

Aiken City Council Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

June 13, 2016

Present: Mayor Osbon, Councilmembers Dewar, Diggs, Ebner, Merry and Price.

Absent: Councilman Homoki

Others Present: John Klimm, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Gary Smith, Charles Barranco, Jessica Campbell, George Grinton, Tim Coakley, Alicia Davis, Nola Grant, Kim Abney, Mike Jordan, Sara Ridout, Dan Brown of the Aiken Standard, and about 25 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Osbon called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mayor Osbon asked that there be a moment of silence for those in Orlando, Florida, who are in a lot of pain from the recent shooting which killed at least 50 people. He said we want to hold them in our hearts and prayers for the pain they are feeling. Mr. Richard Johnson, led in prayer. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Ms. Ann Dicks, President of the Neighborhood Association of Governor Aiken Park.

GUIDELINES

Mayor Osbon reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting. All the meetings are public meetings in which many opinions are expressed and the business of the city must be conducted. He said discipline, honorable and professional decorum is paramount. Courteous and respectful communication is expected. In public hearings all questions and statements from the public shall be directed to the Chair. He welcomed comments from the audience on the agenda items listed for public hearing. He asked that comments be limited to five minutes and that persons speak only one time per topic. He asked that those who would like to speak raise their hand and be recognized and come to the podium and give their name and address.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebner asked if Councilmembers had any additions to the agenda. Mayor Osbon stated he would like to add a presentation of a proclamation to Mr. John Winfield as item one under Presentations.

Mayor Pro Tem Ebner moved that the agenda be amended to add presentation of a proclamation to Mr. John Winfield to the agenda as item one under Presentations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dewar and unanimously approved.

MINUTES

The minutes of the Worksession of April 26, 2016, Special Meeting of April 27, 2016, Work Session and Executive Session of May 2, 2016, Work Session of May 3, 2016, Work Session and Regular Meeting of May 9, 2016, and Special Meeting of May 31, 2016, were considered for approval. Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that the minutes of the Worksession of April 26, 2016, Special Meeting of April 27, 2016, Work Session and Executive Session of May 2, 2016, Work Session of May 3, 2016, Work Session and Regular Meeting of May 9, 2016, and Special Meeting of May 31, 2016, be approved. The motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation

John Henry Winfield

Mayor Osbon stated the first item under Presentations was a proclamation recognizing John Henry Winfield.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve a proclamation recognizing Mr. John Henry Winfield.

Councilwoman Price read the proclamation recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. John Henry Winfield, especially for his music abilities.

Mayor Osbon asked for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve a proclamation recognizing Mr. John Henry Winfield, recognizing his music abilities. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon and Councilwoman Price presented the proclamation to Mr. Winfield.

Aiken Performing Arts

Tony Ateca

Mr. Tony Ateca, President of Aiken Performing Arts, stated he was present along with Elizabeth Harm, a board member, to thank Council for their support of the Aiken Performing Arts. He said Aiken Performing Arts celebrated its tenth anniversary last year. It was felt that as they enter into the second decade that it would be appropriate to come to the City of Aiken and thank Council for their key partnership. He thanked Council and their predecessors who had the vision to build the AECOM Performing Arts Theater and to invite groups like Aiken Performing Arts to bring musicians from out of town. He said the building had been an asset to the community. He pointed out that Council and the city continue to support the Aiken Performing Arts in many other ways, such as providing an office for APA at Rye Patch. The City also helps them transport artists when they come to town, and assist APA with marketing dollars through the Accommodations Tax. He said APA is indebted to the City for what they do, and they wanted to thank Council for that. Aiken is an incredible town and for a small town, there is a lot going on culturally. He said we are proud there are so many diverse cultural opportunities in Aiken, and they like to be a part of that. He said the Aiken Community Playhouse is a resident of the AECOM Theater, and they bring incredible local talent to the forefront. There are groups like Joye in Aiken who bring in the finest young artists who are up and coming in classical music. He pointed out that Aiken Performing Arts was part of bringing Juilliard to town. The first three Juilliard performances came to Aiken because of Aiken Performing Arts and Juilliard in Aiken which is now Joye in Aiken was spawned from Aiken Performing Arts. He said today Aiken Performing Arts has its own niche, and that niche is bringing world class artists to town. He said it costs about \$10,000 to \$12,000 to bring an artist to town, plus they are put up in local hotels and fed at local restaurants. Mr. Ateca pointed out that they are touching students. They go into the local schools and do part of their performance or have one on one time with students. They are proud of the instruments from the attics program. About 172 instruments have been donated and have been refurbished and taken to the schools, including 21 pianos. About 21 schools have been touched through the program.

Mr. Ateca stated APA wanted to thank Council for being a part of what is being done. He said he wanted to give Council a glimpse of what is coming up in the next season. A short video of the upcoming season was shown to Council.

Homeownership MonthJuneProclamation

Mayor Osbon stated a proclamation had been prepared to recognize June as Homeownership Month.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Price that Council approve the proclamation recognizing June as Homeownership Month.

Councilman Dewar read the proclamation.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Price, that Council approve the proclamation recognizing June as Homeownership Month. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon and Councilman Dewar presented the proclamation to Kristyne Shelton, Association Executive of the Aiken Board of Realtors and Karen Burris, 2016 President of the Board of Realtors.

Housing Achievement AwardCreative PartnershipsHousing Development AwardDupont LandingSecond Baptist Community Development CorporationBennett GroupNehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation2016 Palmetto Housing Forum

Mayor Osbon stated a proclamation had been prepared to recognize Second Baptist Church Development Corporation for receiving the Housing Achievement Award for Creative Partnerships and the Housing Development Award for Dupont Landing.

Councilwoman Price moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve the proclamation recognizing Second Baptist Church Development Corporation for receiving the Housing Achievement Award for Creative Partnerships and the Housing Development Award for Dupont Landing.

Councilwoman Diggs read the proclamation.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Price, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve the proclamation recognizing Second Baptist Church Development Corporation for receiving the Housing Achievement Award for Creative Partnerships and the Housing Development Award for Dupont Landing. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Osbon and Councilwoman Diggs presented the proclamation to Mr. Harvey Ramseur, of the Second Baptist Community Development Corporation and Mr. Tom Faulkner, of the Nehemiah Community Revitalization Corporation.

Mayor Osbon stated the partnership that was put together shows everything that can be accomplished when you partner together with a common goal. He felt the Dupont housing project is a prime example of something so positive in our community. He thanked Mr. Ramseur and Mr. Faulkner for their effort in this project and what they had done for Aiken.

Councilwoman Diggs stated the Clyburn Center for Primary Care is proud that they chose the site to build these homes because they can look out the windows of the center and see a great view of some beautiful, affordable homes.

Councilwoman Price recognized Mrs. Ramseur and stated she is a huge supporter of Mr. Ramseur in the background, and a strong partner to him.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

Mayor Osbon stated Council needed to discuss appointees to various city boards, commissions and committees.

City Manager John Klimm stated Council has 12 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. No appointments are presented for Council's consideration and vote at the meeting tonight. However, a list of boards, commissions and committees needing appointments by City Council was listed in the agenda. Council may have some nominations for appointments to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of Council.

A letter of resignation has been received from Ray Visotski resigning from the Election Commission as he is moving to Michigan. Election Commission members are appointed by Council at large. Also, in response to the May newsletter regarding appointments to boards, commissions, and committees the City Clerk has received several applications for service. Copies of these applications were included in the agenda for Council's information and consideration.

Mayor Osbon asked if there were any nominations for appointment to any boards, commissions or committees.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that Council had received a copy of the letter of resignation from Ray Visotski resigning from the Election Commission as he is moving to Michigan. He said he had a nominee that he got via the Chamber of Commerce listing that he would like to present for Council's consideration. The person is Brian Coulter. He pointed out this is a City Council appointment, and he would put that name out for consideration.

Councilman Dewar stated he had asked that the city consider eliminating that Commission and turning total responsibilities over to the County.

SALE OF PROPERTY – ORDINANCE 06132016

414 Fairfield Street NE

Finance and Administration Committee

Aiken County Forfeited Land Commission

Barbara Lewis

TPN 120-18-34-014

Mayor Osbon stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to approve the sale of 414 Fairfield Street NE.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 414 FAIRFIELD STREET TO BARBARA LEWIS.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading and public hearing an ordinance to sell 414 Fairfield Street NE to Barbara Lewis.

Mr. Klimm stated at a recent Finance and Administration Committee meeting staff was asked to conduct a pilot project and publicly advertise for bid three parcels. One parcel was 414 Fairfield Street NE, which was acquired via City Council Resolution from the Aiken County Forfeited Land Commission in April, 2015. We received one bid for 414 Fairfield Street NE for \$2,000 from Ms. Barbara Lewis. After review of the bid, we recommend acceptance. Proceeds from the sale of the property will be deposited in General Fund account 001-0000-366.10-60 [Miscellaneous Revenue/Sale of Property].

We did not receive bids on the other properties. However, we have subsequently been working with the Aiken County Board of Realtors to systematically sell City property that we consider surplus and hope to have more properties to present to Council for sale in the coming months.

City Council approved this ordinance on first reading at the May 9, 2016, meeting. For City Council consideration is second reading and public hearing of an ordinance to sell 414 Fairfield Street NE.

A public hearing was held.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading and public hearing an ordinance to sell 414 Fairfield Street NE to Barbara Lewis for \$2,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

SALE OF PROPERTY – ORDINANCE

895 Alfred Street NE
Crosland Park
TPN 120-16-15-005

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading to approve the sale of 895 Alfred Street NE.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SALE OF 895 ALFRED STREET NE IN CROSLAND PARK SUBDIVISION.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance to sell 895 Alfred Street NE.

Mr. Klimm stated Catherine Butler has offered to purchase 895 Alfred Street NE in Crosland Park for \$63,000. A copy of the appraisal was provided to Council. The appraisal for the property shows an appraised value of \$60,000. Staff has reviewed the purchase and recommends Council approval for the purchase price of the appraised value of \$60,000.

For City Council consideration on first reading is approval of an ordinance to sell 895 Alfred Street NE to Catherine Butler for \$60,000, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she would like to thank Emory Langston for her hard work and dedication to the project. She wondered how many houses the city has left to sell.

Ms. Langston stated we will have six houses left to sell after 895 Alfred Street NE is sold. One of the houses in the number is a house that a Public Safety Officer lives in and has a lease to purchase within a year. She pointed that on MLS the city will have five listings.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance approving the sale of 895 Alfred Street NE. The motion was unanimously approved.

BUILDING CODES – ORDINANCEInternational Building Codes2015 EditionsBuilding CodeElectrical CodeFire CodeFuel Gas CodePlumbing CodeMechanical CodeEnergy Conservation CodeProperty Maintenance CodeResidential Code

Mayor Osbon stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration on first reading to approve the adoption of the latest edition of the International Building Codes with modifications.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 SECTION 10-2 OF THE AIKEN CITY CODE TO INCORPORATE THE 2015 EDITIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE; THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, WITH MODIFICATIONS; AND THE 2014 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.

Councilman Merry moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for the adoption of the International Building Codes.

Mr. Klimm stated regularly the International Building Code Congress updates and amends the International Building Codes. When it does so, the South Carolina Building Code Council reviews these amendments and directs adoption of them by local governments.

It is now time for us to adopt the most recent revisions to these building codes pursuant to the memo from Building Official Mike Jordan.

Since Council adopts these codes as part of our City Code of Laws, an ordinance is necessary to enact these recent revisions for construction occurring within the City limits of Aiken.

For Council consideration is first reading of an ordinance to adopt the 2015 Building Codes and the 2014 Electrical Code as presented by the International Building Code Congress and mandated by the State of South Carolina through its Building Code Council.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Dewar pointed out this is something that has happened every two years since he has been on Council. Last time it was done he was a little concerned because Council really does not have a lot of information about what we are doing. He said he would vote to send the ordinance to second reading, but he would like more details on what the changes do. Many are not familiar with the Agenda 21, but those who are obviously are concerned about the overreach of government reaching into the cities and municipalities and this is the way they do it. He asked if some information could be provided to him on what changes are proposed to be made. He felt Council should know what we are doing. He said the state just telling us to do it, does not cut it as far as he is concerned.

Mayor Osbon asked if staff could get some information together for Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Merry, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance for the adoption of the International Building Codes. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS

Contract

Hussey Gay Bell

CPST

Public Safety Building

Needs Assessment

Mayor Osbon stated staff had made a request for Council approval to spend Capital Projects Sales Tax Funds on a Needs Assessment of the Public Safety Headquarters building.

Councilman Merry moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve a request to award a contract to Hussey Gay Bell for professional services for a CPST III Project – Needs Assessment at Public Safety Headquarters.

Mr. Klimm stated as part of our Capital Projects Sales Tax program, we are undergoing a needs assessment for the Public Safety headquarters building at 251 Laurens Street, NW. This building was constructed in the mid-1970s and is in need of major renovations or replacement. We issued a Request for Proposals and received 11 responses. An assessment team consisting of City staff members reviewed the documents and interviewed four finalists. After careful consideration, the assessment team recommends that Hussey Gay Bell of Duluth, Georgia be awarded the Phase I analysis which includes space planning analysis, site evaluation, and conceptual plan options. Hussey Gay Bell quoted us a Phase I cost of \$23,000 for this project. The project will come from CPST 3 line item 017-2120-422.72-00 3PSHQ.

For Council consideration is a request to award a contract to Hussey Gay Bell for Professional Services for a Needs Assessment of Public Safety Headquarters.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Merry, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve a request to award a contract to Hussey Gay Bell for professional services for CPST III Project – Needs Assessment at Public Safety Headquarters. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESURFACING CITY STREETS

CPST

Paving

City Streets

Mayor Osbon stated staff had made a request for Council approval to spend funds from CPST III for resurfacing of City streets.

Councilman Dewar moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve a request to spend funds from CPST III for resurfacing of City streets.

Mr. Klimm stated as part of our Capital Projects Sales Tax [CPST III] project, we conducted a bid opening to resurface streets around the City. We plan to repave sections of 14 roads totaling about 4.2 miles during the paving season later this year. A listing of streets that will be repaved was provided in the agenda package. Beam's Contracting, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder for this project at a cost of \$498,074.92. The work will be charged to account 017-3130-433.75-08 3STRS.

Staff has reviewed the bids and recommends awarding the project to Beam's Contracting, Inc., of Beech Island, SC., for up to \$525,000 to include contingency.

For City Council consideration is approval of a bid award for street paving using CPST III funds.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Dewar stated he would like to read the list of streets included on the list for resurfacing. The list is as follows:

<u>Street</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Colony Parkway	Price Avenue	Whiskey Road
Varden Drive	Trail Ridge	Hitchcock Parkway
Winged Foot Drive	Cardinal Drive SW	Pine Log Road
Hamilton Drive	Silver Bluff Road	Neilson Street
Jackson Trace Lane	Cobbs Way	Bedford Place
Stonington Lane	Spencer Drive	End
Middlebury East Lane	Spencer Drive	End
Double Tree Lane	Spencer Drive	End
New Haven Lane	Spencer Drive	End
Melville Lane	Spencer Drive	End
Houndslake Drive	Pine Log Road	Hitchcock Parkway
Robinwood Drive	Trailwood Avenue	Trailwood Avenue
Trailwood Avenue	East Pine Log	End
Poplar Place	Cherry Drive	End

Councilman Ebner asked if the bid came in under the allotted amount in the Capital Projects III funds. He said there may be about \$200,000 left.

Mr. George Grinton, Engineering and Utilities Director, stated after we complete the listed paving there will be approximately \$700,000+ left in CPST III. He said he was trying to allocate approximately \$500,000 a year over the next few years. He said next year he may divide the \$700,000 in half.

Councilwoman Diggs asked if there would be any resurfacing on the north side. Mr. Grinton responded that the city did an extensive amount on the north side last year with the state allocation to Crosland Park. He said this has been a “worst first” scenario. He said we are trying to transition to something that will be more progressive on a maintenance plan. He said he will access the needs for next year. It was pointed out that the funding was for city streets only, and there are not many city streets on the north side. Mr. Grinton stated the listing was a prioritization based on the “worst case” roads.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Dewar, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve the request to spend funds from CPST III for resurfacing of City streets. The motion was unanimously approved.

BANNERS

Farmers Market
The Alley

Mayor Osbon stated a request had been received from the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department to place two banners in the downtown area promoting the Farmers Market in The Alley.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council approve the placement of two banners in the downtown area promoting the Farmers Market event in The Alley.

Mr. Klimm stated the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department is requesting permission to place two banners in the downtown area promoting the Farmers Market in The Alley. The event is to be held on Thursdays in The Alley beginning June 2, 2016, and ending August 11, 2016.

Ms. Campbell is requesting permission to place two banners in the downtown area on the extended arms of the traffic light poles with one banner at the intersection of Laurens and Park and one banner at the intersection of South Boundary and Chesterfield. The banners would be 2' x 8', constructed of vinyl material, with the Aiken tourism logo, the Farmers Market logo, and ADDA logo.

For Council consideration is permission to place two banners in the downtown area promoting the Farmers Market in the Alley on Thursdays from June 2, 2016 through August 11, 2016.

Mayor Osbon asked for any comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Merry stated he and Councilwoman Price had spoken out before about being in favor of these kinds of banners to publicize some of the great activities going on not only in the downtown, but all over Aiken. He said the banners sometimes communicate better than the daily print. He said he applauds this initiative.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilwoman Diggs, seconded by Councilman Merry, that Council approve a request to place two banners in the downtown area promoting the Farmers Market in the Alley on Thursdays from June 2, 2016 through August 11, 2016. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION 06132016A

Owens Corning

Annexation

Water Service

Sanitary Sewer Service

Mayor Osbon stated a resolution had been prepared for consideration by Council to authorize the City of Aiken to exempt Owens Corning from the City's annexation policy for the provision of water and sanitary sewer services.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AIKEN TO EXEMPT OWENS CORNING FROM THE CITY'S ANNEXATION POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF CITY WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICES.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve the resolution authorizing the City of Aiken to exempt Owens Corning from the City's annexation policy for the provision of water and sanitary sewer services.

Mr. Klimm stated Mr. Tim Vaughn, Project Manager with Penta Engineering, has requested on behalf of Owens Corning, that Owens Corning be exempt from the city's policy for the provision of city water and sanitary sewer services.

Mr. Vaughn explains in his letter that Owens Corning plans to make some modifications in the way the waste water from the facility is handled. The modification of their sanitary sewer system will not require additional infrastructure from the City of Aiken and will not cause an increase in the flow of wastewater into the City's sanitary sewer system. For many years the city has been providing water and sewer service to the facility which is located outside the city on SC 302.

The City's Policy for the Provision of City Water and Sanitary Sewer Service allows City Council to not require annexation of industrial water and sanitary sewer customers where Council determines that annexation would not be in the best interests of the city.

Mr. Jessie Edgar of Owens Corning is present at the Council meeting to answer any questions.

For Council consideration is a resolution authorizing the City of Aiken to exempt the property known as Owens Corning from the city's requirement to file a new application for water and sanitary sewer service and for future annexation due to the modification of the present sanitary sewer system.

Mayor Osbon asked for comments from the audience and Council.

Councilman Dewar stated he did not understand why it needs to be done. He said he was not against it. He stated Owens Corning is not doing anything outside the plant area so he wondered why this needs Council's approval.

Mr. Gary Smith, City Attorney, stated the request is for a modification to what they are doing now. Presently they are running a sewer line from their building into the property next door. The two properties used to be owned by the same company and at some point the property was sold to another company and they continued with the sanitary sewer line as it was. Now that they are redoing the plan, they have decided they need to just connect directly into the sewer system. Since they are modifying their system it would ordinarily require that they appear before the Planning Commission to see whether or not the city would require annexation. He said that is the city's policy for water and sewer service. Mr. Smith stated he was in the process of preparing a document to allow Council to redo the policy to allow Council to do this exemption.

Mayor Osbon called for a vote on the motion by Councilman Ebner, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve a resolution to authorize the City of Aiken to exempt Owens Corning from the City's annexation policy for the provision of water and sanitary sewer services. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION

Water
Sewer
Annexation

Mayor Osbon stated a resolution had been prepared for consideration by Council to amend the city's policy regarding requests for water and sanitary sewer services to unincorporated areas.

Mayor Osbon read the title of the resolution.

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND CITY COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING REQUESTS FOR WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICES TO UNINCORPORATED AREAS.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilman Dewar, that Council approve the resolution amending the City policy regarding requests for water and sanitary sewer services to unincorporated areas.

Mr. Klimm stated we have had several discussions about reviewing and amending our water and sewer policy requiring annexation. We have drafted a resolution that would amend our water and sewer policy that would require automatic annexation for contiguous properties upon a real estate transfer. The resolution, as drafted, contains two exemptions from the proposed water and sewer policy requiring annexation: 1. Property transferred to a surviving spouse; and 2. Property zoned for industrial uses.

Before a policy is formally passed by City Council, staff is recommending that it be sent to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and additional discussion.

Mayor Osbon stated he would like for Council to consider a motion to send the request to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and discussion and a recommendation to City Council.

Mr. Klimm stated the major reason staff is suggesting that the matter be referred to the Administration and Finance Committee is that changing the policy does not require two

readings. It was felt this could be a controversial issue, and we need to be sure that the general public is aware of the fact that we are talking about a change in the annexation policy. By sending it to a committee, the committee could have a work session and allow people to come in and learn what the changes are and make recommendations before it comes before Council.

Councilman Dewar stated he felt it is important to explain what the change in the policy does. He said essentially if someone lives in a contiguous property and there is a change in ownership, then that property must annex to the city. There are two exceptions: 1. Property transferred to a surviving spouse, and 2. Properties zoned for industrial uses. He noted that some people obviously will not be in favor of the change, so the reason the request is going to the administrative committee is that a resolution only has one reading and then it is either passed or voted down. He said Council wants to have public input so the matter will come before the Administration and Finance Committee for a recommendation to City Council.

Mayor Osbon asked if there was a motion to move the item to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and study.

Councilman Ebner stated he would amend his motion to pass the resolution, by asking that the matter be sent to the Administration and Finance Committee for review and additional discussion and presented later to City Council. Councilman Dewar seconded the amended motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gary Smith stated just so Council is aware he has pointed out to the City Manager, the Assistant City Manager, and the Planning Director that this matter could be difficult if it is not presented to the people who have the best ability to present it to the citizens who would be most affected by this proposed change. He said the realtors are part of the group as well as closing attorneys who do real estate closings, and they need to be aware so that the information does get out to those people so they are aware that this is a possibility of a change in the annexation policy.

Councilman Dewar asked if there was an attorneys' group in town that needs to be notified. Mr. Smith stated they do an email for all Aiken County Bar members so it could easily be presented to them. Also, all the real estate lawyers have a box at the RMC Office and a flyer could be put in the boxes in the RMC Office.

Councilman Ebner asked who would do that as he wanted to make sure that it gets done. Mr. Smith responded that would be a staff function, and stated he would be happy to assist staff as far as the attorneys go. Councilman Ebner stated that Ms. Kristyne Shelton of the Board of Realtors needed to be notified so she could make sure all the realtors are made aware of the proposed change in policy. Mayor Osbon stated the Planning Commission also needed to be made aware of the proposed change. Councilman Merry pointed out that the proposed policy would also affect the development community and would have an impact on development, and they need to be notified as well. Councilman Merry stated he felt the proposed policy is a good solution, and he liked the way the policy was drafted.

Councilman Ebner stated others may have suggestions on how to promote annexation of contiguous properties to the city. He said if there is some other way to get it done easier, Council would be glad to listen to any suggestions.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Mayor Osbon stated he wanted to thank the committee that did such a good job in getting the Memorial Day Parade together.

MISCELLANEOUS

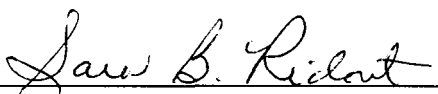
Mayor Osbon stated that Liz Stewart, Chair of the Planning Commission, has a family member, a grandson, who was just drafted in the 12th round from USC, Taylor Widener, to the Yankees. He congratulated Ms. Stewart on the accomplishment of her grandson.

He pointed out that Taylor Widener played at South Aiken High School, and we are proud and share the excitement with Ms. Stewart.

Councilwoman Diggs stated she would like to thank and recognize Public Safety Officer Ricky Brown. She pointed out that he sponsored a safety walk on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Crosland Park. She said he has a new initiative called "Fight Crime Behind the Blinds." She said this is an opportunity for residents to actually call Public Safety and feel comfortable about calling Public Safety when they see things happening in the community and doing it in a way that they can be anonymous and not be afraid that there will be some repercussions. She pointed out that PSO Brown had several other officers with him on Saturday in Crosland Park. She said she wanted to thank Public Safety for playing a big part in making people in the community feel safer, especially in the Crosland Park area. She said she really appreciates them and how safe she feels because of their presence. She also thanked Emory Langston as she is also heavily involved in the Neighborhood Service Initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilman Dewar moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Merry and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk