

Aiken City Council MinutesREGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2013

Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers Diggs, Ebner, and Homoki.

Absent: Councilmembers Dewar and Price

Others Present: Richard Pearce, Gary Smith, Stuart Bedenbaugh, Glenn Parker, Charles Barranco, Tim Coakley, Kim Abney, Ed Evans, Larry Morris, George Grinton, Alicia Davis, Sara Ridout, Amy Banton of the Aiken Standard, Andrew O'Byrne of the Aiken Leader, and about 30 citizens.

CALL TO ORDER

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

GUIDELINES

Mayor Cavanaugh reviewed the guidelines for speaking at the Council meeting. He asked that those who would like to speak raise their hand and be recognized and limit their comments to five minutes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2013, and the Horizons Retreat of February 1 and 2, 2013, were considered for approval. Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Mayor Cavanaugh, that the minutes be approved as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Ebner stated he wanted to make a comment that the booklet that Mr. Pearce and staff put together for Horizons was very well received.

PRESENTATIONComprehensive Annual Financial Report
CAFR

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Kim Abney, Finance Director, would make a presentation to Council on the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Pearce stated Kim Abney, Finance Director, would make a short presentation on the 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, so the citizens as well as Council would know about this information booklet. He pointed out the CAFR is on the website.

Ms. Abney stated in 1945 the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program. They wanted to encourage and assist local and state governments to go beyond their minimum requirements for their financial reporting. They were trying to encourage transparency and full disclosure and recognize the governments that did that. She said the process is that the city submits the CAFR to the GFOA. They have a special review committee, made up of not only GFOA staff members, but also members in public accounting, auditors, financial statement preparers, academic and other people interested in the finance profession. She said we have six months from the end of the fiscal year to submit the CAFR to GFOA for review. Then it typically takes GFOA four to six months to release the results. She pointed out they have over 80 pages of guidelines and questions to consider when reviewing the CAFRs. The GFOA website stated 3,751 participants were awarded the Certificate of Achievement. That includes municipalities, states, counties, colleges and universities, and special districts. Of that number, only

1,852 were municipal governments, out of 36,000 municipalities in the United States. Only about 5% are given this prestigious award. In South Carolina, 28 cities received the award. The City of Aiken submitted its first CAFR for consideration in 1991 and was first awarded the Certificate of Achievement in 1992. Aiken has been awarded this Certificate for the last 20 consecutive years. She stated the 2012 CAFR is currently under review, and all the past CAFRs are posted on line on the City of Aiken's website.

Ms. Abney stated the CAFR is comprised of three sections—Introductory, Financial, and Statistical. She said there is a wealth of information in the CAFR. The Introductory section has a history of Aiken, a list of major awards received, a transmittal letter about city services, list of the Capital Projects Sales Tax projects, City Council's goals, and a list of elected officials. The Financial section is the independent auditors report. She pointed out the section that she really wanted to talk about is the Statistical section. She stated this section has 10 years' worth of data and trends in five sections. These include the Financial Trends, Revenue Capacity, Debt Information, Demographic and Economic, and Operating Information. She pointed out there is no general obligation debt for the city and has not been for the last nine years. The Demographic and Economic information has economic indicators, the city's largest employers, and other demographic information about the city. The Operating section has information about the city's infrastructure, the number of fire hydrants, how many miles of streets, the number of employees by department, etc. The last few pages give the city's rates and history of the rate tables for water, sewer, etc.

Ms. Abney stated the program was established by GFOA in the spirit of full disclosure and transparency before transparency was a buzz word. She pointed out all the CAFRs are posted on the city's website.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked Ms. Abney for her work and that of her staff in preparing the CAFR. He pointed out the CAFR is very helpful and he uses it many times.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointments

James Archibald

Building Code Board of Appeals

William Coscioni

General Aviation Commission

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider some recommended appointments to the various boards, commissions, and committees.

Mr. Pearce stated Council has 7 pending appointments to fill vacancies on different City boards, commissions, and committees. Two appointments are presented for Council's consideration.

Councilmember Dewar has recommended that James Archibald be appointed to the Building Code Board of Appeals Committee to replace Bob Besley. If appointed, his term would expire May 12, 2013. He would be eligible for reappointment by City Council in May.

Councilmember Price has recommended that William Coscioni be reappointed to the General Aviation Commission. If reappointed, his term would expire September 1, 2014.

For City Council consideration is approval of two appointments to the boards, commissions and committees.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve the appointment of James Archibald to the Building Code Board of Appeals with the term to expire May 12, 2013, and reappointment of William Coscioni to the General Aviation Commission with the term to expire September 1, 2014. The motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Ebner recommended that Jason Rabon be appointed to the Recreation Commission to replace John Brookshire.

Mayor Cavanaugh stated the recommendation would be on the next agenda for Council's approval.

ANNEXATION – ORDINANCE 02112013

Aiken County Complex
1930 University Parkway
TPN 104-12-19-001
Planned Institutional

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to annex Aiken County property at 1930 University Parkway and zone it Planned Institutional (PI).

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX TO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF AIKEN CERTAIN PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 20 ACRES OF LAND MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY AIKEN COUNTY AND TO ZONE THE SAME PLANNED INSTITUTIONAL (PI).

Mr. Pearce stated Aiken County has filed an annexation application to place the 20-acre campus for the new Aiken County Complex into the Aiken City Limits.

Council previously approved a utilities request to Aiken County, with the understanding that they would petition to annex this property within the city limits as soon as possible.

The Planning Commission met on January 15, 2013, and reviewed this application. They unanimously voted to recommend annexing this 20-acre parcel upon the following conditions being met:

1. That the conditions of the City services approval granted 11/12/2012 be met;
2. That the annexation not include any part of Lincoln Avenue;
3. That a new annexation petition be submitted with the correct acreage to include only the parcel on which the Government Center is being constructed, minus the Lincoln Avenue roadway right of way; and
4. That the applicant sign an agreement to be recorded listing the conditions of approval within 60 days.

Mr. Pearce pointed out that Aiken County would not be annexing the roadway of Lincoln Avenue shown on the plat, and a new plat will be submitted showing the area to be annexed minus the Lincoln Avenue roadway right of way. He stated none of the rest of Lincoln Avenue is in the city, so Aiken County is not going to annex the area of Lincoln Avenue contiguous to the County property. He said it would be better at the appropriate time to annex all of the right of way rather than just a portion.

Aiken County has also requested that the property be zoned Planned Institutional (PI). Our Planning Commission is unanimously recommending that zoning for this parcel.

For consideration on second reading and public hearing is an ordinance to annex 20 acres of land owned by Aiken County and zone it Planned Institutional.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilman Homoki moved, seconded by Councilman Ebner, that Council approve on second and final reading an ordinance to annex 20 acres of land owned by Aiken County on University Parkway and zone it Planned Institutional (PI) with the conditions recommended. The motion was unanimously approved.

SPCA – ORDINANCE 02112013A

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Concept Plan Amendment

Storage Shed

Willow Run Road

TPN 120-20-01-008

Aiken SPCA

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the concept plan for the Aiken SPCA located on Willow Run Road.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONCEPT PLAN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 199 WILLOW RUN ROAD AND OWNED BY AIKEN SPCA.

Mr. Pearce stated the Aiken Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has requested an amendment to its previously Council-approved Concept Plan to allow for the addition of a portable storage shed to this property.

The Planning Commission met January 15, 2013, and voted unanimously to recommend allowing this amendment to the Concept Plan.

For Council consideration on second reading and public hearing is an ordinance to amend the Concept Plan for the Aiken SPCA to allow the addition of a portable storage shed to this property.

The public hearing was held and no one spoke.

Councilwoman Diggs moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve on second and final reading an ordinance to amend the Concept Plan for the Aiken SPCA to allow the addition of a portable storage shed on the property. The motion was unanimously approved.

CHUKKER CREEK SCHOOL – ORDINANCE 02112013B

Chukker Creek Elementary School

1830 Chukker Creek Road

Concept Plan

Traffic Congestion

Mayor Cavanaugh stated this was the time advertised for second reading and public hearing on an ordinance to amend the concept plan for the Chukker Creek Elementary School at 1830 Chukker Creek Road to provide a driveway extension and additional parking.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CONCEPT PLAN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1830 CHUKKER CREEK ROAD AND OWNED BY THE AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Mr. Pearce stated the Aiken County Public School District owns property at 1830 Chukker Creek Road. Chukker Creek Elementary School is located at this address. The School District has experienced traffic congestion at the school when parents, guardians, and caregivers pick up and drop off students at the school during the school year. The S.C. Department of Transportation has approved the School District taking action to get this backed-up car line off of Chukker Creek Road right of way.

The School District proposal to lengthen the car pick up and drop off line was provided to Council. This 1,800-foot-long extension to the existing car line lane allows for two more lanes, as well as 40 additional parking spaces.

The Planning Commission met on January 15, 2013, and unanimously approved this Concept Plan amendment.

For Council consideration on second reading and public hearing is an ordinance to amend the Chukker Creek Elementary School Concept Plan to allow the addition of 1,800 more feet of pavement and 40 more parking spaces.

The public hearing was held.

Mr. Tony Sealy thanked Council for their approval on first reading of an ordinance to change the concept plan for Chukker Creek Elementary School to allow for the elimination of the backup on Chukker Creek Road twice a day. He said, in looking at the design, he finds it to be a very useful plan. It has been used at other schools and it mitigated the traffic problems. He felt it would do the same for Chukker Creek School. He also pointed out that, as the cars back up on Chukker Creek Road, there are nine properties in Woodside Subdivision on Glen Haven Circle where the cars back up in the right of way of Chukker Creek Road with just a 20 foot undisturbed buffer between their property and the road. He felt those property owners on Glen Haven would be delighted when a parking lot is removed from behind their houses twice a day. He said he had noticed that some of the residents along Glen Haven had installed privacy fences across their back yard. He said, however, that the Chukker Creek Road right of way is on a ridge, and it slopes down towards their property, which makes it more difficult for the privacy fence to work. He said he was recommending again that Council vote in favor of the ordinance for approval of amending the concept plan to allow the addition of 1,800 foot extension to the existing car lane, as well as 40 additional parking spaces. He pointed out Chukker Creek Road is used by four subdivisions, two of which are in the city and two of which are in the county.

Mr. Harold Schmidt, Plantation South, stated he wanted to point out the danger of Chukker Creek Road. He said Chukker Creek is a two lane road with two yellow lines down the middle. When cars are lined up to pick up children from school, there are people who will pass the line, start going west, and cars coming out from the school are going east. The cars will end up on the shoulder or in the ditch. He felt there would be a serious accident if something is not done.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on second reading and public hearing an ordinance to amend the concept plan for Chukker Creek Elementary School located at 1830 Chukker Creek Road to allow the addition of 1,800 more feet of pavement and 40 more parking spaces. The motion was unanimously approved.

LEASE – ORDINANCE

H. N. Willing

Mason Branch Reservoir

Hamelin Road

Ryan Martin

Ally Burgess Martin

TPN 116-00-01-026

Mayor Cavanaugh stated an ordinance had been prepared for Council's consideration to approve transfer of a lease agreement and easement between H. N. Willing and the City of Aiken to Ryan Martin and Ally Burgess Martin.

Mr. Pearce read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING ASSIGNMENT OF A LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF AIKEN AND H. N. WILLING TO RYAN AND ALLY BURGESS MARTIN.

Mr. Pearce stated H. N. Willing owns approximately 50 acres immediately adjacent to the Mason Branch Reservoir that is located north of Interstate 20 and near Hamelin Road. In 1981, when City officials wanted to develop Mason's Branch Reservoir to provide an emergency supply of water for our water customers, Mr. Willing entered into a lease agreement for 9.60 acres with the City to provide access to his property. He also conveyed to the City 10.56 acres for the sum of \$20,000 at the same time. Copies of the 1981 Lease Agreement and deed were provided to Council for reference. Our total acreage for the Mason Branch Reservoir is 20.16 acres.

Mr. Willing obtained a roadway access easement and fishing rights for himself and certain of his family members. Now that he is older, he has entered into a Contract of Sale to convey this 50-acre tract to his nephew, Ryan Martin, and his nephew's wife, Ally Burgess Martin. A copy of Mr. Willing's letter was included with the agenda packet.

In order for the Martins to obtain a loan to purchase this land, they must be able to show that they have a written access easement from a public roadway to this tract. H. N. Willing built this access road in 1962. Ryan Martin seeks assignment of this lease to him and to his wife in order to qualify for this loan.

They also seek City Council approval to assign the fishing rights granted to H. N. Willing to them. No changes are sought to the 1981 lease agreement, merely assignment of it by City Council from H. N. Willing to the Martins. Since this request involves City-owned real estate, it must be done by a City Council ordinance.

For Council consideration on first reading is an ordinance to approve assignment of a lease, an egress/ingress/regress access easement across the dam, and fishing rights from H. N. Willing to Ryan and Ally Burgess Martin.

Councilman Homoki moved, seconded by Councilwoman Diggs, that Council approve on first reading an ordinance approving the assignment of a lease agreement and easement between H. N. Willing and the City of Aiken to Ryan and Ally Burgess Martin. The motion was unanimously approved.

GOALS

2013- 2014

Mayor Cavanaugh stated Council needed to consider approval of City Council goals for FY 2013-14.

Mr. Pearce stated as part of our annual Horizons Retreat on February 2, City Council discussed potential Short Term and Continuing Goals. This year, several goals were discussed. A draft of the proposed goals was provided to Council for reference, which is based upon the conversations at Rye Patch on February 1st and 2nd at Council's Horizons Retreat.

These goals reflect our discussions that are, in turn, based on our *Aiken's Tomorrow* Strategic Plan Update from 2010. In addition, several of these projects are either in our Five-Year Capital Project Plan or utilize Capital Project Sales Tax Revenues.

For Council approval is our Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Short-Term and Continuing Goals.

Council discussed the proposed goals.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that in the Short Term Goals No. 5 there was discussion that a real issue in the Edgewood Subdivision is drainage issues. He said he wanted to be sure that drainage issues are included in Goal 5. He felt if the drainage issues were corrected, there would be other lots available.

Mr. Pearce stated drainage was not included in Goal 5, but the first sentence could be amended to state: "In Edgewood Subdivision find opportunities to build homes and ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place." Mr. Pearce stated that would not just be stormwater, but adequate infrastructure could make sure that the homes would be properly served by city services.

Councilman Ebner moved, seconded by Councilman Homoki, that Council approve the Short Term and Continuing Goals for FY 2013-14 with an amendment to Goal 5 to include drainage for the Edgewood Subdivision with the wording suggested by Mr. Pearce. The motion was unanimously approved.

The goals adopted were as follows:

Short-Term Goals

1. Explore and implement best methods for continuing to improve city public communications as well as for sharing information by using various types of media, including social networks, print media, and broadcast outlets to include video-on-demand and live streaming technologies.
2. Continue with a design for a Senior and Youth Center at Eustis Park. Explore opportunities for a Northside Recreation Facility.
3. Prioritize the next phases of our water, sewer, storm drain, and roadway repairs as part of our annual budgeting process.
4. Conduct a top-to-bottom review of our Crosland Park Redevelopment Project to evaluate best practices to maximize returns from the investments made in this Northside Neighborhood.
5. In Edgewood Subdivision, find opportunities to build homes and ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place. Identify opportunities to develop other properties in other Northside Revitalization Initiative target areas.
6. Find additional opportunities to partner with Aiken Corporation on new projects in order to continue to improve our community.
7. Develop a plan and then renovate the First Floor of Aiken City Hall on Park Avenue.
8. Pursue a plan to connect Dougherty Road to the Publix Shopping Center.

Continuing Goals

1. As part of developing an overall strategy for abating Sand River storm water runoff problems in Hitchcock Woods, pursue the next phases for installation of bioretention, bioswale, rain garden, and other stormwater runoff containment measures. Also continue to study other projects that will work in tandem with these installations.
2. Support current and future missions at the Savannah River Site through annual visits to Washington, by receiving periodic updates on Site strategic plan goals, missions, and plans, and identifying opportunities to support them.
3. Support and strengthen our Character First program by encouraging employees to attend regularly scheduled meetings. Encourage our academic communities and local businesses to adopt and implement this program at their work places for their supervisors, employees, administrators, and other staff.
4. Continue strategies to redevelop and stabilize Northside neighborhoods in Aiken.
5. Expand our Wellness Initiative with appropriate public programming. Encourage city

staff and our citizens toward better health.

6. Continue our Succession Management Program.
7. Undertake repair or replacement of infrastructure identified as needing attention in our Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Surveys, as funding becomes available.
8. Preserve equestrian areas and open spaces when opportunities arise to do so.
9. Expand existing city bike pathways and pedestrian walkways.
10. Work in cooperation with local academic campuses and groups such as the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce Aiken Young Professionals Group to promote the availability of City amenities and services.
11. Identify and utilize opportunities for city equipment and our vehicle fleet to include alternative fuel and all-electric models.
12. Proceed with the redevelopment of our City Recycle Center into a multi-use and passive city park facility.
13. Develop opportunities to use more efficient lighting installations throughout our city, including at City facilities.
14. Determine the appropriate procedures and projects to strengthen the integrity of our utility infrastructure including timelines for inspections, repair, maintenance, replacement, and installation of new and improved utility infrastructure.

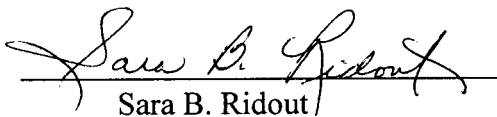
INFORMATION

Mr. Pearce stated that some information was received late last week after the agenda was distributed from SCDOT. He said at the Fresh Market on Whiskey Road on the Concept Plan we were going to close a driveway and have a right-turn in and a right-turn out in the driveway by the Pizza Hut. He said SCDOT would not approve that. He said the understanding is that the state has a more restrictive interpretation than the city, and that the state trumps the city. The plan now by the Fresh Market is to tie into the existing driveways. He said, however, the city still plans to go through with the plan of trying to extend the left hand turn lane at the traffic signal at Kings Grant Way and Hitchcock Drive for Aiken Estates. The city plans to do traffic counts before the grand opening, the week of the grand opening, and a couple of weeks after the grand opening just to get a count of the number of cars using that intersection. Then we will meet with DOT to see if we need to extend the left hand turn lane to handle traffic.

Councilman Ebner pointed out that the North American Bluebird Society will be meeting in Aiken, and that will bring about 150 people to Aiken in October. He suggested we might also want to look at the Red Bird Society and others, as they would bring a lot of visitors to the area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk