

Woodruff City Council Meeting
March 30, 2009
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Woodruff City Council was held on Monday, March 30, 2009 in the Council chambers at City Hall. The agenda for the meeting was posted on the bulletin board at city hall and faxed to the media the week prior to the meeting.

Mayor Brad Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members of Council present were: Mayor Brad Burnett; Mayor Pro-tem Mattie Norman; Council members Toni Sloan; Tony Kennedy, Kenneth Gist, James Smith and Buddy Arnold. Also present were City Attorney Terry Clark; City Manager Stephen Steese and Billing Clerk Kay Lawson.

Rev. Randall Parnell, pastor of Northside Baptist Church, led the group in a brief devotional.

The minutes of the February 23 Council meeting were passed unanimously on a motion by Council member Gist and a second from Council member Smith. Noted change was on page one, the name Mattie Norman.

The minutes of the March 16, 2009 Special Called Council Meeting were passed unanimously on a motion by Council member Smith and a second from Council member Arnold. Noted change was changing \$.5 to 4.5.

Mayor Burnett then recognized State Representative from District 35, Keith Kelly and State Senator from District 13, Shane Martin. Both men reminded Council that they were at the City's disposal with any questions and that they were proud to serve the citizens of the City of Woodruff.

Miss Teen Woodruff, Alexis Wilkinson, was then introduced to Council. She said she was proud to represent the City of Woodruff in the State Competition in the fall and hoped to represent the city in the National Competition.

Ms. Woodruff, Caroline Trawick was absent due to classes. She plans to be in town next Tuesday.

Ms. Lauren Ponder of the Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau was

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next on the agenda, and presented those present with the 2009 Visitors Bureau brochure. She thanked council for their \$2,000 contribution of Hospitality Funds to help cover the cost of the brochures. Ms. Ponder left a box of the brochures and said if the city needed more to just call her. Ms. Ponder stated that the web site would be going on line April 7, 2009.

Karen Page Davies was then appointed to the Historic Preservation Committee on a motion by Council member Smith and a second from Council member Sloan. The vote was unanimous.

The second reading of the Laurens Electric Franchise Agreement was next on the agenda. Council member Sloan made a motion to accept this as second reading of the agreement with council member Kennedy making a second. The vote was unanimous.

Discussion of the Fire Department County Bond was then discussed. Woodruff Fire Chief Steve Quinn made a presentation. Chief Quinn requested that council give himself, Ms. Cawley and Mr. Steese permission to proceed with the support of the County Bond. This bond will allow the fire department to get the needed equipment, plus repair to the main fire department (black mold, heat/air, roof repair). If this Bond does not go through, the city will have to fund these repairs. Chief Quinn stated that he had the best crew in the state and he wanted to give them the basic equipment needed to enable these volunteers to do their job safely. Chief Quinn said that he felt with these new fire trucks and equipment, three stations, along with the repairs to the main station; the department would be set for at least the next ten years. Right now the ISO is a 4-9 split and with this new station hopefully, we can get it down for everyone so their homeowners is not as much. Ms. Crawley's fee she reduced to between \$17,000 and \$20,000. If the GO Bond goes through the city can recoup her fees but if we don't get it, we have to absorb it. With no further discussion, Council member Sloan made a motion to authorize the city manager to contact Ms. Crawley in conjunction with the County GO Bond for the Fire Department. Council member Gist made a second to the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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Mr. Mike Doles was next on the agenda. Mr. Doles informed council that April 20-25 was Community Pride Week in conjunction with the Palmetto Pride throughout the state of South Carolina. There will be 4 large waste containers at different locations over Woodruff where citizens will be allowed to take their trash they have been wanting to get rid of. April 17-18, the Code Enforcement office will be working in conjunction with the Woodruff Police Department for Zero Tolerance for people throwing trash from their cars or not having a tarp over their truck beds with garbage in it. The city will provide for volunteers that want to participate and pick up trash on the road; bags and pick up sticks. Mr. Doles wanted a picture of Council members, Mr. Kelly and Martin and Miss Teen Woodruff behind the large sign to be displayed for Community Pride Week. A Proclamation declaring April 20-25 as Community Pride Week in Woodruff was then read by Mayor Burnett.

Council member Arnold asked Council if they had any issues for the Planning Commission to address. Mr. Steese has given a copy of Council's goals for last year and this year to be discussed at the Planning Commission's next meeting. Mr. Bell, Chairman of the Woodruff Planning Commission, told Council that he had two commissioners that would be completing their training at ACOG in a couple of weeks. The Commission plans to meet the second Thursday in April and will set their regular schedule at that time.

City Manager, Stephen Steese, reported to council that the budget was in line for this time of year. Council will have a special budget meeting sometime in April. Mr. Steese told council he will have a proposed 2009-2010 budget ready for them to go over at that meeting. He was currently waiting for word from State Insurance to see how much of an increase the city will have for employees.

Mayor Pro-tem Norman asked if the city was having any trouble with the Hospitality Funds coming in at a timely manner and Mr. Steese said that the city had a check from Bilo returned because of the filing of bankruptcy for the corporation. He was going to have to talk with them since they are collecting the hospitality tax but are not forwarding it to the city.

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City Manager Steese reported to council that Spartanburg County has procured an on-call engineering list to be used by Roads and Bridges, Parks and Recreation, Community and Economic Development, and any other department that may need engineering services. The city's procurement ordinance allows for cooperative purchasing and for the City to join with other units of Government. Mr. Steese had spoken with the County's Procurement Officer and the Contract Administrator for these contracts and both are fine with the City joining into this contract. The on-call list provides a list of approved and qualified vendors with a variety of skills. It was Mr. Steese's recommendation to formally submit a request to Spartanburg County's procurement office to use this contract. This would save the City of Woodruff a lot of money and time to get bids for these services for engineering services. These engineering firms are well known and the City of Woodruff has used some of them on different occasions. Council agreed to let Mr. Steese pursue this for the city.

The PRT Committee generated \$5,400 through their different events. They want to use those funds to upgrade their equipment. (portable stage repair, generator) A motion was made by Council member Sloan to allow the money generated through the committee to be used to upgrade, repair their equipment after they go through the city manager. A second to the motion was made by Council member Arnold and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Jeff Caton with Spartanburg County PRT told Manager Steese that the lights at the ball parks they removed, would be put back in April.

Harrison and Sons will be filling in the big hole where the building was torn down behind WK&B.

A request from city hall to investigate the city offices and police department moving into the old WK&B building was discussed. There are 5300 square feet downstairs and 3,000 feet upstairs. If this building could be used by the city, it could be upgraded by using TIF monies since it is in that district. Police Chief Dawkins has looked at the location and said he thought the downstairs would work for his department. The city can purchase the building for \$70,000. The police is currently paying about \$3,500 per month at their location and we don't own the building. A motion was

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made by council member Gist to allow the city manager to pursue costs, etc. for moving the city hall and police department. Council member Arnold made a second to the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The next council meeting will be April 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Council member Smith with a second to the motion was made by Council member Gist and the vote was unanimous.