

Aiken City Council Minutes

April 10, 1995

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

Others Present: Steve Thompson, Frances Thomas, Jim Holly, Ed Evans, Al Cothran, Andy Anderson, Roger LeDuc, Carrol Busbee, Sara Ridout, Philip Lord of the Aiken Standard, Jimmy Lanford, of the Augusta Chronicle, and 2 citizens.

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. Mayor Cavanaugh led in prayer which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The minutes of the March 27, 1995, meeting were considered for approval. Councilwoman Price moved that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONSAppointmentsAiken County Transit CommissionGreater Aiken Local Education Foundation (GALEF)Papouchado, Karen

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider some appointments to boards and commissions.

Mr. Thompson stated Ms. Letha Jones had resigned from the Aiken County Transit Commission and Council needed to appoint someone to fill this term. The Transit Commission advises County Council on the Best Friend Express bus service. The appointment would serve as a representative for the City of Aiken. Terms on the Transit Commission are for four years.

Councilwoman Clyburn moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price and unanimously approved, that consideration of an appointment to the Aiken County Transit Commission to replace Ms. Letha Jones be continued to the next regular meeting of Council.

Mr. Thompson stated Council also needs to consider an appointment to the Greater Aiken Local Education Foundation (GALEF) established by the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan. The committee members will serve three year terms. Council needs to appoint a member to represent City Council. The establishment of GALEF was a recommendation to the Steering Committee from the Education Committee of the Strategic Plan process.

Mayor Cavanaugh moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that Karen Papouchado be appointed to represent City Council on GALEF. Councilmember Papouchado abstained from voting. Mayor Cavanaugh pointed out Councilmember Papouchado was a couching of the Education Committee for the Strategic Plan.

TREE PROTECTION AND LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE 041095Athletic FieldsSchoolsAiken County School District

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for the second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to amend the Tree Protection and Landscaping Ordinance regarding landscaping on athletic fields.

Mr. Thompson read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3.2.2.B(II) OF THE TREE PROTECTION AND LANDSCAPING ORDINANCE SO AS TO EXEMPT THE CONSTRUCTION OF ATHLETIC FIELDS REQUIRED BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR OTHER LICENSING OR ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS FOR PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS FROM THE TREE REPLACEMENT REQUIREMENT THEREOF.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had received several requests from the Aiken County School District asking that the city adopt changes to the Tree Protection and Landscaping Ordinance to address the unique needs of the School District.

Mr. Thompson pointed out the site acreage requirement for public schools is based upon guidelines in the South Carolina Facilities Planning and Construction Guide. Due to the large acreage requirement for the schools, the School District of Aiken County feels the current Tree Protection and Landscaping Ordinance is excessive and a financial burden to the District. The School District pointed out that numerous trees may have to be cut down and removed at a site due to the requirement for school playgrounds, practice fields and athletic fields by the State. The School District has asked the city to consider changes to the Landscaping Ordinance to exempt the School district from the tree replacement portions of the Landscaping Ordinance if the trees are located in an area intended for construction of athletic fields as required by the State Board of Education or other licensing or accrediting organizations.

Mr. Thompson stated the proposed ordinance addresses the unique needs of the schools and would exempt the schools from the tree replacement portions of the Landscape Ordinance if the trees are located in an area intended for athletic fields.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilwoman Papouchado and unanimously approved, that Council pass on second reading an ordinance to amend the Tree Protection and Landscaping Ordinance to address the landscaping on athletic fields for both public and private schools. Councilwoman Clyburn did not participate in the discussion or vote because of a possible conflict of interest.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Entitlement Funds

Mr. Thompson stated the city receives funding from two Community Development grant programs, including the Entitlement Cities and HOME programs. Each year Council approves the projects for funding under the grants. The staff is recommending that Council approve changes to the list of projects and the formation of the revolving loan funds for the Entitlement Cities Program.

Under the Entitlement Program the staff is recommending the use of \$70,000 for Eustis Park and administrative expenses, and the remainder of \$217,000 for economic development and streetscape improvements. To meet new guidelines from the federal government, the city also needs to place existing and new funds in revolving loan funds.

The Housing Committee has made a recommendation to Council on the use of the funds. The city should receive \$287,000 in Entitlement Funds in FY 96. These funds are primarily available to benefit low and moderate income residents and areas.

Three public hearings have been held over the past month to obtain input from interested citizens on how the next round of Entitlement funding should be spent. About 13 citizens attended the first hearing, and the only suggestion was that the funds be used for the Best Friend Express. Mr. Thompson noted that with the rising interest rates the Homeownership Program is not receiving a great deal of interest. The Homeownership Program and the Housing Rehabilitation Programs are funded under the existing HOME Program. The staff is recommending that the funds allocated in the Entitlement Cities Program be allocated to economic development and street renovations within the targeted areas and that the HOME Program provide the funds for homeownership and housing rehabilitation.

The staff is recommending funding for the following programs under the Entitlement City concept:

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<u>Function</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Eustis Park (Phase II)	\$ 40,000
Administration	25,000
Contingency	5,000
Street Renovations	117,000
Economic Development	100,000

Under the economic development funds, the city would initiate a pool to help encourage businesses in the downtown or the new development corporation could assist with expanded recruitment.

Mr. Thompson stated the staff is also recommending that the city establish several loan funds including Housing Rehabilitation, Homeownership and Economic Development programs. Mr. Thompson pointed out program income funds are funds that are repaid to the city based on grants and loans that are made. The staff is suggesting that the existing Program Income Funds be allocated as follows:

Housing Rehabilitation	\$ 40,000
Homeownership	40,000
Economic Development	5,000
Non-RLF Account	5,000

Mr. Thompson stated the revolving funds are required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the staff is recommending that Council establish the revolving fund loans to meet requirements.

Mr. Thompson stated the staff is recommending that Council approve the projects and establish the revolving fund loans.

Council briefly discussed the establishment of a revolving fund to help establish small businesses with the fund to operate like the Housing Rehabilitation Program or the Homeownership Program. Mr. Evans pointed out that under the guidelines the business which received a loan would have to show that at least 51% of the jobs in that business are for low or moderate income persons. The staff is to bring back some information regarding the possible establishment of a revolving fund to help small businesses get started and suggest how such a fund could work.

Councilwoman Clyburn asked if Council would consider continuing this matter to the next meeting of Council. She stated she would like to look at the matter a little closer before making a decision. Council agreed to continue consideration of the Entitlement Fund projects to the next meeting of Council.

BIDS

Arborway Project

Bee Lane

The Alley

Downtown

Mayor Cavanaugh stated bids had been received for the Arborway Project in Bee Lane.

Mr. Thompson stated the city had obtained bids for the materials for the construction of the arborway on Bee Lane. The staff is recommending acceptance of the bid of Charles Graham Co., with a total bid price of \$12,333.90. Only one bid was received for the materials. The city has worked with Mr. Graham on other projects and is satisfied with his work and the price for the arborway materials.

The arborway project includes the metal infrastructure over the alley, along with planting of plants and materials in the base. The plans are to completely redo the street surface at this time also to make it a more attractive area for pedestrians and shoppers. The bid received is for the metal work involved in the arborway. It is proposed that the first demonstration area should be as attractive as possible to fully evaluate the arborway program. If awarded, the project would begin in mid-April and would take about 3 to 4 weeks. City crews will do most of the work. The plans are to replace the infrastructure under Bee Lane from The Alley to Park Avenue. The work has been scheduled with the businesses in the area.

The bid does not include resurfacing of the street and the changing out of the utilities.

Councilman Anaclerio moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh and unanimously approved, that the bid of Charles Graham Company be accepted for the purchase of the arborway materials at a price of \$12,333.90.

Councilwoman Clyburn pointed out she supported the arborway project and felt it would look nice. She pointed out, however, that the city would be spending \$12,000 to beautify an area as a demonstration project. She pointed out the area at the Farmers' Market needs work, particularly for the storm drainage in the area. She stated she would like for Council to keep in mind as they allocate funds for other projects that there is an area on Williamsburg Street at the Farmers' Market that needs work. She stated she would like for Council to consider finding funds for the work on Williamsburg Street.

BIDS

Photo Imaging System Public Safety Department

Mayor Cavanaugh stated bids had been received for the purchase of a photo imaging system.

Mr. Thompson stated the Public Safety Department had been evaluating new systems to improve the quality of mug shot photography and to provide a more efficient and secure method of storing booking applications. Photo imaging software is replacing the need for a camera, film storage and file cabinets. The system can be configured to operate from two personal computers. In addition to mug shots, the imaging system can generate composite drawings to assist in investigations.

Mr. Thompson stated bids had been received for the purchase of photo imaging software to be used in public safety booking operations. Three bids were received for the system as follows:

<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>BID PRICE</u>
Compu-Capture	\$12,555
TFF, Inc.	23,525
SMI Systems & Methods	29,405

Mr. Thompson stated the bids include the software, installation, and on-site training. He stated the staff has reviewed the bids and consulted with other departments using imaging systems. The staff is recommending acceptance of the low bid from Compu-Capture at a bid price of \$13,555. Funds are available in the budget for this purchase.

Councilwoman Papouchado moved, seconded by Councilman Anaclerio and unanimously approved, that Council accept the low bid of Compu-Capture in the amount of \$12,555 for the purchase of a photo imaging system.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk