

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF GREER
SOUTH CAROLINA**

December 9, 2008

**MEETING LOCATION: 301 East Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29651**

REGULAR SESSION

Greer City Council met in regular session with Mayor Rick Danner presiding. Council members present: Jay Arrowood, Joe Baldwin, Wryley Bettis and Belle Coxe Mercado. Councilman Wayne Griffin and Councilwoman Sandra Anderson were absent. Also present: Ed Driggers, City Administrator, Mike Sell, Assistant City Administrator, Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk, Steve Owens, Communications Manager and various other staff and media.

Mayor Danner called the Regular Session to order at 6:31 p.m.

INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Councilman Wryley Bettis.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to speak.

MINUTES OF November 25, 2008

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion that the minutes of **November 25, 2008** be received as written. Councilman Jay Arrowood seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Danner recognized Councilman Baldwin for his fifteen years of service to Greer City Council. Councilman Baldwin was presented a plaque. Councilman Baldwin thanked Council and the citizens of Greer for their support over the years.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
Ed Driggers, City Administrator

Information:

Special Election Update – Mr. Driggers informed Council of the seven (7) candidates that have filed and been certified for the February 3, 2009 Special Election. Those are Marvin Robinson, Julie Barnes, Jay Williams, Bill Kelly, Matthew Schneider, Lisa Wilson and M. Lee Dumas.

2008 Masonry Design Award – Mr. Driggers informed Council he received an email today informing him the City Hall building has won the 2008 Masonry Design Award as presented by the Upper South Carolina Masonry Contractors Association. The building was submitted by Craig, Gaulden and Davis.

Budget – As we are continuing to look at our budget process and to keep you informed, we are looking at a number of options as we continue to move forward. I am very proud of employees and Department heads as they have stepped up to offer ideas and suggestions we are implementing many of those to improve our efficiency and reduce expenditures that we can. One of the things we have been asked to look at and this would require direction from City Council is whether or not we would be interested in offering any type of incentives to our employees who are either eligible for retirement by years of service or by age. We have four (4) employees within our organization that currently meet the ten-year service requirements under the retirement system, either twenty-five (25) years in the Police Officer / Fire Retirement System or twenty-eight (28) years in the South Carolina Retirement System. We also have another thirteen (13) employees that would be eligible for retirement based on their age. This is something I needed to bring to you and inquire if this is something we would like to pursue, if so how or is this something we would prefer that we not approach at this time? How would you like for me to proceed?

Discussion followed.

Council requested additional information.

Employee Grievance Hearing – At the request of a terminated employee there was a grievance hearing and that employee requested that hearing be conducted in a public session. It was an open meeting; members of the media were present. I wanted to make you aware and I anticipate that you will read some details about it very shortly. The committee has twenty (20) days to make their findings, they will report those findings to me and I will forward those findings to Council. I will anticipate that you will have this on your next agenda. The hearing was held earlier today and involved the Courts Department. Kirsten Pressley represented the department along with Judge Mims. I represented the City. Several witnesses were called on both sides of the issue. Thank goodness we don't have a lot of those.

Market at Greer Station – I received a letter today from the engineer (Site Design) for this project (letter read aloud). He states the zoning requirements require fifty (50) spaces to be provided based on retail space. Their request is to allow them to use the

public lot (Old SCDOT Building) to meet their requirements for the parking for that facility. They are in a holding pattern until the parking issues is resolved.

Mayor Danner asked Council if they would like to add this matter to the agenda as new business.

REQUEST TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA

Councilman Bettis made a motion to add the request of Site Design to the agenda under new business. Councilwoman Belle Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Software – We have purchased new software to allow Council to view items placed on the screen on their computers. We will need to install this software on your laptops, please make a scheduled time with Jim Ridgill before the first Council meeting in January to have this software installed.

Calendar Reminders:

12/12/2008 – Annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast this Friday morning. We will have coffee and conversation at 7:00 am and breakfast at 7:30 am.

Immediately following this meeting tonight we would like for you to join us in the lobby here, we have refreshments to serve in Councilman Baldwin's honor.

Mr. Driggers stated he had no items for discussion in **Executive Session**.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS **Board of Zoning Appeals**

No nominations were made for the District 3 seat on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Elections Commission

No nominations were made.

Greer Development Corporation Board of Directors

Councilwoman Mercado nominated Wryley Bettis for reappointment to the Greer Development Corporation Board of Directors. Councilman Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0. Councilman Bettis abstained from the vote.

Planning Commission

No nominations were made for the District 4 seat.

Recreation Association Board of Trustees

No nominations were made for the District 1 seat, the District 3 seat or the District 5 seat.

OLD BUSINESS

First Reading of Ordinance Number 48-2008

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT TO TAXPAYERS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GREER FOR INSTALLATION OF FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN COMPLIANCE WITH S.C. CODE ANN. §12-6-3622

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to accept First Reading of Ordinance Number 48-2008. Councilman Joe Baldwin seconded the motion.

Mayor Danner presented additional information regarding the ordinance. Fire Chief Chris Harvey spoke briefly.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Motion failed 3-2 with Councilman Jay Arrowood, Councilman Wryley Bettis and Councilwoman Belle Mercado voting in opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

BID SUMMARY

Fire Truck

Presented by Fire Chief Chris Harvey

Chief Harvey presented the bid information on the **2000 GPM Pumper with 750 Gallon Tank**. (Information attached) Chief Harvey recommended accepting the bid from Southeastern Apparatus Sales, Inc. of \$332,838.00.

Discussion followed.

Councilman Joe Baldwin made a motion to accept the low bid of \$332,838.00 for the 2000 GPM Pumper with 750 gallon tank. Mayor Danner seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Motion failed 3-2 with Councilman Jay Arrowood, Councilman Wryley Bettis and Councilwoman Belle Mercado voting in opposition.

First Reading of Ordinance Number 51-2008
AN ORDINANCE TO CORRECT A SCRIVENER'S
ERROR IN ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-2000

Councilman Wryley Bettis made a motion to accept First Reading of Ordinance Number 51-2008. Councilwoman Belle Mercado seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

ITEM ADDED TO THE AGENDA
Request from Site Design

Councilman Joe Baldwin made a motion to allow the City Administrator to craft a Memorandum of Understanding with the developer that that is indeed a public parking lot and he could avail himself to it as others do. Councilman Bettis seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Councilman Arrowood recusing himself from the vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Danner stated there were no items for discussion in Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Richard W. Danner, Mayor

Tammela Duncan, Municipal Clerk