

Aiken City Council Minutes

March 10, 1997

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Anaclerio, Clyburn, Perry, and Radford.

Absent: Councilmembers Papouchado and Price.

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Frances Thomas, Gary Smith, Sam Erb, Janet Morris, and Sara Ridout.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that Council go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter. After discussion, Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that the executive session end. The executive session adjourned at 6:45 P.M. Then Council held a worksession discussion on clean up of the Aiken Youth Correction Center and a pre-Council session for discussion of agenda items and upcoming events.

REGULAR MEETING

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Anaclerio, Clyburn, Perry, Price, and Radford.

Absent: Councilmember Papouchado.

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Gary Smith, Frances Thomas, Andy Anderson, Anita Lilly, Stanley Quarles, Carrol Busbee, Ed Evans, Roger LeDuc, Sara Ridout, Tom Smith of the Aiken Standard, Chandra McLean of the Augusta Chronicle, and 22 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The minutes of the regular meeting of February 24, 1997, were considered for approval. Councilman Radford moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONWebeloes

Mayor Cavanaugh recognized the Webeloes present from St. John's Methodist Church Pack 121, Den No. 7, of the Boy Scouts, and asked them to introduce themselves.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSAppointmentsPlanning Commission

Brodie, Brad A.

Knowles, Lucy

Election Commission

Marine, Andrew

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider appointments to the various boards and commissions of the city.

Mr. Thompson stated City Council has an appointment available on the Planning Commission. Under the appointments process, Councilman Perry has nominated Mr. Brad A. Brodie for appointment to the Planning Commission. With this appointment, the term for Mr. Brodie would expire on December 1, 1998. Mr. Brodie would be replacing Ms. Lucy Knowles on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio, and unanimously approved, that Brad A. Brodie be appointed to the Planning Commission with the term to expire December 1, 1998.

Mr. Thompson stated 1997 is an election year, and Council needs to make an appointment to the Election Commission. The term of Mr. Andrew Marine expires August, 1997, but the Election Commission will need to begin their work soon. Election Commission members serve six year terms.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilman Perry, and unanimously approved, that Council reappoint Mr. Andrew Marine to the Election Commission for a six year term with the term expiring August, 2003.

ENTITLEMENT FUNDS

Community Development Block Grant

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider approval of the FY 97 Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Funds.

Mr. Thompson stated the staff is preparing for the next funding cycle for the Community Development Block Grant funds, and the funding request is submitted to City Council for approval.

The Housing Committee of the City of Aiken has reviewed the program, and recommends the following for funding for the upcoming fiscal year:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Housing Committee Recommendation</u>	<u>Staff Recommendation</u>
Housing Rehabilitation	\$181,000	\$151,000
Streetscape	25,000	25,000
Eustis Park (Phase 4)	40,000	40,000
Administration	30,000	30,000
Removal and Demolition		30,000
Contingency	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	\$281,000	\$281,000

Mr. Thompson stated as part of the Community Development process, the staff scheduled a public hearing at the Smith-Hazel Center on March 3 to consider the process. Five citizens attended, the public hearing and overall the comments were that the city should complete sidewalks on both sides of Abbeville Avenue, that the City should move forward with demolition or removal of abandoned houses and structures in the area, and representatives from the Aiken Boxing Club asked for assistance to restore the building that they use for their program. The staff has suggested that the Housing Rehabilitation Program under the Entitlement money should be strongly supported, but that \$30,000 should be moved from rehabilitation into the demolition and removal category to allow the city to move forward with demolition and removal of some of the facilities in these areas. Demolition is often as important as rehabilitation, and this would allow funding to continue the demolition and condemnation program in these areas. Without funding assistance, a lien would have to be placed against these property owners, and many of the property owners could not afford to have a lien on the property. In many instances, the lien would cost more than the property is worth.

Mr. Thompson stated the staff is recommending that the recommendation of the Housing Committee be accepted, adding \$30,000 for removal and demolition of houses and reducing the housing rehabilitation amount leaving \$151,000 for housing rehabilitation.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Clyburn and unanimously approved, that Council approve the recommendations of the staff for FY 1997 Community Development Entitlement Grant funds, reducing housing rehabilitation by \$30,000 and adding \$30,000 for demolition and removal of houses.

MANAGEMENT PLAN AND GOALS

Horizons

Goals 1997-98

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider adoption of proposed Goals and Management Plan for Fiscal Year 1997-98 as discussed at Council's Horizons Retreat.

Mr. Thompson stated each year City Council adopts goals for the upcoming year. The staff applies the goals and sub-goals to the budget process to make sure that the budget and the actions of the city comply with the formal goals of City Council.

The goals are as follows:

1. To support new missions at the Savannah River Site.

2. To diversify business and industry in the Aiken area.
3. To complete the next section of goals outlined in "Preserving Our Ways of Life," Aiken's Strategic Plan.
4. To continue Community Policing and Accreditation programs, and to emphasize community services.
5. To increase the legislative emphasis on Home Rule, with efforts to obtain gasoline tax revenues for street improvements and to control court expenses.
6. To resolve issues facing the youth of this community with input from the youth of the community.
7. To expand on the community's electronic network.
8. To consider innovative revenues instead of taxes and fees.
9. To continue leadership in the Healthy Communities movement.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio, and unanimously approved, that the Management Plan and Goals as listed be adopted by Council for fiscal year 1997-98.

BIDS

Mobile Radios Public Safety Department

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider the bids for the purchase of mobile radios for the Public Safety Department.

Mr. Thompson stated the city has received bids to replace 30 mobile radios as part of the upgrade of the UHF system for the Department of Public Safety. The staff is recommending acceptance of the low bid of Bailey's Communications.

Five bid invitations were sent out, and four responses were received. The responses received were as follows:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID PRICE</u>
Bailey's Communications	\$16,026
Communications Unlimited	16,200
CSSI Sales	17,316
Mobex Communications, Inc.	15,510

The staff has reviewed the bids, and has rejected the bid of Mobex as not meeting bid specifications. The city asked for a 40 watt radio system, but the equipment bid by Mobex supplies only 30 watts of power. The city does allow substitutions for equipment, but is not able to accept the lower powered unit.

The staff's recommendation is to accept the bid of Bailey's Communications, with an Aiken office, as the lowest bid meeting specifications. Funds are available in the budget for these replacements.

Councilman Perry moved, seconded by Councilman Radford and unanimously approved, that Council accept the bid from Bailey's Communications in the amount of \$16,026 as the lowest bid meeting specifications.

SIGN

South Aiken High School Whiskey Road Pine Log Road Palmetto Federal Office Fund Raiser Stadium

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council had received a request from the South Aiken High School to place a sign in the street right-of-way.

Mr. Thompson stated under the Zoning Ordinance Council has the ability to allow special, and temporary, signs in the street right-of-way. Typically

this has been limited to signs for nonprofit operations, schools, and United Way. He said the South Aiken High School has requested that the city allow the school to place a fund raising drive sign in front of Palmetto Federal Savings and Loan at the intersection of south Whiskey Road and Pine Log Road. United Way signs are allowed at this location during the United Way campaign. The school would like to place the sign throughout the school year at this location and remove the sign during the summer and during the United Way campaign. The school is trying to raise funds for a stadium for the school.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that the request of the South Aiken High School for permission to place a fund raising sign on street right-of-way at the intersection of Whiskey Road and Pine Log Road in front of Palmetto Federal Savings and Loan be approved.

AIKEN'S MAKIN

Chamber of Commerce

Parkways

Streets

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider a request from the Chamber of Commerce for use of the parkways in the downtown area for Aiken's Makin to be held September 11 through 13, 1997.

Mr. Thompson stated Aiken's Makin Festival is sponsored by the Aiken Chamber of Commerce, and for the past several years has been held in the parkways in downtown Aiken. The Chamber of Commerce is asking permission to use the parkways between September 11 and 13, 1997, for this event.

The Chamber of Commerce has continued to change and improve the Aiken's Makin Festival, and is changing parking patterns and the layout of the tents and the booths in the parkways to help with better customer flow, and to ease congestion problems in the streets. The Chamber is also working with area businesses, to keep the impact on these businesses as low as possible during this very active festival. This has been a very successful festival for Aiken, and generally does bring in between 10,000 and 20,000 visitors every year.

The Chamber has also requested permission to use the Municipal Conference Center on Saturday, September 13, 1997, and we hold this facility for the Chamber. We have found that it is impossible to have a rental in the conference facility during the street activities.

Councilman Radford moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, and unanimously approved, that Council grant the request to allow the Aiken Chamber of Commerce to hold Aiken's Makin in the parkways in downtown Aiken between September 11 and 13, 1997, and permission to use the Conference Center.

HUMAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE

Request for Funds

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider a request for travel assistance to attend the Human Relations Conference.

Mr. Thompson stated Council had received a letter from Bill Clyburn asking that the city consider assisting with the cost of travel for one member of the Human Relations Council to a state-wide Human Affairs Conference in Myrtle Beach. The meeting is scheduled for March 11 and 12, and Mr. Clyburn estimates the registration and hotel cost at about \$144 per member.

Mr. Clyburn serves as the city's appointment to the Human Relations Council, but Mr. Clyburn will not be able to attend this conference. Mr. Clyburn has suggested that the city contribute the money that the city would have paid for his attendance to sponsor another member at this meeting.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio, and unanimously approved, that Council approve the request for travel assistance for a representative of the Human Relations Council to travel to the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission Conference of March 11 and 12, 1997.

PAVING

Lloydtown Road
City Property
Right-of-Way
Easement
Water Tank
S.C. Department of Transportation

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider a request from the S.C. Department of Transportation for an easement of right-of-way to widen Lloydtown Road.

Mr. Thompson stated Lloydtown Road is a narrow dirt road connecting Redd Street to Lincoln Avenue. The state plans to widen the road and pave it within the next few years, and needs permission of the city to obtain a portion of the city's property near the water tank off of Lloydtown Road.

The Department of Transportation is asking City Council's permission to assign an easement to the Department of Transportation from the city for the widening of the road.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, and unanimously approved, that Council approve an easement to the South Carolina Department of Transportation along Lloydtown Road for widening of the road.

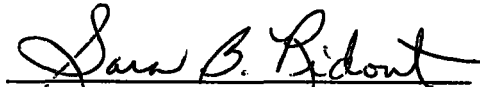
LITTER

Trash
Streets

Mayor Cavanaugh stated he would like for the city to declare war on the litter problem. He pointed out there is a real problem with people throwing trash out along the streets. He pointed out he knew it was difficult to catch people throwing trash along the streets but would like for the city to try to help with this problem.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk