

Aiken City Council Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

April 28, 2014

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Ebner, Homoki, Merry and Price.

Others Present: Richard Pearce, Gary Smith, Stuart Bedenbaugh, George Grinton, Kim Abney, Ed Evans, Charles Barranco, Glenn Parker, Tim Coakley, Alicia Davis, Emory Langston, Sara Ridout, Maayan Schechter of the Aiken Standard, Andrew O'Byrne of the Aiken Leader, TV Channels 6 and 12 and about 75 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Cavanaugh reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting. He asked that those who would like to speak raise their hand and be recognized and limit their comments to five minutes. He pointed out that citizens could only speak on the items on the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the work session of April 8, 2014, the regular meeting of April 14, 2014, and the work session of April 17, 2014, were considered for approval. Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar that the minutes of the April 8, 14 and 17, 2014, meetings of Council be approved with the following comments and additions to be included for action or inclusion in the April 28, 2014 approval minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

The comments were as follows:

- “1. Refer to page 20-the FOIA request memo was not included in the minutes as requested. Add copy of FOIA to the April 28, 2014 minutes.
2. Refer page 26-need copy of business cards.
3. Refer to pages 33 to 37. At the E&U budget review/storm update work session, request was made to the city manager to invite council members to the city FEMA kick off meeting. City Council was not invited.

Mr. Pearce stated there was no discussion of POA's at the kick off meeting. Attached is a letter from the WPPOA requesting a meeting with Derrec Becker, SCEMMD, Lea Crager, FEMA, Kati Norris and Nick Thorpe, SCDOT, to clarify confusion and misunderstandings regarding the WPPOA request for reimbursement. The meeting to be held in Woodside and all residents will be invited. Schedule the meeting prior to the May 12, 2014 City Council meeting due to the fact city council action may be required on this matter.

Mr. Pearce stated the “WPPOA is not seeking any reimbursement for City work.” The WPPOA did not make this statement. If the city is reimbursed from FEMA/SCDOT for any storm debris pickup on city streets in Woodside, the WPPOA must be reimbursed in the same percentages for the work contracted to remove debris from city streets that the city would have removed. The debris is required to be removed and some entity has to be paid to do the work. If FEMA does not reimburse the WPPOA for debris removal on city streets, then the WPPOA will claim reimbursement from the city for the debris removed from city streets by the WPPOA pursuant to City Ordinance and the fee that all residents pay (\$14.00 per month) for residential garbage, recycle and yard trash.

The WPPOA has not requested the city to remove common area debris.

4. Refer to pay 72, bottom of page-need amount of sewage back-up claims since purchase of jet trucks.
5. Page 88, bottom of page-the \$1.5 million to pay off the Crosland Park loan is required to be paid by a city ordinance.
6. Page 90, bottom of page-by city ordinance, city council decides which projects are canceled and which are reduced. City manager to schedule meeting as requested to review CPST II and III cost.”

The FOIA email request is attached as Exhibit A, and the letter from the Woodside Property Owners Association dated April 28, 2014, is attached as Exhibit B.

Mr. Pearce said in response to copies of the business cards from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division with their contact information, he had provided those copies to Council at this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

USCAiken Men's Basketball Team Proclamation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that Council would like to recognize the USCAiken Men's Basketball Team for their accomplishments this year.

Mr. Pearce stated the USCAiken Men's Basketball Team recently won the Southeast Regional Title which put them in the Final Four of the NCAA Division II National Basketball Tournament for the first time in the University's 50 year history. Not only did the team make history, but they set a school record of 34 wins this year. Head Coach Vince Alexander is to be recognized for being selected the Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year and the Southeast Region Coach of the Year.

Mr. Pearce stated the Athletic Director Randy Warrick from USCAiken is present to introduce everyone. He said another special guest is also present, the Chancellor of USCAiken, Sandra Jordan.

Mayor Cavanaugh read the proclamation prepared to recognize the basketball team and Coach Vince Alexander.

Coach Vince Alexander stated first and foremost he would like to thank the community of Aiken because it is the best city to play in the Division II Basketball. We have been blessed to be the most winning team in South Carolina, and they are very happy to have accomplished that. He said they have plans to continue to provide great basketball for the community of Aiken. He thanked the community for their support and asked that they continue to come out and support the tremendous group of guys. He then introduced the assistant coaches and the basketball team members.

Chancellor Jordan said on behalf of the University and the team she wanted to thank City Council for making this happen. She said they appreciate the proclamation. She said she wanted to mention something that has happened to her for the first time in her 30 plus years in higher education. She said it was told to her as a secret, but she has not kept it a secret. She said she had some NCAA officials who came to her and said they would like to talk to her in her office. She made time for them and they came. She said they wanted to tell her in person how much respect they had for these young team members and the coaching team. They said these were their favorites. They are respectful of the referees, their team leaders in the team, they respect each other, they support each other and that is what basketball is supposed to be about—building character and building new leaders. She said they wanted to tell her they were rooting for the team and hope they go to the All Conference because they wanted to travel with them. She said that is a great compliment to these young men who are leaders, who are scholars, and who are great

athletics on the court. She said she wanted to mention one thing about the coach. She said USCA has a terrific coaching staff. She pointed out that Coach Alexander had won Coach of the Year four times, including the last three years running. She said the day after they got back in town from the elite 8 and the final four, she called the Athletic Director and said she needed to talk to the Coach. The Athletic Director said the last time he saw him he was making sure the young men were in their classes. She said that is the right spirit--the combination of understanding that the young men are here to go to college and complete a degree, while they also perform so beautifully as athletes. She said the school could not be prouder of all them. She asked the Coach where are you going to be next year. He responded USCAiken.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she would like to introduce someone who is relatively new to Aiken and his first time at a City Council meeting. She pointed out he is part of the Leadership Aiken. She said he is one of her ministers, Craig Middleton, from Aiken Church of Christ.

Lupus Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that Council has another proclamation. This one is declaring Lupus Awareness Month. He said that Jade Nealious, founder of Crowning Lupus LLC is present to accept the proclamation and to speak about Lupus, a disease that plagues many individuals in South Carolina.

Mayor Cavanaugh read the proclamation and presented it to Ms. Nealious.

Ms. Nealious thanked Mayor Cavanaugh and City Councilmembers not only for recognizing May as Lupus Month and not only for her being a survivor for ten years, but for so many other survivors out there. She said Lupus is a silent epidemic and there are so many individuals who are diagnosed and misdiagnosed and now with the proclamation we can all raise our heads high and continue. She said a statement that she likes to say is "Run Lupus, don't let it run you." She presented Mayor Cavanaugh with a T-shirt to wear at the walk on Saturday at the 3 mile Lupus Walk.

Councilwoman Diggs thanked Ms. Nealious for the tremendous job she did in putting this walk together. She said they hope it is not the last walk, but the first walk and that it becomes an annual event. We know it has been a lot of hard work. She said she had seen Ms. Nealious through the years fight this disease, and she is definitely a warrior. She said we appreciate you and the coordinator Velice Cummings so much. She said she would see her on Saturday as she is a survivor.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if any Councilmembers had any recommendations for appointments to the various boards, commissions, and committees.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she would like to nominate Laverne Justice for the Arts Commission.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like to recommend William Price for reappointment to the Senior Commission.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the two nominations would be on the next agenda for Council consideration.

CROSLAND PARK - ORDINANCELeased Properties

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to rescind Ordinance 04272009A regarding leased properties in Crosland Park owned by the City of Aiken.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NUMBER 04272009A.

Mr. Pearce stated the ordinance authorizes the City of Aiken to lease houses in Crosland Park, pending their sale. He said there was some discussion at the last meeting regarding this ordinance. He said his understanding is that the purpose of this ordinance is that once existing tenants in Crosland Park homes are no longer tenants, as he understand the effect of the ordinance, then the City would not go out and actively seek a new tenant for that house.

Mr. Gary Smith said the City would also go ahead and let the Community Development Investment Corporation know not to be actively seeking tenants once the present tenants vacate the premises.

Mr. Pearce stated at a few City Council meetings, we discussed the need to review city-owned property being leased in the Crosland Park Subdivision. Council requested that our City Attorney prepare an ordinance to end renting city-owned property in Crosland Park.

Therefore, for Council consideration, is an Ordinance to end leasing of Crosland Park city-owned properties at such time that current tenants either vacate the property or purchase it outright. At the April 14 meeting, Council voted to carryover this item. Copies of pending leases were provided for Council's information.

For Council consideration on first reading is an ordinance to rescind the ordinance permitting leasing city-owned property in the Crosland Park Subdivision.

Councilman Ebner stated he would like to move that Council suspend the rules and discuss this item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dewar and unanimously approved.

Councilman Ebner stated he brought this item up. He said he had had some discussions with a number of the Councilmembers and he and Mr. Pearce had discussed the matter earlier. He felt we need to have an annual follow up to last year's meeting that Council had in the area of Crosland Park. He pointed out that last time we had a lot of discussion about the four rental houses. He said there are actually seven items that he felt would make good agenda items. He reviewed the items. He said his proposal would be that Council continue this item and then, when Council gets to the \$328,800 loan request from Aiken Corporation, that item be continued also. He said he did not know if it would be a continuation or cancellation of the ordinance at this time. He reviewed the items that he felt Council needs to discuss in a worksession and get their arms around.

Councilman Ebner stated in a June or July meeting, similar to what Council did last year in Crosland Park, we need to talk about specific houses and stuff that is actually on the record that the city owns. The first item would be to talk about the Crosland Park rented houses which are before Council at this meeting. We need to talk about the lease to own houses. We need to talk about how best to use the \$328,800 loan from the city to Aiken Corporation, and also talk about the roughly \$255,000 of CPST III money that will be left over from the Northside Redevelopment once we pay off the loan. We would talk about the Edgewood drainage which Mr. Matthews talked about at the last meeting. We do have a quotation on some housing from a vendor about building new houses on the northside. We would need to talk about whether we need a Comprehensive Housing Plan for both areas. He said it appears to him, and in conversation with others, that we need to get our arms around this and determine what our 5 and 10 year plan is. We have done a

lot of good work out there. He said this would be his proposal. He asked whether it should be a motion. He said that would be up for discussion to see if this is the right thing to do or if somebody else would make a different proposal.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if there were any comments on Councilman Ebner's proposal. Mayor Cavanaugh stated it sounded like a good proposal to him. Councilman Ebner stated he thought that would put all our housing things together. He said we had a good discussion last year in general. There has been some good clean up and some things done. This would get us down to talking about real property.

Councilman Homoki asked how this item is connected with the \$328,800 loan and Aiken Corporation. Councilman Ebner stated right now the \$328,800 is designated for housing and he thought it was designated specifically for Crosland Park. He said that would become part of the pool of money that we would have available that is designated for that area. He said we have two specific things right now—the loan money and the Capital Projects Sales Tax III money that is for Northside Revitalization. Mr. Pearce pointed out the CPST III is for Northside and not specific to one particular subdivision. Councilman Ebner stated we are using \$1.5 million or just a little bit less than that to pay off the loan that is from the Water and Sewer Fund. Then that leaves \$255,000 to discuss. He said he had included Crosland Park and Edgewood, but it can be to do the whole thing. He said that is what he would propose to do and get down into a little more detail.

Councilman Dewar stated he wanted to make a comment. He said he was not sure he agrees that the \$328,800 is designated to Crosland Park. Mr. Pearce responded it is not designated for Crosland Park. Mr. Pearce said it is designated as a housing pot of money. Councilman Dewar stated it is designated as a housing pot of money. That is all it is and not designated for anything. It is an outstanding callable loan from the City to the Aiken Corporation. Councilman Homoki said that is why he asked his question.

Councilman Ebner read the first paragraph—"Whereas Aiken Corporation has purchased and renovated residences in Crosland Park and has helped to build new homes in the Edgewood section of the City, as well as, continued its loan program for builders and developers to renovate homes on the Northside of the City." Councilman Ebner pointed out it is Northside. He said that is in the first paragraph of the ordinance which was passed back in 2011. Councilman Ebner stated he felt it would be good to get all this together, the leases and all that. He said there is a pretty good package of information that staff would need to put together for that discussion. He said when we get to the item for the loan and Aiken Corporation, he would propose to continue that item until after the discussion proposed is held.

Mr. Gary Smith stated he was confused. He said he was understanding that Councilman Ebner was asking for Council to receive annual updates on the seven items that he had listed. He said he did not understand what Councilman Ebner wanted to happen to the particular ordinance that is before Council about rescinding Ordinance 04272009A regarding leased properties in Crosland Park by the City of Aiken.

Councilman Ebner stated he wanted the ordinance to go away. Councilwoman Price stated he wants to table the proposed ordinance. Councilman Ebner stated it is either table or go away because once Council has the meeting it will not read what is before Council at this time. He asked if we table it and it dies.

Councilman Dewar asked if we had a sense of how soon the meeting could be held. Mr. Pearce pointed out that Council normally does not meet on Memorial Day so that would leave one meeting in May. He pointed out there would be two meetings in June. Then in July and August Council has one meeting each month. Mr. Pearce stated the meeting could be scheduled at Council's convenience. Councilman Dewar stated he felt the ordinance should be tabled until Council can have the meeting. He pointed out that continued to him means that Council will talk about it at the next meeting or the next meeting, and he felt that was not the case. Councilman Ebner stated then we need to table the ordinance.

Mr. Smith pointed out that Councilman Ebner was the one who requested the ordinance. He said at this point Councilman Ebner is okay to say he does not want the ordinance and move to dismiss the ordinance. Councilman Ebner pointed out that from the discussion at the last meeting the ordinance was not very well received. Councilman Dewar asked Councilman Ebner if he wanted to dismiss or table it. Councilman Ebner asked if he should say dismiss or table. Councilman Homoki stated he thought it was dismiss because if you change the verbiage at all, then it is a new issue.

Mr. Smith pointed out that with the seven items that Councilman Ebner had given to the City Manager that he wants him to update Council, he thought the City Manager understands that Council wants an update on those seven items. The City Manager will bring this back to Council at another time for appropriate action. He said Council is really not taking any action on the seven items right now. You are just asking for information in the future. He said really the motion is to not pass the ordinance on first reading, and it will go away.

Councilman Ebner moved that Council not pass the proposed ordinance to rescind Ordinance 04272009A regarding leased properties in Crosland Park owned by the City of Aiken. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dewar. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUDGET – AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 04282014

Chip Debris

Winter Storm PAX

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget to approve a contract to chip and process debris caused by Winter Storm PAX.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014.

Mr. Pearce stated Winter Storm PAX damaged many trees in Aiken. As we continue to work to collect debris, we now need to begin the process of chipping it up. Our preliminary research indicates that we can be reimbursed by FEMA, since the damage was a direct result of Winter Storm PAX. He said after inspection by the FEMA caseworker, we are now ready to go forward with chipping of the debris.

Since the chipping cost will be greater than \$25,000, we advertised this project for sealed bids. We received three responses. Our apparent low bidder is American Environmental and Disaster at \$1.84 per cubic yard. With 103,395 cubic yards collected so far, chipping costs are projected to be at least \$195,416.55. Mr. Pearce said since he drafted his memo to Council we have heard from FEMA with an estimated amount of debris that the citizens have brought in through self-help. That amount was 19,630 cubic yards. As of April 25, 2014, the city had collected 117,177.79 cubic yards of debris. We estimate over the next couple of weeks that we will collect as much as 10,000 cubic yards more. In actuality the potential that we would spend for chipping based on those numbers would be estimated at \$270,124.88. He said that is subject to the 75% reimbursement rate from FEMA plus any reimbursement that the state may contribute. He said staff would ask that on second reading that the ordinance be amended to spend up to \$270,124.88 for chipping costs.

Councilman Ebner asked what is the difference between spend up to and not to exceed. Mr. Smith said they were the same thing. Councilman Ebner asked if staff thought that amount would cover all of it. Mr. Pearce responded that staff thought it would. He said if it does not we will come back to Council.

We have sufficient reserve funds to temporarily offset this storm damage chipping. We will be filing for payment for debris as part of our FEMA reimbursement claims, and will

make every effort to recoup this cost. Because we are running out of room for debris placement, we want to get busy chipping as soon as possible.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the April 14, 2014, meeting. For City Council approval on second reading and public hearing is an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget to appropriate funds in order to chip up all winter storm debris caused by Winter Storm PAX.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Ebner asked Mr. Smith to help with the wording for the motion.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Pearce was asking for approval for up to \$270,124.88 for the chipping of debris from the Winter Storm. Pax.

Councilman Dewar asked if the city needed DHEC approval for this process to do the chipping. Mr. Pearce stated no. He said DHEC had been involved all through the process as far as the site selection for the temporary storage area. We have been working with FEMA representatives as far as the chipping goes. Councilman Dewar asked where the chipping would be done. Mr. Pearce responded on the various sites, including Centennial, Citizens Park, and Powderhouse locations. Councilman Dewar asked if DHEC was okay with us chipping on those locations. Mr. Pearce stated we have not heard otherwise. He said when we actually commence the work, we will make sure there are no DHEC issues. He pointed out that various ones are doing chipping all around us. Councilman Dewar asked if DHEC approval could be part of the motion if it is required; if it is not required, then it is not a problem. Mr. Pearce stated we could notify DHEC that we are proceeding with chipping.

Mr. Smith stated if DHEC approval is required, they won't let them do it.

Councilwoman Price asked if this contractor will do the chipping of the debris, and then someone else will haul the chips away. Mr. Pearce pointed out that bids for hauling of the chips is on the agenda for first reading.

Councilman Merry moved that Council pass on second and final reading an ordinance to approve up to \$270,124.88 for the chipping of debris from the Winter Storm Pax to be performed by the low bidder American Environmental and Disaster on the location sites if approved by DHEC. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

114 Glenn Place
Sohaila Rothermel
Roy Rothermel
Bridlewood Subdivision
TPN 106-06-08-001

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to annex 114 Glenn Place and zone it Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF
AIKEN PROPERTY OWNED BY SOHAILA AND ROY ROTHERMEL AND TO
ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-15).

Mr. Pearce stated the owners of 114 Glenn Place, Sohaila and Roy Rothermel, have requested annexation of their property into our city limits. The property is located in the Bridlewood Subdivision and is contiguous to the city limits.

The Planning Commission met on April 15, 2014, and unanimously approved this annexation request and recommended Residential Single-Family (RS-15) zoning. They

recommended approval because the request to annex was consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Transportation Plan adopted by the City of Aiken pursuant to state statutes.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to annex into the Aiken City limits, property located at 114 Glenn Place owned by Sohaila and Roy Rothermel.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to annex 114 Glenn Place owned by Sohaila and Roy Rothermel into the city and zone it RS-15 Residential Single-Family and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

HITCHCOCK PARKWAY – RESOLUTION 04282014A

Bypass 118
SC 118
Resolution
Sidewalks
Median Width
Funding

Mayor Cavanaugh stated resolutions had been prepared for Council’s consideration regarding Hitchcock Parkway sidewalks, median width and funding.

Mr. Pearce stated the Augusta Regional Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled to meet May 1, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. At this meeting, representatives from South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) usually present a project status report.

We have been informed that as part of this presentation at this meeting, SCDOT representatives will review the status of the Hitchcock Parkway Widening Project. SCDOT has shared that the current estimated cost of this project with contingencies is \$34,600,000. Existing funds for this amount are set aside as follows:

Transportation Improvements Program Guideshare Funds	\$13,000,000
State Infrastructure Bank	9,500,000
City of Aiken, Capital Projects Sales Tax III	4,000,000
County of Aiken, Capital Projects Sales Tax Funds	5,000,000
Total Funds	\$31,500,000

Mr. Pearce stated he had listed the existing and potential funding that is available for the project. He said the Transportation Improvement Program has \$13,000,000 committed in funds for the Hitchcock Parkway project. The State Infrastructure Bank has committed \$9,500,000. The City of Aiken has in Capital Projects Sales Tax III \$4,000,000 committed towards the transportation plan. He said there is a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of North Augusta, Aiken County and the City of Aiken for projects that are joint projects that are specifically listed. One is the work that the County was going to do at their new County Complex building. In North Augusta there was a project at Martintown Road and Knobcone Avenue, and their Palmetto Parkway Project. For the City of Aiken there are three projects listed, those being the Powderhouse Road Extension or connector, the University Parkway widening project, and Hitchcock Parkway. He said this is a \$13,000,000 pool of money that will be available for division among these projects. He said it was contained in the \$70,000,000 that Aiken County committed towards transportation projects. He said a resolution has been prepared to request funds for the Hitchcock Parkway project from the \$13,000,000 pool.

Mr. Pearce stated we were provided a figure from the SCDOT representatives last week when he drafted the memo that the total project with contingencies is projected to be \$34,600,000. He pointed out if we request \$5,000,000 from the \$13,000,000 that Aiken County will be holding in Capital Projects Sales Tax funds, that would provide \$31,500,000 in funding towards the Hitchcock Parkway widening project. He said that is the figure that we were provided at the December meeting by DOT. He pointed out that Council should have a copy of an email that Mayor Cavanaugh and he received from Randall Young of SCDOT. He said Mr. Young will be at the ARTS meeting on Thursday, May 1, at 4 p.m. at the former Aiken County Council Chambers. He pointed out in Mr. Young's email that the projected cost that includes preliminary engineering was \$34,600,000. He pointed out in the email these are estimates at this point. Mr. Young expressed a concern about going into detail about the project. He said Mr. Young said it was an appropriate topic for the formal public hearing which is scheduled to be held some time later this year as far as the detail of whether the landscaped median should be further narrowed or the sidewalks should be deleted.

Mr. Pearce said the other question that a couple of the Councilmembers had mentioned to him was whether or not the project should be staged. Mr. Pearce stated when we were initially looking at the project there was a projected \$16 million or \$16.5 million cost for the project. DOT considered that for approximately a half way point in the project. That would be from Silver Bluff Road to Huntsman Drive as a Phase 1 and for Phase 2 from Huntsman Drive to US Highway No. 1. He pointed out as Mr. Young outlines in his email there are some concerns if you go to phasing the project they will suspend the money on the project. He said being cost conscious Council engaged the services of W.R. Toole to do a concept for the Hitchcock Parkway project from beginning to end—from Silver Bluff Road all the way to U.S. Highway No. 1 and some concept suggestions for how the project could be narrowed. He felt from Mr. Toole's concept that was presented in the summer of 2013 that SCDOT when we had a public information session in December had shrunk the proposed new right of way by about half. He said at the public information session DOT received several public comments. He said Mr. Young had shared with him that they did not have public comments that said the sidewalks should be deleted, and they did not have public comments that the landscape median should be further shrunk. He said he was just reporting the DOT perspective, and they would see that as appropriate to be raised at the public hearing scheduled for later this year.

Mr. Pearce stated as far as staging the project, if you divide the project up, there would be some further Federal Highway administration procedures that would have to be followed. He said DOT is proceeding with the project as a capacity project as we have discussed several times in meetings. He said he wanted to make Mr. Young aware of potential Council action at this meeting because of the meeting on May 1 with ARTS which is a public meeting at 4 p.m. He said SCDOT is going to report on the status of the project at the ARTS meeting.

Mr. Pearce stated Mr. Young encouraged everyone to participate in the public hearing that would be later this year because that would actually provide a time for comment for design. Mr. Pearce stated the public hearing is a formal public hearing for comment. It is open to the public and that would be the appropriate time, in Mr. Young's view, as far as receiving input regarding cost of the project, whether certain features should be deleted, whether other features could be narrowed. He said we have Mr. Toole available to make a presentation regarding the findings that they made that Council actually reviewed.

Aiken City Council has also discussed potential cost saving measures related to the design features of this project. One suggestion was removing sidewalks from the project. Another was to shrink the width of the center median. These modifications could represent cost reductions for this project and reduce the amount of requested funds from the County's portion of Capital Project Sales Tax commitments.

Mr. Pearce stated for consideration there are two resolutions. The first is a resolution for Council to consider whether a request should go to ARTS to approve or reduce the scope for the Hitchcock Parkway project to delete sidewalks, narrow the landscape median and make other project adjustments to bring the project cost with contingencies to

\$31,500,000. The second resolution would be a resolution from Aiken City Council to Aiken County Council to set aside \$5,000,000 in One Cent Project Sales Tax money for the Hitchcock Parkway project as a joint project listed in the Capital Projects Sales Tax III Aiken County portion of funds to be received.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like to add one thing that is not in the email. He said when he talked to Mr. Young he advised that Council not take any action at this point in time because it is too far away from the time when they will really know what the cost of the project is. He said that is their normal practice. He said Mr. Young was hesitant for Council to take action at this time. Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out that Council is in charge to do what they want to do. He pointed out that Mr. Young was saying that the price may go down for various things or could go up. Mayor Cavanaugh stated he offered that because that is what Mr. Young said and felt it was premature to make any changes at this point.

Mr. Pearce stated if he did not make it clear in his remarks, all of the issues to be discussed in the first resolution are issues that Mr. Young said would be appropriate for the formal public hearing which is scheduled for later this year.

Councilman Dewar stated this item is on the agenda because he asked that it be on the agenda. Councilman Dewar moved that Council approve the resolution deleting sidewalks, narrowing the landscaped median, and removing the item to make other project adjustments to bring the project cost with contingencies to \$31,500,000. He said he appreciates what Mr. Young is saying but it seems rather strange. He said if we do what he is saying, then when we get to that point later this year we may be told it is too late as they have already designed the road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merry.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated there is another opportunity later on to make a decision. Councilman Dewar stated he was not sure he believed that simply because it is in the design phase now. It will be in the design phase for some time. He said it would seem to wait until the design is completed and then if we come to a public meeting and want to make changes we will be faced with the added cost of going back and changing the design. He said he did not know what is involved in that, but obviously it would affect the entire roadway because that is where the sidewalks would be. He said to say there were not a lot of public comment about sidewalks and the width of the median. while true, is somewhat misleading. He said the focus at that meeting was if we were going to have four lanes or two lanes. He said that is what many of the comments were. He said if we had given everybody a questionnaire and asked if you want four lanes or two lanes. Do you want sidewalks or not? How wide a median do you want? He said if we had asked those questions he suspects that we would have had a different output. He said his understanding of the process is that no changes will be made unless they come from Council. He said ARTS had said that very clearly. He said he was not interested in going back to talk about two lanes or four lanes, but he felt it is a waste of money to have sidewalks for four miles. He said he could not imagine people using the sidewalk to walk four miles on Hitchcock bypass. He said the bikers rarely use it as it is.

Councilman Merry said if it is a good idea then, it is a good idea now. He said he did not see any good reason to wait to make the decision if a majority of Council determines that we do want to narrow the median or eliminate the sidewalks. He said it only makes sense to go ahead and give them that guidance. Otherwise it ends up wasting time. If it is a good idea then, it is a good idea now.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not understand why a 12 foot median is required to make the roadway look like a parkway. He said 12 feet is pretty wide. He said the proposed road is an 80 foot road now. It has a 12 foot median now and with a 12 foot median that is an 80 foot width which is 40 feet from the median. He said that is getting close to fences, etc. along the road. He said he could not say what he thought a good median width would be. He said he could only say that he was not sure that 12 feet is narrow enough. He said we could plant things in a three foot median. Mr. Pearce stated the city has done that on Highway 1 between the Walmart and Sam's Wholesale Club as you can see there is a varying width for the median.

Councilman Dewar stated if Council passes the resolution it does not mean that it is going to happen. He said it is still up to the ARTS Commission to make the final decision. He said he was not in favor of waiting until the project is completely designed and then saying to delete the sidewalks. He said that would cost a lot more than if we make our desires known now. Councilman Dewar stated that was his motion. He said he did not know what to say about the resolution regarding asking for money from the County. He said if that is premature, then that can be left open.

Councilman Dewar said he would repeat his motion. He moved that Council approve the resolution deleting sidewalks, narrowing the landscaping median, but removing the comment regarding making other project adjustments to bring the project cost with contingencies to \$31,500,000. He said that takes care of the first resolution, and he was open to the second resolution. Councilman Merry seconded the motion.

Councilman Homoki stated about a year ago someone said the Federal Highway Administration would require that we either have sidewalks or exercise bike trails; otherwise they would not fund the project. He asked if that was SCDOT telling us the wrong information. Mr. Peace stated they told Council the right information. He said he thought there were some people in the audience who want to address Council about that particular issue. He said it is a requirement that it be included unless there is a finding for a reason not to include it. He pointed out the city adopted a pedestrian pathway/bike pathway plan to be included in public projects.

Councilman Homoki said if Council goes along with what Councilman Dewar is proposing, can we retain federal highway monies.

Councilman Merry stated if Council submits them with a resolution unless SCDOT says it would prevent us from having access to that money, he would expect them to tell us that. He said if we present this as a resolution the ball is in their court to give us that information.

Councilman Ebner stated he could give the background as to what was done on Silver Bluff when these same topics came up. He said at the time Council voted to not have a five-lane road and sidewalks. Then SCDOT went back through all of the "red tape" to eliminate the sidewalks and other miscellaneous things. The Federal Administration approved that, so we did get our money on Silver Bluff. He said that project is moving forward. He said that is how it got done with eliminating the five lanes with a median and turning lanes on Silver Bluff plus the sidewalks. It also eliminated a lot of land procurement. He said that may be some help, as that is what has been done. He said he would assume that it would be the same. They would have to go back and ask for permission to do it to get highway funding.

Councilman Merry asked if the source of the funding was the same. He said the specification of money is different. Mr. Pearce stated there are federal funds in the project so that is why that requirement is attached. He said the federal funds are the \$13,000,000. Councilman Merry pointed out Councilman Ebner stated we were able to get federal funds for Silver Bluff even without the sidewalks. Councilman Ebner stated they approved the removal of the median and other things on Silver Bluff. He said the Federal Highway Administration approved it, and we got federal funding based on the recommendations of City Council at the time which was about 2007 or 2008.

Mr. Pearce stated there was a specific finding as to why that could be appropriately removed. Councilman Ebner stated the state has to agree with Council and write it up that way. If they don't agree with us, you will have trouble. Councilman Dewar stated he did not see the parallel between Hitchcock and Silver Bluff. Councilman Ebner stated the features are the same. Councilman Dewar stated Council changed the purpose and need on Silver Bluff. He said we are not changing the purpose and need for Hitchcock Parkway. All we are saying is no sidewalks and narrow the median. He felt there is a world of difference. Councilman Dewar said it is not to say that this will get approved, but he felt we should make the effort because four miles of cement sidewalks on both sides to him is personally not acceptable. Councilman Merry stated that would cost a

couple million dollars. Councilman Dewar felt had the people been asked to vote on it, he felt it would have been that they did not want sidewalks.

Councilwoman Price stated some of this deals with connectors in terms of bike pathway connectors. She said she thought this was the only portion as you look at the circumference around the city that does not connect in terms of having a pathway. She said she is not a biker and doesn't ride a bike nor does anyone in her family ride a bike. However, she recognizes there are others that do. She said she is hearing of cities that have an appreciation for these kinds of pathways and it attracts young professionals. She said we have to determine what we want to be like—whether we want to go with those who don't have an appreciation for a bike pathway and don't want one or do we want to bring in things that will bring in young professionals who will have an appreciation for this.

Mr. Tom Lex, a resident of the City of Aiken, said he was also Chairman of the Aiken County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He said they have been following this project very closely, primarily because we do have a County Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Lex said in November, 2012, City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. That Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan includes provisions for biking and walking on Hitchcock Parkway if and when that ever turned into a project. He said a point was made about Silver Bluff. He said Silver Bluff went through before we had the Bike/Pedestrian Plan. He said he battles Silver Bluff every day on his bike. He said they did not get bike lanes and we don't have sidewalks. He said that does not say that is the way we should continue if we are really serious about becoming bicycle and walking friendly. He said he thought in the city's Strategic Plan there is some verbiage that says we have a vision of becoming bicycle and walking friendly. Mr. Lex stated the resolution as worded now says take out sidewalks and that implies there will be no multipurpose paths. There were going to be sidewalks. Currently the plan does not include designated bike lanes. The SCDOT was assuming because they were going to have 5 foot sidewalks on either side that they were essentially going to be multipurpose so walkers and cyclists could make use of that. He said with the resolution stating to take sidewalks out, you have eliminated people riding bikes or trying to walk along the bypass. He said it was mentioned that people don't ride bikes on Hitchcock Parkway today. The reason they don't is there is no shoulder and you will get run over. He said he will ride just about anything, but there are a lot of people in the community who use bikes as transportation. They walk for transportation, and we have closed the door on that opportunity for them. We have eliminated the concept of complete streets where people who are users should be able to use the streets whether they are driving a motor vehicle, riding a bicycle, or walking. He felt as a city we need to have vision and realize there are plenty of communities in South Carolina and across the country that have recognized the benefits of being bicycle and walking friendly, and they have derived economic benefits, health benefits, and an overall improvement in the quality of life in those communities. He said today to eliminate that is short sighted and lacks vision.

Councilman Dewar pointed out there are no bike paths on the proposed project now. He asked if that bothers Mr. Lex. Mr. Lex responded that it does bother him. He pointed out it was mentioned that no comments were made. He said comments were made on the design. He said in fact he gave DOT options on how to stay within the existing footprint, reduce the size of the sidewalks, reduce the dimensions on the gutter line and still allow a minimum three foot wide bike lane on each side and they could stay within the envelope they presented. He said he did not disagree that the median could be reduced, but we should not do anything that eliminates the option for biking and walking. Councilman Dewar stated if there was a 5 foot wide sidewalk would he be okay riding on a sidewalk. Mr. Lex stated currently the City of Aiken laws allow cyclists on a sidewalk that parallels a roadway that has a speed limit of 35 mph or over. He said in that sense bicyclists would be able to ride the sidewalk.

Councilman Dewar stated that Kevin Gantt, who is no longer involved in the project, did indicate to him that even if sidewalks were eliminated they still need to use the space that the sidewalks would have taken up. He said he did not recall the nature of the ground as to what they would do to it. He said he did not know if that would be suitable for biking or not. He said that is a question we could raise at ARTS.

Councilman Merry stated the side would be a planted shoulder, but it is still needed for stormwater piping and etc. on both sides of the road. Mr. Lex said if it would not be paved it would not be usable for cyclists. He said he understands what Council is trying to do, but the resolution as worded, he felt would leave too many opportunities to just totally eliminate that from future consideration. He pointed out any time you have a new project like this that is the time to put this type infrastructure in. There is no way we can go in with an existing street and say we want an output. It is too narrow to put bike lanes in, or it is too narrow to put sidewalks in. The right of way is already there. If we don't do it on a new project, then we will not do it anywhere. He said then we should quit advertising that we are trying to become biking and walking friendly.

Councilman Dewar stated he understands but there is a limit to the amount of land available. He said he is being told that the project is being moved away from Hitchcock Woods for whatever reason so he does not know how far away, and he has not seen a design to see how that is going to be laid out. Councilman Dewar stated we are talking about 80 feet. He said 80 feet is a lot of land. Mr. Lex said granted, but so don't write a resolution that says take sidewalks out and by inference take out bicycle facilities. He said let's find another way. Councilman Dewar asked that Mr. Lex tell him another way because that is 10 feet with 5 foot sidewalks on each side. There would be a 12 foot median and 14 foot width for the lanes. He asked Mr. Lex to tell him another way. Mr. Lex said they can look at reducing the lane width. He said if they are going to give us sidewalks and bike paths, then they can look at instead of the inside lane being 14 feet, cut that down. Based on speed limits, they also have options on reducing lane width.

Councilman Dewar stated Council had lowered the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph in an effort to narrow the roadway. That apparently worked because a 55 mph would have to be wider than the current 80 foot. He said he appreciates what Mr. Lex is saying about the bike lanes, but he was trying to fight for a parkway look. He said honestly when he is at Houndslake Boulevard looking up towards Huntsman he sees sidewalks on both sides and that is not a parkway look. Mr. Lex stated an option to consider instead of sidewalks on both sides and bike lanes, would be to put in a multi-use path on one side. That way people can walk and people can ride their bikes and they still have that as a route. He said the ultimate vision of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, thinking of it as a spoke and wheel arrangement, is the idea of getting people who are willing to get on their bikes and come into Aiken and not get in their cars. He said right now we do not have good routes. By having routes around the city and into the city we will do more to encourage people who are unwilling to get on their bikes today because they don't want to take their life in their hands. They are not hard core riders. There are those who will ride anything. He said you have to think of it as to whether you are willing to take your eight year old child out on a bike with you. He said right now we don't have any way to get into town, and we don't have good ways to get in where they can get their eight year on a bike with them and ride into town.

Councilman Dewar stated he could live with something on one side depending on the width. Councilman Merry stated the issue with sidewalks does not have anything to do with the width because you still have to have the shoulder and the storm sewer drainage. He said that does not change the width of space they need, but it changes the cost. He said they estimate about \$2 million for the cost for sidewalks on both sides of the road. He said that is one of the areas of his concerns. He said in less than a year since Council has been talking about this roadway, the cost jumped from a \$24 million project according to DOT to a \$34 million project according to DOT. He said he had asked about the County contribution and just a few months ago he was told that we might get \$2 million from the County and now we are dreaming of \$5 million. He said he did not think we could count on either one. He said cost is a concern to him. He said he used to be quite a cyclist and rode all over Aiken, but he did not ride from one highly hazardous intersection to another. He said he agreed with the idea of wanting pathways and giving people the option to ride bikes, but Hitchcock Parkway would take someone from Highway 1 and the mass traffic you have there to the intersection at Pine Log and Silver Bluff with the mass traffic there. He said that is not an ideal area for recreational cycling. He said he used to do it, but he would not have used that space.

Mr. Lex stated he wanted to make a correction on that. He said the parkway connects you with 421 which is an ideal road to ride on. A lot of people do it. He said you connect 421 to Hitchcock Parkway and it gets you in as far as the Weeks Center. Councilman Merry said but you have to go through all these major traffic areas. Mr. Lex stated that is the whole idea of Bike/Pedestrian Plan. They have laid that out in the plan, and you have to start somewhere. He said if you don't start at Hitchcock, where are you going to start. He said Hitchcock is a new project and new infrastructure. He said now is the time to do it. If you don't do it there, and say maybe we will get it the next time, then you have another new project, and you don't do it there so we never get there. He said you have to take the first step. He said the Committee had made some recommendations on some of the in town streets for bike lanes because there are some options. He said Hitchcock is a new project and now is the opportunity to take that first step.

Councilwoman Price stated she was not sure that we have carefully looked at cities that have bike pathways that are working effectively. She pointed out the Isle of Palms has the dual lanes where you have the bike pathway and the walking area on one side. She said that seems to be effective. She pointed out also that North Augusta has something that is good. She said she was not sure that we had looked at all the cities that have bike paths. Mr. Lex said Greenville has made giant strides. He pointed outside the state you can go to many places that have bike paths. He said small towns that he had visited in Colorado that are the size of Aiken have bike paths, bike lanes and they cater to having people get outdoors and get exercise. He asked what better thing is there for improved quality of life for our residents, but to start giving them that opportunity. Councilwoman Price said it would also promote a healthy city. She said we are spoiled with our cars. Mr. Lex stated he drives a car too, and he was not saying get rid of cars, but it is nice to have options. Councilwoman Price stated what she recognizes personally is the fact that we are trying to attract young professionals and young families who want these kinds of things and we are not making these things available to attract them to this community.

Councilman Dewar stated if Council were to do what Mr. Lex wants, what would the wording say in getting rid of the sidewalks and putting a bike lane. He asked how you would word it for this body to tell ARTS that we want a bike lane.

Mr. Lex stated he understands what Council is trying to do and that is to get the cost down. He said the wording would be something to the effect of not having sidewalks on both sides or have sidewalks only from Huntsman to Silver Bluff, but leave provisions for a multi-use path so people can still walk and cycle the full length of Hitchcock. He said that would eliminate sidewalks on both sides the whole length of Hitchcock Parkway. Councilman Dewar asked Mr. Lex if he would be satisfied with a multi-use path on one side. Mr. Lex responded that he would. Mr. Pearce pointed out that is what is on the Robert M. Bell Parkway.

Councilman Dewar stated he has no objection to modifying the motion for a multi-use path. He said his view of the sidewalks is that he loves saving money, but his primary focus is that he wants Hitchcock to be a parkway and four miles of sidewalks on two sides is not a parkway to him.

Councilman Merry stated Council had gone down this road with Kevin Gantt a year ago. The reason we told him to take out the multi-use was because we were trying to narrow the typical cross section of this because of how much it encroached on private property. He said Council eliminated so much and left the sidewalks in because that space was going to be used anyway for storm sewer piping. He said we had eliminated the multi-use lane. He said he would love to have it. If it was just a matter of snapping his fingers, he would say let's do it, but we are fighting the battle of limited space, limited money, etc. He said that is why we took it out the first time. He felt nobody really did it for lack of concern for cyclists.

Councilwoman Price stated if you want to see an example of foot traffic you need to look at Highway 19. A lot of those folks are on foot traffic because they have no automobiles. She said traffic is going 55 mph on the highway and children and adults are walking on that highway. They are very close to the road with fast traffic, but they do not have the

convenience of an automobile and they are in an income bracket that they can't afford a car.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked Mr. Lex for his comments and said he was doing a great job with the group.

Councilman Homoki stated he felt Councilman Dewar's motion is okay to just put ARTS on notice and South Carolina DOT. He said he wanted to make sure there are no consequences of losing finances. He said we have \$5,000,000 listed as coming from Aiken County from the Capital Projects Sales Tax fund. He pointed out that at the last meeting Council was talking about the Capital Projects Sales Tax is not coming in on schedule so how much do we reduce that \$5,000,000. He said we can't afford to do the project ourselves, but need the Federal and state funding. He pointed out Councilman Dewar's motion has to be bounced up against making sure, at least exploring, that we can get that funding.

Councilman Dewar stated his motion would save money and reduce cost, and there could be a reduced cost by narrowing the median as well. Councilman Merry stated if you narrow the median and keep the total typical cross section the same, you can get the multi-use lane back. He said you don't narrow the typical cross section which means you can't reduce the risk of encroachment on private property. He said if you value the multi-use lane more, then you can get that back by narrowing the median.

Councilwoman Diggs asked Councilman Dewar if he would be willing to amend the motion to include the multi-use pathway. Councilman Dewar stated he would be willing to amend his motion to add a multi-use path on one side of Hitchcock Parkway. Councilman Merry stated he would accept the amendment.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if everyone had read the email from Randall Young of SCDOT. Councilman Homoki pointed out the email was addressed to the Mayor, and he asked if the Mayor would explain a sentence in the second paragraph. Mayor Cavanaugh stated he and Mr. Pearce had both talked to Mr. Young at different times.

Mr. Pearce said without the cost containment there is an unfunded phase. If they are thinking the total project, including the preliminary engineering is \$34.6 million, there is potential funding, but he could not imagine, for example, Aiken County Council out of the \$13,000,000 would commit \$8 million to the project. He said Council could ask for it, but that would virtually eat up the entire pot of money. With the \$5,000,000 request there would be funding for the project.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out the second paragraph in the email from Mr. Young that Councilman Homoki mentioned. He said that says that "SCDOT recommends allowing the current design and standards to be completed and properly vetted through a public hearing for all stakeholders to review before making any major changes to the project." Mayor Cavanaugh stated Mr. Young has said he feels it is a little early to start saying what you want here because we will have an opportunity later on to do that in an open meeting.

Councilman Homoki stated we talk about current design, but he thought he had not seen a different design from two years ago to today. He said the cross section looks the same to him. Mayor Cavanaugh stated we probably have not seen the latest because they have moved a little bit away from Hitchcock Woods. He said he was not sure how that would affect the road.

Councilman Merry pointed out Mr. Young says if we try to change it now, that it will delay the work and cost more money. Councilman Merry stated if the design is changed now and it will delay the project and cost more money, then waiting to make changes later will delay the project and cost even more.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he may be thinking there will probably be some other changes made later on so he is saying to wait to the right opportunity to make all changes at the same time.

Councilman Homoki stated the last word we got from Kevin Gantt while he was still involved in the project, was that they take their direction from ARTS. He said it was his understanding that ARTS had not given South Carolina DOT any different instructions. He said for the meeting today he thought we were supposed to give ARTS some instructions so they can talk to SCDOT. He asked if that was the idea. Mr. Pearce stated that is the idea if there is a change to the project. Councilman Homoki stated otherwise if Council does not make any changes or come up with a new concept or visualization of how we are going to use the 80 feet, DOT will just bring out the old stuff from two years ago and everybody will go along like a bunch of elephants and that is it.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked who is going to do that. Councilman Homoki responded SCDOT. Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out that they had already said they are making changes as they go. They are still investigating a lot of things which we don't understand because we are not up there, but there is a lot to be done. Councilman Homoki stated he understands that. Mayor Cavanaugh stated they are saying let's wait. Councilman Homoki stated he thought they are waiting for ARTS to give them direction, and so far ARTS has not given them any different direction than what they had already. Mayor Cavanaugh stated they probably are not going to.

Ms. Sandy Harris, of Foxchase, stated her question is about ARTS. She said from Huntsman Drive to Hitchcock Parkway is her only access to anything. She said she had a memorandum in front of her that was from the City of Aiken dated November 11, 2013, to ARTS Subcommittee meetings. She said the ARTS Subcommittee met on November 7, and she thought Mr. Pearce was there, but she thought Mayor Cavanaugh nor Councilman Dewar were present to give ARTS any direction. She said the memorandum is about a motion that Councilwoman Price made and Council adopted. It said "That the membership of ARTS be advised that there were strong concerns expressed by citizens present at the October 28, 2013, Aiken City Council meeting that the project concept be based on purpose and need approach versus the current method being used in preparing the concept." She said she wanted to know if that happened because if Mayor Cavanaugh and Councilman Dewar were not at the November 7, 2013, meeting and the February meeting was cancelled how has ARTS been advised by City Council.

Mr. Pearce stated there has not been any request from any Councilmember to direct ARTS to have a different methodology approach for the project. The project is based on capacity at this time. He said purpose and need would be an alternative. He said Council has discussed that several times. It was discussed at ARTS. Mr. Pearce said to go back to the original point of Councilman Dewar, at the ARTS meeting if there was to be a change in direction of the methodology for determining the scope of the project, that would have to come from City Council, and DOT is going forward with a capacity project.

Councilman Homoki stated we have had guidance to ARTS for two years and nothing has changed. He said a lot of people think the November meeting actually gave ARTS new direction, but that is not the case. Mayor Cavanaugh stated City Council has not given ARTS any new direction.

Ms. Harris asked that Council change the direction to purpose and need. She said that is what the memorandum says. She pointed out all of Council signed the memorandum, except Councilman Dewar opposed the motion. She said it was a motion that was presented by Councilwoman Price.

Councilman Dewar stated as he recalls the motion was to convey the fact that there was significant opposition in the community for expanding Hitchcock Parkway based on capacity.

Ms. Harris asked if that had happened. Councilman Dewar stated he did not know that it had happened. He said he missed the November meeting. He said if we want to talk about his attendance in six years, he would be happy to talk to them. He said he missed that meeting. Ms. Harris pointed out that the February meeting was cancelled so no action has been taken to ARTS. Councilman Dewar stated that could be done at the May

1 meeting. He said they can very clearly tell ARTS, no question, that there is strong objection in the community in the City of Aiken for building this road based on capacity. He said for the group to understand what he just said. He said all we are going to say is there is strong opposition to building the road based on capacity. That does not mean they are changing the purpose and need. It just means that we are conveying there is strong opposition in the community which he thought ARTS knows because citizens had been present at every meeting. Councilman Dewar stated there has not been an ARTS meeting since February, but citizens had been present at most of the meetings before that. Ms. Harris said she had a letter that she had written to the Department of Transportation. She said the answer to that letter came back and says that the ARTS Council will be taking its direction from the Aiken City Council. Ms. Harris said then the ball is back in Council's court to respond to the concerned citizens, and not just say we are not going to change the need and purpose. Councilman Dewar stated the ball is always in Council's court. He said he was not aware that we have ever been asked to vote to change the purpose and need and that was not on the agenda for this meeting. He said they had never been asked to change the purpose and need. Ms. Harris asked how the citizens would go about having that changed.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated City Council would have to agree to that. Mr. Pearce stated that has been part of presentations that Council has heard. He said that is when we had the DOT officials present. That has been at ARTS and Council meetings. He said if you change the purpose and need, the information we have from DOT is that would put the project back at the bottom of the list and it would have to work its way back up. Mr. Pearce said the other problem is that would endanger the funding for the project because with the purpose and need change we have heard from the State Infrastructure Bank that they would require reapplication and that would put the application at the bottom of the list. Mr. Pearce stated the other input we have, and he had shared this before, is that Mr. Toole's group had a traffic engineering firm, and they were clear with us that if you change the purpose and need from a capacity driven project to safety and improvements instead, their opinion was that would address the traffic for approximately a year or two, but would not be a permanent solution.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked that we not lose site of the fact that back in 2010 Aiken County supported a referendum on Capital Projects Sales Tax No. 3 and Hitchcock Parkway widening to four lanes was approved by 25,000 Aiken County voters which included 7,500 city citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out we can't get off into all these other items. He said there were three items to consider on this agenda regarding Hitchcock Parkway and those were deleting the sidewalks, narrowing the median and funding for the project.

A citizen began to holler that one citizen was allowed to speak on bicycle paths which is not on the agenda. He asked that all be given the same opportunity. Mayor Cavanaugh stated the item Mr. Lex spoke about concerned the issue of deleting the sidewalks.

Mr. Bob Horning stated he would like to address his fellow citizens. He said basically this is for all of us that have been sleeping through this whole process and need to wake up as this is being railroaded on us. He stated the LOST report that came out a year and a half ago showed a negative growth rate for this section of Hitchcock Parkway. He said that did not meet with the approval of our elected leaders so they spent \$95,000 of tax money to get an answer that they approved of. That was the new study from the folks in Augusta. So they have now said that actually there are more people driving down the road than there were in the LOST report. He said either the people who did the Level of Service Report were incompetent or they lied. The next part of this is that he lives very close to the parkway which is in his back yard. He said that made him aware of this situation. He said he sat out by the road with a cup of coffee for a couple of days and did a count. He said he may have missed some numbers, but he is not 2,000 off. He pointed out his numbers were a lot less than everybody else's, and he wondered why. He said he called the Georgia Institute of Technology Civil Engineering Department in Atlanta. He found out how these numbers are made. They actually count the number of cars and trucks that go by and then they assume a certain percentage of traffic going on other roads near this road will be drawn in to using the new wider road. The problem with

using that type of equation is that we have no other roads going the same direction any more. There is only one road that will ever be that way. There is no other traffic to pull in. Actually the real number should be the count. He said there is no growth at all in this area. Since this started 18 months to 2 years ago in earnest we have noticed that there are probably close to 2,000 jobs that have been lost at the Savannah River Site. He said that means 2,000 cars at least will not be using the parkway. He said what is happening is that we are having a drag on the growth, or at best, probably a negative growth situation. He said he brought up at one of these meetings about the safety situation. He said we have hundreds of bridges in this county that are substandard by the Highway Department standards. He said no money is going to that. He said actually about \$678,000 has been budgeted to fix those bridges in this county. He said two-thirds of that is for personnel cost which is ongoing. So actually we are in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range for fixing bridges that citizens go across every single day. He said that is the priority. He said the next thing that scares him is that there are no traffic signals on the new parkway plan. He said the big wrecks are at Dibble Road, and there is no traffic signal there. He said that is not going to change no matter how many lanes there are, and without a traffic signal there will be wrecks. He said it is just horse trailers and those old white people who have horses. He pointed out the children at Aiken Elementary School, and said there is no traffic signal for their safety. He asked do we care about them.

Mr. Horning stated the last problem we have with this situation is cost. He said the gentleman spoke about the bike paths. He said we heard a number, and he was not sure it was accurate and he would not hold them to it, but a couple of million dollars for the bike paths. He said this is serious road building and we would have to put in a lot of dirt to even everything out. He said a couple million dollars for some guys who want to ride bikes. He said great. We can pass the hat and we can find him another road to go on. He said he can't afford \$2 million for that. He said he loves riding a bike, and he does it a good bit. However, \$2 million is a lot of money. He said \$22 million is what the cost for the project started with, and now we are at \$32 million. He said he has seen numbers up to \$52,000,000 and nobody really knows the cost. He asked where does all this money come from. He said that leaves one part. He said we are already talking about not having enough money. Guess what, the only thing we can do as citizens is call up our elected officials. He said he was not talking about City Council, he was talking about the state officials—Governor Haley, Mr. Sheheen, and Joe Wilson. He said the project involved federal and state funds. He said that is really the only way this is going to be taken care of in a safe manner. He said we can expand the road, have turn lanes, and stop lights. We have enough space on the road now for the decreasing number of vehicles on our roads as they had talked about from the LOST report and since then, as he had mentioned before, the layoffs at the Site.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated anyone else who wants to talk about the items on the agenda may do so, but not talk about anything else. He asked that the citizens be polite enough and understand that we try to manage our meetings. He said if someone wants something on the agenda, they can request to be on the agenda. He said as we continue we need to talk about the things that are on our agenda for this meeting.

Dr. Ille Brisbin stated he had lived in Aiken for the past 46 years. He said he had worked at the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. He is still an emeritus professor at the Institute of Ecology and a Wildlife Biologist with the University of Georgia. He said during his career, he had studied the behavior and hazards of wildlife, particularly among other things, white tail deer and deer car accidents. He said the last time Council talked about widening the parkway and the beautiful vegetation in the median strip, he mentioned to Council that this was like ringing a dinner bell for the salad bar at Ruby Tuesday's for white tail deer to come out on the parkway and be hit by cars. He said white tail deer kill more people in the United States than any other species of wild life. He said attracting them to the middle of a widened parkway is just not safe. He said the resolution Council is considering calls for a recommendation of narrowing the median strip. He said that is wonderful, but that is not enough. He said they need to speak to narrowing it and doing what? He said he would like to ask somebody on Council to amend the resolution to add the words "and eliminate the planting of vegetation in the median strip of the parkway." He said first of all it will save money. He said he had put these comments in writing at the December, 2013 meeting at the

church. He said he had never been contacted by the State who said if you fill out the form, they will respond to you. He said he would like for someone to consider safety and reduction of deer car accidents because that is a major deer thoroughfare east to west across that part of the parkway.

Ms. Sherry Norton stated she lives in Surrey Woods. She said she had some questions pertaining to the budget of \$31,500,000. She asked if that included the buying of property that might be necessary. Mr. Pearce stated that money would be used for that. Ms. Norton asked if it also included any landscaping planned for the parkway. Mr. Pearce asked if she meant landscaping that DOT had planned. Ms. Norton stated Dr. Brisbin had talked about eliminating vegetation that was talked about being put in the median. She asked if the cost figure included money for landscaping if you did decide to landscape the median. Ms. Norton asked if the \$31,500,000 included any planned landscaping in the median on the Hitchcock Parkway. Councilman Dewar stated the project will include putting that in. He said to be fair we can't tell you how much the landscaping will cost or how much it will cost for land acquisition. Councilman Merry stated the \$31,500,000 is money available for the project. Councilman Dewar stated he felt DOT does not know how much they will have to spend to buy land. Ms. Norton stated it could be a lot more than this. Councilman Dewar stated it could be more. Mr. Pearce said it could be less also. He said that is the purpose of the formal public hearing. Ms. Norton said then it may be a guess. Councilman Merry stated that is the money available for the project. Ms. Norton said there had been reference to the voters and the referendum and that the voters voted to widen Hitchcock Parkway to four lanes, etc. She said she had the actual wording on the ballot where the voters voted for \$4,000,000 for Hitchcock Parkway widening. She said it did not say widening to four lanes with walls, sidewalks, etc. She said she agreed that widening can include a lot of things. It could include a lot of things such as a survey, turning lanes, etc. It did not specify that the voters wanted four lanes and the other things.

Mr. Bob Gilbert, of Huntsman Drive, stated he respected the Mayor's request to stick with the topic on the agenda and he intended to do that. He said he wanted to focus on funding, the justification for that funding, and the amount of that funding. He said he has some material that he would like to go through. Mr. Gilbert stated he put his presentation in the form of six myths that he detects that have been created and promulgated about Hitchcock Parkway. He said there are many more, but he was trying to stick with the subject at hand.

Mr. Gilbert stated the definition of a myth is a widely held but false belief or idea. He said the justification for the \$9,500,000 in the memo from the State Infrastructure Bank was based on a justification. He said Myth No. 1 is that project justification makes sense. He said he maintains it does not make sense. He said this is the basis for obtaining the \$9.5 million from the Infrastructure Bank. He said that justification was to "Provide improved access from Interstate 20 (at Route 19 intersection) to SRS." He said it makes no sense for these three reasons. First of all the work force at SRS has dramatically declined by 65% (16,000 employees are not there which probably affects 48,000 people including families. 2. The taxpayers footed the bill to the tune of \$260 million for the Palmetto Parkway which provides direct access to the front door from I-20 to SRS. 3. We have also spent tens of millions of tax dollars widening U.S. Route 1 from I-20, part of the Rudy Mason Parkway and East Pine Log Road. He said he had that graphically displayed. He showed a map pointing out that the red is the proposed widening of the westerly circuit around Aiken, pointing out that Hitchcock Parkway is part of it. He said Hitchcock Parkway is part of the grand scheme to add this improved route to SRS. He pointed out the green and stated that is what we spent tens of millions of dollars on which is four laning all of that circuit. The brown is the Palmetto Parkway access. He said we have the green access, the brown access, and the justification to get \$9.5 million as we need a third access which is the red. He said he maintains that makes no sense.

Mr. Gilbert stated Myth No. 2 is SC-DOT cost estimates are believable and adequate funding has been secured. He said this has been much of the conversation tonight already. He said both of those are myths. He pointed out that in one year the Silver Bluff Road project, for which we now have a final design, between the previous design status and the final design the estimated cost for that project increased 42%. He said his

livelihood had been derived from working on projects of \$10,000 to \$10 billion so he knows something about managing projects. He said that is an awful record, but it is typical. He said the Hitchcock Parkway widening in 2004 in the ARTS planning document was a \$2 million addition of passing lanes. He said that had ballooned to a \$43.6 million project. He said that is the official cost estimate in the latest issue of the documents from ARTS which were published last fall/winter. He said that reflects input from DOT. He asked where the numbers are coming from. He said he could show them \$43.6 million in the ARTS document. He said that is \$17 million more than funding available. He said he was not counting the dream and the wish of getting \$5 million from the County as that has not been obtained yet. He said some of those who are somewhat knowledgeable about managing projects took the estimate for Silver Bluff Road and extrapolated that to Hitchcock Parkway, and came up with an estimate of \$54 million based on the latest cost estimate of Silver Bluff Road. He asked why DOT had not gone through that simple exercise to check their work. He asked why they had not done that. He asked why they had not looked at what's in the ARTS document for which they furnish the input. He said Council should be concerned about this. He said these are big numbers. He asked where does the money come from? He answered, tax payers obviously. He said \$54 million is \$28 million more than the money we have in the pocket right now.

Mr. Gilbert said it gets worse. He said the \$54 million we extrapolated from Silver Bluff Road did not include a lot of factors that differentiate Silver Bluff from Hitchcock Parkway. He said, for example, complexity. He said the complexity for Silver Bluff is low with Hitchcock Parkway being high. He said we could see that by just looking at the roadways. Retaining walls – none at Silver Bluff and yes for Hitchcock Parkway. He said he understood that had been confirmed recently. He said Kevin Gantt has said yes, they will have retaining walls, and they will cost a lot of money and they will be ugly. Sound barrier – none on Silver Bluff, but he was sure there would be some on Hitchcock Parkway. He said there will be a nursery school that will be up against pavement. Earthwork – minimal on Silver Bluff, but extensive on Hitchcock Parkway. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks – minimal on Silver Bluff and 100,000 l.f. on Hitchcock Parkway. Major signaled intersections – There will be one on Silver Bluff and there have been comments about the need for additional traffic signals which all the authorities that are involved in this project seem to refuse to recognize. He said for example, we are going to have five lanes at the intersection of Dibble Road and we don't need a traffic signal. He asked can you imagine crossing that with a huge pickup truck towing a horse trailer behind it. Mayor Cavanaugh stated traffic signals are to be determined. Mr. Gilbert said there is a huge problem that also currently exists at Aiken Elementary School. He said that is a disaster waiting to happen. He asked why there is not concern about that. Storm water drainage system – minimal on Silver Bluff, but extensive on Hitchcock Parkway. Environmental impact mitigation – minimal on Silver Bluff and extensive on Hitchcock Parkway. Retention ponds – one on Silver Bluff and he was sure it would be multiple on Hitchcock Parkway. He said none of this is taken into account in the \$54 million estimate.

Mr. Gilbert stated he would touch on this briefly, but it does relate to the cost and scope. He said the city's own traffic consultant publishing the latest Level of Service Report is that traffic is decreasing from 2010 to 2012 on Hitchcock Parkway. Myth No. 3 – Traffic volume data justifies freeway. He said there is a single data point being used for justification of this project. Mr. Gilbert stated the Level of Service Report is done every two years when the City of Aiken engages a traffic consultant to produce a report. He said when you look at that report you will see that traffic has declined on all four segments of Hitchcock Parkway from about a 15% decrease on one segment, 12% on another and the other two were in the single digit. Mr. Pearce stated that was in the 2012 report, and we are currently working on the 2014 report. Mr. Gilbert said a single data point is being used and that traffic count is 17,000 cars per day and that the theoretical capacity is 16,000. He said if it were money coming out of his pocket he would want more than that to justify the project. He pointed out that travel-time studies have not been performed and that is what should be done. He said a study should be done of how long it takes to get from point A to point B. He said we need to look at that. He is convinced that, based on the Level of Service Report, the most congested section of roadway by far in Aiken is on Whiskey Road between South Boundary and Boardman.

He said there are areas of Aiken that have much bigger problems than whatever is perceived for Hitchcock Parkway. He said we can't know that until we do some studies—some reasonably sophisticated studies. He said commercial development on the west side has been noted as a reason there will be more traffic. He said he submits the opposite is true. He said we have new commercial development on the west side which tends to keep people on the west side. They don't have to go to the south side so much any more. He said look at the Aiken Mall demise which is a perfect example. He pointed out that we have new medical facilities springing up all over the south side which means they no longer have to make so many trips to the west side hospital facilities and all the physicians located there.

Mr. Gilbert stated Myth No 4 – Freeway required for safety. He said late in the process last year safety was introduced as a concern. He said he maintains, and many maintain, there are some things that can be done, should be done, and they are economical right now with respect to safety. Those include additional traffic signals and coordination of traffic signals. Mr. Gilbert said coordination of traffic signals is the main inhibitor to traffic flow on any roadway including Hitchcock Parkway. He said we have people making right hand turns out of streets that intersect with Hitchcock Parkway. He said you stop, look, and see that nobody is coming when the light is red in your direction. They stop and then make a right hand turn. He said that trips the traffic signal so all the traffic on Hitchcock Parkway stops. He said that is crazy. Other items include turning, acceleration, and deceleration lanes. He said we can go over this in detail. He said one of the big frustrations that many have is that people seem to hear us, but we are not being listened to. He said we can sit down and have a discussion about these things, and if not now when. He said another item is widening existing lanes and shoulders. He said that is exactly what was done on Whiskey Road in order not to have to make that a four or five lane roadway. They provided wider lanes.

Mr. Gilbert said let's look at where the real road safety problems are in Aiken. After the rumble there is a safety problem on Hitchcock Parkway, they contacted the South Carolina Department of Public Safety and obtained a lot of data about accident statistics in Aiken. He pointed out the slide showed the accidents per mile for the period 2004 – 2013 except for the last column titled deaths which is for the total length of the roadway. He said that Whiskey Road between the Weeks Center and Tractor Supply had 755 accidents, 290 injuries and 3 deaths. Richland Avenue west 303 accidents, 166 injuries, and 2 deaths. He pointed out the last one Hitchcock Parkway with 98 accidents, 47 injuries and 0 deaths per mile over the 10 year period. He asked where is our sense of priority. He said presumably we have limited tax revenue to spend and presumably we ought to be evaluating where we get the most bang for the buck. He said he maintains it is not Hitchcock Parkway.

Mr. Gilbert stated Myth No. 5 – Freeway is required for smoothly-flowing traffic. He said he had done his own survey of the loop around Aiken. He felt anybody else would reach the same conclusion. He said Hitchcock Parkway is by far the freest flowing section of the 18 mile loop around Aiken already.

Mr. Gilbert stated Myth No. 6 – A thorough job of planning has been done. He said he asks where is the evidence of an effective Hitchcock Parkway planning process. He said he had excerpts from various documents, including the SC Code of Laws Title 6, Chapter 29 "...careful and comprehensive surveys and studies...systematic preparation...wise and efficient use of public funds...consideration of the fiscal impact on property owners." He said the Aiken Comprehensive Land Use & Transportation Plan "...minimize the impact of the automobile...no road improvements which would harm visual character...movement of motor vehicles should not be the only factor in determining when road projects should be constructed...consider its effect on the character of the city." He said his friend Tom Lex talked eloquently about that. Aiken Ten Year Capital Improvements Plan "...before any project is approved, sufficient funding must be identified." He said that has not happened. He said from his own experience as a contractor dealing with the federal government, if a federal government agency were to engage in this concept of incremental funding of a project, phasing of a project, he would liken it to well we need to build a 10 story building, but we only have money to build 5, so we will build 5 now and we will put a tarp over the top and come back later on. He said that is what is

happening with Hitchcock Parkway with this phasing. He said people have gone to jail for that kind of thinking with respect to federal government work. He pointed out the Dougherty Road corridor planning study. He said it was an excellent piece of work. The city hired a consultant and the consultant had a couple of subconsultants. He said it was a beautiful job. He thought it was thoughtful. It evaluated a group of alternatives. He said his question is that Dougherty Road in terms of complexity and impact on the community pales in comparison to Hitchcock Parkway. He asked why hasn't some of that consideration been given to Hitchcock Parkway. He said it has not been.

Mr. Gilbert said in summary it is the same old story. He said he urged City Council to let's have a good faith dialogue about this. He said this has not happened. He said let's do some thoughtful planning and thinking. He said let's don't be so concerned about that if we don't spend the money fast we are going to lose it. He said he wanted to get back to Silver Bluff Road because that keeps coming up. He said the purpose and need, as we all now know, for Silver Bluff Road was changed from capacity to corridor and operational improvements. He said the whole ballgame changed. He said one thing that did not change was that project did not go to the bottom of the list and take decades to resurrect. He said it would not happen on Hitchcock Parkway. He said if Hitchcock Parkway was important enough to be at the top of the list as a freeway, it will remain there as a corridor and operational improvements project. As such it would be much less costly and much less destructive. Mr. Gilbert urged City Council to somehow consider asking the South Carolina ARTS Policy Subcommittee to change the purpose and need for the project. He said that is what it comes down to.

Mr. Sam Kelley stated he would like to speak with Council on the subject of sidewalks and bicycle paths. He said he was not born and raised in South Carolina, but came here in 1996, having worked with one of the partner firms that ran the Savannah River Site from 1996. He said he retired in 2005. He said he is still here nine years later. He said he chose here because he enjoys living here and became a U.S. citizen. He said he was very proud to be a U.S. citizen. He said he lives in Kalmia Hill and has no vested interest in this other than an objective view from afar. He pointed out that he had also managed projects from the tens of millions to the billions. He said there is nobody better in the world than Bechtel at managing projects. He said when a Bechtel engineer tells you what he has told you, it would be a very foolish man to ignore his advice. He said he had been astonished tonight listening to talk about pedestrian and bicycle paths. He said a good project always has a very tight specification before you launch into spending money. He said there is nothing tight about this specification. He said we don't even know what we are doing yet. He said there is no justification for this on grounds of safety. He said he had spoken to business people in the community and as far as he can find there is no real business justification for this. He said we are in a time when we are all financially stressed. He said he has been told that this country is just emerging from a huge financial recession. He said he has in his genes some Scottish ties. He said one of the features of Scotts is that they have a dislike of spending money recklessly or foolishly. He said it seems to him that with such a loose specification, a new justification for what has been proposed as so eloquently described by the previous speaker, it would do us all well to consider how we propose to spend taxpayers dollars. He said as a U.S. citizen he pays city, county, state and federal taxes. He said he is told by many people that we are taxed enough already. He said there is no such thing as free money. It is taxpayers' money. There is no such thing as a free lunch. He said he objects to how his taxpayer dollars are spent when a little consideration of a lesser, but acceptable scheme involving what the previous speaker has suggested would be a much better option. He said he would plead with Council and suggest that it might be worth their while before going any further to consider the alternative to this grand scheme which will cost a lot of money for which we don't have the funds.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the matter is back to Council for consideration.

Councilman Merry stated he still has a question about the second resolution. Mr. Pearce stated the vote is on the first resolution.

Mr. Pearce stated his understanding is the motion is to pass the resolution keeping the first bullet which is to delete sidewalks and instead have a multi-use pathway on one side

of the project, narrow the landscaped median, and then totally eliminate the third bullet point which talks about opportunities to limit the total project cost to \$31,500,000.

Councilman Dewar stated the motion was to keep the bullet to delete sidewalks, and keep narrow landscaped median, and eliminate the bullet point to make other project adjustments to bring the project cost with contingencies to \$31,500,000. He said then add multi-use path on one side. Mr. Pearce stated that is what he said.

Councilman Homoki stated the question he has is if this will be an instruction to the ARTS Commission. Councilman Dewar stated the purpose was to give it to the ARTS Commission at the Thursday, May 1, meeting. Councilman Homoki said then that means that DOT will probably come up with a design different from what Council has seen for the last two years. Mr. Pearce stated Council has not seen a design yet, but a concept. He said it would be incorporated into the design. He said DOT has done a concept and that was presented at the December, 2013 meeting. He said they are in the design phase now. He said for the public hearing which is scheduled for later this year, that would give them an opportunity to incorporate Council's resolution in the design that they present at the public hearing.

Councilman Merry asked Councilman Dewar the reason for eliminating the suggestion in the resolution to try to keep the cost down.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not know that it was significant. "Make other project adjustments to bring the project cost, with contingencies, to \$31,500,000." He said he felt we do not have any idea what the total cost of the project is going to be. He said to say to keep the project under some magic number is questionable.

Councilman Merry stated that at every turn he would like to offer encouragement to keep costs down at every opportunity. Councilman Dewar stated he does not have any heartburn with the statement. He said it was not anything that he had originally proposed, and he does not have a heartburn keeping the sentence in. He said he agrees with Councilman Merry that anything we can do to keep the cost under control would be good. He said he did not know how significant a statement would be. He said if Councilman Merry wants to keep the statement in, he would modify his motion to keep it in. Councilman Merry stated he wanted to make sure that was a point of emphasis that cost is a concern.

Councilman Dewar stated he would amend his motion to include the third bullet in the resolution regarding keeping the cost of the project down. Councilman Merry seconded the amendment.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the resolution is proposed for approval by Council to be sent to the ARTS Commission. He said the resolution is either approved or not approved. It would then go on to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Smith, City Attorney, stated the resolution is an opportunity to provide City Council guidance to those ARTS bodies. Mr. Pearce stated if the Subcommittee and the Policy Committee adopt the resolution, it would then go to the SCDOT to be incorporated into the design that they are preparing.

Councilman Dewar stated if the resolution is adopted would it be emailed to ARTS Commission and copies given to the two Council representatives on the ARTS Commission.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked about the multi-use path on one side of the roadway. Councilman Dewar stated the resolution was amended to delete the sidewalks and include a multi-use path on one side of the roadway, to narrow the landscaped median, and to keep the third bullet about keeping the cost of the project down.

Councilman Homoki stated somewhere he had seen that \$3 million had been spent on the engineering project design or preliminary engineering. Mr. Pearce stated it says they have obligated it, not that they have spent it yet. He said that will be used for the

preliminary engineering. He said that would be part of the public hearing that will be held later this year. Councilman Homoki said if ARTS is going to recommend the inclusion of what Councilman Dewar is saying in the resolution as an instruction to SCDOT on Thursday, May 1, will that be included in the design that Council will see later this year. Mr. Pearce stated it should be if ARTS recommends it and sends it on to the Policy Committee for a vote. Councilman Homoki stated ARTS takes their direction from Council, as that is the way they operate. He said what Councilman Dewar is recommending is what Council will see at the final design. Councilman Dewar stated it is what Council would like to see, but Council is not the final approver. Mr. Pearce stated the ARTS Subcommittee would have to vote on it. Then it would go to the full Committee for a vote. Mr. Pearce stated if it is approved at those two stages, then it should be included in the DOT design.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he felt when you get down to the money aspect of it and do all the project adjustments to bring the cost down as much as possible with contingencies to \$31,500,000, he felt there is no way we can ensure that. Mayor Cavanaugh stated it would be giving our opinion of what we would like to see happen. Councilman Dewar stated it was Council's recommendations.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that is another reason why Mr. Young, who has been before Council before, says don't act right now.

Mr. Sam Kelly asked if Council, in spite of the advice given by expert project managers on money control and specifications, etc. who suggest that this project is not under control, will proceed with the scheme as originally designed. He asked if Council is ignoring the comments made by the people in this room. He asked if Council is not going to consider alternatives.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council is proceeding at this point. Mr. Pearce pointed out that there will be a formal public hearing. It is currently scheduled for the end of this year. He said input would be received at that hearing as well.

Mr. Kelley stated he is understating that Council will make proposals to the ARTS Committee and that may be a source of approval unless Council tells the ARTS Committee that they want to change the specification for the project. Then it will go ahead as originally proposed.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the items on the agenda for this meeting were very clear. It did not include whether or not we will continue with the project or change the purpose of the project. Mr. Kelley asked if Council was proceeding with the four laning of Hitchcock Parkway. Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council is. He said the resolution changes a few things about the plan, but not the total project.

Mr. Kelley stated then Council is going forward despite the comments of the previous speaker before him.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had heard the comments and would take that into consideration. He said however that was not on the agenda. He said Council has a set agenda or otherwise they would be running all over the place.

Mr. Kelley stated he was just giving his opinion that Council cannot go forward with the proposal when the whole thing is so imprecise. Mayor Cavanaugh stated he appreciated the opinion.

Ms. Leslie Giobbe stated it seems to her that we are putting the cart before the horse. She asked how many times we have to go through this iteration. She said the whole thing will take years and years. She pointed out there is a whole room of people present at this meeting. She pointed out there were a lot of people at the meeting at the County Council building last fall and at St. Paul's Church. She said she canvassed the St. Paul's meeting, and she thought that 99% of the people there were adamantly against what is going on here. She pointed out the chairman of the ILA Department of Transportation says they are taking four and five lane highways and reducing them to three lanes to make them

safer. She said Aiken had been through a horrible ice storm. She said there were water mains that date back to the 1890s breaking all over town. She said Aiken has very old infrastructure and very old gas pipe lines. She felt we were not taking care of our basic infrastructure, but we are going full blast to do something to expand the Hitchcock Parkway to something that is not needed. She said if Council were managing her money she would be broke. She said she does not handle her personal finances this way. She said she guess it is because the city has the ability to float a bond issue or to raise taxes or other various pockets where the money will appear from.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Ms. Giobbe was saying some things that are not true. He said we have not raised property taxes in 25 years even though they have been raised by other things. He also pointed out that the city does not have a bond issue. Ms. Giobbe stated she was not talking about that, but was talking about state taxes and federal taxes. She said her question is when would be the most appropriate time for her and others to request that the purpose and need for this project be changed from capacity to corridor and operational improvements.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated it could be put on the next meeting's agenda if requested. Ms. Giobbe asked how she would do that. Mayor Cavanaugh stated she needs to talk to the City Manager. Mr. Pearce stated Ms. Giobbe could send him an email.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that the piece of paper in front of Council tonight is a memorandum. She said it specifically says the subject tonight is a resolution regarding Hitchcock Parkway sidewalks, median width and project staging. She said beyond that other items are another memo to Council. She pointed out that the majority of the people present are opposed, she is sensing, to the widening of Hitchcock Parkway. She said there are businesses that support the widening of Hitchcock Parkway. She said in fairness to the population of people, we would have to have a meeting to give them a fair subject because if we added something to the agenda and other people are not here, it is not fair to the other population that came out to the meeting at the church. She said we want to make sure we have the balance. She said the subject for this meeting is to discuss the sidewalks, median width and project staging of Hitchcock Parkway. She said Council has been told by the legal staff that what is on the agenda is what Council is to address.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council approve the resolution regarding Hitchcock Parkway with the points being to: delete sidewalks, but add a multi-use path on one side of Hitchcock Parkway, narrow the landscaped median, and make other project adjustments to bring the total project cost with contingencies to \$31,500,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

HITCHCOCK PARKWAY - RESOLUTION 04282014B

Funding

Aiken County

Mr. Pearce stated the second resolution was to make a request to Aiken County Council to commit \$5,000,000 from the Capital Projects Sales Tax III funds in the County portion to the Hitchcock Parkway project.

Councilman Merry stated his question about that and the process is he had suggested that we reach out to the County on this months ago. He said he was told then that we had done that. He asked if this \$5,000,000 is something we have discussed with the County. He asked where we stand on this and if the amount was specifically \$5,000,000. Mr. Pearce stated it had been discussed with the County, and they had asked that Council make a formal request for action by Aiken County Council. Mr. Pearce stated the County Council will have to vote on it. There is no commitment; they are to consider the request.

Councilman Merry moved that Council approve the resolution to make a request to Aiken County Council to commit \$5,000,000 from the Capital Projects Sales Tax III funds to the Hitchcock Parkway project. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved. Councilman Dewar did not participate as he was out of the Council Chambers at the time.

BUDGET – AMENDMENT ORDINANCELoad and Haul Debris
Winter Storm PAX

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to amend the budget to approve a contract for hauling Winter Storm PAX chipped debris.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2013 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2014.

Mr. Pearce stated Winter Storm PAX left tons of storm debris in its wake. Once the debris is chipped, we must dispose of it. Our conversations with FEMA indicate that this expense is reimbursable, since this is a component of debris removal.

We are working on storing debris for city use as well as to see what can be made available to our residents.

The hauling cost was advertised for sealed bids, since we expected the cost to be greater than \$25,000. We received three responses. The apparent low bidder is McWhortor Logging, Inc. at \$2.75 a ton for debris hauled one to 25 miles; \$3.00 a ton for debris hauled 26 to 50 miles; and \$3.25 a ton for debris hauled 51 to 75 miles. The vendor is able to charge a much lower cost because a large portion of the chips can be hauled to various plants and mills in the area. We estimate there will be as much as 15,000 tons of debris. Loading and hauling costs are projected to be in the range of \$41,250 based on the amount of debris we have collected so far. Mr. Pearce stated we were using estimates and converting cubic yards of debris collected and then turning that into chipped wood which is measured by the ton. He said staff would ask that in voting on this for first reading that the ordinance be modified so it reads an additional expenditure not to exceed \$41,250 from the General Fund.

We have sufficient reserve funds to temporarily offset this storm damage hauling. We will be filing for payment for debris as part of our FEMA reimbursement claims and will make every effort to recoup as much of this cost as possible.

For City Council approval on first reading is an ordinance to amend the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget to approve the contract to appropriate funds in order to load and haul debris caused by Winter Storm PAX once it is chipped. Mr. Pearce stated the apparent low bidder, McWhortor Logging, actually has customers that are industrial clients that are the end user for the wood chips. He said the chips are not going to the landfill. He said we had been very clear that if he has an indication that there would be debris that would have to go to the landfill that instead we would make the chipped debris available to the residents or the city and not send it to the landfill.

Councilman Dewar stated he would ask again that we make sure that DHEC is on board with what we are planning to do with the chipped debris. Mr. Pearce stated this bid was just for hauling the debris. Councilman Dewar asked where the debris would be hauled. Mr. Pearce stated that the particular hauler has end users, industrial clients, like the Biomass Plant at the SRS Site. He said at this time the Biomass Plant is not accepting wood chips, but that may change. He said the hauler has assured us there is an end user for the chips. Councilman Dewar asked if any of the chips could be available to the residents of the city. Mr. Pearce stated he had just said if there is not an end user for the chips we would make the chips available to the public or we would use them in the city operation for the parkways.

Councilman Ebner asked if staff was sure they have adjusted this to the extra yardage. Mr. Pearce stated they had. He said with the calculations that Mr. Bedenbaugh, Purchasing Agent, did we could change the ordinance to say not to exceed \$41,250. Councilman Ebner stated that is based on a unit value contract. Mr. Pearce stated the hauling is priced per ton hauled.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14 to approve a contract with McWhortor Logging for hauling Winter Storm PAX chipped debris for a cost not to exceed \$41,250 and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

EDGEWOOD

James Matthews
Storm Drainage
Water

Mr. James Matthews asked for recognition. He said he was present at the April 14, 2014, meeting and was back at this meeting, but he did not see him listed on the agenda.

Mr. Pearce stated he did not know that Mr. Matthews was supposed to be on the agenda at this meeting.

Mr. Matthews stated he was asked to be back at the next meeting. Mr. Pearce stated he did not know what item he should be on the agenda for.

Mr. Pearce asked Mr. Matthews if he was present at the beginning of this meeting when Councilman Ebner talked about having a worksession this summer that includes the Edgewood issues.

Councilman Ebner stated we did talk about Mr. Matthews coming back. Councilman Ebner stated what he had suggested to Council was to have a worksession very shortly which would discuss the drainage issues in Edgewood as well as the other development issues for a comprehensive plan. He asked that Mr. Matthews be notified of that meeting so he would be included in the discussion. He said it would probably be in the July timeframe.

AIKEN CORPORATION – ORDINANCE

Loan
Grant
Housing
Northside

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to restructure the loan between Aiken Corporation and the City of Aiken.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AWARDDING AIKEN CORPORATION A GRANT TO CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTHSIDE OF THE CITY OF AIKEN.

Mr. Pearce stated Wade Brodie, Chairman, Aiken Corporation, has contacted us about a pending \$328,800 loan they have with the City of Aiken. This zero-interest loan is on a two-year call by the Aiken City Manager.

Mr. Brodie reports that the Aiken Corporation Executive Committee has unanimously endorsed their request that this loan be converted to a grant instead. Under the terms of the grant, these funds would be earmarked to increase population density in the City of Aiken.

A draft grant document for execution by Aiken Corporation and the City of Aiken is included with these materials for Council consideration.

Since this existing loan was consolidated through a City Council ordinance, we are informed by our City Attorney that a revision to the loan terms must also be accomplished through an ordinance.

Mr. Pearce stated in light of the earlier discussion by Council regarding rental leases in Crosland Park, he asked if this is an item that Council is going to discuss or what.

Councilman Ebner asked if Council needs to table or continue the item until Council has the worksession in July. He asked the City Attorney how to proceed. Mr. Smith stated Council could move to continue until after the July meeting when the other issues are discussed.

Councilman Ebner moved that consideration of the ordinance to modify the loan terms of the \$328,800 loan Aiken Corporation has with the City of Aiken be continued until after Council holds its worksession in relation to the Northside development. The motion was seconded by Councilman Homoki and unanimously approved.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – ORDINANCE

Outdoor Lighting

Planned Commercial Zone

Planned Institutional Zone

LED Lighting

Emergency Lighting

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding outdoor lighting in the Planned Commercial and Planned Institutional zones.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING OUTDOOR LIGHTING IN THE PLANNED COMMERCIAL AND PLANNED INSTITUTIONAL ZONES.

Mr. Pearce stated as part of their Action Agenda, the Planning Commission has reviewed Outdoor Lighting use in the Planned Commercial and Planned Institutional Zones. They have compared existing Zoning Ordinance language to see how it could be revised to enhance new lighting technologies that were not available for purchase at the time the Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1999. After their review, the Planning Commission has recommended these revisions:

- 4.3.8.F1(e) would be changed to allow LED lighting or any other type of lighting as approved by the Director of Engineering & Utilities.
- 4.3.8.F.13 would be changed to exempt lighting for emergency purposes from the prohibition on "lights used to attract attention" so that emergency lights in parking lots or in places such as the walking track at Virginia Acres park would not be prohibited.

Mr. Pearce pointed out the example page in the agenda packet that shows this new language to be added as underlined and in bold print.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of these changes to our Zoning Ordinance.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding outdoor lighting in the Planned Commercial and Planned Institutional zones.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve the ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding outdoor lighting in the Planned Commercial and Planned Institutional zones on first reading and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

HITCHCOCK PLAZA – ORDINANCE

Development Agreement

Acadia Hendon Hitchcock Plaza LLC

Silver Bluff Road

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to cancel the Developers Agreement with Acadia Hendon Hitchcock Plaza LLC.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NUMBER 10252004 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ACADIA HENDON HITCHCOCK PLAZA LLC.

Mr. Pearce stated Acadia Hendon Hitchcock Plaza LLC owners have contacted us regarding their Developers Agreement. By Ordinance No. 10252004, City Council approved this Agreement. Acadia Hendon Hitchcock Plaza representatives seek cancellation of this Agreement because all requirements of it have been completed. According to these owners, without a cancellation of this prior ordinance, they believe the record indicates that their Developers Agreement would still be pending. Therefore the owners seek its affirmative cancellation by City Council. He said for their business purposes and to make sure that the record is clear they need an ordinance confirming that the Development Agreement terms have all been met. He pointed out that the Development Agreement was recorded at the deed office. He said Ed Evans, Planning Director, and George Grinton, Engineering & Utilities Department Director, have reviewed the agreement to make sure all items have been complied with. He said they have reported that all the items have been met, and they have no objection and recommend that the agreement be cancelled.

For City Council action is first reading of an ordinance to cancel the Developers Agreement approved by City Council under Ordinance No. 10252004.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to cancel the Developers Agreement approved by City Council under Ordinance No. 10252004 as the requirements have been completed and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

LOAN – ORDINANCE

Silver Bluff Water Plant

Interfund Loan

Meter Replacement Project

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to authorize a loan up to \$3,840,000 to fund construction of the Silver Bluff Water Treatment Plant and Meter Replacement Projects.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO LEND UP TO \$3,840,000 TO PROVIDE FINANCING TO FUND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SILVER BLUFF WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Mr. Pearce stated as we discussed at Horizons, our recent Engineering and Utilities budget work shop, and in other Council meetings, work is continuing on the Silver Bluff Water Plant and wells project. The proposed ordinance will allow the interfund loan so we can complete the plant and install meters to be paid back on the schedule which is included in the agenda packet. As this construction progresses, it is becoming time to activate the interfund loan to provide cash flow for it. The borrowing and repayment schedules for these project costs have been previously provided and are included again for Council's reference.

For Council consideration on first reading is an ordinance to authorize interfund borrowing to pay costs associated with the Silver Bluff Water Plant and Wells Project and water meter replacements.

Councilman Homoki moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to authorize interfund borrowing to pay costs associated with the Silver Bluff Water Plant and Wells Project and the meter replacement project.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not know why we were doing this.

Councilman Ebner stated Council had approved money several times for this project. Mr. Pearce stated Council had approved the budget so we could undertake the project. This action is to authorize staff to take the General Fund money and use it on a utility project to pay back according to the schedule included in the agenda packet.

Councilman Ebner stated regarding the water meter replacements, in 2012 Council specifically had in the ordinance, depending on how you count the 8% Council approved, either 5% or 6% depending on how you do the numbers was dedicated for this work. He said if you take 5% of \$14 million that is about \$700,000 plus or minus \$1,000. He said that was in the ordinance with no question about it, and specifically pointed out. He said it was not in the ordinance, it was in the attachment to it. He said he assumed at that time that Council voted that money for meter replacements.

Mr. Pearce stated Council committed the funds. The proposed ordinance authorizes staff to transfer the funds and spend it. Councilman Ebner stated part of the authorization to increase the water rates was to pay for this. Mr. Pearce stated those funds were not approved for the construction of the water plant as he understood it. Councilman Ebner stated he felt we need to have that document that Council approved. He said it was in 2012 and Council had discussed it several times as well as in worksessions. He said it specifically stated funds allocated for water meters. He said he would have to go back and reread the ordinance.

Mr. Pearce asked Councilman Ebner if he was talking about the 8% increase in water rates. Councilman Ebner responded he was and that Council also talked about it with the 10% increase in water rates.

Mr. Pearce stated for the 8% water rate increase, 2% of that was committed to inflation and 6% was to hire three additional two-person crews and equip them to replace the water meters and water lines. Mr. Pearce stated that is how the money was committed and how the money was spent. Councilman Ebner stated it did not take \$700,000 to do that and that is how much the increase was per year. It specifically said replacing the meters. He said if you are going to replace them, you have to buy them.

Mr. Pearce stated his understanding of that rate increase was to hire the staff and purchase the equipment. He said we can run the numbers. He said the issue we are up against is we are spending down the cash on hand, and we need the interfund loan to make the payments we have to make on the water plant.

Councilman Ebner stated they have a different interpretation. He said we would have to get the City Attorney involved because it was written in there specifically, and it does not take 6% to hire 6 people. He said roughly that equates to \$700,000 a year.

Mr. Pearce pointed out that we are purchasing \$3.6 million worth of meters and for the water plant we are projected to spend over \$3.7 million. Councilman Ebner stated Council authorized funding for that when we authorized the plant. Mr. Pearce stated Council authorized the construction of the plant in the budget. That money was not spent, so we did not need to do the interfund loan to have the cash flow for the plant. Now we are building the plant, and we do need the cash flow. He said the loan and payout is something we have discussed with Council several times. It is the interfund loan that we need to be able to pay for the project.

Councilman Ebner stated the interfund loan showed up on this paper about two or three years ago. He said it is his understanding that when Council authorized the Silver Bluff Water Plant that Council authorized the funding for it to be paid for out of the Water and Sewer Fund from that point forward in the money that we escrowed.

Mr. Pearce stated he did not realize this was a concern of Councilman Ebner. He said this was something staff could have researched and had at the meeting tonight. He said this is first reading of the ordinance. He said if Council will pass it on first reading by second reading staff could have all the documentation and Council could vote it up or down. He said we need the funding to be in place in order to pay the bills that are coming due.

Councilman Ebner asked how we put it in the budget and the auditors passed the budget every time. We had this number in the budget every time that we were going to spend that money. Mr. Pearce stated we thought we were going to commence the project last budget year, but did not because of some budget problems we had with the folks that bid. He said staff can go back and look in the budget. He said the revenue source for this project would have been shown as an interfund loan in part.

Councilman Ebner stated we have shown almost \$52 million budgets for three years in a row and this was in there every time. He said we showed an equal amount of \$52 million income. He said that would say it was funded to him. Mr. Pearce stated it was funded. He said he would be glad to meet with Councilman Ebner in his office and go through the process. He said he thought it shows an interfund loan as part of the funding, not just the revenue of the Utility Fund. Mr. Pearce stated staff can pull up that detail and go through it with him.

Councilman Ebner stated the other part was discussed at the meeting for the Engineering and Utilities Department budget. He said Mr. Grinton and Ms. Abney can verify that we use \$250 cost per replacement meter and we have 18,000 of them. Mr. Pearce stated we don't have to replace 18,000 meters, but probably have to replace about 14,000 to 15,000 meters. Councilman Ebner stated that is not the number Council had been given before. Mr. Pearce stated he would be glad to meet with him and go through this. Councilman Ebner stated Council had already met with them, and we agreed to replace all the brass meters. He said most all of them are 20 years or older now.

Mr. Pearce stated he thought we had some newer than 20 years. He said staff could go into the detail again if we need to. He said that is not a problem. He said it would be helpful to staff if Council could at least pass the ordinance on first reading. He said staff can provide the detail for the second reading.

Councilman Dewar stated he had questions as well. He said he guesses it is about municipal funding. He said he did not think we could borrow from the General Fund to do something in an enterprise fund. He thought if we were doing that we would go through the process where it had to be a bond.

Mr. Pearce stated Mr. Smith could speak to that. He said the city has done interfund loans in the past without having a bond. He said that is money we are holding. Councilman Dewar stated under law, can we take General Fund money and use it in the enterprise fund. Mr. Smith stated you can't do the reverse. You can't use Utility Fund money to fund things that should be funded by the General Fund. He said Utility Fund money has to stay with the Utility Fund.

Councilman Dewar stated then General Fund money can be used to fund enterprise projects. Mr. Smith said yes. Councilman Ebner asked if there were any reserves in the enterprise fund and if so, could those reserve funds be used so it funds itself.

Mr. Pearce responded that on the sheet labeled "Projected Capital Expenses and Debt Service" it does show the System Depreciation money. He said it is a line item, and we had looked at that in the meeting in his office. He said we could go through it again.

Councilman Dewar pointed out on the "Projected Capital Expenses and Debt Service" the third item labeled "Balance of Debt." He pointed out "New Interfund Loans." Mr. Pearce stated that is the loan we are talking about at this meeting. Councilman Dewar stated then the \$3,840,300 is the loan we are talking about at this meeting. Councilman Dewar asked what the \$2,888,300 means. Mr. Pearce stated that is the balance due after we have made a payment on the loan. Councilman Dewar asked where on the page it shows how much the payment is. Mr. Pearce stated it is shown in "Debt Services Expenses" New Interfund Loans which is just above the "Balance of Debt." He said it shows a payment of \$46,084 in 2014-15 and then in budget year 2015-16 it shows a payment of \$998,084. Councilman Dewar asked where we would get the \$998,084 to pay the loan. Mr. Pearce stated that would be the Utility Fund paying the loan back to the General Fund. Councilman Dewar stated the line says "New Interfund Loans." Mr. Pearce stated that is the pay back of the loan. Councilman Dewar stated for the first year we would pay \$46,084 against a \$3,840,300 loan. He said that would still give a balance of about \$3.8 million rounding it up, yet a balance of \$2.8 million is shown. Mr. Pearce pointed out that balance is shown in budget year 2015-16. Councilman Dewar stated he did not understand the numbers.

Mr. Pearce stated he would be glad to meet with him and go through this. Councilman Dewar stated he would rather have it in a public discussion with Council. He said that is the place to have it. He said if he wants to have a worksession that is fine if we defer it to the next meeting. Mr. Pearce stated when staff looked at this we looked at about a \$1 million amount for debt service once we had borrowed the money and started to pay the money back. He said it is on a four year pay back for the loan which covers the Silver Bluff Water Treatment Plant and wells. He pointed out this year we were going to spend \$3 million. Next year we would spend \$1,227,000. He stated that is shown in the detail at the bottom of the chart. He said the total to build the plant is \$4.227 million. He said the loan is less than the total cost of the plant as we have used our reserve money to pay. He said we will be using the System Depreciation money to help pay off the loan. Councilman Dewar stated this is System Depreciation money from what account. Mr. Pearce stated it is the Utilities Account. Councilman Dewar stated isn't this the money that we said we would not know how much we would have to apply to depreciation until the August reconciliation. Mr. Pearce stated that is when we have the confirmed number. He said that is estimated to be \$643,000 at this point for this budget year. It is estimated next budget year to be \$1,200,000. Councilman Dewar asked if he really thought we would have \$1,200,000 based on what we know now about the budget. Mr. Pearce stated he felt we would know better in November, as discussed at the worksession. Councilman Dewar stated that is his frustration. We are talking about big money. If we are talking about borrowing \$3,840,300 from the General Fund, he would like to feel a lot more comfortable about the ability to repay that loan. He said history tells him that when we come up in August to reconcile everything that we will not have the money to put into the System Depreciation. He said it is almost like a pie in the sky approach to say we are going to pay this off in three years. He said our history with Depreciation doesn't justify that. He said what Council learned in the Engineering and Utilities meeting is that they have a lot of projects that they need to do, and they need a lot more money than they have. He said he did not know what they would cut based on what Council heard in their worksession. He said he was not comfortable with the chart. He felt it is pie in the sky to think we will come up with that kind of money to pay off the loan. He said that is his opinion.

Councilman Ebner said actually the loan will be paid off from the 2009 Revenue Bond which pays out in December, 2014. Mr. Pearce stated that is a good point, and he appreciated his bringing that up. He said we are currently paying in this budget \$1,009,625 to pay off the Revenue Bond. Then in December which will be part of the 2014-15 budget year, we will pay \$1,030,124 which pays out the bond. That will retire the Utility bond. We have not missed a bond payment. We have never missed a bond payment. Since we don't have to make the bond payment every year, you are committing that money instead to pay off the new interfund loan. He said he appreciates the concern as we all need to be concerned about that. He said the history and track record we do have is that we were able to make the bond payments and projected forward we believe we can make that payment of \$998,000.

Councilman Dewar stated making the bond payment is far different from making an in-house loan that we can just arbitrarily come up with an excuse for not being able to fund it. Mr. Pearce stated that is something that we would come to Council for a vote. He said staff would not arbitrarily do it. Councilman Dewar stated if you don't have it, you can't pay the loan. Mr. Pearce stated we have had it in the past every year of the bond. Councilman Dewar stated regarding the bond he understands that and has no qualm about it. He pointed out how long it has taken to pay the Crosland Park loan off and the difficulty we have had funding depreciation in the enterprise fund though we have had several significant water rate increases. He said he did not see how that would be any different this year. He said he questions our ability to project a loan payment. Mr. Pearce stated it is based on our ability to make the bond payments and the bond will be paid off so it will be retired. He said that money will be available to make the payments on the loan. Councilman Dewar stated that is money we made available in the budget to pay the bond. He said what Mr. Pearce is saying is that when he gives Council the budget, he will keep the same amount and bind that money to repaying the interfund loan from the General Fund to do the water meters and the water plant. Mr. Pearce stated the other additional item is the Shaws Creek byproducts installation.

Councilman Merry stated then because of the retirement of the revenue bond we have roughly \$1 million a year that we can now spend to pay for the water treatment facility. Mr. Pearce said that is right. Councilman Merry asked if that did not alleviate some of the pressure on the water rates that Council just voted to raise.

Councilman Dewar stated not necessarily because of the work that has to be done. Mr. Pearce said the reason for the water rate increase was the fact that we were not able to make the full system depreciation payment of \$1.2 million as well as our operation expenses. Councilman Merry stated some of the expenses were for the water treatment facility on Silver Bluff. Mr. Pearce said yes from System Depreciation--the money on hand. He said we wanted to spend the money on hand before we borrowed money to finish the project. He said that is what we have had in the projections from the beginning. He said it is not pie in the sky as it is a plan to fully depreciate the system because of the discussion we had last Thursday about putting depreciation in the budget to make sure we were ready when we had these big expenses.

Councilman Merry stated he would be content to meet with Mr. Pearce later about it, but he was not sure he really understands the situation.

Councilman Ebner stated to make June 20, 2014, we have to borrow \$3.8 million to make June 30 payroll. Mr. Pearce stated what we are showing on the loan is \$2,873,000 this year and then \$967,300 for next budget year. He said we do need the money now. Councilman Ebner asked if the \$1.2 million in System Depreciation will also go to pay off this loan or if it would go for other expenses like we have been using it. Mr. Pearce stated to him that would go for other expenses because we would use the bond payment to pay off the loan. Councilman Ebner stated that is what we need to say. He said he has two issues. One is he felt we had already put the money there. He said we had money in 2010 of \$3.8 million and the next year it disappeared. He said he would bring that to the next meeting. Councilman Ebner said he felt we need to alter what this says and say we will use the revenue bond money of \$1,030,124 to pay this off. Mr. Pearce asked if he meant for the repayment of the interfund loan. Councilman Ebner responded yes. He said the end of December, 2014 we pay off the bond. Mr. Pearce responded that is the plan. Councilman Ebner asked if that was accumulated on a monthly basis or at the end of the year to pay off the bond. Mr. Pearce pointed out the proposed note says a six month period. He said it is computed every six months. Councilman Ebner asked how the bond is paid off. He asked if it was a monthly payment. Mr. Pearce responded it is an annual payment. Councilman Ebner asked if the money is collected per month or if we just wait until the end of the year and pay the \$1 million. Mr. Pearce pointed out is a mid-budget year payment.

Ms. Abney stated presently for the bond we make monthly payments to a trust account and then make the annual payment. Councilman Ebner asked if we accumulate the money and then pay it at the end of the calendar year. He said then every month we put some money in an account. He said the reason that is important is there are two ways to

do it. He pointed out the System Depreciation is determined at the end of the year to see what is left over. He said he wondered how the \$1,030,000 is accumulated. Ms. Abney stated for the bond we make monthly payments into a trust account and then semi-annually, every six months, we make an interest payment and once a year in December we make the principal payment. She said the \$1 million of the principal and interest, Debt Service, is what we would continue to use to pay off the interfund loan.

Councilman Ebner asked if we could say that in the Note. He said his concern is that we are taking \$1.5 million out of Capital III to pay off one loan to the Water and Sewer Fund. He felt if we put in the Note what Ms. Abney said he would feel much better as it would be an obligation that we do it. Mr. Pearce stated if Council could pass it on first reading, we will get with the City Attorney for the wording in the Note terms and have that on second reading.

Councilman Dewar stated he would appreciate it if staff could write the issue in a narrative form for him. He said by that he means we are borrowing \$3,840,000 from the General Fund to the Water Fund for the water plant and water meter projects. He said then tell him where we will get the money to pay that loan off with the \$998,084 in 15-16. Mr. Pearce said the payment in budget year 2014-15 will be \$46,084. Councilman Dewar stated the payment in 14-15 will be \$46,084 and then \$998,084 in 15-16. He asked where the money would come from. Mr. Pearce stated it is the former bond payment that would go to pay the interfund loan payment instead. Councilman Dewar stated he wanted to piggyback on Councilman Ebner's question as to whether we are going to set that money aside every month in an accrual fund so we guarantee that payment will be made. Mr. Pearce responded that we can do it however Council would like it structured.

Councilman Ebner stated if the past procedure has been to accumulate per month, then he felt we should make this a monthly payment. Mr. Pearce stated we can set up a special holding account. When we give Council the special holding report it will be shown on the report. Councilman Ebner stated he was saying pay the loan once a month out of cash. Mr. Pearce stated we could do it any way. He said we could either accumulate it by paying it every month to a trust account and make the payment on the loan semi-annually or pay it every month depending on what Council desires. Councilman Ebner pointed out there is interest on it using the Local Government Investment Pool rate. He asked why not just pay a monthly note just like a mortgage. Mr. Pearce stated we could. Councilman Ebner stated there is no use to collect it and pay interest all year on the money. He said just pay it as a monthly mortgage note. Mr. Pearce asked if to pay as you go to contain the interest is the point.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to know how Council would be able to monitor that payment. Mr. Pearce stated it would be on line in the expenditures item. He said we could give Council the citation for it. Councilman Ebner stated he felt we need to do that. He said we don't need to go back to the \$1.5 million loan from 2009. Mr. Pearce stated Council does not want the loan open ended, you don't want it like the \$328,000 loan, nor like the \$1.5 million loan, but want a regular payment that shows the city is paying its bills. Councilman Ebner stated working with Ms. Abney is pretty easy to do. We just pay it as a monthly mortgage based on \$1,030,145 until it is paid off. Mr. Pearce stated that is how they had the payment set up now. Councilman Ebner stated he realized that, but he thought that was what we need to do. He said that way it is guaranteed we pay it once a month, and it will pay off in about four years. Mr. Pearce stated we were trying to keep it in the range of \$1 million just in case we had a need for money for other items. Mr. Pearce stated we are talking about \$30,000. Councilman Ebner said then make it \$1 million, if that is the difference, and you want \$30,000. He said make it \$1 million divided by 12 on a monthly payment. He said his concern is what Mr. Pearce had said. Councilman Ebner stated we dedicated the money to the bond, and we never missed a bond payment. He said let's don't miss a payment on the interfund loan. Mr. Pearce stated that is fine. Councilman Ebner stated if Mr. Pearce wanted to make it an even \$1 million divided by 12 he was okay with that too. He said \$30,000 in four years is not that much. Mr. Pearce stated you would be surprised how sometimes \$30,000 makes all the difference.

Councilman Dewar stated the sheet shows that staff is asking for this money April 1, 2014. He pointed out that is this fiscal year—2013-14. Mr. Pearce stated the actual date of the note is April 30, 2014. He said the date could be changed. Councilman Dewar asked when he would take the money. Mr. Pearce stated Council has not passed the ordinance yet so the date could be changed to May 12, 2014. Councilman Dewar stated what he was saying in the agenda packet on page 181 says we will have the loan in next fiscal year, which does not start until July 1, 2014. Mr. Pearce pointed out the sheet shows that we have to finish paying off the bond. Councilman Ebner stated the money will be borrowed as it is spent. Mr. Pearce said that was right. Councilman Ebner stated he felt we need to put all that in there so five years from now somebody does not come back and say the City Council did not pay their debt. Mr. Pearce said he was sure that would not be said.

Councilman Dewar stated we are taking the money out this fiscal year. Mr. Pearce responded that is what the sheet shows. Councilman Ebner pointed out that they would take some of it, not all of it, just whatever we need. He said they are supposed to spend all the money in the fund and then borrow the money. Councilman Dewar stated he understands, but the first time they see the \$3,840,000 is next fiscal year. Councilman Ebner stated it would be July 1, 2014. Councilman Dewar stated so we are getting the money now. Mr. Pearce stated the interfund loan shows \$2,873,000 this budget year. Councilman Dewar stated there are three interfund loans on the chart which is confusing. He said one is the balance of debt interfund loan. That is a debt service interfund loan. That is a capital expense interfund loan. He asked are we saying we are borrowing \$2,873,000. Mr. Pearce said we are borrowing \$2,873,000 of the total \$3,840,300. Councilman Dewar said if he added the \$967,300 that will come out to \$3,840,300. Councilman Ebner said it would be close. Mr. Pearce said it is close.

Councilman Homoki asked if it would help if we made it two loans. Make one for the \$2,873,000 and then the other one so you don't get confused on which year it is coming out of. Just take the \$2,873,000 this year. Mr. Pearce stated we would have to do a separate ordinance. He said we have the debt identified and will not pay interest on it or take the money out until we need it. Councilman Homoki stated he felt it would be more understandable that way. Mr. Pearce stated it is helpful to staff if we could go ahead and get approval so we can expend the additional \$967,300. He said we are trying to keep the project on track.

Councilman Dewar stated we would borrow \$2,873,000 this fiscal year. Mr. Pearce responded that is right and \$967,300 next year to finish out the project. Councilman Dewar stated next year of the entire amount we are only going to spend \$46,084 against that loan. Mr. Pearce said we will pay back \$46,084 which is the interest. Councilman Dewar stated the principal payment is Debt Service Expenses. Mr. Pearce stated that will start in 2015-16. Councilman Dewar stated then we won't make any payments for a whole fiscal year. Mr. Pearce stated we will make an interest payment next year. Councilman Ebner stated he thought we had just said we would make a month mortgage payment. Mr. Pearce stated we would have the money available to do that starting in 2015-16. Councilman Ebner stated right, it should be January, 2015, when we start making a monthly payment against the loan. Mr. Pearce stated actually Councilman Ebner had said January 2015. He said for 2015-16 we could do it in July 2015 with a monthly payment as Councilman Ebner said. Councilman Ebner said he thought we paid off the million dollars by December 31, 2014. Mr. Pearce said that is right, but he has spent the money out of the Utilities Fund for that year, and we need to get into the next budget year to make the loan payment. He said that would be July 1, 2015 when the money would be available. He pointed out he would have made the bond payment so it has been spent. He said he needs to get in the new budget year to have the money come in that he does not have to make the bond payment again so he could make the interfund loan payment.

Councilman Ebner stated he thought Ms. Abney had said she was going to accumulate it on a monthly basis. Mr. Pearce stated right, but we still have to make the bond payment. He said we are converting the bond payment to the interfund loan payment. He said he would make the bond payment in December, 2014, so he would have spent that money.

It would not be available to make monthly payments in January, February, March, April, May or June, 2015. He said it would be available July, 2015.

Councilman Dewar asked if we absolutely have to borrow this far in advance. Councilman Ebner stated our confusion is based around fiscal year and calendar year. Mr. Pearce stated the calendar year is just the payment history that we have done. We will make the bond payment, the semi-annual payment, in December, 2014. He said that is in the budget year where he has the money committed for a payment. He said he would not have money again to make a payment until July 1, 2015. Councilman Ebner asked where the money would come from for the payment. He said it has to be accumulated. Mr. Pearce stated we had said we would divide it up monthly. Councilman Ebner stated we can pay it monthly also. Mr. Pearce stated we could pay starting in July, 2015. Councilman Ebner asked that Ms. Abney do a mortgage payout for Council. He said there are simple programs, just run it out. Mr. Pearce asked if Councilman Ebner was saying start July, 2015, for monthly payments. Councilman Ebner stated however she is doing it now. Mr. Pearce stated that is the way it is set up. Councilman Ebner stated have Ms. Abney send one or two sheets of paper on how it is being done now. Mr. Pearce stated staff could have that for second reading. Councilman Ebner asked that it be sent before the second reading. He said we should be able to do it by the end of the week.

Councilwoman Price if there was a motion and second. She called for the question.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion made by Councilman Homoki and seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to authorize interfund borrowing to pay costs associated with the Silver Bluff Water Plant and Wells Project and the meter replacement projects and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The vote was Mayor Cavanaugh and Councilmembers Diggs, Homoki and Merry in favor of the motion. Opposed to the motion were Councilmembers Dewar, Ebner and Price. Councilman Dewar stated he just did not understand it.

Councilman Ebner stated he has to see the numbers as we are not on the same wave length. He said it would help to send the information out by the end of the week about what you will do so it can be discussed. Mr. Pearce stated we would do our best as we are trying to get the budget done. He said we have several items we are working on. He said he was not sure he could promise it by Friday. He said we would get it as quickly as we can. Councilman Ebner stated since we have three weeks between meetings, it could be sent out a week from Friday. He said he would like to have the information before Thursday before the Council meeting because that gives a very short time to discuss it. He said he thought if Ms. Abney would send them a mortgage spend out sheet, it will answer their questions. Mr. Pearce stated he has the next meeting of Council as being on May 12 which is in two weeks. Mr. Pearce stated there is not three weeks between meetings. He said he wants to accommodate Council, but he needs to finish the budget because Council finished the workshops. Councilman Ebner stated to send Council the information and we would go from there. Councilman Dewar stated it could be deferred to the June meeting.

CROSLAND PARK – ORDINANCE

Sale of Home
1407 Aldrich Street
Margie Stephanie McFadden
TPN 120-12-02-004

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration for the sale of 1407 Aldrich Street in Crosland Park.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO CONVEY CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE CROSLAND PARK SUBDIVISION AT 1407 ALDRICH STREET NE TO MARGIE STEPHANIE MCFADDEN.

Mr. Pearce stated Margie Stephanie McFadden has made a cash offer to purchase 1407 Aldrich Street in Crosland Park for \$70,000. We asked for several conditions as part of the agreement to purchase the property:

- The property must be owner-occupied;
- The seller will pay normal seller closing costs;
- Seller will install a small patio in the backyard off the exterior kitchen door;
- Aiken City Council must approve the sale.

Ms. McFadden has agreed to these stipulations. Mr. Pearce stated he and staff have reviewed this proposed purchase and recommend Council approval.

For Council approval is first reading of an ordinance to sell 1407 Aldrich Street to Margie McFadden for \$70,000 upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Councilman Dewar asked how much the city is losing on this property. Mr. Pearce stated we had about \$100,000 in the property. Councilman Homoki stated he had asked the same question. Mr. Pearce stated the property was appraised for \$68,500 and we have a purchase price for cash at \$70,000.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to sell 1407 Aldrich Street to Margie McFadden for \$70,000 with the terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

911 Murrah Avenue
TPN 122-17-04-009

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to annex property at 911 Murrah Avenue and zone it RS-10 Residential Single-Family.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 0.69 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY THE CITY OF AIKEN AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-10).

Mr. Pearce stated the City of Aiken requested the Planning Commission to consider our request to annex a 0.69-acre lot at 911 Murrah Avenue with RS-10 zoning. The property is contiguous to the city limits on the south. We purchased this tract to construct an extension of Christee Place into the Publix Shopping Center.

The Planning Commission met on April 15, 2014 and unanimously approved this annexation request and recommended Residential Single-Family (RS-10) zoning.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to annex into the Aiken City limits, property located at 911 Murrah Avenue owned by the City of Aiken.

A citizen said his main concern is traffic between the existing Christee Place when it backs up and one can't get onto Dougherty Road, the traffic will come down Spaulding to get out of the neighborhood some way. He said he lives on the far end of the street. He said he did not want traffic down there.

Mr. Pearce stated as part of the Dougherty Road master plan, the idea is to connect Christee Place into the Publix Center. He said he understood his concern, and we would do the best we can to buffer the Christee Place property.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex property at 911 Murrah Avenue owned by the City of Aiken and that second reading and public hearing be set for the next regular meeting of Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council Meeting May Schedule

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to approve the meeting schedule for May, 2014.

Mr. Pearce stated the second meeting in May falls on Memorial Day which is a holiday. Council typically does not schedule a second meeting in May when Memorial Day falls on the fourth Monday. If something does come up, we can always call a special meeting that could be held to cover any issues.

For City Council consideration is approval to cancel the second City Council meeting for May 26, 2014.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council cancel the meeting of Council scheduled for May 26, 2014, a holiday. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pearce stated notice will be posted on the cancellation of the meeting.

INFORMATION

Budget Revenue Salaries Work Session

Mr. Pearce stated Councilman Dewar had brought to his attention that in the Issues and Updates memo there was a proposed work session for Thursday, May 1, 2014, to talk about the revenue and salaries for the budget. He said the work session will be scheduled for May 12 before the Council meeting and not on May 1 as that would conflict with the ARTS meeting. He asked if 5 P.M. would be convenient for Council to meet to provide ample time for the work session. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about the salaries and projected revenue for the proposed budget.

Councilman Ebner stated one question Council had asked a couple of years ago is whether we have anybody below the poverty level. Mr. Pearce stated staff would take another look. He said he thought we had addressed that when we made the salary adjustment last year.

Volunteer Lunch

Councilman Dewar stated he understood that the Volunteer Fire Fighters are not invited to the Volunteer Luncheon. Mr. Pearce stated the Volunteer Luncheon is for the boards, committees, and commissions appointed by Council. Councilman Dewar asked if they are invited to the December meeting. Mr. Pearce responded they are always invited to the December breakfast.

Hitchcock Parkway Widening

Councilman Dewar pointed out the memo that Sandy Harris mentioned regarding the Hitchcock Parkway widening. He said she was right that Councilwoman Price suggested that we tell ARTS about the concern that people had, but it was never given to the ARTS. He felt we need to email it to the ARTS. He said if he had a copy he would mention it at the meeting. He said the memo was November 11, 2013. Mr. Pearce pointed out ARTS did not meet in February was the reason they did not have it. Councilman Dewar said it was one that all Council signed, and he voted against. He said it needs to be delivered to the ARTS.

Kendrick Sign

Councilman Dewar stated at the last Council meeting he had asked about the Kendrick sign. He pointed out the Chamber of Commerce had an event there. Mr. Pearce stated the Chamber did have an event there. He said the Planning Director and staff had a conversation with Kendrick. They can make an application to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance to place a sign on Silver Bluff. Mr. Evans pointed out that they had made application for a variance for a sign.

Trailer Court Water Meter

Councilman Dewar stated Mr. Pearce or Mr. Grinton was to get him the name of the lady that owns a trailer court and called about water meter problems. Mr. Pearce stated that was his omission. He said he does have that information. Councilman Dewar stated he wanted to call her back, but did not have her telephone number. Mr. Pearce apologized. He said there had been a lot going on, but he would get the information to him.

Commercial Vehicles Residential Areas

Councilman Dewar asked that Mr. Pearce send the ordinance regarding commercial vehicles in residential areas to him.

Water Service

Councilman Dewar stated he had had a question today regarding someone leaving town. They have sold their house. He asked for the procedure for getting the water service transferred to the new owner.

Ms. Abney, Finance Director, said the seller who wants to get the water service out of their name can either call the Water Department or go on line and fill out an on-line turn-on/turn-off service request. The new person can do the same thing—call the Water Department or go on line and do a turn-on/turn-off service request. Councilman Dewar asked then if the new person has to wait for somebody to show up at the house. Ms. Abney stated the person would have to sign a waiver or be present when the city comes to turn the water on. They can sign the waiver on line. She said if they are coming from out of town, and they will not be here until Saturday or Sunday but want the water on by Friday, they will have to sign the waiver stating that everything will be off in the home.

Bridlewood

Councilman Dewar asked if Bridlewood was inside the city. Mr. Pearce stated he thought a portion of it was in the city. Councilman Dewar stated the reason he mentioned it is that his understanding is that the County contractors are still picking up debris. He said there is a lot of debris in Aiken Estates. He said it may not be the city's issue, but the debris is there, and it is heavy debris.

Mr. Pearce stated as far as Houndslake North and Aiken Estates we posted today that we are trying to get back on the regular schedule. Mr. Coakley stated the city should be in Houndslake North by Thursday. He said if the area is in the city, we will be picking that up this week. He pointed out that it was SCDOT's contractor Coxwell that picked up the state roads in Aiken Estates. Councilman Dewar stated he understood they are gone. Mr. Pearce stated that is what we were told, but if he is not mistaken it was Saturday morning, that he saw what appeared to be a Coxwell trailer at Longwood and Evans. They did not pick up on Evans, and there is a new pile on Evans near Bridlewood. He said he would be glad to follow up with our friends at SCDOT to let them know about it. Councilman Dewar stated that should be the County contractor, and he did not know about the County. Mr. Pearce stated that is the whole thing we were discussing a month ago with DOT and the County. It turns out it is actually a DOT responsibility, not the County as those are state roads. Councilman Dewar stated it is not a city responsibility, but it is still

a mess and the County needs to see about it. Mr. Pearce stated it is actually a state road issue. Councilman Dewar stated it is a state road, but forgetting Operation PAX the owner will have to get rid of it.

Newberry Utility Electrical Wires

Councilman Ebner asked if the Newberry utility included the wires going past Smitty's into the middle of Lauren Street also. He said they had gone over that a couple of years ago to put the power line underground. Mr. Pearce stated they had looked at that. He pointed out the poles are down on Newberry Street. Councilman Ebner stated he was talking about in front of Smitty's. He said that was part of it. He said some of our good businesses keep stringing more wires. Mr. Pearce said they do, and we will have a concept plan for the Alley area. He said architect Cam Scott is working on improvements to the Alley as we have done for Bee Lane. He said we have One Cent Sales tax money, and we also have the Franchise Undergrounding Funds from SCE&G. He said we should be bringing that to Council in the next month or so. Councilman Ebner wondered how much is left. He said there was \$800,000 at one time. Mr. Pearce stated there is a good bit of money in the fund.

Councilman Ebner asked about the transformer beside the back of the City Hall building. He asked if we put it in a space so we get the most utility out of this land. Mr. Pearce asked if he wanted the transformer inconspicuous. Councilman Ebner stated we need it where we can get the most value for the land.

Councilman Merry stated that was right and he agreed, but he had a conversation recently with Mr. Scott, and he felt we need to look at all options and if there are any other options on the land. He said there may not be. He said if there is, then where should it be on the land, because of the potential for its use as something else. Mr. Pearce stated that is a discussion we will have with SCE&G.

Councilman Ebner stated if we run high voltage conduit around the corner of the building, will SCE&G let us build on top of it. Mr. Pearce stated that is a good question. Councilman Ebner stated typically they don't unless it is a power feed to a building. He said presently it shows to go beside the building and put the transformer by the old building and then go out to the street. He felt that is a high voltage feeder. He said he thought SCE&G will not let you build on top of that. Councilman Merry stated he thought that was why we need to take a look at it. He said he did not know the process or the opportunity to do that, but he thought that before we let it happen we need to take a look at it. Mr. Pearce stated we will be bringing that to Council. He said we are working on a concept design along with SCE&G. Councilman Ebner asked if that will have the transformer location and routing of the conduit. Mr. Pearce stated it will. Councilman Ebner stated Mr. Jordan could probably tell you whether that is allowed or not.

Railroad Depot

Councilman Ebner stated he had mentioned at the Parks, Recreation and Tourism budget work session about money for the railroad depot. He said he had talked to Tim Simmons. He asked if he would like for him and Mr. Simmons to bring the proposal to Mr. Pearce or how would we put that in the budget to get some money dedicated to that out of the Accommodations Tax funds. He asked if it was feasible to do that. Mr. Pearce stated we would be looking at a multi-year funding. He said he had about \$70,000 in this year's budget for the Depot. He said as far as increasing that amount he was looking at it as far as balancing everything else.

Councilman Dewar asked if Mr. Pearce is going to tell Council what he wants to do with all that money. Mr. Pearce stated it comes from staff and him. Councilman Dewar stated it is Council's call, and they would get to see that. Mr. Pearce stated the fund is 007. It will show the revenue and the proposed distribution.

Councilman Ebner stated in January, 2011, the estimate on just the deck was \$90,000. Mr. Pearce asked if that was the Trex or the wood deck. Councilman Ebner stated that

was the Trex. He said if you use wood, it will shrink and the ladies' high heels will stick in it. You can use wood every place else, but if you put it on the deck you can't get the wood tight enough, and it will leave a 1/4" to 3/8" gap and a ladies' heel will stick in it. He said it adds about \$30,000 to the cost for the Trex. He asked if he and Mr. Simmons need to do something to get that moving. Mr. Pearce stated Mr. Simmons could put the request on Friends of the Railroad stationery addressed to him. Councilman Ebner stated he would get with Mr. Simmons. He said he felt that would be one good phase as that would put the handicapped ramp in and everything but the baggage building. He said the baggage building 2011 cost escalated for four years was \$160,000. He said he would work with Mr. Simmons on that.

Mellow Mushroom

Councilman Dewar asked if there is an update on Mellow Mushroom. Councilwoman Price stated that was her question. Mr. Pearce stated his understanding is that the legal issues have been resolved, and that they will be scheduling a closing. He said he did not have a confirmation of the closing where they have signed the actual documents. He said he understood they had resolved the question regarding the issues with the open space on the corner.

Waterloo Street

Marlboro Street

Richland Avenue

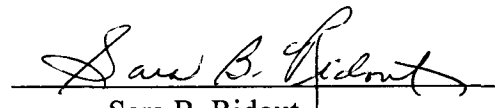
Underground Wiring

Councilwoman Price stated she had a question regarding the median as it relates to Waterloo heading east on Richland Avenue. She wondered if we could talk with SCE&G about putting underground service in that corridor in the downtown area. She stated start with Waterloo until you get to Marlboro Street in terms of the undergrounding. She said she gets a lot of concerns about the overgrowth in that area with the plantings being overgrown. She said probably one of the reasons is the wiring and we don't want it exposed. The trees tend to hide the poles and the wires overhead. She said if we could get an estimate in terms of what it would cost for underground service starting at Waterloo where Lominick's Drug is going to Marlboro Street on Richland Avenue. She would like a cost for that short distance for SCE&G to provide underground utility services on Richland from Waterloo to Marlboro. Councilwoman Price stated it may not go that far, but she was trying to help improve the appearance of the median with fewer overgrown plantings.

Mr. Pearce stated we can take a look. He said at Newberry and Richland there is a major transmission line, and they are not going to underground that. He said however we could look at the others.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk

Revised April 14, 2014 as noted ():

City Council Agenda for April 14, 2014:

I make a motion to accept (except removed) the minutes from the March 24, 2014 work session, the March 24, 2014 City Council meeting minutes and the April 1, 2014 budget review work session.

The Debris Pick Up work session minutes, pages 56 to 82, approval to be continued until: a) Aiken Standard FOIA to City Manager Pearce and the Aiken Standard FOIA to SCDOT documents are issued to council and included in a future city council agenda for discussion and action and b) this motion includes a FOIA request from Councilman Ebner to City Attorney Smith for all documents, email's, agreements, etc. between SCDOT, FEMA, County and City Manager Pearce including city staff in relation to SCDOT contractors not working in the city beginning February 11, 2014. This FOIA would be included in a future city council meeting for discussion and action.

Councilman Reggie Ebner



**Woodside Plantation
Property Owners' Association**

April 28, 2014

Richard Pearce
City Manager's Office
PO Box 1177
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

Re: Woodside Plantation Property Owners' Request for FEMA Reimbursement

Dear Mr. Pearce,

On behalf of the Woodside Plantation Property Owners' Association (WPPOA), I would like to request a meeting with you, the City Council and representatives from SCEMD and FEMA to clarify any potential confusion or misunderstandings regarding our request for FEMA reimbursement for costs incurred by Woodside as a result of the ice storm in February 2014. The \$303,931.60 costs we incurred were to remove debris, dangerous hanging branches and broken trees from the right of way on our major roads. This is work that the City would have done.

We would be pleased to host this meeting at Woodside, at your convenience. I look forward to your timely response.

Best regards,

Nancy Hughes

Nancy Hughes
President, WPPOA Board of Directors

cc. Fred Cavanaugh, Mayor
Dick Dewar, Aiken City Councilman District 3
Gail Diggs, Aiken City Councilwoman District 1
✓ Reggie Ebner, Aiken City Councilman District 4
Steve Homoki, Aiken City Councilman District 5
Philip Merry, Aiken City Councilman District 6
Lessie Price, Aiken City Councilwoman District 2
Gary Smith, City Attorney
Bill Taylor, SC State Representative
Don Wells, SC State Representative
Tom Young, SC State Senator
WPPOA Board of Directors