

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING
JUNE 7, 2010 – 6:00 PM
ROSEWOOD CENTER
MINUTES**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Present were Council Members: Josh Harrison, Michael Sheriff, Dwight Yates, Brian Petersen and Walt McJunkin.

Absent: CM Rick Clark

Mayor Deese called the meeting to order at precisely 6:00 p.m. Mayor Deese welcomed Liberty's Building Official, Richard Davidson, to the meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-0601, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT CHANGES TO THE CITY ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE VI, SIGN REGULATIONS, SECTION 600.1 THROUGH SECTION 609.2

Mr. Davidson explained the City has not had a sign permit fee before and the first page of this ordinance there we have inserted a sign permit of \$25 except for religious or non-profit organizations. Mr. Davidson explained there have been some problems with what a banner is and what a sign is, so they have more clearly defined banners in the 602 section. Another change is that portable signs are usually 32 square feet and that was added to our ordinance since it was not in there. Also, new business will be allowed a portable sign or banner only for 60 days the first year. Mr. Davidson stated in section 607.1, one of the major changes is doing away with the large pole signs. The maximum height is 15 feet and the maximum size is 60 square feet and it is on a brick base or burm. Pole signs that are already here are grandfathered, but new signs have to go by this new ordinance. Council decided to delete (e) in section 607.1 regarding internal illumination of signs. In section 602.7, council decided to add only one sign be allowed per construction site and the 25 square feet was changed to 32 feet residential and non-residential. In section 602.6 council decided to add a 30 day time limit. Also, in section 601.7 council will add "see section 603.5 Political Signs".

ORDINANCE NO. 10-0602, AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT CHANGES TO THE CITY ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE VII, GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 723 AND SECTION 724

Mr. Davidson explained in Section 723 regarding parking, storage or use of campers or other major recreational equipment, we have amended the ordinance to include no recreational equipment stored in municipal corporate limits; parking to ten feet from the side and rear of the property; No equipment used for sleeping, living or housekeeping and no commercial vehicle larger than 1 ton can be parked in a residential area without permission from the Zoning Administrator, except for loading or unloading. Mayor Deese asked about trailers and rv's that are in deplorable condition. Mr. Davidson stated they would address that in the upcoming Planning & Zoning meeting. In Section 724 states that non operable vehicles and one not displaying a lawful and current tag shall be

completely enclosed in a building or rear yard behind a minimum of a 6' solid fence. Council suggested that section 724 include the trailers, rv's and vehicles.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-0603, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF LIBERTY'S ZONING ORDINANCE BY AMENDING THE CITY OF LIBERTY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE FROM CORE COMMERCIAL TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL THE PROPERTIES LISTED BY ACCOUNT NUMBER ON THE ATTACHED MAP

Mr. Davidson explained that for years we have had core commercial from Hwy 178 to Peachtree Street. He stated core commercial means there are no setbacks and you can build right up to the sidewalks. There are no parking requirements. Mr. Davidson said in order to have more control over these situations; we have rezoned the attached properties to general commercial. Council was in agreement with these changes.

ORDINANCE NO. 10-0604, AN ORDINANCE CLARIFYING UNSAFE BUILDING VIOLATIONS AND ATTACHING THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS FOR CONDEMNING AND DEMOLISHING STRUCTURES

Mr. Davidson stated in order to put more teeth into our ordinance regarding demolition of buildings, we are going by the S.C. Code of Laws, Title 31 – Housing and Redevelopment, Chapter 15, Dwellings Unfit for Habitation which states after proper notices, no rebuilding after 6 months and no response from the owner after 60 days, the city can demolish the building and send the costs to the Auditor's Office who will turn the fees over to the Delinquent Tax Assessor's Office. This office will auction the owner's property and the city will receive the demolition costs from this auction. He stated this ordinance is mainly for out-of-state owners.

Mr. Davidson discussed with council the building owned by the Johnson estate.

BUDGET

Mayor Deese informed council the 2010/2011 Budget will be on Monday night's council meeting agenda for the 2nd vote. He asked if anyone wanted to ask a question or comment on the budget. CM McJunkin asked a question concerning the contingency fund and commented on the \$1500 for senior citizens.

FACE BOOK/TWITTER

Mayor Deese stated regarding the face book and/or twitter page he thought council should discuss strategy such as what benefit this would bring to the city and who would be maintaining it. Mayor Deese and council decided to have a special meeting to discuss this issue.

FREEDOM PARK

Mayor Deese reported that mulch has been replenished in the playground area and a broken toy has been fixed. He reported the grass was cut this past Friday. CM Petersen reported that garbage bins and recycle bins have been ordered for the park. Also grills and benches have been ordered.

DOORS AT ROSEWOOD CENTER

This report will be given at a later time.

FIRING RANGE

Chief Miller presented council with an idea for a firing range in Liberty. He stated basically what they were trying to do was change the way they qualify for their firearms. Chief Miller stated in the past they only can stand in front of a target and shoot, starting off at 3 yards, and then keep moving back to 25 yards. He stated they have the land in Liberty that would need clearing. He stated they would like to build different angles to shoot from such as shooting from a window, behind a car, etc. He explained this would be completed in phases. Detective Gilstrap also spoke on the advantages of having a firing range. Council asked for an estimate on paper with drawings of the firing range so they could make an informed decision and Chief Miller stated this would be provided. He stated they didn't want to spend a lot of time on it if council didn't think they would approve it.

Chief Sargent gave council an update on the fire department brush truck. Mayor Deese reported to council on the grant monies and what would need to be done.

CM McJunkin had no report.

CM Petersen reported the grass at the church, hwy 178 and Mills Avenue is pretty excessive right now and we need to address the limbs. Mayor Deese stated the church has been contacted. Mayor Deese stated the chipper was not running last week, but has been fixed.

CM Sheriff updated council on the addition to the fire station. He stated he completed a walk through and generated a punch list which will be turned over to the contractor. He stated the contractor was not making suitable progress in this matter. He stated he wrote the contractor today and told him we needed to close this out before June 30th. CM Sheriff stated he would not approve any more vouchers for payment until all the items on the list were addressed.

CM Yates stated he complained about the condition of the grass at the church and the Clerk called the owners. He stated they sent someone who just half way cut the property which was not suitable. He stated it is substantially higher now. Also, he stated the field at the entrance to Mills Avenue and Anderson Drive on Hwy 178, the Duke Energy right-of-way has still not been cleaned up. Mayor Deese stated he would call Duke Energy.

CM Harrison had no report.

Mayor Deese thanked everyone for coming and he thanked CM Sheriff for all his architectural work that he did for the addition to the fire station.

ADJOURN

CM Dwight Yates made motion to adjourn

CM Josh Harrison seconded the motion

Vote: All in favor

Sue Woods, City Clerk

Verification/Mayor

Approval Date