

Aiken City Council MinutesWORK SESSION

June 9, 2014

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

Absent: Councilmember Merry

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Kim Abney, Charles Barranco, Tim Coakley, Kim Coleman, Alicia Davis, Ed Evans, George Grinton, Gary Smith, and Maayan Schechter and Tim O'Briant from the Aiken Standard.

MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

Mayor Cavanaugh called the worksession to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated the Council agenda was amended for City Council to hold a worksession to meet with the Department Directors. He stated it gives all involved an opportunity to get together. He said Council wanted to have this meeting. There is no particular agenda, but many of Council have things they want to say and thank the Department Directors for the wonderful jobs they are doing.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he had the privilege of meeting with staff earlier in the day for a couple of minutes, and he thanked them for what they are doing. He said he does not know of any city that has a better staff than the City of Aiken, and they have shown it. No one likes to go through what we have been through, but regardless of the situation, we will persevere. Council is getting some help for staff.

Councilman Dewar stated he suggested the idea of having the meeting because he recognizes there has been unacceptable tension in the past, and some staff has been reluctant to engage Council in one way or another. He wants to get the point across that we are all on the same team. We need to be able to talk to each other. He stated Council has no authority to tell staff what to do; that is the function of the City Manager. However, Council is free to call for information, and in some cases, visit. He stated he would still like to go back and visit shift change on occasion. He said he felt the employees need to know Council is here to support them, and they are not going to get in trouble if they are seen talking to a member of Council. He hopes that as we go through the next couple of months which will be a challenge, but we will get there. The City of Aiken has always met these kinds of challenges, and we will meet this one. Hopefully in several months, we will be back on board and we will get the process started and hire a City Manager and get back to normal.

Acting City Manager Stuart Bedenbaugh thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to have this meeting to share and have this exchange with Council. He stated staff is committed to doing their jobs professionally and appropriately and in a spirit of openness and transparency and to communicate with staff as appropriate. He said he appreciates Councilman Dewar recognizing, in his comments, that we are committed to allowing our employees to freely communicate via email or over the phone. We are committed to doing that and look forward to proceeding in that manner effective immediately. He said for whatever happened in the past, we are committed to moving forward. He stated every day is a new day and we are looking forward to working together for the City of Aiken.

Councilman Ebner stated there is no doubt the staff has performed well. He stated he has been communicating with a number of City people for about 8 years and his approach has always been to talk to the directors. He believes Council should have access to them. He thinks the directors are in a position to say they need to check on something, if it is not right. He stated he and Mr. Grinton had one of those conversations today, and they respect each other's opinions. He feels that is what needs to be done. If there is a problem, then Mr. Bedenbaugh will be the go between. Councilman Ebner stated that is

what he had done for the previous 5 years before he was on Council. He feels that is important. He stated he worked at the Site in the 80s and he now meets the sons and daughters of the people he worked with then, and some of them work for the City. If he wants to ask about their families, he should be able to. He does not think any Councilmember will stop an employee and tell them they are doing the job wrong and do it another way. He stated that is a key thing to look forward to doing, and he feels the staff can handle comments from Council. They should be able to handle comments from anyone in the City. Any employee that is asked to do something should report it to their supervisor as they have in the past. There should be no fear. He applauds staff for all they have done. He stated he appreciates all they have done. There are a lot of good opportunities coming up. He said there are some budget things that need to be dealt with and salary issues. He stated he supports Mr. Bedenbaugh, the staff, and all they are doing.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she knows the City is blessed to have some of the best people in good positions and that Council is ready to listen to any concerns or challenges staff has within their departments, and if they have suggestions as to things that could make the people in the departments work smarter rather than harder, then Council is ready to address those things. She stated she looks forward to working with staff to make the City not only the best place to work, but the best place to live.

Councilman Homoki stated we are in a unique position. He stated we are all basically employees of the City. He stated just because we are employees of the City does not mean you surrender your right as a citizen of Aiken. If staff sees something, and they need to talk with a Councilmember, the Mayor, or City Manager do not hesitate to do that. He said no one is under any kind of gag order or restriction just because you happen to be working for the City. He wants a lively dialogue going back and forth. He asked that the directors not feel like they can't say anything. He said if an employee has an individual type problem as a citizen of Aiken, don't hesitate to talk to a Councilmember, the Mayor or the department director. He asked that staff keep communications going back and forth. He said if someone is out of line, someone will point it out. He said it is very hard to step over the line. He said it is not right for Council to give employees direction; he felt Council was savvy enough not to fall in that trap.

Councilwoman Price stated a lot had already been said, and she did not want to repeat anything. She pointed out that touching on what Councilman Homoki had indicated in terms of communication; communication is critical in terms of success. There are different ways of communicating. She stated she had some conversations with Mr. Bedenbaugh earlier in the day, but also spoke with one of his employees, and Chief Barranco as well. She said she did not feel inhibited about calling them directly about some concerns. She felt very at ease in calling that employee. The first one was an issue in Toole Hill. The neighborhood association president had an idea about a Safe Communities initiative. She said she contacted Cynthia Mitchell, and they discussed it. She wanted to get out of the middle of it, and Ms. Mitchell told her she did not need to be in the middle of it and she would handle it. She stated out of respect for Mr. Bedenbaugh, she talked to him and let him know she talked to an employee. She also had a call from Oak Ridge, Tennessee and was able to put that person in touch with Chief Barranco to take care of the matter. She stated being able to share on a direct basis versus having to type a detailed email and hopefully it get translated to the Chief eliminated a lot of issues and saved time. Staff's time is critical. She stated we have a great staff and know we have great people working for the city. She pointed out there are so many challenges right now in front of us. There is almost \$50 million of One Cent Sales Tax projects to move along, more people to hire, and we want to ensure we recruit the best people to support the city. In addition to that, there is the budget. Council has to evaluate and decide whether there will be a millage increase or whether Public Safety will receive a raise. She stated staff has 100% of Council's support. She thanked staff for all they do.

Mr. Bedenbaugh thanked Council for their comments and stated he and staff are looking forward to working with Council as we better the City and do the business in an open way with direct communication.

Councilman Dewar asked the Department Directors if they had any questions.

Human Resources Director Alicia Davis stated she appreciated Council having this meeting, sharing their concerns, and being supportive of staff. She said we are a team and are here to support each other and to support the citizens of Aiken. She would like the City to be able to continue to be a team.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated it is a simple analogy. It is like any kind of baseball or football team, if one person does not do their job, or only half way does it, the team will be less successful than they could be. That is what this is all about – working and communicating together. This can be a wonderful moment in the City of Aiken, despite all that has happened. He said there is no limit as to what we can do when we work together.

Councilwoman Price stated Aiken has managed to carry the legacy of a great image. It has been incredible to enjoy that as she goes around the country and see folks and they talk about Aiken. That is why Aiken has had people who want to come to this town. We want to make sure that as we continue with our strategic planning and growth plans, that young professionals want to continue to locate here. She said we need to get input from the young professionals.

Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out the Chamber of Commerce has a group of about 360 young people who fit into the category of Young Professionals. He said we need to get the young people and families for the future of Aiken.

Councilman Dewar pointed out we don't want to slight the retirees because the retirees are paying the bills for most of the folks. He said we still want to make Aiken an attractive place for retirees. He said they don't need a lot. Most just want a good house, a golf course, a tennis court, and some amenities like that. They don't make a lot of demands, but they do pay a lot of bills.

Councilwoman Price pointed out you have to have young families too, and you have to have those things that will not only attract the young people here, but keep them here. She said we are seeing some look at other locations because we have not brought them to the table to find out what kinds of things will not only attract but keep them here.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not think he had lived in a community that has not had attracting young people as a challenge. He said when he lived in Hawaii, the young people could not stay there because it was so expensive, and they had to go back to the mainland. When he lived in California, it was the same thing. It was too expensive. A young person gets a college degree, but can't afford the rent. He said northern Michigan, his last military assignment, was the same thing. He said it was a nice area, but no jobs. There was nothing to attract the young people. He said Aiken is not alone in that.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that things have changed here. She said the jobs are not as there were at the Savannah River Site when there were 25,000 employees working out there. People have moved on to other places to live, not necessarily because of the lack of amenities but because the job market has changed.

City Council agreed there needs to be a balance of young people and retirees in order for the City to grow and prosper.

Councilman Ebner stated Mr. Bedenbaugh might mention about communication with email to be sure all are clear on how that works.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated we will encourage the exchange of emails. City employees will be able to communicate via email with Councilmembers. He said that directive would be given starting on Tuesday. He said it had been that Council could just communicate with the Department Directors, but so there could be that exchange they will be able to communicate with city employees.

Councilman Ebner thanked Mr. Bedenbaugh for taking care of that. He pointed out that the email accounts will be open both ways now to all city employees and to all citizens. He said there had been some issues there and Mr. Bedenbaugh is taking care of that.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Aiken City Council Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

June 9, 2014

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

Absent: Councilman Merry

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, George Grinton, Kim Abney, Ed Evans, Charles Barranco, Kim Coleman, Tim Coakley, Alicia Davis, Sara Ridout, Phil Kestin, Ron Shelley, Marty Sawyer, David Turno, and Maayan Schechter and Tim O'Briant of the Aiken Standard, and about 45 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Councilwoman Diggs 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.

RECOGNITION

Mayor Cavanaugh stated that City Manager Richard Pearce resigned on June 6, 2014. He pointed out that Stuart Bedenbaugh, Assistant City Manager, has been appointed Acting City Manager.

Mayor Cavanaugh recognized Boy Scout Troop 421 from Cedar Creek Church. He asked that the Boy Scouts introduce themselves and give their level in the scouting program. Council thanked the Boy Scouts for being present at the Council meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the work session and regular meeting of May 12, 2014, and Special Called Meetings of May 29 and June 3, 2014, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner that the minutes of the May 12, 29 and June 3, 2014, meetings of Council be approved.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that on page 41 of the agenda packet, where Council discussed the purchase or lease of property at the airport, he would like for the City Clerk to put in the minutes the report from the special called meeting of the Airport Commission regarding the Airport Commission's discussion on this item.

PRESENTATIONSFire WorksAtlantic BroadbandDebra OehlbergDiscover Channel Family of NetworksDestination America

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Mr. Sam McGill had a presentation to make to City Council regarding a summer event.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that Sam McGill, Vice President and General Manager of the South Carolina Office of Atlantic Broadband, has a great summer event to share with Council at this meeting.

Mr. McGill stated on behalf of Atlantic Broadband he was honored to introduce the winner of Destination America's Red, White and You Contest, Debra Oehlberg, who is present with her husband Chris. Mr. McGill stated Destination America is part of the Discovery Channel Family of Networks. It is a TV network that celebrates people and places of the United States. For the contest, people were encouraged to submit a short essay describing why their town deserved a Fourth of July fireworks celebration. He said the main reason they wanted to make the presentation and come before Council is the kind things that Ms. Oehlberg had to say about Aiken and especially the Mayor. Mr. McGill read the essay written by Ms. Oehlberg.

"Fred Cavanaugh, Aiken, South Carolina Mayor has maintained the beauty and spirit of Aiken that the former and equally popular Mayor H. O. Weeks had established. Our City wins awards. People love to visit. Lots of economic choices for all age brackets. Friendly and easy to navigate. We deserve a celebration. Bring it on. Come see our beautiful landscape, horse statues, beautiful gardens and more."

Mr. McGill stated thanks to Debra Oehlberg, Atlantic Broadband, and Destination American, we are bringing an Independence Day fire works show back to Aiken. The show will be on June 28. The Western Carolina State Foundation Board of Directors has very graciously donated the fairgrounds for use. They are also going to provide a midway, including some rides and food. The gates will be opened about 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. There will be more announcements to come regarding the event. He thanked Mike Fanning and AllStar Rents for providing tents at the fairgrounds. He said Destination America Discovery also provided a gift bag for Ms. Oehlberg. He said this is all the recognition that she gets, and the City of Aiken gets a very nice 15 to 20 minute long fireworks presentation that will be June 28 at the fairgrounds.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that this is a multi-thousand dollar presentation. He asked Mr. McGill the estimated price for the fireworks display. Mr. McGill stated the cost varies depending on who is shooting. He said he was not sure who the shooter was at this time. He said the presentation costs several thousands of dollars worth for fireworks. He said it is a 15 to 20 minute presentation.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked Ms. Oehlberg for the essay she had written. He pointed out that the city would not be where we are if it was just about him. He said it takes all of Council and the citizens working together to make a great city.

Councilwoman Price stated that she talked with Mr. McGill a few weeks ago about Ms. Oehlberg. She pointed out there is so much going on where Ms. Oehlberg lives in Crosland Park. She stated the city is working on that area. She said she talked about Ms. Oehlberg and Atlantic Broadband. She said when Mr. McGill told her what Ms. Oehlberg had done, she thought this is someone reading the papers and seeing something she thought might be good for Aiken. Ms. Oehlberg took the initiative to submit the application to help focus more attention on Aiken. She said often times we see these things, but do not take advantage of them, but Ms. Oehlberg took advantage of the opportunity. She said Ms. Oehlberg had made all of Aiken a star, especially with the

Destination America group. Councilwoman Price also thanked Mr. McGill for his connection with the event, as well with Atlantic Broadband supporting the event.

THE ALLEY

Downtown

Redevelopment

Streetscape

Concept Plan

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the next item was a potential concept for redeveloping The Alley.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that Mr. Cam Scott, from the architectural firm of Cheatham, Fletcher & Scott, along with our Engineering and Utilities Director, George Grinton, are present to discuss a potential concept plan regarding the redevelopment of The Alley. This potential work would be part of the next phase of our downtown streetscape work. Our staff has been in communication with members of the Aiken Downtown Development Association, other downtown businesses, and interested parties to show our potential plans and get their input. He said any plan or any ultimate development would be done in phases, probably in quarters, after hours to minimize any disruptions to businesses. He said Mr. Grinton and Mr. Scott are present to review the potential plans for The Alley.

Mr. Grinton stated the project began as a boring project because the objective was to remove the overhead power lines and put them underground. He said one quickly realizes that there are many aspects even with what sounds like a simple and somewhat boring project, and there is actually opportunity that he would like to hopefully capture the attention of Council and perhaps persuade Council to help implement the plan.

Mr. Grinton stated we have Capital Projects Sales Tax II funds for undergrounding power lines. We did use funds to underground the Newberry lines and remove those power poles. A lot of that work was done prior to his coming to the Engineering & Utilities Director position. The project was finished, and they started looking at where the next place to go would be. The priority that was given was The Alley, because that is one of the main attractions for downtown. When you start looking at the power lines, you start looking at where the transformer will go, where it feeds from, where does it have to feed, what are all the other connections that are overhead. You have telephone lines. You have cable lines. You start realizing that when you start laying this out you are having a lot of significant cutting of the roads and sidewalks in order to do the necessary trenches to put all the services into the ground. He said that would lead to potential root damage for the existing trees. It will require a lot of patching of the roads and sidewalks. Potentially you could leave The Alley looking rather unsightly. Then we started looking at what we needed to do to not let that happen. We realized that there really is an opportunity, if we make an incremental investment, we can actually improve The Alley landscaping. When you look at the roads, you can cut the roads, but there are sections of the sidewalk that are in relatively poor condition now. They have been raised by the tree roots. There are cracks in the sidewalks. Cutting them up further would not make the sidewalks look better. He said there is a potential to upgrade the roads and sidewalk appearance, and eliminate the sidewalk curb trip hazard. He said it has been repaved many times, and we now only have a couple of inches of curb. The curb is usually designed so that you run water to storm drains. Normally they are six to eight inches high. He pointed out the curbs are much shorter now, and they have been a little bit of a tripping hazard. Mr. Grinton stated the trees in The Alley did not weather the winter storm very well, and some could use some improvement. The soil that the trees are in is limited because of the way they were planted. There are opportunities to make improvements to the trees.

Mr. Grinton stated in looking at the area in The Alley some of the business people asked if we were going to improve the street lighting. He said we have uplighting, but the uplights are not as bright and don't provide as much lighting as would be nice for the festival area that The Alley is starting to become. He said we also have the opportunity to improve stormwater stewardship. Everywhere downtown we have impervious roads,

streets, roof lines, etc. all the water is channeled to the east and west to Newberry and to Laurens, and then all the water goes down to the Hitchcock Woods outfall. There are opportunities and things that we can do to have volume removal of rain water if you put in the proper stormwater design methods, even in a downtown street. He pointed out some of the big cities such as Atlanta and New York where there is nothing but concrete. He said we could use some of the techniques and some of the methods and some of the things they use to actually provide soil for the trees, volume for containment, and infiltration of the water and the soil. That is a way we could actually reduce the volume going into Hitchcock Woods which is an objective. He said you would only do a project like this because you are already doing another project. He said that is why he was talking about incremental investment.

Mr. Grinton stated the project could also improve the quality of the water that goes down to Hitchcock Woods. You also have the opportunity to enhance the use of The Alley and develop a sense of place for people to gather downtown, improve the street aesthetics so future festivals and events are enhanced, and improve the electrical utilities that supply these festivals when you have various needs for power for speakers or bands. All of these can be incorporated into the design.

Mr. Grinton stated Mr. Cam Scott, who is an architect and who has done a lot of work for the city was contacted, and was asked to develop a concept for what The Alley could become and help us evaluate what the cost structures would be for the various work that would be proposed. Mr. Scott came up with some good ideas.

Mr. Cam Scott stated to elaborate on what Mr. Grinton had talked about, the proposal is a planned concept of The Alley. He provided a power point presentation. He showed the location of The Alley between Laurens Street and Newberry Street. He said the initial part of the process started with the idea of getting the power lines underground. He said the first point is a power pole at the corner of Bee Lane and The Alley. It has underground power going to it. Then it goes up the pole and goes overhead supplying all the businesses on Laurens Street. He said that is where we start and get rid of the pole. The question was how we do it. Mr. Scott said a good location for a new transformer for downtown Aiken is on property owned by the City of Aiken. He said that is the area where a new transformer is proposed to be located and then backfeed to five businesses on Laurens Street served by the transformer and also out to the median at Laurens Street where there is a City of Aiken power center that we have to backfeed there also. He pointed out heavy black lines on the street layout and said those are areas where trenching would be done down The Alley to get back to the businesses. He pointed out power centers in the area that we have to backfeed to. He pointed out the work would tear up The Alley a good bit to get all the ducts and conduits into the street. He said that is where we started. He pointed out, as Mr. Grinton said, this is a chance to try to beautify the street. He said they are proposing to take out the trees presently in The Alley. They have been damaged from the winter storm. They are not located in the greatest locations for the street. They are sort of in a staggered pattern going down the street. He said they are proposing to come back with trees that are together to create a rhythm or pattern down the street which would appear as a nice arcade as you come into The Alley and walk through The Alley. The other elements proposed are on the perimeter to stay with concrete sidewalks. The infill areas would be pervious paving to take some of the stormwater runoff that is currently on that street. There is nothing taken into the ground now. He pointed out the areas where pervious paving is proposed and then have some underground stormwater piping to collect the runoff. The other design features of the plan are new lighting. He showed an enlarged section of The Alley between Bee Lane going towards Newberry Street. He pointed out a rhythm of trees in the area and in between the trees would be a pair of light fixtures. On each one of the fixtures it is proposed to have two of the acorn fixtures that are similar to what is on Newberry Street and Laurens Street, but there would be two lights per fixture, because the spacing is a little further apart than what is on Newberry Street. He pointed out where lighting would be provided.

Mr. Scott stated another feature is that for the trees they are proposing to use an underground stormwater detention system that lets you develop soil and loose soil underneath the trees, but you have a system that allows you to pave over it and use it for

support for semi-trailers coming through The Alley. It gives the ability for the trees to have top soil to thrive in and also to store water in. The product is called Silva Cells. It would be developed with probably 40 cells per tree. It means that the trees would have good top soil to grow in, but the roots of the trees would not come up and start raising the pavement. It also means the area where the cells are can store some of the stormwater detention and keep it from going into Hitchcock Woods. Also, depending on what the soil borings turn out to be, it may be that it soaks into the ground if we have a good sub-base there. He said some preliminary engineering had been done, and Mr. Grinton would talk about that.

Mr. Grinton stated the estimate done by the civil engineer, looking at the stormwater volume reduction, is that if we have reasonable soil underneath and not solid clay underneath The Alley, we would have approximately 70% of the volume for a one year rain event which is 3 inches of rain within a 24 hour period of water that would no longer be sent down into Hitchcock Woods. Obviously for higher rains there would be the underground system for taking the water where it is going today.

Mr. Scott pointed out two other items that are being developed. One is the new power centers for the City of Aiken to have during festivals where there are bands and equipment and whatever else that require a lot of power. There would be a location near a transformer and also another near the corner of Smitty's building to be available to hook up for power that is needed in The Alley during the festival events. Mr. Scott pointed out the location of the trees and said the proposal is for there to be 12 trees as opposed to 14 trees currently. He said they are trying to locate the trees so they do not impact the ingress and egress into the alleys. He pointed out the alley behind Smitty's building and the Brew Pub. He said they tried to stage the location of the trees so they did not hinder any traffic coming to and from The Alley.

Mr. Scott showed a slide of an overview of what the proposed work would look like. He pointed out the Municipal Building on the plan, as well as the Brew Pub and Smitty's building. He said the slides were some concepts of what is proposed to be done. He said it would be nice to have a ceremonial entrance off of Laurens Street and Newberry Streets into The Alley. He said it is not proposed to reduce the car traffic through the street, but wanted the street to feel like a pedestrian street. It will not have any curbs. All the grades will be sloping to the center of the street to take stormwater away. It is hoped to improve some flooding that is occurring from time to time at Tako Sushi. He said he had heard there is a backup there at times during heavy thunderstorms. He said they want to take all the water to the center of the street and have no curbs and create a pedestrian friendly street, but it will also be one where you can still bring in deliveries and pick up people. He showed a slide looking into The Alley from Newberry Street using a ceremonial iron entrance to provide a gateway into the alley street. He showed a slide showing a view looking back toward the Brew Pub and Smitty's from mid-point down the street. He showed where the new trees would be and the proposed new light fixture. They would use the current light poles and base, but go with a new acorn type fixture. He said they hope to be able to get the lights in LED, so the power requirements would be reduced and reduce the impact environmentally. He showed a view looking from the city building on the corner of Newberry and The Alley back toward Tako Sushi. He said he was trying to give Council an idea of what the proposed concept would look like. He said there would be no curbs. Everything would slope to the center. There would be pervious paving. Then there would be concrete sidewalks on the edges of The Alley.

Mr. Grinton reported on the progress to date for the project. He said the concept plan had been completed and concept drawings prepared. They have reviewed the concept with the Aiken Downtown Development Association for their input. He pointed out that Avery Spears-Mahoney is present and may have some comments. He said Ms. Spears-Mahoney was very instrumental in helping him meet with all The Alley merchants and business owners to review the concept and get their input—whether they were for it, against it, what they liked, what they did not like. He said using that information we proceeded to develop a more refined project cost estimate. He said they developed the stormwater design details that Mr. Scott shared with Council. Mr. Grinton stated if we say we are going to improve the stormwater, we need to know that we really are going to improve stormwater. We got input from the stakeholders. He said they were very

excited about the project. Everybody was very positive and feel that it would be something that would be very attractive for the city. In general they understood that there would be some issues with implementation, as always. He said they had included in the cost estimate after hours work when necessary and needed and phasing of construction costs so we do not construct during the busy period such as March-April when there is the horse events and the Masters traffic and then Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods. He said they would mobilize and demobilize and do a section. He said the project could be up to four phases, depending on construction planning as you get to the final stage. He said those costs probably added about \$200,000 to the estimate. He said the grand total cost is \$1,255,000. It is not a small project, but when you consider all the things you would be doing, such as reconstructing, rewiring, rerouting the power, he felt it is a reasonable cost. He said the project is an investment for 50 years from now.

Mr. Grinton stated for funding sources, he anticipates funds from CPST II. He said there are some undergrounding funds. There is some franchise money from SCE&G that would be matched for the electrical portion. He said we would have to read their contract for the franchise to see what they would pay for and what they would not pay for. He said that is to be determined. He said they have \$330,000 a year, and there is a five year limit. He said they have a considerable amount of money that we have not been taking advantage of. He said he would start with using those funds for this project as much as is reasonable and legally possible. He said there is underground money, sales tax money, landscaping funding, and possibly some stormwater money from CPST II. He said that is something he would want to talk about with Council.

Mr. Grinton stated the next step would be for Council to approve staff to prepare and submit an RFQ so we could spend engineering design money. The estimate is approximately \$82,000 as shown in the material distributed to Council. He pointed out that a little more than \$16,000 for testing is what they have already expended on services for Mr. Scott. He said he was including that in the cost. Mr. Grinton stated that has not been charged to the Capital Projects Sales Tax project, as we cannot capitalize something if you don't have a project. He said that expense would be moved to capital if it goes forward as a project.

Mr. Grinton stated what they want to do with the money is to design the renovation, develop final budget estimates, and prepare a construction bid package. He said as we get a proposal and design we would be working with the ADDA and the merchants. He said we would have plenty of opportunity for the public and for Council to have input. He said you get a better project when you use stakeholders and people who are interested in the project to give you ideas. He said staff would come up with final design and after that phase gain Council's approval to actually spend the money. The next step would be implementing project bidding.

Mr. Grinton asked if Council had questions.

Councilman Dewar asked if Mr. Grinton had said we had spent \$16,000 already. Mr. Scott stated we have probably spent about \$10,000 to \$12,000. He said a survey had been done of the street and the concept plan drawings done, and engineers had been brought in to come up with systems, including an electrical engineer. He said about five trades had been involved at this point. Mr. Grinton stated the project was initiated prior to the change in the policy for purchasing.

Councilman Dewar asked Mr. Grinton what CPST II money he was talking about using. Mr. Grinton responded there is undergrounding money of about \$1.1 million. There is landscaping and curbing funding. There is a little money for repaving. He pointed out we are also under spent in some of the stormwater, and it could also be Hitchcock Woods reduction. He felt there are several opportunities to combine different project objectives together into this one project because it would be achieving the objectives.

Councilman Dewar asked if Mr. Grinton planned sometime in the future to show Council exactly where the money would come from. Mr. Grinton stated it would be about 43% undergrounding, about 33% landscaping, and the remaining about 23% he would call stormwater detention or retention or removal.

Councilman Dewar asked where the stormwater money would come from. Mr. Grinton responded that in the CPST II project there were some infrastructure funds. The stormwater portion was under spent, and other portions were overspent. If that would not be something that Council would agree to spend, then he would recommend the Hitchcock Woods funding that has been collected as the project would be reducing the flow to Hitchcock Woods. Councilman Dewar stated he felt that was a stretch.

Councilwoman Diggs asked what type of impact the construction would have on foot traffic during the day. She asked if a particular section would be closed off and if people would be able to access the restaurants in The Alley. Mr. Grinton stated the commitment to the restaurants would be to always allow them to operate. They said from 12 midnight to 10 a.m. is not a busy time for them. There would be aspects of the work where we would make a lot of mess, or a lot of noise, a lot of digging and removal. He said that is why there is a premium in the project so a lot of the work would be done at night. They might have some wooden sidewalks to walk on to get to a restaurant or to get from point A to B. Some deliveries may have to be moved from Bee Lane and hand carted into the restaurants while we are working in front of that area. He said they would not shut anyone down during construction.

Councilman Homoki asked how big a vehicle the wrought iron gates at each end of The Alley would allow. Mr. Grinton stated he anticipated it being designed so that what is currently going down The Alley can still go down The Alley. He pointed out they don't have the big 18 wheelers, but they do have kind of semi-size vehicles in The Alley. He said if you look at the posts, that was the rendition. He said it is nice to have a little sidewalk gate, but maybe it does not need to go that way and needs to be a higher arch and wider base so you don't have to worry about the truck traffic. That is something that the engineer firm would confirm.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that she had noticed that some of the trucks are using Newberry Street as a way of getting their goods down The Alley and some are using Park Avenue. She said she was not sure if that was because it is tough to get some of the trucks down The Alley and it is easier to unload that way. She asked what harm it would do if trucks were restricted from The Alley. She said personally she would like to see very few trucks come in The Alley. She felt the plan was beautiful and friendly in terms of community and family. She wondered if there would be resistance if the city restricted trucks from going through at all.

Ms. Avery Spears-Mahoney stated in meeting with the people in The Alley, there are people on both side of the fence. She felt no one completely opposed restricting trucks coming into the Alley. She said it is a convenience for the trucks to unload in The Alley.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that some of our Public Safety Officers park on the lot adjacent to the Municipal Building. She asked if there is a desire to improve the parking lot. Mr. Grinton stated they had not done anything in regard to the corner property. That would have to be an add to the cost of the project, but he was sure it could be done. Ms. Spears-Mahoney stated that was mentioned by some of the folks they met with as to whether the city could improve the looks of the parking area adjacent to the Municipal Building.

Mr. Grinton stated one of the things they have not done yet is the kind of value engineering that you would get when you start having to make choices. He said if you make a list of desirable scope elements, you sometimes find that you can do things that can bring in scope elements without increasing costs. He said he tried to develop that estimate. He said he wanted to give the worse news now, and not come back and say it is a certain amount more. He said he did not want to come in low, and then find out it will be a higher price. He said the project would be an expensive project, but he felt it is an investment, and he felt that there are many things that would be worth investing in for The Alley for the downtown area.

Councilwoman Price asked about matching funds with SCE&G. Mr. Grinton said SCE&G does a 50-50 on the electrical portion. He said it would not be on the \$1.2

million. It would be on the electrical, and then you have to define what portion is the electrical. He said you have to trench. You have to put cable in. All of those costs are involved. He said if SCE&G were doing the project the way they like to do it, they would hire a contractor, and ask them to underground the wires. That way if there is a contract for \$500,000, the whole thing is done, and we each pay for half and they pay for half out of the franchise fees. He said when you start muddying the waters by doing other things at the same time, then it becomes more of a negotiation, he felt. He said he could not really tell until we get into the details of the design exactly how much we can get from them. He said he does know that SCE&G does have approximately \$300,000 for five years in their franchise that rolls over every year. He said the last amount drops off each year if it is not spent. He pointed out the City has to match that money. He said each year represents \$600,000 so there is plenty of franchise money. He said he was not worried about not being able to get that portion, but it is obviously the other capital projects money that we have to decide if we want to spend. He said the SCE&G funds are specifically targeting the electrical funds, and they would match that portion.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked Mr. Grinton if he was sure that work could be done and not interfere with any of the businesses. Mr. Grinton responded that would be their objective. He said they have to do final cut-ins on Sundays, for example, or when we could arrange with the individual business owners. He said they talked a lot with the individual business owners, and they expressed that, even with some of the disruptions, the end result would be well worth the effort. One of the things that Vann Smith said is that when we were doing the bricks in front of his business, his business actually went up because people were just coming down and curious to see what is going on. Then they would look and walk in. He said he would not mind the city working more weeks in front of his business. There may be that aspect as well. Ms. Spears-Mahoney said Mr. Smith asked for the Christmas time this year. She said they did meet with all the folks in The Alley, and everyone was overwhelmingly excited about the opportunities if Council considers the project. She said they understand there will be interruptions, but the end result would be well worth it for everyone involved.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked how long the project would be from start to finish. Mr. Grinton stated the estimate is approximately six to eight weeks per phase, but that won't really be known until we get a contract and we get into sequencing. That is part of the design phase where the designers not only have to specify what they need, but they also have to talk about how to get it done. He said we are looking at various phases, and depending on the season of the year to do the work, we would not do work during the Christmas season or during the horse events and Masters week.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff can update Council once Council decides on the direction. As we get a clearer idea about timeframes, we can have another briefing for Council or presentation. He said during the construction we could have an update in our Issues and Updates memo in the agenda packet, as well as a presentation as the work progresses.

Mr. Sam McGill stated he noticed on the map showing the area that there was a transformer behind the Police Substation. He asked in the design if they had thought about fiber vaults for all other placements. Mr. Grinton stated they would contact all utilities such as cable, telephone, etc., and we would design the proper access for everybody, recognizing that you need to provide for the future as well so there would be some expansion opportunities. He said that is in the plans. Mr. Scott stated it is in the budget also to have vaults periodically throughout the area so they could pull their services in and out of there. He said they are making plans for that, and it is in the budget. He said there are other vaults throughout the street. An electrical engineer was brought in, and they have that factored into the process. He said the main thing they need to know is where the transformer will be, as that is the key.

Councilman Dewar asked if the transformer has to be where it is. Mr. Grinton said if he could find another spot, they would be glad to move it. He said the biggest challenge is where we can go. There has been some discussion of the transformer in another area, but the people who own the property were not interested in it. He pointed out another area that had been suggested, and said that is something they could look into. He said the location chosen was because it is city property, and there would be no cost, and we can

say yes to that location. He said they recognize there may be some relocation, but that changes the cost structure. He said it could be managed.

Councilman Dewar pointed out the location is on property the city bought when we wanted to make sure we would be able to keep City Hall downtown before we bought the bank. Since we bought the bank, he would like to sell the property. He said the city does not need it, but if we are going to put a transformer on it that will affect the value of the property if anyone wants to buy it. Mr. Grinton pointed out that person would need a transformer too, so maybe they could put it right beside the other transformer.

Councilman Dewar stated the proposed project is an excellent proposal. He suggested that the proposed project be posted on the website so people can see it. He said he would like to get an email version of the project to be able to send it to people as well. He felt the community would be very proud of this if we can make it happen. He asked if there was a sense of the timeline. Mr. Grinton responded that he had not worked on a timeline, as we needed to have this meeting to find out if there was interest from Council to move forward. He said the next step is to be authorized to prepare an RFQ and the engineering cost together, as that is when you start getting the answers to the questions such as what are the other places where you can put the transformer. Are there other aspects if you want to design or do something for parking or any other items that people come up with. He felt there should be more extensive sit downs with the restaurant and business owners and with the public in general for their ideas and incorporate that and come up with a design.

Councilman Dewar stated he felt that would be a good move. He said the more you can specify, the more details we know, the closer we will be in coming up with the true cost. Mr. Grinton stated he felt it was important to go to the step where you can complete the design and you check back to be sure your costs are where they need to be. Then you kind of go forward. Councilman Dewar stated he would rather get the best cost estimates before we spend \$70,000 for a design.

Mr. Grinton responded that spending the \$70,000 is how we will get the best cost. He said we won't really get any best cost estimate until you actually start doing some of the design.

Councilwoman Price stated Mr. Bedenbaugh had said they could get more information at another meeting later.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked what is the next step and how long will it take to get more information. Mr. Grinton stated the next step is to get Council's approval to go ahead and send out an RFQ. He said if we send out an RFQ we would basically be telling engineering firms that you are planning to spend some money with them for a design. If you do an RFP you could actually have them tell you how much they will charge. He said the present estimate is about \$70,000 for that plus some coring samples that they will need in order to understand whether the stormwater work is worth investing in.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he was concerned about where the money will come from. He pointed out Mr. Grinton had mentioned use of some of the Hitchcock Woods drainage money and had mentioned that possibly some of the storm drainage would be capped through the project and would not go to the Woods. He said we have worked a long time trying to get a fix on the water that is going into the Woods. He said some money has been designated for that, but he was interested in how much would be used for this project. He said he felt the proposed project is a great project, but the problem is do we have the money and where the money will come from. Mr. Grinton stated he could develop an estimate for Council and give his best sense of what they think each aspect would cost and then the line item of the Capital Sales Tax that he would propose spending the money from.

Councilman Dewar asked Mr. Grinton to go into more detail regarding the issue of SCE&G matching funds. Mr. Grinton stated he could do that more. He said if he has a sense from Council that this is a project they should be spending time on, he can do more and give Council more information. Councilman Dewar stated he felt Council likes it and there is no question about that, but the question is can we afford it. Mr. Grinton

stated then he will get more information on the cost of the project and where the money would come from.

Councilwoman Price stated her comment was in reference to a worksession. She felt Council needs a worksession as soon as possible. She felt everyone agrees the project is a great concept and idea, but there needs to be a worksession when there are more details on the project.

Mr. Grinton stated he would work with Mr. Scott and contact SCE&G and let Mr. Bedenbaugh know what timeframe they can have more information for Council.

Councilwoman Diggs pointed out that the owners of the Papa Russ building came to the meeting tonight to see the concept plan. She wondered what they think of the plan since they actually own a building in The Alley.

Mr. Russell Richardson stated he owns the building at 231 The Alley. He said he thinks the proposed concept is fabulous. He said it needs to be cleaned up a bit, and there are a couple of issues that he wants to talk to them about that he feels they need to take into account. He said he feels the plan is great and it needs to be done.

Councilman Ebner stated Mr. Grinton had talked about working from midnight to 10 a.m. He asked if we would schedule the work as 5 - 10's every week, and they would work every night. Mr. Grinton said it would be something like that. Mr. Scott stated they would get with the business owners to see the impact. He pointed out he felt that some parts of the work could be done during the day because there are no businesses that currently front on that portion of the street. He said that was the reason for visioning the project in four phases. He pointed out areas for the four phases, such as the transformer being phase one. Doing the project in phases would leave access to other portions of The Alley to get to the restaurants. He said one concern may be access to Morgan-Stanley. He pointed out an area which he felt he could see work occurring after the businesses are closed and before they open. He pointed out an area where there are several restaurants. He said that area would probably be phase three.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that 25% of the budget is premium time and construction time. He said sometimes it is better to run 5 - 10's at midnight and don't worry about it and get a cheaper job. He said another thing that has reappeared down by the hotel and other areas is that people tend to rerun lines after we have cleaned them up. He felt Mr. Grinton would have to watch that.

Councilman Ebner asked if the transformer behind Smitty's or across from Papa Russ' which is on some poles would disappear. Mr. Grinton responded that transformer would disappear as well as some light poles along the way also. Councilman Ebner pointed out that the new transformer would be a big transformer. It will be 10 x 15 x 8. Mr. Grinton said the transformer would be 5 x 5 x 5. Councilman Ebner said the city will lose 10% to 15% of the city property where the transformer will be located because when you start with a feed cable he did not think you can build a building over it. Mr. Grinton said there is a little transformer box in the location now. He said when he talks with the SCE&G engineer, what he would like to do is put the larger transformer in the place of the current transformer and find another location for the smaller transformer. Mr. Grinton said technically he would not be taking more space, but would just be replacing the existing transformer. He said that is his preference so he would see if we can make that work.

Councilman Ebner said long term, just talking to commercial developers, the city property could be developed for commercial on the ground floor with two story apartments above that. He said if a transformer is put there, we will lose a good portion of the property. Mr. Grinton said they would need power as well, so maybe that is something they could discuss with SCE&G and find out how they would feed a new building.

Councilman Ebner stated Mr. Grinton needs to look at what kind of clearance is needed around the transformer. He said he knows there are certain restrictions for explosion reasons from a transformer.

Mr. Scott stated they are trying to get the new transformer as close to the existing transformer as possible. He said if you go down the alley now there is a large transformer in the alley. He said they are trying to combine all the transformers together so they can minimize the impact and still leave as much of the property as possible for development.

Councilman Ebner stated he assumed when we do all the stormwater that when we walk down the street during a rain that the gutters will not wash our shoes and socks off. He pointed out that presently everything pours off the buildings right in the middle of the sidewalk. He asked if the proposal is to take care of all that. Mr. Scott responded there will be no curbs. Everything will be drained to the center of the street. If one stays on either side of the street it should be okay. Councilman Ebner stated then the gutters would come down and run into the middle of the street. Mr. Scott stated they are tying in all the existing downspouts that are on the buildings and tie all those in underground and into the storm system. He said the water will not be splashing onto the pavement. The only thing coming down on the pavement is what falls down from the skies. Councilman Ebner stated he would assume that the owners would fix their downspouts because just about all of them are broken up and down the street. Mr. Scott said that would be a coordinated effort. They will be given a loop to tie in and hopefully they will pipe into it.

Councilman Ebner stated since the water plant will be finished, he would assume that we would have full time supervision on this job. Mr. Grinton stated this would definitely be a construction manager's priority. Councilman Ebner stated our experience on the other parkways have not been very good without supervision. Mr. Grinton stated supervision is the only way to do a project.

Councilman Ebner stated going back to the funding, our next move is to have a worksession. At that worksession Mr. Grinton would have a funding strategy, etc. Mr. Grinton stated he would have a recommendation. Councilman Ebner stated then that the next Council meeting after the worksession, the item would be on the agenda for Council approval. Councilman Ebner stated he thinks the project sounds good, and we need to move on with it.

Councilman Dewar asked if there were any plans to replace the trees that were lost during the ice storm. Mr. Grinton stated he thought Mr. Coakley had put that on hold until he finds out what we are going to do. He pointed out that not many people like the trees that are presently in The Alley. Councilman Dewar stated he had heard a suggestion of putting up flower boxes and using something like that and possibly the nearby stores would adopt them and take care of them. Mr. Grinton stated he looks at that as an opportunity to involve the stakeholders of The Alley. He said if they don't want trees, we would not put trees in. Councilman Dewar stated this is not just related to The Alley, but related to the whole downtown area where trees were lost. He felt we should try to repair that issue as soon as possible, assuming we have the money. Ms. Avery Spears-Mahoney stated the Design Committee of the Aiken Downtown Development Association has expressed interest in that process and in working with Mr. Rapp and Mr. Coakley in getting that taken care of.

Councilwoman Price stated that Ms. Spears-Mahoney was doing an excellent job. She said she knew that she and the board were constantly looking for ways to increase foot traffic in the downtown area. Ms. Spears-Mahoney stated they had the Farmers Market and the Beach Blast events coming up. The Beach Blast is this weekend on Friday and Saturday from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday and from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. She said they are hoping the event will be larger than last year's event. Ms. Spears-Mahoney stated she appreciated Mr. Grinton's help in going to the stakeholders in The Alley. She said they picked up some great suggestions and will continue to do that through the process.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked all for their discussion and suggestions and look forward to hearing more about the proposed concept for The Alley.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSAppointments

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider any appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. He said Council has 10 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. He asked if Council had any appointments to the various committees.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to thank Frances Farley for completing her 5 year term on the Housing Authority. He said he would like to recommend the appointment of Beverly Clyburn, a former Councilmember, to the Housing Authority.

Councilwoman Price stated she would like to recommend the reappointment of Andrew Bouknight to the Building Code Appeals Board and reappointment of James Gallman to the Housing Authority.

MILLAGE RATE – ORDINANCEBudgetFY 2014-15

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to set the millage rate for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Mr. Bedenbaugh read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR ORDINARY CITY PURPOSES AND FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES IN THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, SET THE MILLAGE AT SIXTY-TWO (62) MILLS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXPENDITURES THEREOF.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated this is the time of year for Council to set the millage rate for fiscal year 2014-15 budget. He said Council discussed at the last meeting various ways or options to handle our millage rate. Council approved at the May 12, 2014, meeting holding the millage rate at 62 mills, which means that the millage rate does not include a 2% cost of living increase for employees.

For Council consideration, is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to set the FY 2014-15 millage rate.

Councilman Ebner stated he would move that Council continue the matter of setting the millage rate until the next meeting of Council, and that, as adjustments and meetings are held to review the budget, that Council have a work session at the appropriate time before the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Dewar stated he felt for the public benefit that Council needs to explain that Council is not ready at this point to consider any type millage increase until they know what the costs are for the plan to improve Public Safety salaries. He said they know the total cost for the cost of living increase, but Council wants to do the whole thing in one package rather than in separate packages.

BUDGET – ORDINANCEFY 2014-15

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared to approve the FY 2014-15 budget.

Mr. Bedenbaugh read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A BUDGET PROPOSED BY THE CITY MANAGER, CONTAINING ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BY THE CITY OF AIKEN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND DECLARING THAT IT SHALL CONSTITUTE THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF AIKEN.

Councilman Ebner moved that Council continue the ordinance for adoption of a budget for FY 2014-15 and have appropriate work sessions prior to the June 23 Council meeting and discussions with Councilmembers in the meantime. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved.

AIKEN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – ORDINANCE 06092014
Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to adopt the Aiken County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Bedenbaugh read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE AIKEN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN PREPARED BY THE LOWER SAVANNAH COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS.

In 2010 Public Safety worked with Aiken County and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments to update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan represents our commitment to reduce risks posed by natural hazards and serves as a guide for the South Carolina Emergency Management Division's funding prioritization and our mitigation goals.

In order to be able to directly apply with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division for some designated FEMA money that is designated for Hazard Mitigation, Council needs to approve the plan. He said we would like for the Emergency Management Division to consider applications from the city for several projects:

- Install generators at City Hall, our H. O. Weeks Center, and Smith-Hazel Recreation Center;
- Install pump-arounds at 34 lift stations to prevent sanitary sewer overflows;
- Install stand-by generating equipment at our Shaws Creek Water Treatment Plant and off-site wells at our Town Creek and Pine Log Water Treatment facilities;
- Stabilize slopes at the railroad cut near the Willcox as part of our storm water program.

To directly apply for Hazard Mitigation Funding, Council must approve the County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Council approved this ordinance on first reading at your May 12, 2014, meeting. For City Council's consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to adopt the Aiken County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Councilman Ebner stated he had several questions and one addition. He said the plan is all dated April 11, 2011, and all the attachments have the April 11, 2011, date. He said his assumption is that the plan is up to date. He pointed out that on page 101 there is a name of a person who is retired. He asked if all the amendments and the plan are okay.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated when the plan was adopted in 2005, the City of Aiken adopted that plan. Approximately every five years the County Emergency Management Division updates the plan. For some reason the City never adopted the 2011 updated plan. He pointed out the County is working on the next update, and it will be updated in approximately two years. The City should adopt the next version of the plan soon after Aiken County adopts the plan. He said the city needs to adopt the present Hazard Mitigation Plan so we can apply for the Hazard Mitigation monies and submit our pre-application for the grant.

Councilman Ebner stated he had received some information from the owners of the Willcox who are very interested in the grant monies because part of their backyard is disappearing and affecting part of the building. He said they had sent something that said the pre-application must be submitted by June 27, 2014.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he had seen that. He said he had been working on the pre-applications and will be able to submit those pre-application documents. If the pre-applications are approved, the City will have to submit an actual detailed application in the fall. He stated Mr. Grinton is going to a meeting in Columbia this week at the Emergency Management Division to get some training on how this process will work. He pointed out this money has not been available in South Carolina because fortunately we don't have a lot of disasters to get FEMA money. However, this year we had Winter Ice Storm PAX.

Councilman Ebner pointed out the Willcox Hotel is not only a historic building, but it also brings many Accommodations Tax funds and other taxes into the city. He said he would hope that staff would take a look at it closely and what to do there. He said he had been working with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis on this matter. They are willing to do whatever they can to help with this mitigation. He said his understanding, through the Ellis' and Congressman Joe Wilson's representative, that Norfolk Southern is interested in supporting this effort. He said that is a rarity in today's world. He felt the one who really is interested is the Aiken Railroad Company, who has a vested interest in making this go. Councilman Ebner asked how the Ellis' may be able to help. He asked if Mr. Grinton will be able to contact the Ellis' once he gets back from the meeting in Columbia.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the pre-application gets you in the queue to submit the application is his understanding from talking to the representatives of the Emergency Management Division. Then it will come down to submitting a good application. There is a limited amount of money available. The money is available state-wide; it is not just available to jurisdictions that were affected by the winter storm. There have been a number of meetings around the state last month. Staff attended a meeting in Aiken to get some information. He said staff is hard at work getting the pre-applications ready to submit by the June 27, 2014, deadline. We should hear from the Emergency Management Division about going forward, and staff will have to prepare a detailed application later this year.

Councilman Dewar asked if any of the items listed as being equipment needed are in the budget. He pointed out the plan is to get the equipment if we get the grant.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated funding will not come until late in next fiscal year. The expectation is that the city would pay up front, and then they would do a reimbursement of 75%. Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out the amount of money that this equipment costs versus how much money is available in the state for hazard mitigation. He said the money available in the state for hazard mitigation is several million dollars, and the city's projects cost between \$1 million and \$2 million dollars. He said we are optimistic that the city may get some funding for some of the projects. He said we know one of the priorities for the Emergency Management Division in terms of distributing this money is that they are interested in power back up generators. He said we are looking at other potential possibilities of funding, not just from this money for the stormwater issues at the Willcox Hotel. He said Mr. Grinton has said there are some other programs that he and Mr. Atkins in our Engineering and Utilities Department are looking at.

Councilman Dewar stated his point is that none of the items requested are in the budget that Council will approve before the fiscal year ends. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the items are not specifically listed in the budget, but the funding for a grant award or notification of a grant award would not be received until late in the fiscal year.

Councilman Dewar stated he would not want to buy the items and then find out the city is not going to get the grants. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated staff would not buy the items until there is word that the city would get some funding.

Councilman Dewar asked if Mr. Richard Abney had been replaced as one of the city's representatives to this committee.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he thought the committee had not become a Task Force Committee yet. He pointed out that the plan to be adopted is the 2011 document. The next update is in the pre-planning stages, and in talking with Mr. Ruth and Mr. Matthews it will not come in earnest until later in 2015 and into 2016.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading and public hearing an ordinance to adopt the Aiken County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion was unanimously approved.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Aiken's Makin'

Parkways

Park Avenue

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council has received a request for approval of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's 38 Annual Aiken's Makin' event.

Mr. Bedbenbaugh stated it is time for the annual request from the Chamber of Commerce to

allow them the opportunity to close the entire west bound lane of Park Avenue from Union Street to Chesterfield Street in order to hold the 38th Annual Aiken's Makin' festival. They also want to close half of the east bound lane of Park from Union to Chesterfield as well.

This year's festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, September 5, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 6. As has been done for the last several years, the Chamber has requested that the exhibitors be allowed to set up on the paved portion of Park Avenue.

For Council approval is authorization of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce 38th Annual Aiken's Makin' event on Park Avenue.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve the Chamber of Commerce holding its 38th Annual Aiken's Makin' event on Park Avenue on September 5 and 6, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE

Virgil and Fannie Kanagy

419 Pine Avenue

TPN 122-05-15-007

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to annex property at 419 Pine Avenue and zone it RS-6 Residential Single-Family.

Mr. Bedenbaugh read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 0.152 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-6).

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Virgil and Fannie Kanagy own property at 419 Pine Avenue. Since this property is contiguous to the city limits, they have requested to be annexed into the City of Aiken. By doing so, they are seeking city services that will then be available to them, including in-city water rates, garbage pickup, recycling, sewer service, and no longer having to pay fire fees.

The Planning Commission met May 13, 2014, and considered the Kanagy's request. By a 5-0 vote, Planning Commission has recommended that City Council annex this property into the city limits.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to annex 0.152 acre of land belonging to Virgil and Fannie Kanagy at 419 Pine Avenue into the Aiken City limits.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council pass on first reading an ordinance to annex 0.152 acre of land belonging to Virgil and Fannie Kanagy at 419 Pine Avenue and zone it RS-6 Residential Single Family. The motion was unanimously approved.

THE RIDGE SUBDIVISION

Chukker Creek Letters of Credit Extension

Mayor Cavanaugh stated a request had been received for approval of extension of Letters of Credit for The Ridge at Chukker Creek Subdivision.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the request is consideration of a resolution to extend the expiration date for the Letters of Credit provided by FPA, Inc. Currently the Letters of Credit will expire July 6, 2014. He said Mr. William H. Short, Jr., representing FPA, Inc. d/b/a The Ridge at Chukker Creek, Ronald Monahan, and Iris Freeman, is present. He provided a letter after our last meeting requesting that City Council pass a Resolution extending the July 6, 2014, expiration date for their Letters of Credit for this development. He pointed out that representatives were present at the last meeting to give a presentation about their plan for The Ridge.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he had distributed a document from Mr. Short which he had received today regarding The Ridge at Chukker Creek. The document contains a punch list of items and the estimated cost as well as the time to complete the work and their "to-do" list of work to complete in this development. They would like Council consideration of a resolution to extend the expiration date for the Letters of Credit to July 6, 2015.

Mr. Short stated representatives were before Council about a month ago. He said a presentation was received from their commercial real estate broker, Wayne Smith, with Wilson-Kibler in Columbia. Mr. Smith has been very successful. He has one contract for the developed lots to be bought in bulk. That transaction closes on Friday, June 13, 2014, and they will have in escrow in the office of Mr. Harrison Penn, who represents FDA with him, funds to complete the work scheduled on the "punch list." The "punch list" update that was distributed to Council shows that more than 50% of the work that the city has asked that they do has been done. The City Engineering staff has reviewed the work and has approved the work that has been done. Approximately 40% of the work is yet to be done. He said they have provided Council with a schedule of when that work will be completed, approximate completion date, and the cost to complete. The total amount of dollars for the work to be done is approximately \$163,000. Mr. Penn's office will be holding approximately \$187,000 from this closing, which takes place on Friday. Funds will be on hand to complete the work. He said they anticipate that they will not need through next July to complete all of the work. He said they anticipate to be finished with the work sometime in the fall. In addition they have the second potential closing. They are still working towards a contract for the undeveloped lots. The existing builder, J. R. Holmes, is in the process of buying almost all of the remaining lots in Chukker Creek. His transaction to close on the developed lots will close on Friday. He said they anticipate a closing later this summer, probably in August, for the undeveloped lots. By that time they should have almost all of the work done. Then they will entertain the City Engineering staff. Hopefully, then they will provide Council sometime around Labor Day an updated "punch list" showing that all the work is done and complete.

Mr. Short stated they would like to have the opportunity to complete the work that the city instructed them to complete before they turn the subdivision over to the city. He said

he felt it was in the city's best interest to have them do this work pursuant to the bonds that are out there and for which they are responsible, rather than the city having to undertake the work. He said they are best situated to do it, and they can do it the most cost effectively.

Councilman Ebner stated he had one discussion item. He pointed out the builder is buying the lots only. There will still be the peripherals and dealing with the POA and other things. He said he only wanted to clarify that the builder is only buying the lots, and there are still other things that the original developer owns and has to deal with.

Mr. Short stated they will still be around. He said they are not disappearing, and not going away in the dark of night. He said they have some other lots that they still do not have under contract or have a purchaser for them yet. He said they will need to begin to do that to begin to wind up their affairs. He said they anticipate they will be around and on site through the end of the year.

Councilwoman Price moved that Council approve the request to extend the expiration date for the Letters of Credit provided by FPA, Inc. for the Ridge at Chukker Creek until July 6, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ebner and unanimously approved.

Councilman Ebner stated he had a letter that he wanted to add to the minutes at the end of this discussion. It has to do with the other items that have been discussed in the past. He said he did not want to discuss them tonight, as we would have a two hour discussion on them.

Mr. Short stated he would like to present the letters that Councilman Ebner requested to be obtained at the last meeting they were present. He said the letters are from the homeowners whose property is adjacent to the stormwater runoff ditch which has the rip rap in it. The individuals have accepted that. They have authorized acceptance of the erosion control and drainage system as is. He said the letters confirm that. He said Mr. Bedenbaugh can share the letters with Council.

CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX

Operations Manager

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the next item for Council consideration is approval to hire an Operations Manager to oversee the Capital Projects Sales Tax Projects.

Mr. Bedenbaugh read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE POSITION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX OPERATIONS MANAGER.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Council had expressed in the past the importance of getting the Capital Projects Sales Tax pending projects completed, and one of the best ways we feel this could be done is to support a newly created full time position in the City Manager's Office known as an Operations Manager. The purpose of this position is to coordinate the concept development, design, site location, and construction of projects listed in our CPST II and CPST III projects lists.

Engineering and Utilities Director, George Grinton, will continue to manage the utility infrastructure upgrades we have previously discussed and placed on a timeline. We see the Operations Manager as the person to ensure that all Capital Sales Tax Projects are permitted and ready to proceed when construction funds are received.

This position would be considered supervisory, and fall in our \$50,772 to \$88,670 salary range, depending on the experience of the applicant. The Human Resources Director created a job description, which was provided to Council.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Mr. Smith, City Attorney, had reviewed this request and feels that it is an appropriate use of Capital Projects Sales Tax Funds to pay for an Operations Manager.

For Council's consideration is approval on first reading of an ordinance to establish the position of Operations Manager to be paid solely out of Capital Sales Tax Projects funds.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to move that the item be continued on the basis that whoever the new City Manager may be is the person who should make the hiring decision since they would be working very closely together. He feels it is a very important position which is desperately needed. He felt we may not get much done with that job now since we do not have a City Manager. He said he was of the opinion that the new City Manager should fill the position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ebner.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that he, Councilwoman Price and others have been pushing this position. He felt it would be good for him and Councilwoman Price to meet. He said the intent was that for all of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism projects only. The proposed position covers everything under CPST II and CPST III. He said the focus should be listed. He said the list had been turned in. He said he would like for him and Councilwoman Price to rework this. They would list the projects that are approved that this Manager should do. He said PRT is not all of it, but a lot of the job has to do with PRT, open space, etc. He felt the projects that the individual would do should be listed specifically. He said Mr. Grinton is already handling all of the infrastructure projects, the water tank, etc. He said we want this person to be able to concentrate on these for the whole city, take a look at them, and make recommendations. He said we have property scattered around the city, and we have about \$10 million to \$12 million that we need to spend appropriately. He said he and Councilwoman Price would put together specific projects that are already approved by the public and rewrite some of the description to show the person would work on the listed projects only and is not a broad job. He felt we need to focus on certain things.

Councilwoman Price stated she did not have any strong opposition in terms of delaying it. She was concerned about when Council expects to advertise for the City Manager position and get a City Manager. She felt to delay the position for a year was too long. She said the purpose of the position was to have a Project Manager just to handle the Capital Sales Tax projects. She said just to focus on the Capital Projects Sales Tax projects and follow the projects is a lot to do. She felt that person should consistently update Council in terms of where we are on the projects. She felt it was urgent to fill that position. She said the position has been needed for a couple of years. She felt six months would not be so bad, but a year is too long.

Councilman Dewar stated he was not thrilled with the spread of the salary. He said he did not think he was willing to spend \$88,000 for the position. He liked the \$50,000 salary. He said we are talking about a basic management position. He said sometimes we can get spoiled by the salaries at the Site which average \$80,000 a year. He felt the City should not have to pay more than about \$50,000 to get a good qualified manager. He said if we need an engineer, that is a different ballpark. He said he was not sure we need an engineer. He said we have engineers on staff that could help.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the salary he mentioned was the salary range. Obviously the \$88,670 is the top end for such a position. He said the city does have engineers and project managers that are more at the lower end. He said the salary would depend on the experience, but he would anticipate that the salary would most likely be at the lower end.

Councilman Dewar felt we did not need to define the spread of the salary as being \$50,000 to \$88,000. He said we could define the spread from \$50,000 to \$65,000 as opposed from \$50,000 to \$88,000. Councilman Dewar stated he thought Council had discussed an informal agreement that we would impose a hiring freeze and a promotion freeze until we get a good handle on the budget. He asked the City Attorney whether that agreement needed to be a formal process.

Mr. Smith stated the budget sets forth who the employees are. He said, as he understood, this position is to be an additional employee, with the source of funding for this employee being the Capital Projects Sales Tax. He said there would not be funds in the regular budget for this position.

Councilwoman Price pointed out the salary for the Project Manager would come out of the Capital Projects Sales Tax funds. She said Council had talked about \$50,000 for a salary at one time, and that was the base that Council discussed the last time.

Councilman Dewar stated \$50,000 to \$65,000 is a good range. He said he was not sure we would find someone who has managed Capital Projects Sales Tax programs before. He said a basic manager is needed, a real go-getter that can multi-task and can get the job done.

Councilman Ebner stated the Project Manager would need to bring all the projects together, as they are interlaced. He said that is one of the things that Council had always expressed concern about. He pointed out the projects intertwine. He said you can't just say do Eustis Park, etc. He said you have to lay out the whole plan. He felt that is one of the key things that we need to do.

Councilman Homoki asked where the position would fall in the decision matrix. He pointed out Mr. Grinton has people working for him, and he can give them direction. He asked whether this person would give direction or just monitor the progress of work.

Councilman Dewar stated he felt the person would direct the progress of work.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that most of the project work would need to be contracted. He said the position would be over here, and they would need some of the expertise that is already in the city. He pointed out Mr. Grinton has multi-million dollar projects to do. He said we were looking for this person to engage people that are familiar with doing, for example, a park at the City landfill, and then taking a look at all the other parks. He said we have \$2 million to improve parks. He said we need someone to go out and get the expertise to say how we can use this money and spread it out and get the most for the money. He said they need to look at that type of expertise. He said when you get back to the basic engineering and contracts, there is probably help within the city that could do that. He felt the basic data needs to come from people that are very familiar with how you put in a soccer field, etc. He felt that is what we are looking for.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he felt we all would like to see it written down as to exactly what the person is supposed to do. Councilman Ebner stated he and Councilwoman Price would work with that and he would send it out for comments from Council.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she felt Council should not wait too long for the position to be filled.

Councilwoman Price asked Mr. Grinton if \$50,000 to \$65,000 was a good range for the proposed position. Mr. Grinton stated he felt it depends on whether Council is looking for an experienced engineer. He said a retired engineer who is looking for a second career may accept \$65,000. If we are looking for someone just out of school, brand new it would be an appropriate range. If we are looking for a real go-getter, he felt they would demand a higher price.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated from the discussion it sounds like we want a go getter, not somebody just out of school, but somebody who has had some experience, hopefully in this kind of work. Councilman Dewar stated it depends on how you define the job. He said you have to have an individual who can multi-task and someone coming out of college could possibly do that. As to whether they could do it as well as someone with ten years work experience, he said probably not. He said it will be interesting to see what we advertise for the position and what we get back. Mayor Cavanaugh stated that is why we really need to put it down in writing so we can see what it is. Councilman Ebner stated that will be done. He said there is a good skeleton to work from.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion to continue the approval of an Operations Manager position for the Capital Sales Tax Projects. The motion was unanimously approved.

AUDITOR

Fiscal Years 2015, 2016 and 2017

Mauldin & Jenkins

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider approval of a Certified Public Accounting firm to conduct the city's annual audit.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated it is time for Council to approve a certified public accounting firm for a three year period. He said a RFP was released on March 10, 2014, with a due date of April 28, 2014. The document request drew interest from nine different auditing firms, including our current auditor, Elliott Davis. After careful consideration, staff has recommended for Council approval that the Atlanta based public accounting firm of Mauldin and Jenkins be contracted with to perform our audits for fiscal years 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017. This firm has worked with 66 firms that have received the GFOA recognition. He pointed out the City of Aiken has received the GFOA designation for 22 years in a row. That is very important to the City of Aiken.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the firm of Mauldin and Jenkins is moving into this area. They are currently the firm auditing the government of Augusta-Richmond County as well as Colleton County and the City of Beaufort. In addition they have followed Elliott Davis LLC on other audits and the transition of firms has proceeded very smoothly. As we have done in the past, and in line with our Request for Qualifications, this award for professional services will be for audits of three fiscal years: 2014-15; 2015-16; and 2016-17.

For Council approval is selection of Mauldin & Jenkins as the Certified Public Accounting firm to conduct our annual city audit the next three fiscal years. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the city contracted with Elliott Davis in 2011 for them to conduct the audit through fiscal year 2013-14.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve the selection of Mauldin and Jenkins as the Certified Public Accounting firm to conduct the city's annual audit for the next three fiscal years beginning with the 2014-15 fiscal year and ending with the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Councilman Dewar stated he assumed the firm of Mauldin and Jenkins does not do any internal auditing. He asked who does the city's internal auditing.

Ms. Abney, Finance Director, stated the bid is for the city's external audit. She said an internal audit is a very specific function. In the Finance Department there is a person called a Special Projects Accountant who does things you might consider an internal audit. She does things such as petty cash counts for some of the other departments; she does the inventory at the end of the year, etc. She said the city does not have an internal audit department or internal audit function.

Councilman Dewar asked if our internal person could do an audit of the Administration and Finance Building. He said the building was renovated for \$1.5 million. He asked if the city's internal auditor could do an audit of the cost of the Administration and Finance Building.

Ms. Abney stated the city does not have an internal auditor. We have a Special Projects Accountant. She does things that you may consider an internal audit function. The city does not have an internal auditor or an internal audit department for the city. If there is a specific request that Council has that you would like for them to detail the line items, that could possibly be done. Ms. Abney stated she was not sure where Councilman Dewar was going with the question. Councilman Dewar stated, for example, if he wanted to know how much it really cost to renovate the building, the breakdown of the cost, who did the work, etc. could that be done.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he has in his office two large notebooks that have all the invoices and a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of the expenditures for the building. He said if anyone wants to look at those documents they are available.

Councilman Ebner stated he felt if you go back to the beginning of the job, that one of the architect firms put together a plus or minus 10% estimate that was our guide for the authorization. That estimate was about \$710,000 to \$712,000. There was about \$40,000 that Council authorized as part of the \$750,000. He said there is a basis to compare what was done and what is in the particular estimate. He said it was a detailed list of about 15 to 20 pages. He thought that should be in the front of the notebook. He said that was the basis of the authorization of \$750,000. He said he and Councilman Dewar had talked about this, and this had been one of his ailments. The idea is to find out how much money we have totally spent within the block of land. A good place to start is the original document. Anything that was done for the building, we would like to know if that was charged to the appropriate project. He said, in other words, if city forces were used to do something, which is not a problem, but were they charged to the project. Also, if furniture or whatever was bought, is it in the current cost of about \$760,000 or so. He said this would take it down another level from what Councilman Dewar is saying. He said this is what we would like at the top. He said he was giving where the information is to go and dig it out. He asked if Mr. Bedenbaugh could check on that and let Council know what they can do. Councilman Dewar stated he would come by and look at the notebooks in Mr. Bedenbaugh's office.

Councilman Dewar asked if Council wanted an internal audit, if the city would have to engage an outside firm that would specialize in internal audits.

Ms. Abney stated a lot of CPA firms will perform that function for a client, but the city's external auditor, currently Elliott Davis and proposed to be Mauldin and Jenkins, can't do both. It has to be an independent external auditor to come in and do an internal audit.

Councilman Dewar asked again what the person on the Finance Department's staff does regarding auditing. Ms. Abney responded that she does special projects such as inventory. At the end of the fiscal year she goes to all locations that have inventory, such as the Garage, supplies, meters and she vouches with the people who are in charge of the inventory. She does not count every item or every meter, etc. The person in charge has done the inventory, and the Special Projects Accountant checks behind them and vouches some of the items. She also does petty cash counts where she goes to Public Safety, Recreation, and the Finance Department periodically and counts the cash. She reconciles to make sure the drawers are right, and they have all the funds they are supposed to have. She is also an accountant and she processes the payroll with others; she works on GovDeals; for all the assets we sell on GovDeals she pulls the title and does all the paperwork to get the item sold and recorded appropriately and disposed. Councilman Dewar asked if she audits business licenses. Ms. Abney stated she has worked with the Business License Administrator in cooperation with that. Ms. Abney stated what we are asking for tonight is approval of an external auditor.

Councilman Ebner asked that Mr. Bedenbaugh reply back to Council with what Councilman Dewar has asked to do to see if the Special Projects Coordinator could do that or if it would take a third party to do it.

Councilman Homoki asked if the purpose would be to find out what the original estimate was and what was actually spent. Councilman Ebner responded yes. He said there was an estimate that was put together. The city paid for that estimate. He said he just wants to compare the two and anything that went in that area. He said even if it was city employees doing the work, as long as they were charged to that account, it is good, and furniture bought for the building, etc. Councilman Ebner stated another reason it is important is that we are looking at renovating the Municipal Building on Park Avenue. It would have some of the aspects of what was done for the Administration and Finance Building. He felt that would also give them something to look at for this building when it is done.

Mayor Cavanaugh called for a vote on the motion to approve the selection of Mauldin and Jenkins as the city's certified public accounting firm to conduct the city's annual audit for the next three fiscal years. The motion was unanimously approved.

EDGEWOOD SUBDIVISION

James Matthews

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he understood there was someone present who wanted to speak with Council.

Councilwoman Diggs pointed out that James Matthews wanted to speak with Council.

Mr. James Matthews stated he was present for an update that he was supposed to give Council from the last meeting. He said Councilwoman Diggs had met with him this past weekend. He said they set up a neighborhood cleanup. He said Mr. Duncan from Dumpster Depot is going to donate dumpsters for them. He said they got into a dilemma. He said the city says paint and tires cannot be put in a dumpster, but you can put it in the rollcart and the city will take it. Mr. Matthews stated Mr. Duncan had proposed that whatever is not supposed to go in the dumpster, he will have a site location where they can bring those items to be properly disposed of. He will bring the three or four dumpsters that will be needed for the work on June 21.

Mr. Matthews stated the Edgewood area still has the water problems. After the last rain he went down Camellia and the little pipes with clay, there was no water in them. It is still running down the side of the street. He said the street sweeper has not been in the area. He said he tried to get in contact with Phil Noah, the Code Enforcement Inspector, regarding some of the houses and some of the things that need to be done on that side. He found out that Mr. Noah is the only Inspector we have for the whole City of Aiken—one Code Enforcement Officer. He said by the time the Inspector gets all the way around the City of Aiken, it would take him a long time to enforce the codes. He felt another position is needed.

Mr. Matthews stated the last item was the millage rate. He said he understands the city is going to increase the taxes and people on that side of town are not happy. It is not fair to increase taxes, but they don't see any improvements. He said the suggestion came up that the city at least put a crew over there and let them work the drains. Mr. Matthews pointed out since the last time they were in the area checking the drains, the weeds are very high at the drain at Sundry and Marlboro, and this has never been touched. On Beaufort Street and Hampton there is a pond either going up or coming in. That still has not been touched. He said that was all he had for Council. He pointed out there had been five people at the previous neighborhood meeting, but for the last meeting there were only two people.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he felt we need to talk about who is doing what and what the plan is to do some of the work.

Councilman Homoki asked if the city has a formal list of some of the problems that Mr. Matthews identified, and if they are on a list and scheduled for work. He asked if the Engineering Department was aware of the problems.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the street sweeper would be Public Services. He said he had made a note to talk to Mr. Coakley to ensure that we can get the street sweeper in the area this week. He said we could have our Storm Water Division check the drains at Beaufort and Hampton as well as Sundry and Marlboro.

Mr. Matthews stated also the area between Laurens Street and York Street had not been swept. He said you could still see debris on the curb. He said even from the work when they did the power line is still there. He said it is there, right in the heart of town. He said he would leave it to Council to try to give them some type of morale boost for the Edgewood side of town. Mr. Matthews stated that Neighborhood Services is supposed to

be distributing door hangers to notify people in the neighborhood about the cleanup and the location of the dumpsters. Mr. Matthews stated he wanted to be sure the word gets to the people in the neighborhood about the cleanup.

Councilwoman Diggs pointed out to Mr. Matthews that she felt it is going to take more time than he had anticipated for work in the neighborhood, so he will have to be patient. She said one thing is that when Council votes on the millage rate, it will be for the entire city. It has to be the same for everybody. It will include northside, eastside, southside and westside. She said a lot of people are having issues with that, but that will impact the entire city. She pointed out Mr. Matthews will have to give the city more time to address the concerns, but they will be taken care of. She pointed out that at the meeting on last Saturday, Mr. Matthews had asked about having a crew in the area until the work is finished and leave the crew there for weeks at the time. She felt the city was not in a position to do that, as the city does not have enough crew members to leave a crew in an area for a long time because we have other areas in the city that need assistance also. She said we will get the work done, but if we don't that Mr. Matthews will keep coming back.

Councilman Homoki stated that is why he asked the question as to whether there is a list that the city has of things that need to be done. He said Mr. Matthews can keep coming to Council. He asked where the city keeps track of all the complaints. He said there has to be a list that Public Services can attack. He asked if Mr. Coakley keeps a list. He said Mr. Matthews comes to Council and identifies some problems, but he asked who is writing this down and putting it on a priority list.

Mr. Matthews stated the area had these problems several years ago and even ten years ago. He said they are the same problems. He felt they just need to go back and review the notes and have Mr. Coakley or whatever department involved to come in and fix the problems.

Councilwoman Diggs stated the infrastructure issues have been brought to Council on many occasions for Edgewood. Councilman Homoki stated we know about the problems, but what happens to the complaints that are presented to Council. He asked how the complaints get transferred over to Mr. Coakley's department.

Mr. Coakley pointed out that the complaints do not involve just his department. He said he could answer the sweeping question and the disposal of materials such as tires. He said the drainage stuff falls on the Storm Water Division of Engineering & Utilities Department. He said the city has two street sweepers. He pointed out Mr. Matthews was before Council a few weeks ago, and he had asked his guys to sweep the area. He said he would have to pull the logs to be sure they did it. He felt there may be some misconceptions about what they sweep. He said they do not sweep any roads that don't have curb and gutter. He said there are some areas in the neighborhood that would not be swept. He said they have a sweeping plan which he can pull and give to the City Manager for Council which tells the sweepers what to do. He said they work 2 a.m. until about noon, four days a week, 10 hour shifts. There are two employees who work 40 hours each. They do nothing but sweep, so there are 80 hours of sweeping somewhere in the city every week. They have a map of the areas to cover. He said they are asked to come in at 2 a.m. and work the arterial roads and the entrances to the city until about 6:30 or 7 a.m. while there is light traffic. Then they shift to the neighborhoods. He said they take requests all the time, but the workers have a plan as to where to go next if there are no requests in the queue. He said at a couple of meetings ago the Supervisor received an email to sweep in that neighborhood. He said he would check to be sure it was done. He said there are two sweepers.

Councilman Homoki stated Mr. Coakley says he is not responsible for the storm water. He asked if Mr. Grinton has a list of water problems or drains that are blocked, weeded up, etc.

Mr. Coakley pointed out that included in the \$14 per month garbage fee is for the city to come in and collect items like tires, waste oil, and paint. He said all a person needs to do is to call the office. A time will be scheduled for the pickup. A specific day will be

scheduled for the pickup. The supervisors have a list and pick this material up and dispose of it properly. Mr. Coakey pointed out one cannot just put the material out, but they have to call the office and schedule a time for the pickup and it will be picked up on that day.

Mr. Grinton stated the Utilities has basically a calls program or work order program, where we are constantly getting calls for water, sewer, storm water and other items. He said that goes into a data base. He said we are trying to get the information on a tablet so we can have it more on a program basis. We are working with our GIS group, so this can be connected to the location so maps are generated and people know where they are going and where the utilities are. He said we are geared towards all the underground and getting right information so we can track it and work on it. He said the answer is yes, we have a tracking system. He said storm water would be put into a data base and a work order sent out for that group to work on. He said one thing he heard Mr. Matthews say was that grass is growing up. He said the Storm Water Division does not have a grass cutting operation per se. He said that may mean that something should be done with grass cutting. He said perhaps he should talk with Mr. Coakley about getting some of his grass cutting operations to go into the properties that we own in the Edgewood area and some of the drain areas. He said the areas do need to be kept clear from grass.

Mr. Grinton stated we had someone go out and investigate the outfall of the infrastructure in Edgewood. He said he had just received the report from Pearce Atkins, and he actually thinks they are operating pretty well. He said that does not mean that there will not be occasional clogs. You have to keep grass out of the inlets. He said when you talk about how to keep track of that you need to have a recurring work order to inspect trouble areas. He said that is done with the sewer lines. There are many areas in the downtown where we have all sorts of needs to improve the infrastructure. He said we have the jet truck routinely going through and jetting out problem areas on a regular basis before they become a clog and a backup. He said storm water could be done similar to that.

Mr. Grinton stated the Storm Water Division had just recently been reorganized to start focusing on areas. He felt that is an area where we need to work. He said they are not set up to be grass cutters. He felt they need to look at particular drains and have all grass removed and put in dirt or rip rap or something of that nature. He said that would be something they would do. Otherwise they need to work with Mr. Coakley and see about getting routine grass cutting done, like is done on the parks.

Councilwoman Price stated she was trying to figure out what would be a good timeline in terms of assessing this and having an acceptable response to the community regarding our handling this. She said if it is an infrastructure concern, it will continue to flood. She stated there is technology in the downtown area that is handling Hitchcock Woods. She said we may have to set up a system to help the people in that area in terms of a remedy for the problem.

Mr. Grinton stated he had driven through the neighborhood during heavy rains. He said he would not say they are horrible. There is water there, but it quickly dissipates. The infrastructure does not look like it is overtaxed, but he is concerned when we build something new in the area we would be increasing runoff. He said the study just confirmed that the infrastructure is decent. It is not like we have pipes that are rusted out. There may be twigs, etc. clogging the outlet at Jake's Place outfall. It is not covered up in silt. He said in a year or so we might want to do some maintenance on that outfall, but it is not in danger of backing everything up. He said it could probably be improved, as well as most every other neighborhood in the city, if you focused on it.

Councilwoman Diggs asked how difficult it would be to focus more attention on that particular area. Mr. Grinton stated they would. He said they are debating the scope of the hydrology study to make sure it is the right thing to do, so we can build houses. He said that was the purpose of the report. He said Pearce Atkins was the Storm Water Manager for the City of Sumter prior to coming to the City of Aiken. He pointed out he is presently doing construction work. He said because the Shiloh project is basically complete, he was using him as his consultant for storm water, and then we will go to a

professional consultant. He said we have sent our crews out, and they did an assessment of the infrastructure and it looked good and seemed to be functioning fine. He said that does not mean there will not be puddles sometimes. He said while it is raining there will be accumulation. He said, however, he did not see a lot of what he would consider a bad situation. He said if grass is growing up in front of the boxes, pools could be creating, and that requires maintenance, and we have to decide how to address that and there are a couple of options.

Councilman Homoki stated this seems to be a perfect testing to see if you can work together to alleviate the problem. Councilwoman Price stated in her opinion that is an easy fix. She said that should not take more than a couple of weeks, depending on the schedule of Mr. Coakley's workers to assess the matter. If it is something more detailed, it may take longer.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she felt the residents would feel better if we could work on that as they would feel that somebody actually cares. She said she gets the impression that they feel that nobody cares, as it has been going on for so long and because of where the area is situated as it is not in the best area of the city. She said we have to have something good to happen for people to realize that we do care. She felt the residents feel neglected.

Councilman Homoki stated he knew that the problems have existed for at least five years.

Mr. Matthews stated he had given the address and mentioned it at the Council meeting. He said at Hampton and Camellia there are two houses. One is in the bottom and one at the top. The next house is on Horry. He said for the middle house, the city came and put gravel in front of the man's door, spread it out and left it. He said a city employee got him from work, and they went over there. He said they watched the water run down off of Hampton through his yard, into the other neighbor's yard which was flooded. He said he had mentioned it at the meeting last month. He said they addressed the issue. He said the employee said they would need to put a valley and catch basin across it to keep the water from going into the man's yard. The employee said he would give the information to his supervisor. He said they had heard nothing, and the man's yard still floods. He said for ten years it has been the same thing. Mr. Grinton asked that they be given another month. He said he would look into the matter.

Councilwoman Price asked that Mr. Grinton be given an opportunity to look at the situation. She said they would invite Mr. Matthews back in another month to hear the progress.

Mr. Matthews pointed out since the streets have been paved, the pavement is higher than the yards, so the water has nowhere to go. He said that was the same thing on his street when they put the storm drain in. He said the water went into the storm drain, but they had a valley in the back of it for the water to come out of the yard into the drain. He said there was more water coming down the curve, and the water went into the yard. He said the back had to be plugged to keep the water out and let Mother Nature absorb the rest of it.

Mr. Grinton asked for the addresses of the houses that Mr. Matthews was speaking about.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated there had been talk about a list of things. He asked that Mr. Matthews list everything that needs to be done and give the list to Mr. Coakley and Mr. Grinton. He said there has to be some type of schedule to get the work done. Mr. Matthews stated that is what he was trying to establish and find out what is actually going to happen so he can go back and tell the people. He said a neighbor of his had said he had seen the sign about the meeting, but he did not bother to come because they are not going to do anything. He said it is the negativity over the ten year period. He said he was trying to get the citizens motivated.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated if Mr. Matthews could make the list of things he feels needs to be done, then the city could try to have some positive results.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated everything could not be done over a few weeks, but at least we could see what needs to be done and the items could be looked at on some frequency. He said the list would be good for Mr. Coakley and Mr. Grinton, and they could tell Mr. Matthews when they could do certain things.

Mr. Matthews stated he would like for staff to at least go by and look at the two houses that he had mentioned on Hampton and Camellia. He said that would be the first priority and that would make the residents feel better.

STORM DEBRIS

Leaners and Hangers

Winter Storm PAX

Ice Storm

Councilman Ebner stated he had talked with Mr. Coakley and Mr. Bedenbaugh about giving Council a detailed rundown on where we are on removal of debris from the ice storm. He asked about the three passes. He pointed out there are 260 miles of roads in the city. He said all do not have trees, but we have to account for them. He said the crews have done the three passes for collection of storm debris. He asked for a report on the grinding and hauling, and then to talk about leaners and hangers in relation to the two contracts for bids to be opened. He said he would like some information as there is a deadline date for reimbursement from FEMA.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the date in terms of when FEMA reimbursement will end for the debris removal is August 8, 2014. He pointed out that we are continuing the grinding. We have ground debris at Centennial and Citizens Park. He pointed out that the chipped debris at Citizens Park is available for the public. We have completed three passes for picking up storm debris, which ended Friday, June 6, 2014. He said we hauled 160,251 cubic yards of debris to the various sites. He said the grinding is ongoing at the Powderhouse site. He said we are scheduled to start hauling Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Some of that debris is going to some of the mills for biofuel. Mr. Grinton expressed a need to have debris hauled to the airport for vegetation control. DHEC has approved the hauling of chipped debris to the airport to be placed along the fence line. He said the chipped debris would be placed 20 feet on the interior of the fence. He said the FBO is also in agreement with placing the chipped debris along the fence line. Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out the city equipment has trouble getting to certain parts of the fence to maintain the grass and other vegetation that grows along the fence.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated there are some things we need to do in terms of Council approval. He pointed out ordinances which were approved for grinding and hauling. He said second reading of the ordinance for grinding was at the end of April and grinding started the first of May. The ordinance says the amount of money that could be spent was \$195,000. He said that was based on a previous cubic yardage figure. The amount that we need to spend to ultimately grind all the debris will not exceed \$294,861. He said he had spoken to Mr. Smith, and Council will need to amend the ordinance so we can complete the grinding. He said the work should be reimbursed at the 75% FEMA rate and should not be an issue in terms of getting it completed. Regarding the hauling, that ordinance allowed just below \$25,000. However, because of the volume of the debris, the ordinance needs to be amended to cover the cost of that work. He said at the present that figure is still being computed. He said in terms of the grinding and hauling of the debris, that is the status.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated with regard to leaners and hangers, there is a bid opening to remove the leaners and hangers in the city parkways on Thursday, June 12, 2014. That is work that we feel can be done pretty quickly in time to meet the August 8 deadline. He said that is reimbursable from FEMA. The tree trimming and limb removal of city parks bid opening is Thursday, June 19. It is also felt that work can be done as well. There was a bid opening several weeks ago to mulch and dispose of debris at the Carolina Bay. That bid came in at just \$10,000. That is a FEMA reimbursable item as well.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Councilman Ebner had asked about leaners and hangers along the roadways in the city. He said staff is addressing some of that. None of the present bids cover removing the leaners and hangers along the roadways. He said that work is expected to be done with our internal staff. He said that decision was made some time ago. He said he had spoken with a representative of DOT today. There were rumors that perhaps DOT would send crews in again to address leaners and hangers, not just in Aiken but the storm area. He said the information he has is that is not the case, but just a rumor.

Councilman Ebner stated he had talked with Mr. Bedenbaugh and Mr. Coakley today, and the leaners and hangers payment by the State disappeared about April 3 or 4th. He said emails between him and Senator Young, the past City Manager, and SCDOT, wound up saying that the city would do the leaners and hangers. He said that is okay. He said it was mentioned that we have the historical trees, etc. He said the State informed him through Mr. Leland Colvin that the State would gladly come in as of April 2 and do all the leaners and hangers, but we would lose a number of the historic trees because they would declare them damaged when they have a hole in them. Councilman Ebner pointed out the famous tree on Marion Street that he could walk in, where the burned out place is, would go. He pointed out that Mr. Colvin knew what the burned out tree was. Councilman Ebner stated in his opinion, the city has the responsibility for 260 miles of roads to do the leaners and hangers. He said some of it has been done. He said he was using the holistic approach. He pointed out we would get reimburse by FEMA if the work is done by August 8. He said, however, there is no way that Mr. Coakley's crews could do it by that time. He also noted that the 30,000 citizens in Aiken like for the crews to pick up their stuff every week. He felt this is an item that the rest of Council needs to weigh in on. He said we have thousands of leaners and hangers that need to be taken care of. He said we can get it paid for if they are removed before August 8, but after that it is on the city's cost.

Councilman Dewar stated he had received a call today from Al McClaran of Southern Disaster Recovery, who is the County contractor. He said he could be ready to come in tomorrow and start doing work.

Councilman Ebner asked if Southern Disaster was on the city's bidder list. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he was not on the vendor's list that received the bid. He pointed out that the bid opportunities are on SCBO, the worldwide web, the city website. He said that is how we get a lot of our vendors.

Councilman Ebner asked how we get the holistic approach. He said we know we have leaners and hangers everywhere. He said his understanding is that those are on the city. Mr. Bedenbaugh asked if Councilman Ebner was saying holistic in terms of including it in the bid.

Councilman Ebner stated the city has 260 miles to take care of. He asked how that will be taken care of between now and August 8 and get reimbursed from FEMA. He said there are contractors that Councilman Dewar just mentioned that are already under contract either to the County or the State to do this work. He said he and Councilman Dewar talked to the contractors for 30 to 40 days in a row as they were working. He said one of them went each day to see what they were doing for the State, City, etc. He said he has some second hand information. He said there are people under State contract doing this today and getting paid the full reimbursement for this either through FEMA and the State. He felt we need to look at these contractors if we are going to make the August 8 deadline.

Councilman Ebner stated perhaps the contracts that the City is about to award should go forward. He pointed out the City had advertised for bids. He said the City still has a lot of miles and roads, especially as you get back in the older areas of the city. He said there are a lot of leaners and hangers in those trees. He said he was looking for Council to either support or help or decide what we do to get FEMA reimbursement for this.

Councilman Dewar stated Mr. McClaran has an expert FEMA consultant who knows how to deal with the historical area, which is also very important. He said if it is done as

it is normally done in our historical area, we don't want to do that. He said Mr. McClaran knows how to do it and he said he would make that person available to the City if we would like. Councilman Dewar stated he could give the information to Mr. Bedenbaugh.

Mr. Coakley pointed out the bid that the city has out now is asking for a per tree price. Councilman Dewar pointed out that time is of the essence. Mr. Coakley stated if they knew they were doing 290 miles of roads, they would bring in 17 contractors. Presently, they would be bringing 6 contractors. If it could be scaled up from the bid we have now, it would not make us go back through the bidding process. Councilman Dewar stated he felt we should do as much as we can before August 8.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated what Mr. Coakley is saying makes sense to him. He said there is a contract, and you can add to the contract.

Councilman Ebner stated the Purchasing Agent is here as well as the City Attorney. He pointed out there are the FEMA guidelines. He said his assumption is that the price of the bids that Mr. Coakley will open are within the guidelines. If they are within the guidelines, the city could potentially get 100% reimbursement from FEMA as well as SCDOT. He said if that is the case we need to take names. He said he was looking for the rest of Council to weigh in on this. He said he wanted to be sure the City Attorney was comfortable with doing that.

Mr. Coakley stated he wanted to tell Council what he is doing now. He said presently he is taking the information on a call by call basis with Tom Rapp and his tree group. They get from zero to five calls per day of damaged trees or hangers. He said he had stressed to Mr. Rapp that we need to look at every tree the day it is called in just for liability issues. Mr. Rapp goes out and looks at the tree, assessing the damage to the tree and the risk. If the tree is over a four lane highway there is more risk there than if it is over a field with nothing in it. Mr. Rapp prioritizes those in a queue. As of today there were two waiting in the queue. He said staff is keeping up with the call volume that is coming in. He said the problem that Councilman Ebner has brought up is that there are 260 miles of streets, and to go through them systematically is the way to not miss any of them. He said they are kind of bouncing around presently taking the calls.

Mr. Coakley stated when we say contractor, the city pays 25% of that bill. He said it will take the city with Mr. Rapp's group probably 18 months bouncing around. He felt the calls will stop after 18 months. He pointed out the work could be done by a contractor in two or three weeks and make the FEMA deadline. He said the question is how much money they are willing to spend to do it. He said if we spend \$400,000, we will get \$300,000 back from FEMA. He said he would make sure we meet the FEMA criteria. He said he would not let us contract with someone for a price or with somebody that won't get us eligible. He said, however, the 25% is something that Council would have to take care of. He said the question is whether Council wants to get the work done quickly or not.

Councilman Dewar stated he thought the State had promised to fill the 25% void. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he was not sure yet. He said the Governor did request that the General Assembly fund that. He pointed out the Governor is reviewing the budget. Mr. Coakley stated the worst case scenario is it could be zero from the State at this point. He said we are hoping to get the full 25%. He said in 2004 we got 12.5% from the State. He said it is still to be debated. He said we need to be ready, if we spend a lot of money with contractors, to pay the 25%. He said hopefully we won't have to. He said that is the question that Council will have to decide in his opinion. The question is whether the thoroughness and the speed are worth the money.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would say he felt the City should do it. He felt we need to get rid of all the hangers and leaners and get it done as he felt there is real liability out there.

Councilman Ebner pointed out all we need is one injury and \$100,000 will look very small and our Risk Manager will not be able to explain that away. It just takes one person walking down the sidewalk or a tree limb falling on a car and the \$100,000 gets cheap in a hurry. Mayor Cavanaugh asked what the next move would be.

Councilwoman Price asked if Mr. Coakley was just throwing out a number with the \$300,000 cost. Mr. Coakley stated he was, as he had no idea because we don't know the number of hangers, and we don't know what the bids will be. He said the bid number is per tree. He said if there are three hangers or one hanger, the cost is a flat rate per tree. He said once we know that, then he could start applying some cost. He said we have walked nine of the 176 parkways, and we forecast 863 trees for all the parkways looking at a sample of nine parkways. Mr. Coakley stated we could go out and look at the 260 miles of road right of way and look at 10 to 20 miles and try to forecast the number, if that is what Council wants to do. Then it would be determined by the cost per tree, and we could multiply it out and give an idea of the cost.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if Council could say that they want to get this work done. It was the general consensus of Council that they wanted to get the work done. He asked what is the next step.

Mr. Coakley stated bids will be opened on June 12. It will take two Council readings which will be June 23 and July 14. If Council approves the bids at the two readings, possibly a contractor could be in on the next day. That would only give them three weeks to complete the job.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if a contractor could complete the job in three weeks. Mr. Coakley stated he did not know because he had not had the direction. He said if Council tells him to do the 260 miles and find out what that is going to cost and can a contractor do it, he would get the numbers. He said it is a function of how many crews they bring in. They were planning to bring two or three crews and doing the 176 parkways. They can get 20 crews and get the job completed. They could get Mr. McClaran to hire his crews and get it done.

Councilman Dewar stated he was confused. He said if Mr. McClaran does the work, he submits the paper work. He will not give the city a bill for 25%. He gets the 25%. Councilman Ebner stated not now, because that went away on April 4, 2014, for the state roads. We would be hiring him now to do city work. Councilman Dewar stated he would call Mr. McClaran tomorrow as that was not the impression he had. He said his understanding was that whoever does it submits the paperwork.

Councilman Ebner pointed out he is not working for the state any more. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the work would be a contract with the city. Councilman Ebner pointed out we lost all that as the deadline has passed.

Councilwoman Price questioned, based on the timeline that Mr. Coakley had expressed, whether Council should have a special Council meeting and then get the matter on the next agenda to complete the item. Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needs to do whatever needs to be done to get it done.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated Council has to have at least seven days between readings.

Councilman Ebner asked if the bids are opened on June 12, 2014, when could staff give Council a recommendation. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on June 12, 2014, and could make the recommendation immediately. Councilman Ebner stated he was asking about the 260 miles work. Mr. Coakley stated he could do that work ahead of time and could possibly do that on Tuesday.

Councilman Ebner stated then if bids are opened on June 12, 2014, on June 16, 2014, four members of Council would have to meet to act on the bids. That would be seven days before June 23. Mr. Coakley stated he could have the information by then.

Councilwoman Price stated the thing required is that if Council decides they want to have a meeting next Monday, that allows seven days for a special session to address the matter. Councilman Ebner pointed out that for the special meeting on June 16, a 24 hour advance notice is required, and Mr. Smith has said that seven days is needed between Council meetings. If the special meeting is held on June 16, there would be seven days between that meeting and the June 23 meeting.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated if Council proposes to call a special meeting, he would also suggest that Council have first reading of ordinances to amend the ordinances regarding the cost for the chipping and the hauling of debris at that meeting as well.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that the cost will get big, but the liability is even bigger. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated if that is what Council desires, staff we will do what we can to make that happen.

Mr. Smith asked if Council wants to hold a special meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014. Councilman Ebner asked that Council be polled to make sure that everyone can meet on June 16, 2014, with a majority (four plus) present. The purpose would be to have first reading of an ordinance accepting the contract for removal of hangers in city parkways as well as the contract for tree trimming and broken limb and tree service for the Recreation parks. Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out that the tree trimming for the Recreation Department would not be opened until June 19, 2014. Councilman Ebner responded that Mr. Bedenbaugh should go ahead and deal with them. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he thought that bid was smaller in scope, not that it was a simple easy project, but a project for city recreation parks.

Councilman Ebner said to let that bid keep going down the path it is going now. He said there is already a request out on the tree service for the recreation parks, and it is felt that project could be done, from what Mr. Coakley has said, before August 8.

Councilman Ebner stated that on June 16, 2014, Council would have three items of business. 1. Award the contract for the leaners and hangers in city parkways for 260 miles of roads. 2. Modify the chipping contract to make it a unit price contract, as that is how it was bid. 3. Make the hauling bid a unit price contract, as that is how it was bid.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the contract for chipping was \$1.84 a cubic yard. For the hauling bid there will be some by the ton that goes to the mill and some by the cubic yard that will be taken to the airport.

Councilman Ebner stated the work is not cheap. He said the \$869,000 they saw floating in the new budget will disappear, but it needs to disappear to get our city safe. He said that is what Council would do on June 16, and then on June 23, Council would have second reading of the three items on June 23.

Council then discussed a time for the special meeting on June 16. After discussion it was decided to hold the special meeting on June 16, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Ebner asked that among Mr. Bedenbaugh, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Ridout that the special meeting time and items be prepared for Council's consideration on June 16.

Councilman Ebner asked Mr. Coakley if a special meeting to act on these items would help Mr. Coakley as far as being able to accomplish these projects. Mr. Coakley responded it would. Councilman Ebner stated if Mr. Coakley thinks of anything else between now and then, that he not hesitate to let Council know.

Mr. Coakley stated a fourth item may need to be added, which is monitoring these contractors. He said when there were only two or three crews, city staff could monitor the project. Councilman Ebner stated Mr. Coakley needed to talk to Councilman Dewar, as he has the name of the person that he and Councilman Dewar had talked to. The person is a certified person. Councilman Dewar stated he would give the names and phone numbers to Mr. Bedenbaugh. Councilman Ebner stated Mr. McClaran charges the

FEMA rate and he is 100% reimbursable. Mr. Coakley asked if he would not be 75% reimbursable. Councilman Ebner stated he charges the FEMA rate. He said he knows what Mr. Coakley is saying about reimbursement, and we have to deal with the state. He said Mr. McClaran's billing rate is within the FEMA guidelines as a consultant. He works as an independent for other people. He does the same thing that Metric did for Coxwell. Councilman Dewar can give Mr. Bedenbaugh the information. That would be a fourth item for the agenda. Whatever he turns in as a bill is what you are supposed to get paid for.

Mr. Coakley stated when bids are opened we have made them declare how many crews, because we saw this might be coming, and it was going to be more than three crews. Depending on the number of crews they say they are going to bring, will determine what has to be done about monitoring.

Councilman Homoki asked the level of confidence that the city will get 100% of the leaners and hangers. He asked if we have a count. Mr. Coakley stated the contractor gets paid by the tree, so they will help us find the leaners and hangers, as they want to do as many trees as they can. He said between them, the monitors, and our staff he felt we would get the majority of the leaners and hangers. He pointed out that a lot of them have turned brown and are easy to spot. He said he would not say it would be 100%, as he felt we will be finding broken trees many years from now. This is the way to get the majority of them.

Mr. Coakley stated he had one other item for storm related items. He said the city had made statements in the past that none of the debris would end up in the landfill and was hoping that the citizens would take a large portion of the mulch at Citizens Park. He said at this point he did not know how it will turn out, but as we approach August 8, we need to decide whether we are going to landfill some or not because as of August 9, we would get zero reimbursement. He said if Council is going to make that decision, staff needs a couple of weeks' notice before August 8, to be able to put the mulch in the landfill.

Councilman Ebner pointed out Council has one meeting scheduled for July 14. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated he did not think that was an item that Council voted on. Councilman Ebner pointed out that statement had been in the newspaper numerous times that the city would not landfill any of the debris. He said if it works out that we do need to landfill it, we don't want to have to drive down to Citizens Park and see it stacked up 30 or 40 feet high and covering half of Citizens Park either. He said at some point it degrades, and it also smokes a lot.

Mr. Coakley pointed out there is a cost to landfill it, so before the city bears that cost, we want to get it in before the date expires.

Councilman Ebner stated that matter needs to be on the July 14, 2014, City Council meeting.

Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out that we are already going to have the amendment for the cost for the hauling of debris on the agenda. He said perhaps the wording of the ordinance could be in such a way to give us the flexibility for this to be hauled to the landfill if necessary.

Councilman Ebner stated that could be done on July 14, 2014. He said Mr. Coakley should be able to have everybody working for at least two weeks before that time.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the wording for the amendment to the ordinance should be the sense of Council that some of the mulch could be landfilled if necessary. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated hopefully it will not come to that, but perhaps there should be a backup plan.

Councilwoman Price asked that Mr. Coakley check with the people at the landfill that the volume that the city may have would be acceptable at the landfill.

Mayor Cavanaugh asked if it had been well advertised that the city has free mulch available for citizens.

Mr. Bedenbaugh responded there was an article in the city newsletter regarding the free mulch. It has been in the Aiken Standard. It was on the Channel 10 Columbia news. He said he understood that some people from Columbia had come down and got some mulch.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated since we have so much perhaps we should do some more advertising. Perhaps it should be in the paper every day for a week, two weeks, or so. Mr. Coakley stated he would be glad to work with the media to get more coverage again.

Councilman Ebner pointed out representatives from the Aiken Standard are present, and perhaps they could have something in tomorrow's paper.

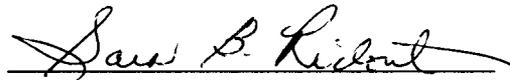
Councilman Homoki asked about having the public identify hangers and leaners if they have some on the right of way in their area. Mr. Coakley stated they may not know where the right of way line is. Councilman Homoki stated the city would have to check the area anyway.

Councilman Ebner asked if the proposed action by Council would help Mr. Coakley. Mr. Coakley felt the action would be of benefit and help get the last items from the storm.

Councilman Ebner thanked Mr. Bedenbaugh for managing the Council meeting very well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk