

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETING

January 28, 2019

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

Others Present: Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Kim Abney, Jessica Campbell, Tim Coakley Charles Barranco, Ryan Bland, Sara Ridout, Angela Hales, Kymberley Wheat, Joy Lester, Mike Przybylowicz, Gary Meadows, Tracy Lott, Colin Demarest, of the Aiken Standard, and about 57 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the regular meeting of January 28, 2019, to order at 7:01 P.M. Mr. Richard Johnson led in prayer. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chief Charles Barranco.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Osbon reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Osbon recognized Mayor Pro Tem Diggs for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Diggs stated a change needed to be made to the agenda under New Business Item 1. Council is to consider an ordinance to amend the zoning of real estate owned by Aiken County (the old hospital building) and to approve a concept plan for this property. In discussions with staff, Council has learned that there is also pending with the City an application for a possible historic designation that may affect this property. Council believes it would be prudent to consider both of these applications at the same time. Councilman Woltz stated he would like to state he felt that Council should consider each of the items independent of each other, with consideration of the historic designation first and then the rezoning and concept plan for the proposed development. There was a question as to whether both items would be considered at the same meeting. It was noted that we do not have that guidance yet. It was pointed out there were no other changes to the agenda. Councilman Woltz moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar that the item be continued until such time as both applications are properly before Council. The motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of January 14, 2019, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that the minutes for the meetings of January 14, 2019, be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONAmerican Heart MonthAiken Mended Hearts

Mayor Osbon stated Council has a proclamation proclaiming February as American Heart Month and recognizing Aiken Mended Hearts.

Mr. Phil Winsor, President, and Chris Maxwell, Vice President, of the Aiken Chapter of Mended Hearts were present. Mr. Winsor stated the Mended Hearts Corporation was formed in 1951. It was founded by Dr. Dwight Emory Harken, who was a surgeon during World War II. During that time he performed the first open heart surgeries. The local Mended Hearts organization has just finished their 18th year. As of January 1, 2019, the Aiken Mended Hearts has visited individual patients totaling almost 24,000 in Aiken.

It is hoped through that measure that they have extended some lives and offered encouragement.

Councilman Dewar read the proclamation. Mayor Osbon and Councilman Dewar presented the proclamation to Phil Winsor and Chris Maxwell.

PRESENTATION

Aiken Downtown Development Association

ADDA

Haley Knight

Mayor Osbon stated the next item on the agenda is a presentation by Aiken Downtown Development Association.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Haley Knight, Director of the Aiken Downtown Development Association, was present to make a presentation to City Council about their activities. ADDA and the City have been working together on several things she will discuss, including potential low-cost improvements to the small alley between Palmetto Package Shop and Nandina's.

Ms. Haley Knight, Aiken Downtown Development Association, stated she wanted to share a little bit about what Aiken Downtown Development Association is doing currently and how they plan to move forward in 2019. Ms. Knight stated she would mention some high points and answer questions. Ms. Knight noted that Aiken Downtown Development Association is a non-profit organization. ADDA was organized in 1989. They work directly with the member businesses to be a liaison for them not only to other businesses and property owners, but to the City as well. The mission of ADDA is threefold: to improve the economic development of the downtown, to beautify the downtown, and work on the preservation of the historical inheritance of the downtown. She pointed out that the most important question they hear on a daily basis is how they are going out into the community and really fulfilling their mission. She pointed out that they are a part of Main Street, which is a nation-wide organization. In South Carolina Aiken is one of twenty communities that is a part of Main Street. She pointed out that she has been with ADDA for two years and Executive Director for just seven months. She pointed out that means a lot to her to have had the opportunity to learn about Main Street. She pointed out that as of January, 2019, they were able to house that organization within ADDA. She said she had had the opportunity to work with not only the South Carolina director, but also Randy Wilson who has spoken to the Board of Directors and done some strategic planning. She said they are excited about what the future holds with the committees. She pointed out that they are modeling a lot of their committees and how they are meeting their mission with what Main Street recommends as far as a nation-wide four-point approach.

Ms. Knight stated the first point is promotions and marketing. She said that deals with how they are marketing their events and how they are marketing downtown as a whole. She said they had done the typical billboards, some social media campaigns, and things you would normally see in a community for the downtown. She pointed out they are excited that ADDA is working with the City's Tourism Department to do some things that are different. They are working with the Southern Edge Magazine, which is a growing magazine. A few months ago they had a count of over 160,000 that they were distributing. She pointed out that they joined with the City for a full page advertisement for the winter edition of Southern Edge Magazine for events going on during the holidays. She noted that with that they were able to get a six page spread for the spring which is great for the Masters. She pointed out that magazine is in every South Carolina Visitors Center, and it is hoped that it will get in the hands of people and show them what we are doing for people who are visiting during the Masters.

Ms. Knight stated the second point approach that Main Street recommends is outreach. She pointed out that the first thing that comes to mind is events, but they are looking at more than that. They are looking at how they can reach out to the different corporations in Aiken through sponsorships, etc. They are also looking at how to build that culture, how we are teaching our volunteers who may be at the events. She pointed out that they

are averaging about 8,000 people at their events during the hours of 6 to 10 p.m. and many of the people are from out of town.

Ms. Knight stated as far as economic development, there are some things ADDA has done as far as partnering with our sister organization, Aiken Corp. She said they have an Economic Vitality Committee that meets with them on a monthly basis. She pointed out that the Board of Directors of ADDA feel there is more opportunity to improve in that area. She said they are excited with city staff member Tim O'Briant and his new position and being able to move forward and work with him, the member businesses, and those who are not members.

Ms. Knight stated some things they plan to do for 2019 are to incorporate some reports quarterly to give us information about what new businesses are coming, expansion and revitalization dollars, and how to use that going forward for future investments for the downtown area.

Ms. Knight stated the fourth approach they are working on is design. The Design Committee has had some involvement with not only The Alley project, but the parkways and moving forward with that implementation plan. She said they are working on a new recommendation for the alley that runs between Park Avenue and connects to The Alley, and runs behind Nandina's, Cyndi's and up to behind Brew Pub. They have met with city staff and shared their values, opinions, and how ADDA can partner with the City to improve the area. They have met with the property owners, the business owners, and the Design Review Board to gain their support. Their project recommendation includes not only extra lighting for safety, since the area is being used much more frequently now than we have seen in the past. There will be some additional things such as receptacles, a bench, and the overall project will involve some public art.

Ms. Knight stated other than the four points they are working on, they are working on investing in their members and growing the communication. They are doing monthly merchant meetings. They are exploring the idea of late night shopping. They have a lot in store for 2019. She said they would be happy to receive feedback from Council and find ways they can help in the future.

Councilwoman Price pointed out that Ms. Knight had made a presentation at the Aiken Corporation meeting. They were excited about the energy that Ms. Knight had displayed in her plans for ADDA, and it was decided to let the public know through our meetings what is going on in Aiken.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

John P. Klecker

Planning Commission

Sal Manetta

Equine Committee

Ben Lott

Design Review Board

Norman Dunagan

Todd Lista

Stephen King

Tammy Robinson

Energy and Environmental Committee

Brittney Alls

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

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated Council has 25 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. Six appointments are presented for Council's consideration.

Councilman Dewar has recommended the appointment of John P. Klecker to the Planning Commission to fill the position of Robert Besley who has resigned. If appointed, Mr. Klecker's term would expire December 1, 2020, and he would be eligible for reappointment upon approval of Council. Councilman Dewar has also recommended the appointment of Sal Manetta to the Equine Committee for a two year term.

Councilwoman Diggs has recommended the reappointment of Ben Lott to the Design Review Board with the term to expire December 31, 2020. She has also recommended the reappointment of Norman Dunagan to the Energy and Environmental Committee with the term to expire December 31, 2020.

Councilwoman Price has recommended the appointment of Dr. Brittney Alls to the Energy and Environmental Committee to fill the position of Tammy Robinson who has resigned. If appointed Dr. Alls' term would expire December 31, 2020, and she would be eligible for reappointment upon approval of Council.

Mayor Osbon has recommended the appointment of Todd Lista to the Energy and Environmental Committee to fill the position of Stephen King who has resigned. If appointed Mr. Lista's term would expire December 31, 2020.

Mr. Bedenbaugh pointed out that this is our first appointment to the Equine Committee. He reminded Council that we did amend the Boards and Commissions ordinance to add the Equine Committee. There are seven positions on the committee with each Councilmember appointing a member to the committee.

For Council consideration is the appointment of John P. Klecker to the Planning Commission, Sal Manetta to the Equine Committee, Dr. Brittney Alls and Todd Lista to the Energy and Environmental Committee, and the reappointment of Ben Lott to the Design Review Board, and Norman Dunagan to the Energy and Environmental Committee.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Gregory, that John P. Klecker be appointed to the Planning Commission, Sal Manetta to the Equine Committee, Dr. Brittney Alls and Todd Lista to the Energy and Environmental Committee, the reappointment of Ben Lott to the Design Review Board, and Norman Dunagan to the Energy and Environmental Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

ZONING ORDINANCE – ORDINANCE

Small Cell Wireless Amateur Radio

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding small cell wireless and amateur radio.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING SMALL CELL WIRELESS AND AMATEUR RADIO.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance regarding small cell wireless and amateur radio.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated this is second reading, however, staff has a recommendation. He said Council had first reading of the ordinance on November 26, 2018. At that time a representative from AT&T was present at the meeting. Prior to that meeting and subsequent to first reading, we have had additional conversations with AT&T and also with Scott Neely, Community Affairs, of South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. (now Dominion), regarding the proposed ordinance. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated since the

suggested changes from AT&T and Dominion are fairly substantive, staff is recommending that Council send this ordinance back to the Planning Commission to review the proposed amendments. The ordinance will have to come back to Council as a first reading item due to the potential substantive nature of the changes.

Councilman Dewar stated he would amend his motion to continue this item and send it back to the Planning Commission for review because of the potential substantive nature of the changes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved.

STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN – ORDINANCE 01282019

State Revolving Fund Loan

Stormwater Pond Rehabilitation

South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority

State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to accept a State Revolving Fund loan for stormwater pond rehabilitation.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINANCING OF THE CRITICAL STORMWATER REHABILITATION – PHASE 1 THROUGH THE BORROWING OF NOT EXCEEDING SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT DOLLARS (\$659,198), PLUS CAPITALIZED INTEREST, IF ANY, FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND, BY AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, PURSUANT TO TITLE 48, CHAPTER 5, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1976, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR THE AGREEMENT TO MAKE AND TO ACCEPT A LOAN, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY, THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A PROMISSORY NOTE FROM THE CITY OF AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Councilwoman Gregory moved, seconded by Councilman Price, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to accept a State Revolving Fund loan for stormwater pond rehabilitation.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated in 2018 Council approved the city applying for a loan from the State Revolving Fund Loan to rehabilitate stormwater ponds. A list of the ponds proposed to be rehabilitated include Amity Lane Pond, Ashley Terrace Pond, Cushman Park Pond, East Gate Pond, Gem Lakes 1 – Lakeside Pond, Hickory Ridge/Aberdeen Pond, Kemper Downs Pond, Long Ridge Loop Pond, Plantation South Pond, Seven Oaks Pond, Spring Stone Pond, SRP Pine Log Pond, and Water Oak Pond.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority has notified us of their offer for a State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund loan subject to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement. The purpose of the loan is to repair and rehabilitate City owned stormwater detention ponds, including the replacement of certain existing corrugated metal pipe outlet structures and related infrastructure. The loan has been approved for an amount not to exceed \$659,198 plus capitalized interest.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to approve the acceptance of a State Revolving Fund loan not to exceed \$659,198 from the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority. The loan is to be repaid with receipts from our Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

In response to a question from Councilwoman Price regarding the ponds to be rehabilitated, Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the list includes ponds that have been dedicated to the city and is for 13 ponds of the 70 ponds in our inventory. It was pointed out that a consultant reviewed our ponds, and they ranked our ponds. They felt these 13 ponds are the ones, based on the recommendation of the consultant, that we need to rehabilitate first.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to accept a State Revolving Fund loan for stormwater pond rehabilitation. The motion was approved unanimously.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE 01282019A

Timberlane Road
South Boundary Avenue
TPN 121-16-01-004

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to annex 2.55 acres on Timberlane Road and zone it Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY LOCATED AT TIMBERLANE ROAD
AND TO ZONE THE SAME RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY (RS-15).

Councilman Girardeau moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to annex 2.55 acres on Timberlane Road and zone it Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated pursuant to the city's Water/Sewer Annexation Policy, Resolution 09122016D, the City of Aiken, owner, is requesting annexation of 2.55 acres of property on Timberlane Road (TPN 121-16-01-004) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-15). This property is located off of South Boundary Avenue on Timberlane Road.

The Planning Commission at their meeting on December 11, 2018, considered this request for annexation and unanimously recommended that the property be annexed and zoned Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated there were adjacent property owners on Cherokee and on Timberlane who were concerned about possible development on the property such as multi-family development. He said the property is mostly land locked and has a flag pole access to the property. Since it is city-owned property and is unimproved and undeveloped, it is felt the property needs to be in the city. The property was acquired in the mid-1990s from the estate of the late former Mayor Odell Weeks. Initially it was to be used for a stormwater pond, but it was decided to not do that. He pointed out that overtime the land had become a dumping area, and the city cleaned the property up.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to annex 2.55 acres of property on Timberlane Road owned by the City of Aiken and zone it Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilman Girardeau, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to annex 2.55 acres on Timberlane Road and zone it Residential Single-Family (RS-15). The motion was approved unanimously.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE 01282019BJuan Antonio Melendez-Bonilla105 Clifton StreetTPN 122-09-03-006Christopher Brian Clark107 Clifton StreetTPN 122-09-03-007Kelli A. MockKelli M. Cagle109 Clifton StreetTPN 122-09-03-008Darrell W. Adair502 Chatham StreetTPN 122-06-12-005Lynn S. WolfCarroll E. Wolf, Jr.505 Henry StreetTPN 122-10-04-009Virginia Acres Subdivision

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to approve the annexation of 105, 107, 109 Clifton Street, 502 Chatham Street, and 505 Henry Street and zone them Residential Single-Family RS-10.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX FIVE PROPERTIES TO THE CITY OF AIKEN.

Councilwoman Gregory moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to annex 105, 107, 109 Clifton Street, 502 Chatham Street, and 505 Henry Street and zone them Residential Single-Family RS-10.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated pursuant to the city's Water/Sewer Annexation Policy, Resolution 09122016D, the following are requesting annexation and zoning of their property:

1. Juan Antonio Melendez-Bonilla is requesting annexation of 105 Clifton Street (TPN 122-09-03-006) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-10). The property containing .23 acres is located in the Virginia Acres Subdivision, Section II.
2. Christopher Brian Clark is requesting annexation of 107 Clifton Street (TPN 122-09-03-007) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-10). The property containing .22 acres is located in the Virginia Acres Subdivision, Section II.
3. Kelli A. Mock aka Kelli M. Cagle is requesting annexation of 109 Clifton Street (TPN 122-09-03-008) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-10). The property containing .21 acres is located in the Virginia Acres Subdivision, Section II.
4. Darrell W. Adair is requesting annexation of 502 Chatham Street (TPN 122-06-12-005) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-10). The property containing .32 acres is located in the Virginia Acres Subdivision, Section III.
5. Lynn S. and Carroll E. Wolf, Jr. are requesting annexation of 505 Henry Street (TPN 122-10-04-009) and zoning as Residential Single-Family (RS-10). The property containing .30 acres is located in the Virginia Acres Subdivision, Section III.

The Planning Commission at their meeting on December 11, 2018, considered these requests for annexation and unanimously recommended that the properties be annexed and zoned Residential Single-Family (RS-10) as indicated.

Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to annex property at: 105 Clifton Street owned by Juan Antonio Melendez-Bonilla, 107 Clifton

Street owned by Christopher Brian Clark, 109 Clifton Street owned by Kelli A. Mock aka Kelli M. Cagle, 502 Chatham Street owned by Darrell W. Adair, and 505 Henry Street owned by Lynn S. and Carroll E. Wolf, Jr. The recommended zoning is Residential Single-family (RS-10).

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to annex 105, 107, 109 Clifton Street, 502 Chatham Street, and 505 Henry Street and zone them Residential Single-Family RS-10. The motion was approved unanimously.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE 01282019C

Insurance

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to adjust the budget for insurance claims proceeds.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

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

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to adjust the budget for insurance claims proceeds.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated in the fall, City property had several insurance claims relating to lightening damage. The memo from Kymberley Wheat, Director of Finance, details the total costs in the General Fund of \$38,240 and the Water and Sewer Utilities Fund of \$73,120. The costs have been reimbursed, but since these costs were not included in the annual budget for the fiscal year 2018-19, a budget adjustment is necessary and has been prepared for Council consideration.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to adjust the budget for the claims and receipt of insurance proceeds relating to lightening damage.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance to adjust the budget for insurance claims proceeds. The motion was approved unanimously.

BUDGET – ORDINANCE 01282019D

Citizens Park

Fence

Governor Aiken Park

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance for a budget adjustment to repair fencing at Citizens Park.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

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

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment to repair fencing at Citizens Park.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the privacy fence that separates Citizens Park from back yards of the Governor Aiken Park neighborhood needs to be replaced. Parts of the fence are leaning and parts are missing. We have received a proposal of \$23,668 to repair the fence. Since this cost was not included in the annual budget for the fiscal year 2018-19, a budget adjustment is necessary and has been prepared for Council consideration. The receipts for Hospitality Tax are exceeding projections, so staff has suggested we increase the Hospitality Tax revenue (014-0000-312-30-20) and increase the fence expense account (014-5150-455-73-01) in the Hospitality Tax Fund to repair the fence.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to adjust the budget for the repair of the privacy fence at Citizens Park.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Price, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance for a budget adjustment to repair fencing at Citizens Park. The motion was approved unanimously.

SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION – ORDINANCE 01282019E

Municipal Association of South Carolina

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to allow the City to recover collection costs pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS AS PART OF DELINQUENT DEBTS COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance amending the Setoff Debt Collection Program.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the City has participated in the Setoff Debt collection program through the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) since its inception in 1993. The program authorizes cities, through the Municipal Association and the Department of Revenue, to recover outstanding debts due the City through an individual's state income tax refund. We use the setoff debt program to collect utility bills on final billed accounts greater than \$55 and court fines. We have collected an average of \$37,900 in utility bills and \$11,600 in court fines over the most recent ten years.

The purpose of the Ordinance is to allow the City's cost of collection of \$25 to be added to the debt owed by the debtor. Both the Department of Revenue and MASC charge a collection fee of \$25. The total collection costs of \$75 are added to the delinquent debt and recovered from the debtor.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the January 14, 2019, meeting. For Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to approve the recovery of collection costs as a part of delinquent debts collected pursuant to the Setoff Debt Collection Act.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Woltz, that Council approve on second reading an ordinance amending the Setoff Debt Collection Program to include the recovery of a \$25 collection fee. The motion was approved unanimously.

ZONING – ORDINANCE

Aiken County
828 Richland Avenue W
Marian Development Group
Old Aiken County Hospital
TPN 104-20-21-001

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to rezone property owned by Aiken County at 828 Richland Avenue W from Office (O) to Planned Residential (PR) and to approve the Concept Plan.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY AIKEN COUNTY FROM OFFICE (O) TO PLANNED RESIDENTIAL (PR) AND TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT PLAN.

Mayor Osbon noted that this item had been continued by Council at the beginning of the meeting.

ZONING – ORDINANCE

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

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for first reading to rezone 901 Hayne Avenue from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

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

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

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

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

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

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to rezone 901 Hayne Avenue SW from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15).

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion made by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to rezone property at 901 Hayne Avenue SW owned by Harold B. Pridgen and Lynn McKeown

Pridgen from Limited Professional (LP) to Residential Single-Family (RS-15) in order to ensure future residential use. The motion was unanimously approved.

BID – OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM

Woodside Pump Station

Gem Lakes Pump Station

Mayor Osbon stated Council needed to consider approval of a bid and funding for an oxygen injection system for Woodside and Gem Lakes pump stations.

Councilwoman Gregory moved, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve a bid and funding for an oxygen injection system for Woodside and Gem Lakes pump stations.

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the City received a grant in May, 2018, for \$500,000 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for the Oxygen Injection System project. Bids were received on November 7, 2018, for the Oxygen Injection System for Woodside and Gem Lakes Pump Stations. This project will eliminate the hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) gas odor and prevent significant damage to the sewer main and increase the life expectancy of piping and the collection system infrastructure caused from corrosion. This project will allow the City to reduce its operating budget for the Woodside and Gem Lakes collection system from approximately \$250,000 per year to about \$50,000 per year.

On May 29, 2018, Council accepted the \$500,000 grant award from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) for this project. One bid was received for the project, and it was from Harper Construction of Greenville, who submitted an initial bid of \$1,941,000. The City has been able to reduce this initial bid through value engineering to \$1,206,100. With a contingency in the amount of \$152,200, the total project budget would be \$1,358,300. There would be an overage of \$448,300 based on the original grant project estimate of \$910,000. The overage and grant match can be provided from CPST III from Sewer System Infrastructure 017-3181-468-76-01 3 INFRS.

For City Council consideration is approval of the value engineered bid from Harper General Contractors for \$1,206,100 along with a contingency of \$152,200. The City match would come from CPST III Sewer System Infrastructure 017-3181-468-76-01 3NFRS in the amount of \$858,300.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Woltz asked if the project would cut down on the cost and amount of chemicals presently being used in the pump stations. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated it would cut down on the amount of chemicals presently being used and the deterioration of the piping.

Councilman Dewar was surprised that we got a grant that did not cover half of the cost of the project. Mr. Bedenbaugh noted staff was surprised as well and noted that the grant was accepted in May, 2018, and it took this long to come back to Council since the bid came in well over the budget. It was pointed out that \$500,000 was the maximum grant that could be received for the project. It was also noted that presently to keep the odor down, the City was spending at least \$250,000 a year for chemicals and the chemicals are doing damage to the piping.

Mr. Przybylowicz discussed what was done at the Southwood station which he stated was different from what is proposed to do at the Woodside and Gem Lakes pump stations.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Girardeau, that Council approve a bid and funding for an oxygen injection system for Woodside and Gem Lakes pump stations. The motion was approved unanimously.

BANNERSAiken Area MS Myelinators Self Help GroupBowsMS AwarenessAiken Downtown Development AssociationADDAHops and HogsOktoberfestNight of 1000 LightsBannersAiken Regional Medical CenterEmployee AppreciationUniversity of South Carolina AikenAmp The AlleyJustin WheelonSouthern City Film Festival

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

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

1. The Aiken Area MS Myelinators Self Help Group is requesting permission to display orange bows in downtown Aiken for five weeks to highlight the annual MS Awareness Week March 10-16 and Walk MS: Aiken on April 13, 2019 at the Weeks Center. They would like to place the bows in the area bordered by Barnwell, Pendleton, Park and Newberry Streets. They would put the bows up on March 9 and take them down April 13 after the MS Walk.

2. The Aiken Downtown Development Association is requesting banners for the following events:

a. **Hops and Hogs.** They would like to place banners at the following locations: Richland at Laurens (both directions), Laurens at Park (both directions) and Whiskey at South Boundary (northbound). The request is for the banners to be hung May 3 and remain up through the event date on May 17, 2019. The banners would display the event date/time/location.

b. **Oktoberfest.** They would like to place banners at the following locations: Richland at Laurens (both directions), Laurens at Park (both directions) and Whiskey at South Boundary (northbound). The request is for the banners to be hung September 7 and remain up through the event date on September 21, 2019.

c. **Night of 1000 Lights.** They would like to place banners at the following locations: Richland at Laurens (both directions), Laurens at Park (both directions) and Whiskey at South Boundary (northbound). The request is for the banners to be hung November 28 and remain up through the event date on December 12, 2019.

3. Aiken Regional Medical Centers is requesting permission to place banners at each end of The Alley for their Employee Appreciation Event. The request is for the banners to be hung August 27 and remain up through the event date on September 10. The banners would display the ARMC logo as well as the event date, time and location.

4. The University of South Carolina Aiken is requesting banners for the following:

a. **Welcome Students Back.** The University of South Carolina Aiken is requesting permission to place banners in the downtown to welcome students back to the fall semester. They would like to place two banners on Laurens Street facing Richland Avenue in both directions. They are requesting the banners be hung from August 12 to August 30, 2019.

b. **Amp The Alley.** The University of South Carolina Aiken is requesting permission to place banners on The Alley arches to promote the Amp The Alley sponsorship, their parents' weekend, and their joint efforts with ADDA to host the Aiken Oktoberfest. They are requesting banners be hung on September 9 - 23, 2019.

5. Justin Wheelon is requesting four banners to be placed in the downtown at available locations to promote the Southern City Film Festival. He is requesting the banners be hung February 11 - 24, 2019.

For Council consideration is the request of the Aiken Area MS Myelinators Self Help Group for the placement of orange bows in the area bordered by Barnwell, Pendleton, Park and Newberry Streets from March 9 - April 13, the request from Aiken Downtown Development Association for permission to hang five banners from May 3 - 17 promoting Hops & Hogs, request from Aiken Downtown Development Association to hang five banners from September 7 - 21 promoting Oktoberfest, request from Aiken Downtown Development Association to hang five banners from November 28 - December 12 promoting the Night of 1000 Lights, request from Aiken Regional Medical Centers for permission to hang banners at each end of The Alley for their Employee Appreciation event from August 27 - September 10, request from USCA to hang two banners welcoming students back to fall semester, request from USCA to hang banners on The Alley arches to promote the Amp The Alley event, parents' weekend and Oktoberfest, and request from Justin Wheelon to hang four banners in the downtown promoting the Southern City Film Festival from February 11-24, 2019.

Since there are many requests for banners, staff would ask that Council consider the request for banners, but allow staff to determine where the banners will be placed. With multiple banner requests, staff may not be able to place the banners in the requested location, but can place them in another location.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Ms. Pamela Owen, of the Self Help Group of the Aiken Area MS Myelinators, asked if they could also have bows on the Welcome to Aiken signs at the entrances to the city. She pointed out that the MS Myelinators is a support group for people with MS, and they are also a community awareness group to help people learn more about the disease and what can be done to fight it. She pointed out that the placement of the bows is to bring awareness to MS. She pointed out that last year's walk raised \$5,007.

Mayor Osbon pointed out that typically the bows and banners are placed in the downtown area. He asked that the request be referred to the staff for consideration.

Mayor Osbon asked for a motion to approve the requests for bows and banners as requested with the condition that Council would allow staff to determine where the banners will be placed since there are multiple banner requests and there may not be space in some of the locations requested for all the banners. Councilman Girardeau moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs that Council approve the requests for banners and bows in the downtown with the condition that staff will determine the location for the banners. The motion was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION

Generations Park

Walking Trail

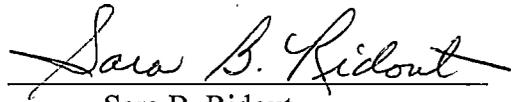
Mr. Bedenbaugh stated at the last Council meeting, Council discussed the bid for the walking trail construction at Generations Park. Staff did some additional research at Council's request. He said he wanted to give a status report. He noted that the tracks at other facilities are 8 feet wide. Due to the fact that the grant was from state funds, and they are very specific about how you write your bid documents, we have to follow state procurement guidelines. He said we now have to rebid the project and will be coming back to Council after receiving bids for an 8 foot width walking trail.

Council Retreat

Mr. Bedenbaugh also pointed out that the Council planning session scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2019, will be rescheduled since several Councilmembers could not attend. He said he would be suggesting some alternate times for the session for Council's consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Girardeau moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Diggs and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk