by 25%.

Mr. Wade pointed out he is a plumber and he works with the city at least weekly with water and sewer problems for citizens. He pointed out he was concerned about the loss of employees in the Utilities Division. He also pointed out the proposed increase of 7% is not enough. He said he was concerned about the condition of the water, sewer and stormwater lines. He said the city needs to be doing some rehabilitation and maintenance of its present lines. He said the city does not have enough manpower or equipment to maintain the systems.

Mr. James Matthews, 533 Sumter Street, also expressed concern about the sprinkler systems and watering the streets. He felt the city needed to cut back on water usage. He said beautification was good, but we need to conserve at this time.

Councilman Smith stated his understanding is that with a 7% increase the city will place \$1.2 million in the Reserve Account. Mr. LeDuc stated that the budget was prepared for the placement of \$1.2 in the Reserve Account.

Councilman Cunning stated his concern was how much Reserve for replacement does the city need to maintain the present system? He pointed out the Reserves had gone down from about \$8 million to about \$4.5 million. He said a lot of the Reserves had gone to

increase the capacity to take care of water consumption during the drought periods. He said his question is does the city need to spend \$3.5 million over the next five years to increase capacity, or will the present capacity be sufficient? He said he has a problem with a 7% increase. He felt that it would be better to have a 4% or 5% increase to see if the Reserves will go up. If not, then the city would need to have another increase. He pointed out the city has impact fees now, so this should help. He said he was going to vote against a 7% increase, but he would support a 5% increase. He said his concern is how much does the city need in the Reserve Account.

Council discussed the matter at length as to what will be needed for growth and to maintain the system. It was pointed out it is difficult to know because they don't know what will happen in the future. However, it was noted that there are a lot of needs, especially for repairs and rehabilitation. It was also pointed out that sanitary sewer needs to be expanded to Virginia Acres, and Crosland Park sewers need to be rehabilitated.

Mr. LeDuc stated, based on a report from the consultants, the city will need \$5 million over the next five years for capital improvements. Also, the city needs to work hard on the rehabilitation of the sewer lines. He said the lines are old and need replacement. He said the staff is asking for 7%, because it is felt that is the number needed to carry on for the future. He said if Council only approves a 5% increase, then the amount for the Reserve would be cut back to about \$1 million. He said if that was not enough the staff would be back asking for another rate increase.

Councilman Smith stated the city now has impact fees which will bring in about \$400,000 per year. He said there was a proposal before Council last month, coupled with the traffic management ordinance, which would also include impact fees. He said he would much rather see new construction of water and sewer facilities for new development be paid for by impact fees so it does not fall as a burden on current residents. He said he felt Council needed to think more about impact fees.

Councilman Cunning pointed out though that there had to be a balance on impact fees or the building would not be inside the city and the city would not grow.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he understood Councilman Cuning's concerns, but he was concerned about the future needs and concerned about the maintenance needed in the systems. He said if Council approves a smaller increase and it isn't enough the staff can come back and ask for another increase though.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Sprawls, that the ordinance be passed on second and final reading to increase the water and sewer rates by 5% effective with the July 1, 2003, billing. The motion was unanimously approved.

STORMWATER FEES – ORDINANCE 06092003D

Fees

Rates

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing to increase the stormwater fees.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UTILITY FEES.

Mr. LeDuc stated the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Environment Control for South Carolina have instituted new rules and regulations for stormwater runoff which apply to the City of Aiken. They are mandating that, beginning this spring, all communities of our size will have an educational outreach program, along with the testing and monitoring of all major stormwater outlets. In addition they are requiring the City to sweep all of our streets at least once a month. These new regulations will require the City to hire a new Engineering Technician to set

up this program and to implement the monitoring and testing phase. He said if it were not for these regulations he would not be asking for a rate increase.

Also within the budget is a new street sweeper, which we anticipate to cost over \$110,000. The side benefit of the sweeper program is that City streets will now be swept on a consistent basis, which will avoid some complaints we received concerning dirty streets. These added requirements will cost the city around \$75,000 per year, and we will need to raise our stormwater fee 15% to meet these new regulations. This is an increase of \$.42 per average household and will increase our rates from \$2.80 per month to \$3.22 per month. This is in comparison to the current \$4 rate being charged in the City of North Augusta and is our first rate increase since its inception over 10 years ago.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn asked how often the streets would be swept. Mr. LeDuc responded that all the streets in the city will be swept at least once a month.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to establish a new charge for stormwater services increasing the rate by 15% from \$2.80 per month to \$3.22 per month effective with the July 1, 2003 billing.

MILLAGE RATE – ORDINANCE 06092003E

Budget
FY 2003-04
71 Mills

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance setting the millage rate for the City of Aiken for fiscal year 2003-04.

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, 2003, SET THE MILLAGE THEREFOR AT SEVENTY-ONE (71) MILLS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF.

Mr. LeDuc stated every year City Council adopts a budget for the following year and also a separate ordinance which establishes the millage rate to meet the budget needs. For City Council consideration, this is approval of an ordinance establishing the millage rate at 71 mills for the next fiscal year. With the adoption of this millage rate, you will have experienced 15 consecutive fiscal years without a millage rate increase. Over this 15 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, or over 40%. Although we have to pay careful attention to keep funding at an adequate level to continue the city services, we are happy that we have been able to control raising taxes for 15 years, and we contribute the success to Council's careful stewardship of these funds. He pointed out that Council tries to make each service that the city provides pay for itself. He stated the millage rate is for taxes on property and pays for a lot of things. He pointed out, however, it costs more for Public Safety than the city receives in taxes, so the city depends on other sources of revenue to provide services to the city.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to set the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2003-04 at 71 mills with the ordinance to become effective July 1, 2003.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE 06092003FFY 2003-04

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to adopt a budget for the City of Aiken for Fiscal Year 2003-04.

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, 2003, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2004, 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. We have prepared and are recommending a budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 for City Council's acceptance, meeting the goals which Council has established.

At the budget review session of May 5, 2003, 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 you adopted from Horizons sessions. Two major factors are affecting this year's budget: a \$450,000 reduction in telecommunications fee and \$250,000 loss in vehicle taxes. These two losses are equivalent to losing 7 mills in taxes, or eliminating over 20 Public Safety Officers. Within this budget are several major capital development projects which you have initiated over the past few years. These include the Tennis Center at Virginia Acres, continuation of the Public Safety Car Take Home Program, the rewiring and sprinkler improvements at the Guest Cottage, the streetscape program on Hayne and Park, the landscaping and enhancement improvements along Whiskey Road from Pine Log to Arby's, funding for several planning studies, a new parking lot and color garden in Hopelands, and funding to lengthen and strengthen the major runway at the airport. Within this budget we are recommending the addition of 2 Public Safety Officers, 2 Tennis Complex Facilitators, changing 2 part-time employees to full-time employees, and the reduction of 2 employees in 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.

We are recommending an increase for water and sewer rates, and this will be adjusted to reflect a 5% increase as approved by Council. This still leaves our rates less than the state average and lower than all the surrounding cities in our area. These increases are mainly due to a loss in revenue of \$400,000 from a local industry, and two rate adjustments of 6% from the Aiken County Public Service Authority over the past 3 years. These increases are reflected in a separate ordinance reflecting the new rates for our water and sewer utility system.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to approve a budget for the City of Aiken for fiscal year 2003-04.

ELECTION

4-2-1 Plan
City Council
Redistricting
Districts
Public Notice

Mr. LeDuc stated that in April Council adopted an ordinance concerning the voting districts for a 4-2-1 Plan. One of the requirements in submitting the information to the Department of Justice is that a Public Notice be read at the Council meeting. Also, the Public Notice has been posted on the local public access cable channel and placed on the City's web site. Mr. LeDuc read the public notice.

"The City of Aiken recently submitted Ordinance Number 05122003A, which adjusts the boundaries of the four single member districts from which members are elected to City Council to the U.S. Department of Justice for preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. A duplicate of that submission, including any magnetic media, is available for public inspection and copying at the City Manager's Office, Municipal Building, Room 101, 214 Park Avenue S.W., Aiken, SC 29801, between 8:10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Comments to the City Manager at the above address or to the Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, P. O. Box 66128, Washington, DC 20035-6128, are invited. Persons with a disability should call 803-642-7654 for assistance in reviewing the submission or making comments."

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

University of South Carolina – Aiken
USC-A
TPN 00-103.0-01-001
Aiken County Commission for Higher Education
University Parkway
South Carolina Highway 118
Pacer Downs Apartments
Dormitory
By-Pass
SC 118

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to annex 19.84 acres at USC-Aiken.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated he is a member of the USC-Aiken Commission for Higher Education, the owner of the proposed property for annexation. He said he was recusing himself from discussion on this matter and left the Council Room.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY TALLING 19.8452 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY THE AIKEN COUNTY COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND LOCATED OFF THE WEST SIDE OF UNIVERSITY PARKWAY AND EAST OF SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY 118, BEING A PART OF THE SITE OCCUPIED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN CAMPUS AND BEING KNOWN AS PART OF TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 00-103.0-01-001, AND TO ZONE IT RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY LOW DENSITY (RML).

Mr. LeDuc stated the Aiken County Commission for Higher Education is requesting annexation of 19.84 acres of land proposed for new dormitories on the University of South Carolina – Aiken campus. The proposed zoning for this property is residential multi-family low density (RML). This zoning is compatible with the adjacent zoning in the City to the east and north occupied by the Pacer Downs Apartments. They hope to start building these units later this year and to be opened in the fall of 2004. These units will probably be 4 stories high with about 130 units. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve this annexation.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that the ordinance to annex 19.84 acres as Residential Multi-Family Low Density (RML) on the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus be passed on first reading and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, returned to the Council Room at this point.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

Carter, Karen Goodale
TPN 30-057.0-03-023
Henry Street 783
Bannister, Robert D.
Henry Street 785
TPN 30-057.0-03-001
Skinner, Charman Figgins
TPN 30-057.0-03-002
Clifton Street 100
Gregory, Alan
TPN 30-057.0-03-003
Clifton Street 102
Judd, Charles and Edith
TPN 30-057.0-03-004
Clifton Street 104
Virginia Acres Subdivision
Pine Log Road East

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to annex property on Henry Street and Clifton 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 FIVE (5) LOTS TOTALING 1.07 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY SEVERAL PROPERTY OWNERS AND LOCATED IN THE VIRGINIA ACRES SUBDIVISION, AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE- FAMILY (RS-10).

Mr. LeDuc stated the City of Aiken has received an annexation petition for five properties at 783 and 785 Henry Street along with 100, 102, and 104 Clifton Street all to be zoned Residential Single-Family RS-10. The five owners of these properties in Virginia Acres are requesting annexation with four of them as part of the incentive program and the other requesting to be in the City to obtain sanitary sewer. The right-of-way along Henry Street and Clifton Street are part of this annexation request. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve this request.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex 5 properties on Henry Street and Clifton Street as Residential Single Family (RS-10) and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Amendment
Commercial Vehicles
Trucks
Residential Zones
Oversized Vehicles

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Zoning Ordinance concerning commercial vehicles.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING
OVERSIZE VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES.

Mr. LeDuc stated for almost two years now, City Council and the Planning Commission have been reviewing regulations concerning the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas. After several meetings with commercial business owners and residents, the Planning Commission has developed a set of proposed changes to our current regulations. These changes are noted throughout the proposed ordinance. Major changes include vehicles over 8 feet in height to be subject to locational and screening restrictions and the term oversized vehicles being replaced by commercial vehicles. The Planning Commission recommended on a 5-2 vote these changes and also recommended that the vehicle weight should remain at 10,000 pounds versus the 15,000 pounds and that the length remain at 20 feet versus the 25 feet recommended by the Planning Commission sub-committee. Mr. LeDuc stated the proposed ordinance is back to Council in basically the same form as the current ordinance with the only difference being that they be treated similar to a recreation vehicle with the vehicle behind the house or screened.

Mrs. Al Payne, of Crosland Park, stated there is no objection to a person bringing their truck home with them. They are just asking that the truck be parked on the side of the house not extending beyond the front roof line or in the back yard. She pointed out the way the driveways are in Crosland Park when big trucks park in the front yard or on the street people can't see when they back out of their driveway. She pointed out also there have been so many big trucks in Crosland Park that it has become unsightly for the Park.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance concerning oversized vehicles in residential areas and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 to 1 with Councilwoman Vaughters opposing the motion. She was concerned about the height of trucks.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Amendment

Planned Commercial

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Zoning Ordinance concerning planned commercial.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING THE
PLANNED COMMERCIAL ZONE.

Mr. LeDuc stated last fall, City Council adopted revisions to the Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan involving both the general goals and objectives for planning areas south of Pine Log Road. One of the most significant changes was regarding the Planned Commercial zone. City Council adopted language under objective 2.2 concerning planned commercial, which has now been incorporated in the language of the Zoning Ordinance. He said basically the proposed ordinance changes the 20% open space to 25% open space for those properties over five acres in size. The Planning Commission voted unanimously for the approval of these amendments regarding planned commercial development.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance concerning planned commercial development and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - ORDINANCEAmendment
Hampton Avenue

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Aiken Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plan.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF AIKEN COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

Mr. LeDuc stated earlier this year, City Council approved the Comprehensive Plan for the areas north of Pine Log Road. During discussion of this plan, they asked the Planning Commission to review the area for Hampton Avenue. They were concerned about how much commercial development should be located along this roadway between Laurens Street and Six Points. The Planning Commission agreed that the property fronting on Hampton Avenue should remain as low density residential, except for commercial at either end. The only exception is the three lots on the southside of Hampton Avenue between Laurens and Pendleton, which are currently shown as commercial. These lots are recommended to allow limited professional development.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to amend the Comprehensive Plan for areas along Hampton Avenue and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council.

BOND ISSUERefinance
1989
Water Bonds
Sewer Bonds

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to refinance 1989 bonds.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE MAKING PROVISION FOR THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A SERIES OF WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN TO BE DESIGNATED SERIES 2003 IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,900,000 AUTHORIZED BY A BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AIKEN ADOPTED JULY 11, 1990; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Mr. LeDuc stated recently he and Anita Lilly discussed the city's current water and sewer bonds to determine if any money could be saved by refinancing our current bonds. One of our major bonds was refinanced in the 1990's and because of this we cannot refinance it again. However, the 1989 bond thru the State Water Pollution Revolving Fund can be refinanced. The original issue was for \$5,431,598 at 4.5% interest with a maturity date of June, 2011. We are estimating that the interest rate for this bond could be as low as 2.5% to 2.7% for the remaining approximately \$2,875,700, for a savings of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year.

We have been working with our bond attorney Charlton deSaussure, Jr. with the firm of Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, P.A., who suggests the bond be placed with a local financial institution. This would require a letter being sent to the local banks requesting a sealed bid to determine if the desired savings can be achieved and if so to award the bond to the lowest bidder. If we find the bids do not produce a sufficient savings, the city can then reject all the bids and proceed in another fashion.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Cuning and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to refinance the city's 1989 Water and Sewer Bond and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council.

DROUGHT ORDINANCE - ORDINANCE

Amendment

Water

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Drought Ordinance.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 25-93 TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF AIKEN TO REGULATE EMERGENCY DROUGHT AND WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSES.

Mr. LeDuc stated last year the City reviewed and resubmitted to the state a Drought Ordinance for use during drought alerts set up through the State system. The old Drought Ordinance based the alert phase on various scientific indexes whereas the new ordinance relies on standards set by the City for drought declaration. As before this ordinance still relies on the Drought Response Committee to set the level of the drought.

The goal for a moderate drought alert would generate an overall 15% reduction in water use city-wide. Our responsibility would be to create a general proclamation to the local media and city customers about the condition of the city's system. In accordance with the new ordinance, a written notification will be required to be sent to the Drought Information Center. Newspaper information would urge all citizens to limit residential use to 75 gallons per person per day with a maximum of 300 gallons per household, to eliminate all washing of sidewalks, driveways, walkways, parking lots, tennis courts, and hard surface areas, the washing down of buildings, washing of gutters and domestic washing of cars, motor bikes, etc. This phase would also eliminate using water to maintain fountains, reflective ponds, and decorative water, except where needed to support aquatic life. Reduction of plant and lawn watering would also be encouraged.

Under the severe drought phase mandatory restrictions could be placed on all non-residential usage. The previous ordinance suggested voluntary restrictions. The overall goal for these restrictions would be to increase to 20% the overall reduction. The same notifications and responses are required for the severe drought as for the moderate drought.

Under the extreme drought notification mandatory restrictions are required with an overall water reduction goal of 25%. This is equivalent to a maximum of 225 gallons of water usage per household and the staggering of watering times and continuation of mandatory restrictions. Both the new and old ordinance address local water shortages due to equipment or distribution system problems and the ability to surcharge residents at \$25.00 per 100 cubic feet of water used if the City of Aiken's Utilities Division deems that adequate conservation measures have not been implemented by the water users. Under the new ordinance, any decisions made by the Public Works Director or City Manager may be reviewed by City Council for possible override. This ordinance is again mandated by the state of South Carolina, and we are complying with much of their language and procedures.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to amend the Drought Ordinance as mandated by the State of South Carolina and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regularly scheduled meeting of Council.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTAiken County Sheriff's OfficeResolutionSheriff's OfficeEmergencies

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a resolution had been prepared for Council's consideration to authorize a mutual aid agreement with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. LeDuc read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO ENTER INTO A
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AIKEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE

Mr. LeDuc stated over the years, the City of Aiken has entered into numerous mutual aid agreements with other municipalities and agencies throughout South Carolina. These agreements are primarily for mutual aid during emergency situations essential to the general health, safety, welfare, and economic stability of our City and the other agency. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office and the City of Aiken Public Safety Department would like to enter into an agreement which would allow either department to provide law enforcement services within their boundaries when mutually desirable and agreeable. This would allow our department to work more closely with the Sheriff's Office in areas outside the City limits, and for the Sheriff's Department, when needed, to work inside our City limits. When called upon by either department, the officers would be under the direction of the authorized law enforcement party for that jurisdiction. Both Aiken County Sheriff Mike Hunt and Public Safety Director Pete Frommer would like to have this agreement ratified.

Councilman Sprawls moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council pass the resolution authorizing the City of Aiken to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

UTILITY SERVICEAtlantic Coast PropertiesWater ServiceCity ServiceU.S. Highway 1 NNorthbrook DriveTPN 00-175.0-01-015TPN 00-175.0-01-124TPN 00-175.0-01-186

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a request had been received for water service for 132.4 acres off of Highway 1 approximately 2.5 miles north of the City limits.

Mr. LeDuc stated Atlantic Coast Properties is requesting water service for 132.4 acres off of Highway 1 approximately 2.5 miles north of the City limits. They intend to build approximately 134 residential stick built units on this property, or approximately 1 unit per acre. The Planning Commission approved this utility request unanimously with the following conditions:

- 1) execution of an annexation agreement;
- 2) approval of hydrant location by City Staff;
- 3) approval of the water design by the City Engineer;

- 4) that there be no manufactured housing permitted; or if manufactured housing is permitted, there be a statement on the final plat that "Any manufactured housing placed on this property must comply with the standards in the RSM District (residential single-family manufactured housing subdivision) found in the City of Aiken Zoning Ordinance";
- 5) that all signage complies with City regulations;
- 6) that the development complies with the City's Land Development Regulations except that a waiver of the 1000-foot length limit for a dead-end street be granted to allow Highgrove Court to be 1350 feet long;
- 7) that there be only one entrance road from U.S. 1; and
- 8) that proof of recording of the conditions of approval with the RMC Office be provided.

Although condition number 4 states that manufactured housing could be permitted, the applicant has stated that he does not intend on building manufactured housing, but will develop the site with stick built homes.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out there would be only one entrance from U.S. 1 for all 132 acres, which is limiting the number of curb cuts on U.S. 1.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if there should be a turn lane into the subdivision to be paid for by the developers. He pointed out there would be 134 homes and this would certainly increase traffic in this area. He felt this would be a safety measure for traffic along Highway 1.

Councilman Smith expressed concern about a 1350 long cul de sac. He wondered if that would be a problem for emergency services.

Mr. Lindsey Younts, Project Manager for Atlanta Coast Properties, stated he was working with the South Carolina Department of Transportation on the entrance design. He said the permit is now in the Columbia office, and there were questions regarding the entrance. He said the permit was originally approved without the right turn lane off of U.S. 1. Mr. Younts pointed out his agency could make the request, but the Highway Department uses a formula including sight distance, speed of travel, etc. to determine what should be required. He said adding a turn lane adds more road for them to maintain, and they look at all the issues. He said they could submit the request, but the Highway Department controls the matter.

Mr. LeDuc stated Council could make any conditions they wanted concerning any utility request. He said the city engineering staff usually does not get involved to determine right turn lanes or not. He said this is one reason a traffic ordinance has been recommended, so a traffic engineer would look at the entrance. He said, based on the number of houses, there would be about 1300 trips per day. He said there are two entrances for the subdivision. He said a right turn lane would not hurt.

Councilwoman Vaughters suggested that Number 4 regarding manufactured housing end with the word "permitted." Council agreed.

Mr. Younts stated the housing at the entrance to the subdivision would be on lots about 2/3 rds of an acre. The housing price range would be about \$160,000. The interior lots would be for a minimum of 1,800 square feet and at whatever cost the owner desires.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council approve the request for water service to 132.4 acres along Highway 1 North approximately 2.5 acres north of the city limits with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission with condition No. 4 stating that there be no manufactured housing permitted.

STREET NAMEAlleyNewberry Street NW 300Chesterfield Street N 300Newfield Lane

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to approve a name for the alley between the 300 block of Newberry Street and Chesterfield Street.

Mr. LeDuc stated Aiken County 911 states that an alley that is located through the 300 block between Newberry Street and Chesterfield Street is currently unnamed. The Planning Commission reviewed several names and suggested that the new alley be called Newfield Lane. They approved this proposed name unanimously at their May meeting.

Councilwoman Price stated she would like to see streets named after people. She pointed out the city has volunteers and there are others who would be honored to have a street named for them.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he was concerned about naming streets after people and felt this would be a controversial matter and questioned what criteria would be used for selecting a name. He suggested that the matter be discussed at another time.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council approve the name of Newfield Lane for the alley between the 300 block of Newberry Street and Chesterfield Street.

COMPLAINTSGlinski, RaySenior Tax Work Off Program

Mr. LeDuc stated that Mr. Ray Glinski, who lives at 164 Governors Lane, has requested time to discuss with City Council the Senior Citizen Tax Work-off Program.

Mr. Glinski said he had questioned the city's program since an article ran in the newspaper. He pointed out some seniors had already worked off their hours. He questioned the way the program is run. He also questioned why he did not get to do certain jobs. He questioned why and when the seniors are called. He said he had come in contact with many seniors who say they have never been called under the program. He also questioned why he got an SS8 form from the IRS. He wondered if he was the only one to get such a form.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out that the program has been in effect for three years. He pointed out that, in the first year, every applicant that applied has been used in the program. In the second year the city had 82 applicants and of those only 2 have not been used in the program. In the third year the city had 105 applications and 22 have finished their work, and several more are in the process of working off their taxes. Mr. LeDuc stated he felt this was a very good track record with 100% the first year, 98% the second year, and we are now in the third year. He pointed out Mr. Glinski had stated that these people need the work because of finances. He said probably the majority of the seniors are individuals in the program not because they need the money, but because they want something to do. He said the city tries to match up skills to give individuals meaningful employment and actually help the city.

DRAINAGEMatthews, JamesEdgewood Community

Mr. James Matthews, 533 Sumter Street NE, appeared before Council regarding drainage problems in the Edgewood community. He said the Edgewood community includes the area beginning at York Street at Hampton Avenue down to the 118 by-pass to Pacers Run up to the Winn Dixie on York Street and down York Street to Hampton Avenue. He said there was a drainage problem with water running off Smith-Hazel, crossing Hampton at

Saluda and Sumter. He said he had been dealing with the Public Works Department and other staff members for the last two years. He said the beautification project has started in the area and he was concerned that the drainage problem had not been taken care of before the beautification project takes place. He said there is a question as to whether it is a city or a state problem. He asked that the city help with this drainage problem. He pointed out that fire hydrants are covered with grass. He said he would like for the city to do something to help the northside have a beautiful place to live. Mr. Matthews stated he was concerned about the water in the ditch at Pacers Run and the safety problem, as well as how the area looks. He said he would like for the ditch to be piped.

Mr. Larry Morris, Public Works Director, stated he was aware of the problem and had been working on it. He reviewed the work that is proposed for the area. He stated the pipe has been ordered for the project. He pointed out, however, there is not a large enough pipe at the by-pass to take the water away and to get to the new system. He said currently the open ditch at Pacers Run forms a large detention pond. He said however he cannot solve the problem unless piping is put in to take care of the situation. He said he had talked with the Highway Department, but nothing had been done. It was pointed out that many of the streets in that area are in the state highway system.

Representative William Clyburn was present and stated he would get involved in the project and would communicate with the Highway Department regarding the work that needs to be done and work with the City Manager's Office on the matter.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out the city is committed to putting piping in the area. He also pointed out that Edgewood is the second phase of the housing redevelopment on the northside. He said presently the city is working along Hampton Avenue with the streetscape program. He said progress is not as fast as the citizens would like because of the process that has to be gone through. He said the city is committed and has some great plans for the area, but it will take time to get it done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

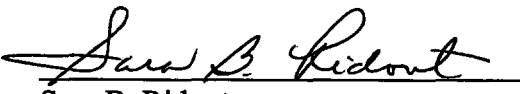
Contractual Agreement Aiken Preparatory School

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to go into executive session to discuss a contractual agreement.

Councilman Cuning moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session to discuss a contractual agreement. Council went into executive session at 11:45 P.M. After discussion Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved, that the executive session end. The executive session ended at 12:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk