

**CITY OF LIBERTY COUNCIL MEETING  
ROSEWOOD CENTER  
JANUARY 12, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Deese called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: CM Walt McJunkin, CM Brian Petersen, CM Josh Harrison, CM Dwight Yates, CM Michael Sheriff and CM Rick Clark

**INVOCATION**

CM McJunkin gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE**

CM Harrison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Approval of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 City Council Minutes*

- CM Rick Clark made motion to approve 11/10/08 City Council minutes
- CM Walt McJunkin seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

*Approval of January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Work Session Minutes*

- CM Michael Sheriff made motion to approve 01/05/09 Work Session minutes
- CM Josh Harrison seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

**TOPICS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mayor Deese and council congratulated the 8 and under Liberty Rec football team for their Palmetto Association Tri County League championship, the Liberty Rec Competition Cheerleaders for their 5<sup>th</sup> straight National State Championship and the Liberty High School Competition Cheerleaders for their 3<sup>rd</sup> straight 2A State Championship. Mayor Deese thanked the coaches and the parents and stated this speaks volumes for our Liberty Rec Department and its competitiveness. Tony Boiter, Recreation Director, stated these teams have worked really hard. He congratulated each team for their effort and hard work. He stated he believed the work they did at the Rec has a direct impact on what the high school teams accomplish. Missy Ricken, high school cheerleading coach, also stated she thought the rec department has a huge impact on how they perform when reaching high school. She stated these teams were tremendously talented. She thanked the parents for taking the girls to the tumbling practices. Rhonda Sauro, Liberty Chamber president presented plaques to this year's Christmas parade winners; Jimmy Powell, Liberty Fireman of the Year and Parade Grand Marshall, and floats; the Spotlight Dance Studio took 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Fellowship Community Church took 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their Happy Birthday Jesus float and Grace Baptist Church took 1<sup>st</sup> place for their Greatest Gift float. Harrison McClain, son of Kevin McClain, accepted an award for his father for judging the parade. Bob Hooper and Sam Wyche were also judges, but could not be there to accept their award.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Ordinance No. 09-0101, An Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Ordinance in (a) Section 723 Parking, Storage or Use of Campers or Other Major Recreational Equipment; and, (a) Section 724, Parking and Storage of Certain Vehicles***

Mayor Deese stated we have Wallace Gilstrap, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission with us tonight. He stated that it was his understanding that the Planning and Zoning Commission would like to make some changes to this proposed ordinance and present their changes to council at a later date. Mr. Gilstrap agreed with this. Mayor Deese stated he would entertain a motion at this time to table this ordinance until the Planning and Zoning Commission made their proposed changes to the ordinance and presented it to council for approval.

- *CM Sheriff made Motion to table Ordinance No. 09-0101*
- *CM Yates seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

CM Petersen stated this needs to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission's agenda on the monthly basis and with a resolution coming in the near future.

**Resolution:    *A resolution requiring all loan, lease or grant proposals to be presented to full council for discussion and approval before application is made.***

CM Petersen read the resolution as written.

*CM McJunkin made motion to approve the resolution.*

***Discussion:** Mayor Deese stated he did not have a problem with the resolution but he did have a problem with some of the language in the resolution since most of that was already required by state law. He stated any grant that has to have matching funds has to come to council for approval. He stated all departments applied for small grants and to him the language was a little stronger than it had to be. CM McJunkin stated he believed the intent of the resolution was so all council could be better informed. He stated he felt the entire council should be informed on matters so they could decide together they could make the best decision. CM McJunkin stated if the citizens of Liberty asked a council member about something, the council member should be informed and be able to answer the citizen's questions. Mayor Deese stated he thought, in the past, council has been informed on all matching grants. CM McJunkin stated the grant usually was already applied for when council was notified. CM Clark stated when you are notified that you may be in line for these grants, sometimes you need to apply then rather than wait for the council next work session. CM Petersen stated the language should not be stronger than what we need, but if it is already covered, then it is not an issue and we should not have any concern. CM Petersen called for the question. CM Sheriff stated he understood CM Petersen's intent to be the project or grant should be approved by council before anything is applied for. CM Petersen stated he has been on council for six years and in that time there have been several things brought to council in the*

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*eleventh hour and fifty ninth minute for them to vote on immediately. He stated that does not give council enough time to appropriately evaluate and make the right decision that affects every citizen in this city and that is the reason for the wording. CM Harrison stated the grants are posted in plenty of time for notice to be given to council. He stated when a grant was found that we may be able to obtain, then it needs to be sent to council to discuss before application is made. Mayor Deese stated a lot of grants applied for by the fire and police department are not matching fund grants. The ones that are brought before council. CM Clark stated if he received a grant notification on Wednesday that needed to be applied for on Friday, was he supposed to call a special meeting? CM Petersen stated the intent was that council had as much notice and time as possible to make an informed decision. Mayor Deese stated the questions has been called and asked for the vote.*

*Vote: 6 in favor*

*Opposed: Mayor Deese*

**DISCUSSION: NEW DOWNTOWN GAZEBO**

CM Sheriff presented an architectural drawing of the new downtown gazebo that is being proposed to council as a permanent place to stage the Liberty Idol and will be available for use by the citizens of Liberty year round. CM Sheriff stated he was on the committee for the Liberty Idol. He stated in our first meeting last week we reviewed the problems from last year's Liberty Idol and in this brainstorming session he came up with the idea of building a new gazebo downtown. He stated he thought this would solve a lot of problems, one of the biggest issues being closing off Commerce Street. CM Sheriff stated time is an issue in this proposal since the gazebo needs to be built before the start of the Liberty Idol in April. CM Clark gave council a rundown on the specifics of what it would take to build the gazebo and how it would look. He left the drawing up for anyone to look at after the meeting. CM Sheriff stated he was asking council to approve up to \$25000 to build the gazebo. CM Sheriff stated we estimated that it costs four or five thousand dollars to put the stage up and take it down every week, so this would offset that cost. He stated the funds would come from hospitality tax. CM McJunkin asked how much money the city had in hospitality tax. CM Sheriff stated we have \$109,000 in hospitality tax and \$30,000 discretionary funds set aside to match downtown's redevelopment grant. CM McJunkin and CM Harrison both stated they received complaints from downtown merchants who stated they lost money due to the Liberty Idol closing off Commerce Street last year. CM Sheriff stated this will solve that problem. CM Yates asked if any storage was available for the equipment. CM Sheriff stated no, there was no storage at this time, but this might could be added at a later time so the Liberty Idol equipment could be housed in it and locked. He stated it was a major thing to set all of that up and take it down. Mayor Deese stated we need to get this project up and going and then look at future endeavors to secure it.

- *CM Mcjunkin made motion to grant \$25000 in hospitality taxes for building the downtown gazebo.*
- *Vote: All in favor*

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**OLD BUSINESS: PEDESTRIAN PARK/ROSEWOOD CENTER LANDSCAPING**

CM Sheriff stated we are ready to put the Rosewood Center Landscaping out for bid. Mayor Deese asked for a motion to put this out for bid.

- *CM Clark made motion to put the Rosewood Center Landscaping project out for bid.*
- *CM Petersen seconded the motion.*
- *Vote: All in favor*

Mayor Deese asked if there was anything further on the Pedestrian Park and CM Sheriff stated he needed to follow up on that. The Clark asked if there was a bid package on the Rosewood Center Landscaping and CM Sheriff stated he would help her write the RFP. Mayor Deese stated the funds for the landscaping project would come from TIF.

**CDBG GRANT: EXPANSION OF LIBERTY FIRE STATION**

CM Clark stated he was making a motion to table this discussion until they could call a special meeting in the next week or so. He stated he felt like this was an important topic and council needed to sit down and hash this out.

*CM Clark made a motion to table this discussion  
Vote: All in favor*

Council decided that on next Monday, January 19, 2009 at 6:00 pm they could hold a special meeting to discuss the CDBG Grant for expansion of the fire department.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chamber President Rhonda Sauros stated the Chamber has started "Chamber member of the month." The first member of the month was Southern Vinyl which was presented with a plaque and a banner. This was met with great response. Ms. Sauros showed council a copy of the plaque which has a space for each new monthly member. She stated the Chamber decided to hang the plaque at City Hall so everyone could see what they were doing. Council was okay with this and the plaque was given to the City Clerk for her to hang.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Miller reported the following:

**November 2008**

Warnings Issued- 70  
Citations Issued- 196

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Juveniles Housed- 15

Total amount of fine money collected- \$11, 359.41

**Total arrested – 10**

Three for Driving Under Suspension

One for Simple Assault

One for Disturbing School

One for Reckless Driving and Failure to obey person directing traffic

One for Driving with unlawful alcohol concentration

One for Driving Under the Influence

One for leaving scene of accident and No South Carolina drivers License

One on Bench warrant for Driving under Suspension

**Total calls for service – 160**

Patrol Activities- 116

Public Service – 26

Code Enforcement- 11

Traffic Accidents – 7

**December 2008**

Warnings Issued- 76

Citations Issued- 117

Juveniles Housed – 18

Total amount of fine money collected- \$12, 805.60

**Total Arrested- 4**

One for Driving Under the Influence 3<sup>rd</sup> and Driving Under Suspension

One for Simple Assault

One for Simple Assault, Damage to Property and Disorderly Conduct

One on Bench warrant for Driving under Suspension

**Total calls for service- 159**

Patrol Activities- 115

Public Service- 23

Code Enforcement- 13

Traffic accidents- 8

Training During the months of November and December;

Officers Weinmuller and Shockley completed Data Master Training and updates at the Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia.

Officer Carroll and Lee completed Radar Training at Simpsonville PD.

Sgt. Elder attended two (LEN) training sessions (The PD was awarded a light generator for our efforts).

Two Active Shooter sessions at the Middle and High School involving all Officers.

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Detective Gilstrap Completed his Firearms Instructor Course at the Horry County Law Enforcement Center.

Officer Carroll attended a TSA LEO flying while armed at the Pickens Law Enforcement Center. Officer Chappell attended a class on Storm Water runoff in Columbia.

Chief Miller stated after listening to the resolution regarding grants he would ask the council's blessing to be able to go ahead and apply for grants like body armor, tasers and things of that nature which they usually get around \$1500 for. Chief Miller stated these are usually first come, first serve. He stated when he gets the letter, he takes it to Josie and we fill it out with out receipts and send it in. CM Petersen stated the resolution was not to put the city in a state of paralysis, but if you are not on that particular committee, then you do not know what is going on. CM Petersen asked Chief Miller to put something in the council's mail box so they would know what was going on. Chief Miller explained a grant regarding Smith & Wesson firearms.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER	
City:	25
County:	56

Chief Sargent reported the following:

Training: We had two paid men to complete the 28 hr. Fire Instructor class.

Equipment: Our station generator which powers City Hall, Fire Dept. and Police Dept. is still out of service. It will not stay on-line. Olin said he almost has the new generator ready but we still need a fuel tank which he can get from Lindsey Oil Company for about \$300.

The required paperwork on the ladder truck, with signatures, has been sent to the American Test Center for our Certificate of Inspection.

Brush 1 which was purchased by the Rural District, is in service with the new tool boxes.

Squad 6 is still out of service with no water on board due to the winter conditions and the ladder truck also has no water or 5" LDH. A pumper will have to lay the 5" line to the truck if it is needed. All we have on this truck are the air packs and hand lights.

During a conversation in the last work session, we were asked why we couldn't put a cover over the hose bed on the ladder truck like the other trucks to protect the hose. To correct any misconception, we don't have hose bed covers on any of our trucks except the ladder truck and it is ripped in several places from end to end. This still would not protect for freezing temperatures.

We now have a new hydraulic leak on the ladder truck at the turntable area that has developed since cold weather arrived. I talked with the service technician today and he thinks that the o-rings may have shrunk in size or a broken gasket has caused this leak. I will know later about the expense of this repair. It will be another trip to the Spartanburg shop if they can make the repair or send it to someone that can repair it. We will probably continue to have these types of repairs until the truck can be housed. Chief Sargent was asked by CM Yates if he were to get a call tonight that required use of the ladder truck, could he use it. Chief Sargent they could to an extent. They did not have the certificate back which would allow them to have someone on the

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ladder, but as far as operating it yes, it could go to the scene and another truck would have to run a line to it. Once it was charged it would start flowing water. CM Yates asked if this hydraulic leak had any control over extending the ladder. Chief Sargent stated no and he explained the hydraulic leak. CM McJunkin asked how much money we have spent having the ladder truck repaired since we purchased it? Chief Sargent stated around \$8500. Jimmy Powell was voted on by the department as the Paid Firefighter of the Year. Tim Black was voted on by the department as the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

Director, Ray Clark reported there were 12 new accounts, 19 finalized, 39 cut offs and 2 taps. Mayor Deese asked Olen Hamlin to report to council on the water line on Norris Avenue. Olen stated he had finished about half the houses that were in the worst shape. He stated he got some extra help during the holidays from other municipalities. Hopefully we will have the line completed under the railroad tracks finished and running sufficient by the end of the week. Olen stated they were having sewer problems on Black Bottom Road that he was trying to take care of. He was asked by council where we stood on the sewer project where the fences have to be moved. He stated he had one more home that needed to move their fence. He stated he ordered all the manholes and they should be here by the end of the week.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

CM Dwight Yates read the following report from Tony:

1. Basketball season is underway now through the first of March. We have 16 teams this year, which is four more than we had last year. There is an average of ten players on each team. This is an all time record for total teams.
2. We are currently taking registrations for volleyball through January 26<sup>th</sup>. The season will officially start by the first week of March and go until the first week of April.
3. We plan to take registrations for baseball and flag football starting January 26<sup>th</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup>. Both of these seasons will go through the end of May.
4. Plans are to have a salute to the Textile Leagues Tournament at some time toward the end of June or first of July. This would be a huge event for Liberty since the town was a major part of the old textile leagues years ago. I would like to make this an annual event for Liberty and preserve the heritage that Liberty has in the textile leagues. The tournament would be a wood bat format and plans would be to hold an old timers game that would be a great tie in with the tournament itself. Of course this would be contingent on the success of the grant project to improve the Woodside Park restrooms.
5. Concessions and special events is currently over \$28,000 for the year. The weather has been great for all our outdoor events for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal year.

**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**CM Walt McJunkin**

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CM McJunkin reported there are two real bad places in the road on Hillandale that need fixing. He stated it looks like about half of the road is coming up and it may be due to the cold weather. CM McJunkin stated if vehicles meet on this road one has to stop. Also, CM McJunkin stated he wanted to talk to Barry later about some street lights that are out.

**CM Brian Petersen**

CM Petersen stated he had received some calls regarding needing limbs picked up. He stated he realized that we have been inundated with limbs lately due to the strong wind we have had. We need to keep after that.

**CM Michael Sheriff**

No report.

**CM Dwight Yates**

CM Yates reported on East Beattie Street at the corner of the mill, it may be Burns; we had a water leak last summer or early fall that we repaired. CM Yates stated there is a giant hole that needs to be filled in and repaired.

**CM Rick Clark**

No report.

**CM Josh Harrison**

CM Harrison stated he would encourage all businesses to stay open during the Liberty Idol. He stated if anyone knew any business owners to please encourage them to stay open during the Liberty Idol.

Mayor Deese stated he would like to thank all the councilmen for their input. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated we need to get our year going and started off right. He stated we are beginning to review budgets and so forth and as we get some numbers put together we will be reviewing those together. He stated he appreciated everyone and thanked them for coming.

**ADJOURN**

- *CM Rick Clark made motion to adjourn.*
- *CM Brian Petersen seconded the motion.*
- *All voted in favor.*

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V. Sue Woods, Clerk

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Approval Date

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Verification/Mayor