

**CITY OF LIBERTY COUNCIL MEETING
ROSEWOOD CENTER
MARCH 10, 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 Walt McJunkin gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

CM Michael Sheriff led the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Approval of February 11th, 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

Topics From The Public: None

Old Business:

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0201, An Ordinance to Adopt South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources' Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

- *CM Rick Clark made motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0201*
- *CM Brian Petersen seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0202, An Ordinance Rezoning Property From Medium Density Residential to Office Commercial – 327 W. Front Street

- *CM Brian Petersen made motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0202*
- *CM Dwight Yates seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0203, An Ordinance Rezoning Property From Medium Density Residential to Office Commercial – 331 W. Front Street

- *CM Walt McJunkin made motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 08-0203*

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- *CM Josh Harrison seconded the motion*
- *Vote: All in favor*

New Business : None

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Melanie Ginn was not present due to sickness. Mayor Deese informed everyone that the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to a \$5000 sponsorship for the Liberty Idol. Mayor Deese also stated that Melanie Ginn has applied for a beautification grant. He stated we were very pleased that the Chamber has been proactive and we appreciate their help with the Liberty Idol.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Department

Police Chief Miller reported the following:

FEBRUARY	
Warnings Issued:	52
Citations Issued:	52
Calls for Service:	115
Auto Accidents:	10
Juveniles Housed:	28
Arrests	5
Code Enforcement	7
Public Service Calls	33
Total Fines Collected	\$5,076.53

Chief Miller explained some of the items on the above list. Chief Miller also read the School Resource Officer reports from the middle and high schools and explained the offenses to council. He reported SRO Ticknor took students from the Law Enforcement Explorer Program at the High School to Columbia where they watched a session of the Senate and attended a meeting with the Senate Budget Committee. While in Columbia, they also met with Governor Sanford in his office. Mayor Deese asked if they took any pictures for our newsletter. Chief Miller stated it came up quick and they did not have a chance to take any pictures. CM McJunkin commented that Officer Ticknor was doing a good job with the morning and afternoon traffic. Chief Miller

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stated he went to Beaufort to pick up one of the new patrol cars. It is a black and white Dodge Charger with a light on top. It is a good looking car. We are waiting for everything to come in to install on the car to get it ready for the road. Olen will be doing the installation on this car. It should be out and about in a couple of weeks.

Fire Department

FEBRUARY	
City:	10
County:	31

Chief Sargent had to attend another meeting to take exams. In his absence, CM Brian Petersen read a letter from Fire Chief Butch Womack of Easley, thanking Chief Sargent and his staff for their assistance with a fire on Sunday, February 10th. CM Petersen read the following report from Chief Sargent: We are in the process of inspecting all businesses in the city limits. We inspected one new business in February, Double M Produce located at 201 Anderson Dr. We anticipate having all other businesses inspected by the end of the month. We have ordered the turn-out gear provided through the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. This was the FEMA grant for 33 sets of Turn-Out gear for all firefighters at a cost to the City of \$4,765 a \$47,892 value. The 5” supply hose and the 5 air packs have been ordered for Ladder 1. The order should be in this week. We will be over the grant amount of \$29,886 by \$810 due to increased prices. The Explorer trip was February 1st though the 3rd in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. We had two firefighters go as chaperones and the eight explorers attended and participated in the competition. They did not place but performed well for the first time. Two firefighters completed the 16 hr. auto extrication class. Two firefighters completed the 8 hr. class at the Fire Academy in Columbia on Flammable Liquids and Gas. The county council approved last Monday, March 6, the building of the county fire training center at the old water plant site at a cost of approximately \$450,000. They will proceed with the project as soon as the city council conveys the land to the county. We also had two students doing job shadowing in the month of February. Mayor Deese read a letter to council he received from County Administrator, Chap Hurst, regarding the conveying the old water plant property to them for the new fire training facility. Mayor Deese stated this would be on the agenda at the next work session for council’s discussion and review.

Public Works Department

Director, Ray Clark reported for the month of February the water department had 31 cut-offs, 16 new services, 22 finalized and 2 taps. Mayor Deese stated they would wait to pave Peachtree Street until we replaced the water lines. Peachtree Street is Phase I of that project and Front Street is Phase II. Mayor Deese stated he has not been told specifically that they will not hold off paving Front Street until we get the water lines in, but they may because of time constraints. CM. Clark stated they were going to try to run Phase I and Phase II semi concurrently so we can get in Front Street along with Peachtree. That is the last thing we want is a new paved road we have to dig up. Mayor Deese reported he has a meeting Wednesday morning with the SCDOT to discuss the light at the corner of 93 and Peachtree Street. We will be discussing the utilities and

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everything on that specific corner. CM Petersen stated he would suggest we try to get them to use a cantilever light system instead of the wire we now have. Mayor Deese stated he thought that was the new process or guidelines now. CM McJunkin stated he thought now would be a good time to bring up sign post. He stated we discussed this at the Work Retreat. He reported that signs and their posts were leaning all over town. CM McJunkin stated they can be moved back when they are leaning over and whatever it takes to get this straightened out, we should do it. Mayor Deese stated he would assign that to Barry Chappell, Code Enforcement Office, to go around and check those and write down those addresses so that the Public Works Department could go back and repair or replace them. Mayor Deese reported that council has suggested driving through the four wards in the City, one ward a day, looking for violations.

Recreation Department

Mayor Deese reported Tony has 19 baseball teams. Several other sports are beginning now also.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

CM Walt McJunkin

CM McJunkin stated he wanted to mention the street signs, but other than that, he did not have a report at this time.

CM Brian Petersen

CM Petersen stated he did not have a report at this time.

CM Michael Sheriff

CM Sheriff stated he did not have a report at this time.

CM Dwight Yates

CM Yates stated he did not have a report at this time.

CM Rick Clark

CM Clark stated he wanted to make sure the Environmental Fee was on the Work Session Agenda. He stated he thought we could do better than charging someone for 2 bags of garbage the same as someone like Ingles. CM Clark asked if we were going to receive a combined hard copy or something to look at from the Design Day drawings. Mayor Deese stated they are working on that and maybe we will have it by our April Work Session. CM Clark stated regarding the streetscape grant that we are applying for; I can ask Barry if what we have in mind for the streetscape and he can tell me if it will fit in with their design plan for Liberty. Mayor Deese stated yes, but we have not chosen any light fixtures or landscaping yet. CM Clark stated he would need the information fairly quick since the grant is due.

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CM Josh Harrison

CM Harrison stated attending the council's annual work retreat last weekend; it was a nice thing to see where our city is heading. I don't think people realize it, but the vision is there and we're all working toward it.

Mayor Deese we will review the environmental increase in our next work session to see if there is a better way to handle this increase. CM Clark asked that we go ahead and get either a two or three tiered system so we have some numbers to work with at the work session. CM Sheriff stated he has received calls and CM Yates has received calls regarding this matter, and he could not argue with the citizens. It is not a fair system the way it is set up and we have some options that we will be discussing.

Adjourn

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

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Approval Date

Verification/Mayor