

**CITY OF LIBERTY WORK SESSION MEETING
MAY 5, 2008 - 6:00 P.M.
ROSEWOOD CENTER
MINUTES**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Deese. Present were Council Members: Josh Harrison, Brian Petersen, Walt McJunkin, Michael Sheriff, and Dwight Yates.
Absent: CM Rick Clark
Others Present: Chief Miller, Chief Sargent and Ray Clark
Mayor Deese welcomed everyone and the meeting started at precisely 6:00 p.m.

JIMMY MOORE

Jimmy Moore, candidate for Pickens County Clerk of Court spoke to council on his qualifications and desire to be Clerk of Court.

DISCUSSION: COMPETITION SALES LICENSE FEE

Mayor Deese asked council for their feelings regarding changing the business license rate class for Competition Sales which is an e-commerce business. Mayor Deese stated we have businesses in town that may not be all e-commerce business, but they do ship their product all over the world. Mayor Deese also stated he felt it was untrue that, as Mr. Collins's stated, he did not need any of the protections provided by the city such as police and fire protection. Mayor Deese stated Mr. Collins does receive his income here in the city. Mayor Deese stated he does understand the dilemma CM Petersen stated we have criteria that have to be met at this point. CM Petersen stated his business is also in the same rate class as Mr. Collins. CM Petersen stated we, as a council, should recognize this type of business was going to become more and more familiar in cities and we may need to be proactive in creating a friendly place in our market place for this business. Mayor Deese stated he was open to all suggestions but we need to put our heads together and figure out what kind of scale we could live with. CM Sheriff stated he did not think we needed to make a decision on this matter until we have thoroughly research it. CM Sheriff stated we do need to be on the cutting edge of properly rating e-commerce business and maybe putting it on some kind of different sliding scale, but I do not see any justification in relaxing the ordinance for one business at this time. We just need to look at it. CM McJunkin stated he knew we could not change the ordinance now, but we certainly need to look at this for down the road. Mayor Deese stated he and Sue would get together and do some research on this and not just in South Carolina, but other states, and come up some scale of our own. Mayor Deese stated we want to encourage business in the city and we will certainly keep an open mind and be proactive on this. The clerk asked about the business license for this year and was told he would have to follow the guidelines that are in place for this year but if we changed his rate for next year, we would be open to looking at prorating his fee. CM Petersen stated he proposed that we maintain the same codes for this year and that Mr. Collins pay based on his current rate, but we are taking this under serious advisement and will be undertaking some nationwide research to determine the correct scale for this business.

DISCUSSION: ENVIRONMENTAL FEE

Mayor Deese stated for the last two weeks we have collected cardboard throughout the city. We have not weighed it or turned it in yet, but hopefully it will be enough to offset this county fee. If not, we may need to look at increased charges for those who have dumpsters. CM Sheriff suggested we table this discussion until we determine what we would receive from the colleted cardboard and we have a better study on it. CM Petersen stated there was a company he has been talking with who would drop off dumpsters with lids on them and doors on the side. They would

be happy to supply the dumpsters for newspapers, magazines and office paper and pay us \$15 per ton. They would distribute the dumpsters wherever we would like within the city. CM Petersen stated we could create a “green” campaign to inform people of the dumpsters. CM Petersen stated the city would incur absolutely no cost in this endeavor. Mayor Deese asked CM Petersen to get Sue the information on this and we might want someone to come here and talk with us about it.

DISCUSSION: NEW SOFTWARE

Mayor Deese stated CSI software has not been working well for the city for some time, especially since we have updated to Vista. CSI is not compatible with Vista. CSI has told us they are upgrading their system to be compatible with Vista, but as of this date, the system still has problems caused by incompatibility with Vista. The water department has had serious problems with CSI for quite some time. Mayor Deese stated when we call for service we are getting all kind of unfriendly answers. He stated he has had two or three meetings with CSI and things may improve for a while, then they go right back to the same ways. Mayor Deese gave each councilman a packet from Logics, one software company we have received a quote from. The quote is around \$42,000 and the maintenance contract is around \$1000 less than we are paying now. CM Petersen stated the specs have to be written and this has to go to bid according to our state procurement code.

DISCUSSION: PINPOINT GEOTECH

Mayor Deese stated he would like to have council’s thoughts on implementing the Pinpoint Geotech system into our Public Works Department. He stated he thought over time it would save the city time and gas. Mayor Deese stated it would save the brush and limb truck from just driving around the city looking for brush and people would not have to call the city asking why their brush was not picked up. When the garbage truck is out, it just notes the brush and other garbage, and at the end of the day Gloria gets a printout of it. CM Sheriff stated the biggest thing to him would be if our guys would use it. CM Harrison stated he agreed, the system would only be as good as the people who are using it. CM Harrison stated they have a similar system with the high school and the drivers still refuse to use it. Mayor Deese stated they dealt with that situation in all the communities that are already using the system and have overcome it. It was agreed to have the Pinpoint Geotech people meet with council at the next work session.

DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON LAND FOR COUNTY FIRE TRAINING STATION

Mayor Deese stated the county has not yet submitted their offer regarding the land for the fire training station. Mayor Deese said he put this on the agenda because he thought he would have heard from them before now.

CM Petersen amended the original agenda to include a discussion about the additional housing for the ladder truck. This is something we need to make a decision on. CM Petersen stated we want to remember the reason we bought the truck was the ISO rating and the cost of the truck. Mayor Deese stated we need to decide on an extension to the side or front of the fire station but then we have the issue of where we are going to put something else. Olen stated the costs for the metal building was around \$40,000 but would probably have gone up by now. Mayor Deese stated in a couple of years we may have something going on where we would not have to add on to the fire department and I would hate to spend that kind of money now to have the other deal come through in a few years. Council had some discussion on the cost of a new ladder truck and the cost of the purchase and repairs to this ladder truck. CM Sheriff stated he did not see a quick fix to this situation at this time. He stated he thought we should contact the rural fire board and see what they were going to do. CM Petersen stated they were supposed to be having monthly meetings, but that hasn’t been happening.

DISCUSSION: REMINDER FOR MASC CHARLESTON MEETING

Mayor Deese reminded every one of the MASC meeting in Charleston in July, and stated most everyone had planned to leave on Wednesday and Duke Power's dinner cruise is on Wednesday night.

DISCUSSION: UPDATE VISION RETREAT

Mayor Deese updated council on what has been accomplished since our vision retreat. He stated the wall at the Police Department has been painted and the Police Department sign has been put up. He stated the parking lot in the back where we need the asphalt, we want to level that hill off a little and grade it down. Mayor Deese thanked the Fire Department for their hard work on landscaping the front of City Hall. The tile on the front porch at City Hall was repaired by the Fire Department. Mayor Deese stated he has a meeting in the morning with Barry Anderson for some sort of landscape design for the Rosewood Center. I will present this to council when I receive it. Mayor Deese asked CM Sheriff if the lights for the Rosewood Center were still on back order and if so, can we choose another design. CM Sheriff stated he would call them one more time. Mayor Deese stated he and CM Sheriff have discussed replacing the front doors. CM Sheriff stated that are not ADA compatible. CM Yates stated the handicap ramp needed guardrails or replacing. Mayor Deese stated he was getting blasted about the signage for Freedom Park. He stated we need to get that accomplished as soon as possible. Mayor Deese stated he would also like to look at getting another large Gazebo for the park. The one we have is reserved a lot. CM Sheriff stated he would like to see us enlarge the playground area. Mayor Deese stated we need to purchase a new toy for the playground such as one of the rock climbing stations. Mayor Deese reported that Barry has been riding the neighborhoods and one thing he noticed was that we do not have any speed signs. Chief Miller stated he thought the best thing to do there was a citywide speed limit. This will be put on the agenda for council to discuss. Mayor Deese reported to council that there will be a proclamation on next week's council meeting agenda for National Mental Health Month. He also reported that Liberty Family Care has come under the "umbrella" of Palmetto Baptist Health Hospital which means they will no longer have to buy a business license. He stated the problems Easley had experienced with this and Anderson with An Med Health. Mayor Deese stated he had sent an email to Senator Martin regarding this matter and Senator Martin emailed him back pledging to look into this.

DISCUSSION: 2008/2009 BUDGET

Mayor Deese stated he left copies in council's mailbox of the budget along with other information. Mayor Deese stated if the discussion turns to employees or salaries he would entertain a motion they go into Executive Session. He reported that the current budget does balance. One area that has not been finalized is our environmental fee and garbage collection. When that is finalized it will be put into the budget. Mayor Deese reported that our spending is down this year and our revenues are going to be down a little this year. He stated he and Josie have going through the budget and he has tried to make the budget a little more realistic by not putting things in that may not materialize. Vehicle expense has increased due to gas prices, however, we have saved substantially by going with Ingles. Mayor Deese stated he would like to have a 1st Reading at Monday's council meeting. He reported there in no increase in millage rate and has not been for the last three years. The ceiling cap from the State is 3.3 mills. Mayor Deese stated he gave council a list of everyone's salaries and those were his recommendations.

- *CM McJunkin stated he had objections to some things in the budget and made a motion they go into Executive Session.*
- *CM Yates seconded the motion to go into Executive Session*
- *Vote: All in favor of moving into Executive Session.*

- *CM Sheriff made a motion to come out of Executive Session.*
- *CM Yates seconded the motion to come out of Executive Session*
- *Vote: All in favor of coming out of Executive Session*

CM McJunkin read a letter from Dale Crumpton who thanked the City for choosing him to get rid of the beaver problem. Mr. Crumpton stated if the beavers returned within six months he would trap them for free.

Mayor Deese stated a lady had talked with him about using the Rosewood Center on Sunday evening for a church service called “Cowboy Church” for a short period of time. The building they are in is going to be used for something else. Mayor Deese stated he would like council’s feelings on this. CM McJunkin stated there may be an issue regarding using a government building for a church functions. CM Harrison stated if we opened it up for one, we would have to open it up to everyone. The general consensus of council was due to this being a public government building, it would not be a good idea for them to use it. Mayor Deese asked if anyone knew of another building, please let him know.

CM Petersen stated the wooden steps up to the Gazebo stage needed to have a handrail. Mayor Deese stated those steps were going to be removed.

CM Harrison stated he received a call from Barbara Owens stated groundhogs have relocated to her home after the city built Freedom Park. He stated Mrs. Owens stated they have chewed through her phone line and she had to replace it at her own expense. She wants to know if the City will trap them. CM Harrison stated Mrs. Owens told him the City could only deal with domestic animals. The consensus of council was the situation with groundhogs was a natural environmental nuisance which is faced all over town. They are a real nuisance to people’s gardens. CM Petersen suggested she buy a Have a Heart trap and move it to another location. CM Harrison stated he did suggest the trap to Mrs. Owens, but she states it is the City’s fault she has them due to the City putting the park in. Mayor Deese stated we still have groundhogs in the park also.

Adjourn

- CM Sheriff made motion to adjourn.
- CM Petersen seconded the motion.
- All voted in favor

Verification/Mayor

V. Sue Woods, Clerk

Approval Date