

**CITY OF LIBERTY COUNCIL MEETING
ROSEWOOD CENTER
FEBRUARY 11, 2008 - 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

Call to Order

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

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

Invocation

CM Josh Harrison gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

CM Dwight Yates led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Approval of January 14th, 2008 City Council Minutes

- CM Michael Sheriff made motion to approve 12/10/07 City Council minutes
- CM Walt McJunkin seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

Approval of February 4th, 2008 Work Session minutes

- CM Dwight Yates made motion to approve 01/07/08 WS minutes
- CM Brian Petersen seconded the motion
- Vote: All in favor

Topics From The Public: None

Financial Statement: Drake Curry

Overall, Mr. Curry stated Liberty has had a good year on the business side approach. He gave each councilman a copy of the Financial Statement. There was a discrepancy with Liberty Denim regarding their water consumption. He stated that this is something the City needs to seriously look at. CM Clark stated Liberty Denim has gone on a water conservation program.

Old Business:

To Amend the Motion Regarding the Recommendation on Rezoning three properties from the Planning and Zoning Commission

Mayor Deese stated we received a signed recommendation form from the Planning and Zoning Committee to disapproving the rezoning of properties located at 331 West Front St. and 109 S. Peachtree St. together on the same recommendation form. The individual making the application for rezoning had applied separately. Council feels like this is a grey area and we need to revisit this since council took one vote on two properties since they were submitted on the same form. Mayor Deese stated the councilman who made the motion at the last meeting may want to rescind the motion. It would take a unanimous vote in favor of rescinding the motion for it to

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pass. CM Sheriff stated he would like to rescind his motion to deny the application for rezoning the properties located at 331 West Front St. and 109 S. Peachtree St. based on the fact that the information I received was incorrect. Mayor Deese stated based on what he had read it does not require a second. The vote was all in favor of CM Sheriff rescinding the motion. Mayor Deese stated we now need to put the properties back on the table independently.

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 331 West Front Street from Medium Density Residential to Office Commercial:

- *CM Clark made motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 331 W. Front Street*
- *CM McJunkin seconded the motion*
- *Vote: 6 in favor*
- *Abstaining: Mayor Deese*

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 109 S. Peachtree Street from Medium Density Residential to Office Commercial:

- *CM Clark made motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 109 S. Peachtree St.*
- *CM Petersen seconded the motion*
- *Vote: 2, CM Yates and CM McJunkin voted in favor to approve the application – 3 were not in favor of approving the application, CM Clark, CM Petersen and CM Sheriff*
- *Abstaining: CM Harrison and Mayor Deese*

Mayor Deese stated this matter was tabled at our last meeting and the councilman tabling this issue would have to put it back on the table for discussion

- *CM Petersen made the motion to put back on the table the discussion of the property located at 327 West Front Street and put it back on the table for discussion*
- *Vote: All in favor of putting the discussion back on the table*

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 327 West Front Street from Medium Density Residential to Office Commercial

- *CM Petersen made motion to approve the application for rezoning the property located at 327 W. Front Street*
- *CM Sheriff seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

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New Business :

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Deese requested that the Agenda be amended to include a vote and discussion on vehicle purchases for the police department.

- *CM McJunkin made motion to amend the agenda to include the purchase of cars for the police department*
- *CM Sheriff seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

Mayor Deese made a motion to allow Chief Miller to purchase the two vehicles for the police department:

- *CM McJunkin made motion to allow the police department to purchase two cars for the police department*
- *CM Clark seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

Discussion:

Chief Miller stated he proposed to get rid of the department's 2000 model vehicles and purchase two new vehicles now. By doing this it would put the department back on a rotation of vehicles instead of having to purchase three or four vehicles at one time. The fire department will get back the red car and we will sell the white crown vic. That will help pay for one of the vehicles and the wages that we are not paying now for an assistant police chief will help pay for the other vehicle.

Resolution of Intent to Accept Flood Ordinance

Mayor Deese asked for a vote for acceptance of the *Resolution of Intent of City Council to require recognition and evaluation of flood, or flood-related erosion hazards in all official actions relating to the land use in areas having these hazards*

Vote: All in favor of approving the resolution

1st Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0201, An Ordinance to Adopt South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

- *CM Clark made motion to approve the 1st Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0201*
- *CM Petersen seconded the motion*

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- *Vote: All in favor*

Discussion: Liberty/Idol Hospitality Tax

Mayor Deese stated we discussed this matter in work session of taking \$10,000 from the Hospitality Tax and moving it as a line item for the city to be the major sponsor in the Liberty Idol. This event has proved to be a major event for the last two years. Last year we had over 4,000 people at the finale. After it gets under way this year we may be looking at 4000 to 6000 people in downtown Liberty weekly. The Chamber is going to apply for a grant to help out with the Liberty Idol and the City has applied for a grant. I think this is a minor amount for what Liberty Idol does for the City of Liberty.

- *CM Yates made motion to approve moving \$10,000 from the Hospitality Tax to a line item for the City to be the major sponsor for the Liberty Idol*
- *CM Petersen seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

Discussion:

CM Yates asked how the expenditures were going to be determined. Mayor Deese stated it would be put on a spread sheet. CM Yates asked who was going to be in control of that. Mayor Deese stated Josie was. CM Yates asked who determined how the funds are delegated. Mayor Deese stated in the past it has been City Hall. Mayor Deese stated a spread sheet would be furnished to each councilman.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Melanie Ginn reported that there was a change on the minutes council received in that the Business After Hours has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later time.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Department

Police Chief Miller reported the following:

JANUARY	
Warnings Issued:	42
Citations Issued:	69
Calls for Service:	155
Auto Accidents:	10
Juveniles Housed:	29

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Arrests	12
Code Enforcement	15
Public Service Calls	179
Total Fines Collected	\$6,577.89

Chief Miller explained some of the items on the above list. Chief Miller also gave a report from the schools. He explained that the schools are cracking down on tobacco use. Mayor Deese stated we are catching these problems early in the middle school and possibly heading off future problems.

Fire Department

JANUARY	
City:	14
County:	16

Chief Sargent reported they are in the process of inspecting all businesses in the city limits. They inspected two new businesses, Samantha's Home Cooking and Commerce Street Butcher Shop. They received the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. This was a grant filed by CM Rick Clark through FEMA for 33 sets of Turn-Out gear for all firefighters. The FEMA portion is \$44,027 and the matching portion for the City will be \$2,318. Due to rising prices from last year, the gear will cost an additional \$2,447. This is a total for the City of \$4,765 which equates to a little over three sets of gear. All personnel have been measured and the gear is on order. CM Clark also filed for the state V-Safe grant in which we received \$29,886 for 5" hose and 5 new air packs for the ladder truck. There is no matching portion for this grant. The new fire nozzles for the ladder truck have arrived and have been placed on the truck. Chief Sargent is in the process of getting prices of additional equipment we need.

Public Works Department

Director, Ray Clark reported for the month of January the water department had 26 cut-offs, 24 new services, 16 finalized and 2 taps. Mayor Deese stated the State is preparing several of Liberty's roads for asphalt. It will be after we get our water lines replaced on those streets before they will be asphalted.

Recreation Department

Mayor Deese reported baseball sign ups are going on now. Tony has some inmates from the county helping to clean up Freedom Park. They cleaned up a lot of under brush and cut down some smaller trees. We will need to remove about 5 trees around that area. There are 3 big trees

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that are dying and 2 are leaning toward the walking trail. We have a good bid for \$1500 which includes grinding all the stumps. There are about 20 stumps to grind.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

CM Walt McJunkin

CM McJunkin reported our beaver situation is going to be delayed for a while. I spoke with Dale Crumpton in Six Mile. He came over Friday afternoon and met with Mr. Gregory's wife. Mr. Gregory is the one who has been unstopping the lake. We will have to have a permit to set the traps. John Garner has on order 15 or 20 beaver traps. I will be getting back in touch with Mr. Crumpton about how much he will charge to do this.

CM Brian Petersen

CM Petersen stated a few people had inquired with him about the repaving and the sewer concerns. He addressed those issues and reported that those people will be happy when both those things occur.

CM Michael Sheriff

CM Sheriff stated he wanted to let the other councilmen know that work has begun on pedestrian park. He reported we are moving forward. There are some issues which we are addressing.

CM Dwight Yates

CM Yates stated he would like to thank Eric Boughman at Ingles for working with the City on the gas purchases for city vehicles. He was able to save the City 10 to 12 cents a gallon on gas purchases and that runs around \$350 per month or thereabout. Mayor Deese stated we could hit as high as \$10,000 per year in savings.

CM Rick Clark

CM Clark did not have a report at this time.

CM Josh Harrison

CM Harrison did not have a report at this time at this time.

Mayor Deese reminded everyone of the work retreat on Saturday, March 1st. He stated for councilmen to be thinking about their vision and things they wanted to see accomplished.

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Adjourn

- CM Dwight Yates made motion to adjourn.
- CM Josh Harrison seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor.

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Approval Date

Verification/Mayor