

City of New Ellenton
Regular Meeting of City Council
City Hall Council Chambers
Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2009

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone to and called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilman Braswell offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call for the Record

Present: Rex Nordeen, Eartha Rogers, Vernon Dunbar, Debbie Maddox,
Daniel Braswell.

Absent: Terrance Williams, Anthony Shaw

5. Others Present

City Clerk Vernel Sanders, City Administrator L.C. Greene, Chief Mike Kellems, Donald Perry, Chief Alesia Parks, Christopher Holley, Jimmily Williams, Doris Freeman, Brenda Adams, Patrick Finklin, Kelly Keenan, Belinda Henderson, Roger Henderson. There were others present, but their names were inaudible.

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone again to the council meeting.

6. Presentations

a) Introduction of Police Officer Robert Merkle.

Mayor Dunbar stated three officers were hired for the police department. Two of the officers are presently attending the academy. Mayor Dunbar introduced Officer Robert Merkle to the council members and visitors. Officer Merkle offered some background information about himself.

b) Mr. Christopher Holley – Concerns with youth sports.

Mr. Holley asked City Council about their position on supporting the Youth Sports Program. Mayor Dunbar stated support from the school district was needed to help with replacing equipment and buildings after the storm and it was a slow process. Mayor Dunbar stated time and resources will be put into the Youth Sports Program. Mayor Dunbar stated conditions of the field before the storm were discussed. The City was

notified by the Area 5 school district that the concession stand would not be ready by the beginning of football season. Mayor Dunbar stated there were also registration issues. Mr. Holley asked if parents would have to register their children and pay fees before new equipment would be purchased. Mayor Dunbar stated uniforms were ordered prior to registration. Mr. Holley asked if City Council paid for the uniforms. Mayor Dunbar stated he Council did pay for the uniforms. Mr. Perry stated the uniforms were received prior to the first home game. Councilman Nordeen stated parents were encouraged to register their children in order to be covered by insurance. Mr. Holley stated he had received a financial statement but could not determine what amount of money was allocated in the budget for the Youth Sports Program. City Clerk Sanders stated the information he was seeking was not in the financial statement but the budget, and she could provide him with a copy. Mr. Holley asked about the process or protocol for ordering equipment. Mayor Dunbar stated the spending process is each department head can spend up to \$300.00. Anything above this amount goes before the Council. Mr. Holley stated he was speaking for the parents of youth sports in that they would like to see progress and the support of the City. Councilman Nordeen stated to Mr. Holley that he or Mr. Perry would be available to help at any time. Mayor Dunbar stated communication between everyone was needed and that all should work together. Mr. Holley requested that City Council provide their goals and visions for the Youth Sports Program.

7. Approval of Financial Statements

a) Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. *Councilman Braswell MOVED to approve the financials of August, 2009, SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 4-1 (Councilwoman Rogers abstained).*

8. Approval of Council Minutes

a) *July 28, 2009 – Special Meeting. Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 28, 2009; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 3-2 (Councilman Braswell and Councilwoman Maddox abstained due to absence).*

b) *August 17, 2009 – Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 17, 2009; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*

9. Old Business

(None to Report)

10. New Business

a) *Consideration of awarding contract to repair front of City Hall – 3 bids received. Councilman Braswell MOVED to award the bid to repair the front of City Hall to B.K. All American Company; SECONDED by Councilwoman Maddox and Councilwoman Rogers; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.* Mayor Dunbar listed all of the repairs to be made.

- b) *Consideration of contract to repair steps leading up to park.*
Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to award Larry Adams Masonry contract to replace steps and handrail; Councilwoman Maddox SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Dunbar stated the areas in the park to be repaired and the materials that would be used.
- c) *First Reading: An amendment to Ordinance #9-20-06 (fireworks).*
 Councilman Nordeen stated the basic change is to add the Atomic City Festival Fireworks to the ordinance. City Administrator Greene stated it would be added under Section (b). **Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to amend the fireworks ordinance on the First Reading; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- d) *Resolution to extend Carolina Avenue NW.*
 Aiken County 911 system has requested an extension of Carolina Avenue across Fern Street. City Clerk Sanders stated it was in preparation for comply with the census count. **Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to extend Carolina Avenue, NW across Fern Street; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- e) *Resolution to name 2 streets.*
Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to approve Resolution to name Paragon Street off of Jewel Street and Lemon Grass Court off of Main Street in C & A Mobile Home Park; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- f) *Council members reverting to 1099s.*
 Mayor Dunbar stated it would be a cost saving measure for the Town of New Ellenton for council members, as well as the fire chief, to revert to 1099 forms instead of W-2 forms. **Councilman Braswell MOVED that council members revert to 1099s; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED by a vote of 3-2 (Councilwoman Maddox and Councilwoman Rogers opposed).** Mayor Dunbar stated this would become effective October 01, 2009.
- g) *Consideration of proposal submitted by Selective Insurance Group – Fire Dept.*
 Chief Kellems stated that Selective Insurance Group is a State organization endorsed by the South Carolina State Firefighters Association. This insurance group insures on guaranteed replacement cost. Chief Kellems stated with Selective Insurance Group it would cost the City \$14,078.00 per year as opposed to \$27,200.00 per year with South Carolina State Insurance. Chief Kellems explained the terms of insurance coverage. **Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to change from State Insurance to Selective Insurance Group effective October 01, 2009; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- h) *Consideration of bids submitted for backhoe-loader for Streets & Roads Department.*
Councilman Braswell MOVED to table consideration of purchasing equipment; SECONDED by Councilwoman Maddox; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Report from Police Chief

Chief Parks stated on Sunday, September 27th, the Iron Man Race, a total of 70.3 miles, will be passing through New Ellenton. Chief Parks stated the route of the race. Chief Parks gave stats for the month of August.

12. Report from Fire Chief

Chief Kellems mentioned the Festival on October 10th with fireworks displayed at 9:00 p.m. Chief Kellems stated the fire department's budget may need to be amended to coincide with what the County approved in July. Chief Kellems stated a difference of approximately \$27,000.00 would need to be added in. Mayor Dunbar stated a budget work session would need to be scheduled. Chief Kellems stated New Ellenton Fire Department will be connected to a new tower. All radio equipment will be reprogrammed for better radio communications.

13. Report from Recreation Director

Mr. Perry stated he is doing everything possible at the ball fields, but Area 5 has the final word. Mr. Perry stated the score boards are in place, but need to be wired for power. Mr. Perry stated a 250 aluminum seat capacity for visitors and 250 seat capacity for the home side is being purchased. Mr. Perry stated the concession stand, restrooms, and press box, and storage, for all the equipment, will be housed in one building.

14. Report from Committees

a) *Administration* – Mayor Dunbar stated the committee will interview four firms and will select the firm most qualified to build the library. Mayor Dunbar stated FEMA has updated the flood plain map for Aiken County. Mayor Dunbar stated the Census Bureau is requesting the City form a Census Count Committee. Mayor Dunbar stated the dates for the tree lights and Christmas parade will tentatively be on the 3rd and the 5th.

b) *Fire Department* – No Report

c) *Police Department* – No Report

d) *Streets and Roads and Parks* – No Report

e) *Sewer and Sanitation* – Mayor Dunbar stated the engineering firm, A.B. Edenfield, that is used to update the Revolving Fund Grant on the sewer plant had that the curtains needed to be replaced. Mayor Dunbar stated the curtains cost approximately \$44,000.00. Other costs and labor would cost \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

f) *Recreation* – Mayor Dunbar stated there is a balance of \$600.00 that needs to be paid to five workers that worked the concession stands during baseball and football season. ***Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to pay \$600.00 to workers for handling the concession stand pending an invoice; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Councilman Nordeen stated the Atomic City Festival has tickets for the door prizes. Councilman Nordeen stated help and support was needed to sell the tickets at \$1.00 each.

g) *Technology* – No Report

15. Executive Session – Not Needed

16. Adjournment

Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Approved. Meeting adjourned.

Mayor's Signature

Date

Municipal Clerk Signature

Date