

Aiken City Council MinutesDecember 8, 2003WORK SESSION

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

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith, Bill Huggins, Richard Pearce, Anita Lilly, Larry Morris, Sara Ridout, Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinias of the Augusta Chronicle and about 11 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M. He stated Council had two items that they would like to discuss in the work session.

AUDIT 2002-20032002-03Cherry, Bekaert & Holland
Financial Report

Mr. LeDuc stated the city has received the results of the audit from the firm of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland and Ms. Bonnie Cox, Mr. Ken Fields and Mr. Mark Harrell are present to report their findings and to answer any questions from Council. The City did receive an unqualified opinion with no reportable findings or questionable costs. The audit has been placed on the agenda for first reading for Council's approval.

Mr. Ken Fields, of Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, distributed an Executive Summary of the Highlights of the Financial Data for the 2003 audit. Mr. Fields pointed out there had been changes in the audit this year because of GASB No. 34. He stated this statement makes a great impact on the City of Aiken as far as the format of the Financial Statements, and how things are presented. He pointed out this year's statement is only 8 days later than last years which shows what a good job the City did in preparing for GASB Statement 34 changes. He reviewed the general overall financial health of the City of Aiken and the trends in cash.

Ms. Bonnie Cox reviewed the Executive Summary for Council and how the financial statements changed from the previous year. She pointed out that the Management Discussion and Analysis was new in the report, as well as the Government-Wide Financial Statement. She reviewed how the numbers in the report were different, as well as the format difference. She answered questions for Council regarding the audit.

Mr. LeDuc pointed out that the audit would be on the agenda for Council's approval by ordinance.

UNITED WAYCommunity Impact Steering Committee

Mr. LeDuc stated the United Way of Aiken County and its Community Impact Steering Committee had requested the opportunity to present to City Council their community-wide impact planning efforts. The United Way Community Impact Steering Committee has been meeting with various partners throughout the Aiken Community to identify some of their broad-based community needs. They have also been gathering community input and statistical information regarding the community's most pressing issues. From this input they will develop a report called "What Matters—A Look Into Aiken County's Most Pressing Issues." The report would then serve as a guide for United Way's investment of charitable contributions, and they will be asking organizations to measure their impact around these desired community outcomes. At this meeting they would like to review the material shown on the report titled, "Achieving Community Impact Through Partnerships." They want City Council to be aware and to understand the

efforts being made within our community and possibly receive Council's endorsement of their efforts.

Mr. Michael Williamson, President of the United Way, reviewed for Council the process that the United Way is going through, which they think will change ways they do their business in Aiken County—the business of caring for people. He pointed out that Dr. Bob Botsch from the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and Laura Shick, Consultant from the University of SC, had been working with United Way on the project. He said he felt, since it was such an important effort, they wanted to let Council know about the process and their plans and what they have done to date, in hopes that they could get Council's input in the future. He said United Way has begun to look at a process that allows them to look at things differently and more from a standpoint of impact and less from a standpoint of looking at simply agency needs. He said he was before Council with this project because it needed to be a community agenda; and it can't just be United Way's goal and objective to address community priorities. He said the community agenda has to be created and effective partnerships established to carry out the work. He said the project will be a living and breathing document. He said they will keep Council apprised as they move forward on the project. He said they would be back to share the report with Council.

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REGULAR MEETING

December 8, 2003

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

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith, Bill Huggins, Richard Pearce, Anita Lilly, Ed Evans, Pete Frommer, Larry Morris, Glenn Parker, Sara Ridout, Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard, Josh Gelinas of the Augusta Chronicle and about 56 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to approve the agenda. Mayor Cavanaugh stated one item needed to be added to the agenda. He said Council needed to consider under New Business the purchase of a trolley car to be used for the Aiken Tours. Mr. LeDuc stated Council needed to delete Item 2 under Old Business. He said the Houndslake Corporation had asked that second reading and public hearing on the ordinance for rezoning 8.9 acres of property off Houndslake Drive be continued to the January 12, 2004 meeting, depending on the action of the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance. Mr. LeDuc also stated that Jerry Waters had asked that Item 5, a Resolution accepting Shaws Creek property, be removed from the agenda. Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Cunning and unanimously approved, that the agenda be approved with the changes as requested.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2003, were considered for approval. Councilman Sprawls moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously approved.