

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

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Friday, June 19, 2009

**Welcome**

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone to and called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

**Invocation**

Councilman Williams offered the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call for the Record**

Present: Rex Nordeen, Terence Williams, Vernon Dunbar, Anthony Shaw

**Others Present**

Assistant City Clerk Courtney Moseley, Donald Perry

Mayor Dunbar thanked everyone again for attending.

**Old Business**

Consideration of approving revised contract for CPA – Mayor Dunbar stated that he was not present for the discussion of the contract, but that a copy had been received. Mayor Dunbar stated that he thought Council just needed to decide if the CPS would come monthly or quarterly. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that this was the change to the contract. Councilman Williams stated that Council had voted to keep Ann as the CPA and to do the payroll as well. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that Ann had decided that it was in the City's best interest for Ann to come monthly. Councilman Nordeen stated that this was in the new contract. Councilman Shaw stated that he thought it would be beneficial, and Mayor Dunbar agreed. Mayor Dunbar stated that before she started coming, it was bad and added that having a CPA guards against turnover in the front office. Mayor Dunbar stated that he did not think Vernel or Courtney were going anywhere soon, but he added that he did not think Sue and Michelle were going anywhere either. Assistant City Clerk Sanders agreed. Councilman Nordeen stated that Vernel had gotten other CPAs and the prices. Councilman Nordeen stated that the other prices were comparable with what Ann had provided. Councilman Shaw stated that most of them were higher. Assistant City Clerk Moseley agreed and stated that the other prices did not include some of the things that Ann does. Mayor Dunbar stated that Ann could be asked to do anything, and she is an asset. Mayor Dunbar stated that the City had built a relationship with Ann and keeping her under contract. Mayor Dunbar added that she could go up every year. Councilman Nordeen stated that this was a three-year contract. Mayor Dunbar stated that Ann had not gone up after the past three-year contract. *Motion to approve revised contract for CPA from Ann by Councilman Shaw, second by Councilman Nordeen. All in favor. Approved.* Mayor Dunbar asked if he needed to sign the sheet. Assistant City Clerk Moseley affirmed and added that she thought Ann would be signing one as well.

**New Business**

Consideration of approval of summer camp – Mayor Dunbar stated that the Recreation Director needed approval to operate a summer camp under his supervision. Councilman Shaw asked if Mr. Perry had gotten

some assistance. Mr. Perry affirmed stating that through Lower Savannah and the One Stop Youth Summer Program three employees would be paid. Mr. Perry stated that the camp would run eight hours a day with one employee working from 7:30 to 2:00, one from 9:00 to 3:30 and the other from 10:00 to 4:30. Mr. Perry stated that the workers could only work six hours a day totaling 30 hours a week. Mr. Perry continued that the Summer Food Program would provide lunch. Mr. Perry stated that this would have been the third week of camp if it had started like it did last year. Mr. Perry added that everyone that he had talked to had not complained about the \$170.00 even though at least two weeks were missing. Mayor Dunbar asked if this would cover everything. Mr. Perry affirmed adding that the Funsville trip at about \$400.00 had been removed from the agenda. [Inaudible] Mr. Perry stated that he did not make copies, but that he had asked Courtney to go online and the Zoo would be about \$2.00 per child. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that this was the group rate. Mr. Perry stated that he thought it would be about the same for Fort Discovery and the State Museum. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that one of them was \$6.00. Mr. Perry stated that he thought the museum was the \$6.00 trip. Mayor Dunbar asked if transportation had been factored in. Mr. Perry affirmed, stating that he had spoken with Mr. Calvin Staley with Gospel Travel who had allowed the camp to use the bus last year and was willing to let the camp use it this year. Mr. Perry stated that if there were more than could fit on the passenger van, there is a bus, and all that had to be paid for was the gas for the trips. Mr. Perry stated that the bus would be used for the trips to Columbia and thought that another parent could help with the Fort Discovery trip. Mayor Dunbar asked if the lunches would be taken. Mr. Perry stated that he made an agreement with the Food Program and worked it out where the lunches could be taken, but that during last year's trip to Fort Discovery, most kids bought their lunches, and the same thing at the Zoo. Mayor Dunbar asked about insurance on the field trips. Mr. Perry stated that from talking with the attorney, the paperwork on the registration form is on the same guidelines with every camp in the County. Mr. Perry stated that it was "a done deal" and unless Council wanted to add something, the waiver was sufficient. Mr. Perry provided a copy of the football waiver as an example. Mr. Perry stated that the language was pretty much the same as the summer camp with the only change being from baseball or football to summer camp. Mayor Dunbar asked if the City was covered under the bus operators insurance. Mr. Perry affirmed stating that this issue had come up last year and that the driver's insurance covered the ride and that the facility's insurance covered the children once they get there. Mr. Perry stated that the City has liability insurance for the Civic Center and the Park. Mayor Dunbar asked if Calvin would provide the driver, and Mr. Perry affirmed. Mayor Dunbar asked if there was a driver tip. Mr. Perry stated that he did not last year and added that Calvin is for doing something for the kids and has stated that if there is something that he can do for the kids, he wants to do it. Mayor Dunbar stated that even though he is volunteering his time, a few dollars should be tipped. Mr. Perry stated that the parents from camp last year supported it. Mr. Perry stated that the lunches were not provided the first and last week of camp last year and that the parents had gotten together and made sure the kids had breakfast and lunch. Mr. Perry stated that there was never an issue when the kids needed money and cited an example with swimming. Councilman Williams asked if the camp would be going swimming this year, and Mr. Perry replied that the woman from Smith-Hazel had not returned his call yet, but had indicated that Fridays were the best days to come. Mr. Perry continued that there are two Fridays when the Civic Center is scheduled and he was going to try to do field trips on those days. Mr. Perry mentioned that he thought Augusta did free movies. Mr. Perry added that he thought there was a Wednesday involved, too. Mr. Perry stated that camp should last until August 14<sup>th</sup> and added that the workers could only work until August 7<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Williams asked how many kids were expected. Mr. Perry stated that of the 35 from last year, about 20 said they would be coming and added that the other 15 had already gotten into other camps, because they did not know that status of the City camp. Councilman Williams stated that he felt that when the camp started, more people would come out. Assistant City Clerk Moseley asked for clarification on the end date. Mr. Perry affirmed the August 14<sup>th</sup> ending date. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. *Motion to approve summer camp through August 14<sup>th</sup> by Councilman Nordeen, second by Councilman Shaw. All in favor. Approved.* Mr. Perry stated that he was meeting with Mr. Cagle at noon on Wednesday about the ballfield. Mr. Perry stated that after this, there would be another meeting with Council and the school district. Mr. Perry stated that there would also be a follow-up with Aiken Electric and Augusta Concrete and Block. [Inaudible] Councilman Williams stated that he would be out of town. Mr. Perry stated that it could be pushed back to July. Mayor Dunbar stated that the County may need to be invited to see what they are willing to do. Mr. Perry stated that he had also talked with Clay Killian about bringing in clay for the parking lot. Mr. Perry added that he had

spoken with Kelly about laying the clay down. Councilman Nordeen asked when the meeting would be. Mr. Perry stated that the meeting was scheduled for Wednesday at 12:00. Councilman Williams stated that another meeting would be scheduled after that. Mr. Perry agreed. Mayor Dunbar asked to be notified so that the City could ask Scott Singer as a representative for the County for assistance. Councilman Williams asked to be notified as well. Mayor Dunbar stated that he was going to call Fire Chief Kellems to get a copy of the fire fees. [Inaudible] Councilman Nordeen stated that he would like to come support at the meetings, but could not come this week. [Inaudible] Councilman Williams asked how many children came to the banquet. Mr. Perry stated that there were seven players. Mayor Dunbar stated that he could not get in touch with anyone. Mayor Dunbar stated that the County was working on its budget and required three readings, but the County fire fees came up and as far as the City is concerned, the outside of the City limits fire fees pay for about 90% of the Fire Department's budget. Mayor Dunbar stated that it might be more than that, but that the City residents pay \$1.00 per month and the outside City limits fees are based on home value. Mayor Dunbar continued that there is a group of people in the County that is complaining that they pay more to run the Fire Department than the City residents are. Mayor Dunbar stated that he had received phone calls from Scott Singer and Clay Killian about it and that they have suggestions on bridging the gap. Mayor Dunbar stated that unimproved lots in the County are paying \$30.00 per month and unimproved lots in the City are paying nothing. Mayor Dunbar stated that all parcels in the City are supposed to pay \$1.00 per month whether improved or not. Mayor Dunbar continued that before, the City did not have the information on the unimproved areas. Mayor Dunbar stated that the unimproved parcels in the City would be billed \$1.00 per month totaling \$12.00 per year and stated that this would be placed on the tax bills since there was no other way to do it, because there is no bill for them from the City. Mayor Dunbar stated that this would go to the Fire Department and help improve the ratio of outside and inside fees. Mayor Dunbar stated that the percentages would not be correct, but would be better. Mayor Dunbar stated that another issue discussed was putting fire fees on tax bills, so that the fire fees are paid when taxes are paid. Mayor Dunbar stated that a resolution would have to be passed by Council in order to do this. Mayor Dunbar stated that he wanted the sheet with the revised fire fees for the County to better illustrate the situation, but did not have it. Councilman Williams asked if this was for comparison, and Mayor Dunbar affirmed. Mayor Dunbar continued that the budget would have to be revised to reflect the inside the City limit fire fees because the income would be different than what the County passed. Mayor Dunbar stated that if he got a copy of the County fire fees he would place a copy in everyone's box and asked for the fire fee change to go on the agenda for the next regular Council meeting. Councilman Nordeen asked if the County was going to go ahead and put the fire fees on the tax notices. Mayor Dunbar replied that this was the case for the unimproved areas in the City, but not for improved parcels. Mayor Dunbar stated that unimproved parcels were not being billed at all, so they would begin to be billed on tax notices. Mayor Dunbar stated that he did not think Council needed to do anything about this because it was the only way to bill the unimproved parcels. [Inaudible] Mayor Dunbar stated that this way, fire fees were not increasing, adding that the unimproved parcels should have been billed all along, but were not because the City did not have the information. Mayor Dunbar stated that another issue was billing businesses versus households. Mayor Dunbar stated that he thought there should be a different rate for businesses and offered \$2.00 per month as a suggestion. Mayor Dunbar added that he thought businesses in the City of Aiken in some cases paid \$40.00 per month. Councilman Williams stated that businesses have additional hazards and pointed out Bush's BP with lots of tires as a different kind of fire hazard. Mayor Dunbar stated that he thought Council could discuss it and asked everyone to think about it for the next meeting. Mayor Dunbar added that he would pass out the County information if he got it. Mayor Dunbar asked if anyone else had anything. Mayor Dunbar asked if Council wanted to approve a dollar amount for repairing a window and added that one quote had already been gotten. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that the estimate was \$216.00. Mayor Dunbar stated that someone should check with Danny. Councilman Nordeen asked if the quote was for the whole front or just the window. Mayor Dunbar stated that the whole front could be looked at. Councilman Nordeen stated that it would be more to fix the wood rotting and that spending that much on one window meant the City should look at repairing the whole front. Councilman Nordeen stated that it is a two-pane window and only the outer pane is broken, so there is no direct leak to the building yet. [Inaudible] Mayor Dunbar stated that vinyl siding estimates might be needed. Mayor Dunbar stated that he thought Danny did that kind of work. Councilman Nordeen asked for clarification on which Danny, and Mayor Dunbar replied that he was talking about Danny Lowe. Mayor Dunbar added that Danny does lots of stuff. Mayor Dunbar stated that

Council would not be meeting until the next month and no one knew how much it would be, but added that he was almost sure that there was \$1,000.00 in the grant for improvements of City Hall which he thought was specifically for the front entrance. Mayor Dunbar asked Assistant City Clerk Moseley to verify it. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that she would check with Vernel. Mayor Dunbar stated that three bids could be gotten and approval given up to the grant amount. Mayor Dunbar stated that if it was over that, then the City would have to come up with the funds. Mayor Dunbar reiterated that there was not another meeting until mid-July and asked if Council wanted to have another meeting after the 4<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Nordeen stated that after the rain storm there had been no leakage. Assistant City Clerk Moseley agreed stating that her understanding was that the window was broken last Friday according to the Police Chief. Councilman Nordeen stated that after the grass was done and weed-eating, the shatter showed up. Councilman Shaw stated that if there was no leak and it was double-paned glass, bids could be gotten and it could be addressed later. Mayor Dunbar stated that if Council could wait that was fine. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated that she was not aware and that this changed the situation. Councilman Nordeen stated that if a leak develops, he does not have a problem with another special meeting. Assistant City Clerk Moseley asked about getting three estimates and the back near the police entrance. Councilman Nordeen stated that it would go over \$1,000.00. Assistant City Clerk Moseley asked if Council wanted to just focus on the front part. Mayor Dunbar affirmed and added that then Council could plan for work on the back. Mayor Dunbar asked if there was anything else. Mayor Dunbar called from a motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn by Councilman Williams, second by Councilman Shaw. All in favor. Approved.*

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Mayor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date