

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.  
ROSEWOOD CENTER  
MINUTES**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and wished them a happy new year. He commented he hoped we would have a blessed year. Present were Council Members: Josh Harrison, Walt McJunkin, Michael Sheriff, Rick Clark, and Brian Petersen.

Absent: Dwight Yates

Others Present: Chief Miller, Chief Sargent

Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and the meeting started at precisely 6:00 p.m.

CM Petersen made a motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on city ordinances regarding vehicles as well as to enter into executive session to discuss policies and procedures as well as some personnel matters. CM Walt McJunkin seconded the motion. All were in favor. The clerk added the same to the agenda.

**DISCUSSION: EMILY DeRoberts/DUKE ENGERGY**

Emily DeRoberts, representative from Duke Energy, attended this work session to discuss the renewal of the existing municipal agreement which expires in April. She stated the new agreement is not ready to be presented yet. Greenville and the Municipal Association are looking over new agreements now. Emily presented an addendum to the agreement concerning matching funds for overhead to underground conversion. She discussed how over a five year period, Duke would place aside funds to go toward funds for overhead to underground conversion. The city would have to match those funds at the end of the five year period. Council stated they would be discussing this and would be able to let Duke Energy know their decision at a later date.

**DISCUSSION: BUDGET AND REVENUE REVIEW**

Mayor Deese explained at this time of year our budget should be at 50% and right now we are at 52%. We are two percent under-budget. He stated if you go strictly by department, some are a little under and some are a little over. Mayor Deese stated we are starting to look at next year's budget and I will have a second contingency budget in case we were to lose the revenue from one of our businesses in town that contributes 45% of our water revenue. This is just to be a little more proactive in protecting our budget in these tough economic times. We will not really start to receive the bulk of our revenues until the next month or so. Mayor Deese invited council to come to his office anytime to discuss any budget issues they may have.

**DISCUSSION: PEDESTRIAN PARK**

CM Sheriff stated he has not heard anything from the email he sent. Councilman Sheriff stated we need to put this on the agenda for Monday night's council meeting for a vote. Mayor Deese stated this has been frustrating but we are almost at the point to put it out for bid.

### **DISCUSSION: ROSEWOOD CENTER LANDSCAPING**

Mayor Deese stated we have a preliminary “final” drawing which is on the table for everyone to look at. There will be a change to move the flag pole to the other side of the building. We will then be ready to get council’s approval and to put it out for bids. Mayor Deese stated he and CM Sheriff had a discussion on lighting and they would need to incorporate some kind of lighting into the plans also. They would also like that theme of lighting to go throughout the rest of the city to have everything uniform in appearance. Two other projects we want to see completed at the Rosewood Center is replacement of the front doors and the lift for the stairs. The Rosewood Center is fast becoming an asset not just to our community, but to Pickens County.

### **DISCUSSION: CDBG/FIRE STATION EXTENSION**

CM Clark explained that, as everyone already knew, between the grant funds and the contract costs regarding the CDBG grant, there turned out to be about a \$36,000 difference in what ACOG told us. \$36,000 was the costs of tying all of the water pipes in under the underpass. The first letter we received from Bonnie Ammons, Department of Commerce, was not very encouraging regarding help with these extra funds, but CM Clark talked with Ms. Ammons on the telephone and explained our situation. Since then things have softened up a bit and we are still waiting to hear. We should hear something by Wednesday or Thursday of this week. CM Clark stated on November 26<sup>th</sup> we received a grant in the amount of \$192,000 for the expansion of two bays for the fire department. Our match to that is \$50,350. Our bays are woefully lacking to house the equipment we have. Our ladder truck is sitting out in the weather. If anything ever happened on Commerce Street we would certainly need our ladder truck. Our problem is we have too much stuff outside. According to the ISO we could lose our ISO rating if they were to audit us, from 5, it could go to 10. That would be bad for homeowners whose homeowners insurance would go up quite a bit. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet our equipment needs. When we went out door to door and got our CDBG qualified, we only had a three year period. We are in year two of that now. So our time is really getting short to take advantage of this grant opportunity. Not many cities get a grant in their first year and a grant in the second year also. We cannot take a chance on getting one in year three. We have several different options for the \$50,000 match. First of all we could sell the property we bought. We have retiring people in the next year; we could freeze that position for a year. CM Sheriff asked why we were not building the fire station on the property we bought for that purpose. CM Clark stated that the rural fire district is building a station at Flat Rock and if we built on that property, every station would be on one side of the railroad tracks. There is not a better location for the fire department than where it is now. It is centrally located. CM Sheriff asked what we were going to do about parking. He stated we are cramped now and we have got to look at other space eventually for either administrative or police. Mayor Deese stated he hoped in a couple of years we would be able to obtain the middle school. There was some discussion on parking alternatives such as restriping Church Street. CM Petersen stated the fire department grant cannot be acted on at this time anyway until we complete everything on the CDBG. There was discussion on how much equipment and personnel would be moved to the Flat Rock station and what equipment would be housed here. CM Harrison asked if the fire station was expanded would every single of equipment be brought in. Mayor Deese stated the ladder truck would be brought in and the other pumper and when the other fire station is completed the rest of the equipment will be

brought in. Mayor Deese stated ten years from now all of us may not be here and we need to look to the future and make sure that we make the best decisions possible. After more discussion it was decided this subject would be put on the agenda for the coming Monday night's meeting for more discussion.

**DISCUSSION: LIBERTY VISION WORK RETREAT**

Mayor Deese stated the date for council's work retreat this year is March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Rosewood Center. Mayor Deese requested that each councilman be thinking of projects to be working on for the future as well as completion of projects that are going on now.

**DISCUSSION: CITY VEHICLES**

CM Petersen addressed council on the proposed changes to the vehicle ordinance that will be discussed in a public hearing tomorrow night at the Planning and Zoning meeting. Mayor Deese stated this was being proposed to put more teeth into our ordinance regarding cars parked in residential yards. We need to make sure that unlicensed vehicles are not exposed to other residents. Council will wait until this is presented to them by the Planning and Zoning Commission before making a decision.

Mayor Deese stated he would like for council to think about changing and making all council members at large. He stated maybe this could be further discussed at work retreat. Mayor Deese stated another thing he would like for council to think about was that here, we take office immediately after we are elected, and waiting the 48 hours of course, but we need to consider waiting until January 1<sup>st</sup> to officially take office. After some discussion on this subject, council decided to also discuss this at the work retreat.

- CM Petersen made motion to go into executive session
- CM Sheriff seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

Adjourn

- CM Clark made motion to adjourn
- CM Harrison seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

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Sue Woods, City Clerk

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Verification/Mayor

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Approval Date