

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 7, 2007
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Rodney Cannon, Mayor Pro Tem Brooks Willis, Council Members Earl Cooler, Bill Horton, and Bea Jones, City Manager Shane Haynes, Assistant City Manager Kevin Griffin, City Clerk Virginia Haas, Media Director Paul Floeckher, Fire Chief John Ekaitis, Police Chief Richard Nagy, City Engineer Karen Jarrett, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum, Recreation Director Joe Gailey, Economic Development Director Ted Felder, Municipal Judge John Carroll, City Planner Chris Damgen.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cannon called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Willis gave the invocation.

III. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

None Requested.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUES AND ESTABLISH A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008: TO SET REVENUE REQUIREMENTS: TO PROVIDE FOR EXPENDITURES (2007-5-17A)
PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member Horton stated that he fought to maintain a tight budget and upon further review the City must make a final decision to cut the level of service provided to the citizens or make a minor tax increase. He expressed that he is aware of the level of service citizens expect however currently there is not enough money available to continue providing that level of service. Council Member Horton proposed that the millage rate be increased by 6 mils to make up the deficit and provide the customary level of service expected by the citizens. Council Member Jones stated that she was torn about raising taxes and she was also concerned about the State announcing the city will not be able to raise taxes next year. Council Member Jones indicated that she would second the motion. Mayor Cannon explained his feeling in knowing how difficult this decision had been however this increase will raise \$60,000 which equates to a \$28 to \$30 per

year tax increase for a \$100,000 house. Mayor Cannon responded to Mayor Pro Tem Willis that the last tax increase was in 2001. Council Member Horton explained that the overall budget is approximately \$6 million and the small increase amounts to only \$60,000. He continued that the city sincerely desires to provide the same level of service and stretch the dollars giving the citizens the most services for the least amount.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Cannon opened the hearing up for public comment. There was no public comment regarding this ordinance.

Manager Haynes asked for clarification of the motion to include other expenditures which required approval. There was short discussion regarding voting procedures.

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to adopt Ordinance 2007-5-17A as amended reflecting a total of 153 mills in property taxes for 2007/2008 and including all approved expenditures at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Jones and passed unanimously.

- B. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE MUNICIPAL ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE ARTICLE 3.6 AMENDMENTS (2007-5-17B)
PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Willis to adopt Ordinance **2007-5-17B** at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Cooler and passed unanimously.

- C. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, DESCRIBING THE ANDERSON TRACT MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE ANDERSON TRACT MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT TO BE EFFECTED THEREBY, THE PROJECTED TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN, THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE AMOUNT OF SUCH COSTS TO BE DERIVED FROM ASSESSMENTS, BONDS, OR OTHER FUNDS; SETTING FORTH THE PROPOSED BASIS AND RATES OF ASSESSMENTS TO BE IMPOSED WITHIN THE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; ORDERING A PUBLIC HEARING; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.”
PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager Haynes introduced Margaret Pope from Haynesworth, Sinkler and Boyd and Sarah Robertson of McNair Law Firm. Ms. Pope explained that City Council has received the Anderson Tract improvement plan and this hearing is another opportunity for public input. The plan to include requesting City Council to approve the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$35.8 million adjusted into three series phases. The proceeds of the bonds may only be used for public

infrastructure like roads, water, sewer, and curbing. The bonds do not pay for private infrastructure owned by the developer or association. The plan includes some specifics on how the project will be developed. She continued that Sarah Robertson and herself as well as engineers and planners will be available to answer any questions at the June 21st meeting. She explained the next hearing would include the 2nd reading of the ordinance to address procurement and review the agreement containing information needed for the city to acquire ownership of the project. Today the City Council has no motion or action before them and all advertising notices were properly published. Ms. Pope stated that Fire and Police would be the first items forward in 2010 and the roads would be installed in phases by 2012 completing all improvements by 2014. The developer has requested an 8-year build out completed in bond phases. Ms. Pope responded to Council Member Horton that the city would not be held liable as these bonds are revenue bonds. The only assessments levied would fall upon the property owners. All other fees are to be paid from developers or through bond proceeds.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

Ms. Pope stated that the June 21st Council Meeting would include several items for Council's consideration. She requested that City Council begin reviewing the agreement which was developed and reviewed by the City Attorney for the city's protection. Council Member Horton reminded that Friday afternoon was the deadline for submission of documents.

Mayor Cannon requested a public hearing for 2nd reading of the Anderson Tract MID Ordinance on June 21, 2007.

V. A. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2007
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve the May 17, 2007 regular meeting minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Jones and passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Works: Mayor Pro Tem Willis reported on Boyd Street, McTeer St. and Industrial Park drainage projects. He reported that some complaints were received about grass growing over culverts on Highway 17. He reported that the owner of the Sleep and Days Inn donated \$201 to the Public Works Department. He thanked Director Gailey and the Public Works staff for great work completed on Exit 5. Mr. Cooler reported on the new road leading into Industrial Park and the two additional positions slated in the Public Works budget.

Assistant Manager Griffin reported on a meeting held in Washington including Mayor Pro Tem Willis, Council Member Cooler, Media director Paul Floeckher and members of the NLC. The city was impressed with the League's concept of American Downtown. Mr. Griffin explained that an article had been published in the NY Times regarding the City of Hardeeville. The League felt their programs could apply to planning downtown Hardeeville and startup

redevelopment program to deal with growth issues. Mayor Pro Tem Willis stated this effort ties into questions the citizens are asking about revitalization efforts in downtown Hardeeville.

Planning & Zoning: Council Member Cooler announced a Planning & Zoning meeting on June 11th to continue review of the sign code.

Recreation Committee: Council Member Jones reported on baseball closing day. Registration will be earlier next year encouraging signups for older children. She reported the planning of the June 30th Celebration behind the Community Center. Council Member Horton explained this will be a family-oriented special event fireworks show with a DJ playing a variety of music. He reported on the First Annual Fishing Rodeo touting 200 fish caught, the biggest fish being 1.5 pounds and approximately 50 kids attended. The fishing rodeo may be held more often than annually. Mayor Cannon remarked this event as a great time to take young people to the ponds and teach them how to fish. Council Member Jones stated that people came from Bluffton and Savannah and commented highly on the recreation areas in Hardeeville. Council Member Horton stated that Celebrate Hardeeville will be the next event. He reported that there will be advance notice for football signups and a High School Football Team playing at the fields this year.

Public Safety- Council Member Jones stated that she toured the upgrades and new security system at the Police Department providing needed safety and protection. Council Member Horton stated that he went to a SCDOT workshop and spoke to a Mr. Russell who is in charge of the Hardeeville area. Mr. Russell told Council Member Horton that the roads chosen to be paved in the area would be Sunset Circle, Paynesville Road, Hummingbird and Mockingbird Roads. He explained to Council Member Horton that a crew comes from the State and drives through the area to advise which roads require paving. Council Member Horton stated that the city emphasized heavily the need for highway funds while in Washington.

Mayor Cannon reminded the public that though it seems the city is working for businesses, the city will have money freed up for the downtown Hardeeville area and the residential areas have not been forgotten.

Council Member Jones reported on a LCOG meeting where they were highly complimentary towards City Engineer Karen Jarrett.

VIII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Department: Manager Haynes introduced Police Chief Richard Nagy to City Council. Chief Nagy announced he received a very warm welcome from people who care and want to be involved in the city. He explained that the department was already reviewing policy and procedures, organizational chart, job descriptions and service levels. He will brief the City Council with updates regularly. Chief Nagy thanked the City Council for their vote of confidence. The Mayor and Council welcomed Chief Nagy.

Fire Department: Chief Ekaitis reported 87 calls for April, 399 total yearly calls, average response time 4 minutes, 39 seconds, average response time for the year 4 minutes, 52 seconds.

Fire Marshall/Code Enforcement: Chief Ekaitis reported 8 Planning Meetings attended, 16 fire inspections conducted, 14 code citations issued, 18 violation notices issued, 5 stop work orders issued, 17 burn permits issued, and unknown at this time the number of businesses operating without a license. 130 Training hours for the month of April, 524 total for the year. Chief Ekaitis thanked Fire Marshall Heather Hiott for her efforts collecting supplies for the firefighters in FL and GA. Mayor Cannon thanked the Fire Department for all their efforts. He announced Dan Morgan and his wife had a baby girl yesterday.

Manager Haynes responded to Mayor Pro Tem Willis that the Town of Hilton Head would like to partner with the city to complete a joint training facility.

Recreation: Director Joe Gailey reported on the First Annual Fishing Rodeo: He thanked the following sponsors: Danny's Auto & Diesel Service, Raymond's Bait & Tackle, Wal Mart, Shakespeare. He announced the following winners: Carlyle Griffin, Hayden Haynes, Aaron Jackson, Aarmond Jackson, Garrett Nice, Ransom Dunham, Ferrante Dunham, Hannah Cannon, Therion Cannon & Jacob Padgett.

The end of the season Baseball party went well including 30 of the 40 players in attendance and 60 total participants.

Director Gailey announced the upcoming Fireworks & Fun: Saturday, June 30, 4pm – Dusk. There will be games, food & fireworks which equals fun for the whole Family.

He announced National Night Out schedule for Tuesday, August 7, 2007.

Director Gailey reported that the city will host West Hardeeville and 2 Savannah schools in a 7 on 7 passing tournament on July 19th.

The Hardeeville Library will start their summer children series in the Community Room Friday, June 15th.

Public Works: Public Works begins cleanup of Hwy 46 tomorrow and mosquito spraying continues.

Growth management: Planning Director Snowden thanked City Manager, City Council and staff for their recent help in issuing a stop work order and other violations on a particular development. She reported that she sat on the panel at a conference on Sustainable Living in Beaufort County and attended an Urban Land Institute for Workforce Planning. Ms. Snowden introduced Chris Damgen, graduate from Clemson University with a masters in Planning and experience in urban design skills. Mr. Damgen thanked staff for welcoming him and he looks forward to helping citizens.

City Engineer Karen Jarrett reported attendance at a recent water quality class. She is working on stormwater regulations and creating a manual that will work for everyone. The mast arm project is making progress on highway 17. The Request for proposal has been issued and bid opening should occur sometime in July. Mayor Pro Tem Willis thanked Ms. Jarrett for all the help on the various projects for Public Works. Mayor Cannon stated that he has a contact number for an environmental group in DC.

Economic Development Director Ted Felder reported on the following: SC Economic Development Association meeting in Charleston, Exit 5 properties site certification, marketing city oversees with SC Department of Commerce, Statewide Education Training – 2nd of four sessions completed, Grand Opening on Main Street, USDA Grant Workshop hosted by Senator Jim DeMint, HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce DC Fly-In, Economic Development 501 c3, increase in invitations to speak on behalf of the city including HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, HHI Realtors Association Meeting, Keynote speaker at Greater Beaufort Chamber’s Bluffton Networking Group, Hardeeville Industry Appreciation event in the fall. Mr. Felder closed thanking the City Council for their participation in all events.

Municipal Court: Judge John Carroll reported 448 tickets processed last month, 10 arrest warrants issued. We are working with Chief Nagy and zoning to enforce any violations. Manager Haynes replied to Judge Carroll that he appreciated the tour of the facility and this is a great transformation into a court facilities building.

Manager’s Report: Manager Haynes reported on Jasper County Delegation meeting in the Community room next Thursday, June 14 at 6 p.m. to brief the community on the legislative sessions.

Manager Haynes reminded of the Jasper County Joint Planning meeting on June 26th at 6:30 p.m. at The Blue Heron Nature Center. Please RSVP as the County will be serving dinner.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Jones and seconded by Council Member Horton to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Virginia S. Haas, City Clerk

Date

SEAL