

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

Monday, August 17, 2009

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone to and called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilman Braswell offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call for the Record

Present: Rex Nordeen, Eartha Rogers, Terence Williams, Vernon Dunbar, Debbie Maddox, Daniel Braswell, Anthony Shaw (All present).

5. Others Present

City Clerk Vernel Sanders, Assistant City Clerk Courtney Moseley, City Administrator L. C. Greene, Chief Alesia Parks, Brenda Adams, Patrick Finklin, Belinda Henderson, Roger Henderson, Danny Bowman, Doris Freeman, Jackie Keenan, Kelly Keenan, Gene Wood.

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone again to the meeting.

6. Presentations

a) The Mark Foundation – Community effort.

Mr. Finklin stated The Mark Foundation, which is registered with the State of South Carolina, would like to begin a youth outreach program for the youth in New Ellenton. Mr. Finklin stated the goal of this program is to create mentors for the youth of New Ellenton. Mr. Finklin stated a community Fun Day is scheduled for September 12th, 2009, in the City of New Ellenton for the purpose of recruiting mentors and introducing the organization to the community. It is also for the purpose of offering tools to elementary, middle school, and high school kids to deter them from getting involved in activities, such as skipping school or the use of drugs and alcohol. Mr. Finklin stated the organization will be aiding in the preparation of college applications, financial aid, and job interview skills. Mr. Finklin also stated local businesses are encouraged to reach out with any job openings that may be available. Mr. Finklin asked if there were any questions. Councilman Williams asked how one offer could help to the foundation. Mr. Finklin stated volunteers are needed for different activities. Monetary donations to fund

programs can be made online through Pay Pal or by searching The Mark Foundation. Mr. Finklin stated they are a non-profit organization; therefore, any donations would be tax deductible. City Clerk Sanders asked how the City of New Ellenton could help. Mr. Finklin stated that Evans Field, located behind City Hall, is needed for Family Fun Day. City Clerk Sanders asked if the Civic Center would also be needed. Mr. Finklin stated the Civic Center would be needed because activities are also planned for the elderly. City Clerk Sanders suggested Mr. Finklin coordinate with Ms. Allen on plans for the elderly. Mr. Finklin stated the organization is attempting to get kids to sign up for the program so grants could be written to the government in order to provide a facility to meet with the kids. The goal is to acquire a recreation facility for all New Ellenton residents to be involved in. City Clerk Sanders asked if the Board of Education could provide an 'in-kind' donation, for example, the gymnasium in one of the schools, since they would be closed in the evenings. Mr. Finklin stated that would be something to look into. He also stated that at the present time there are no funds to pay for a facility. Unidentified speaker asked how many members are in the organization. Mr. Finklin stated there were twenty members. Mr. Finklin stated the purpose of the Family Fun Day, since it is open to everyone, is to get the kids to come out and sign up for the Mentor Program. The Mentor Program gets involved with the school, looks at grades, and gets the parents involved. Mr. Finklin also stated there is one person designated for each school age group. Councilman Williams stated arrangements could possibly be made with New Ellenton Recreation Department for use of a building to begin mentoring. Councilman Williams suggested the committee, as well as the recreation department and The Mark Foundation could work together in making arrangements. Mr. Finklin stated he would agree to working together with the community. Councilman Williams commended Mr. Finklin and Ms. Adams for their work with The Mark Foundation. City Clerk Sanders asked the City Council if the City of New Ellenton could rent the Civic Center to The Mark Foundation for \$1.00 as an 'in kind' donation. The Council was in agreement. City Clerk Sanders stated the \$1.00 is for liability purposes because it is a rental. City Administrator L. C. Greene requested a recommendation from the Council to endorse the program for the community. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilwoman Rogers MOVED for the City of New Ellenton to endorse The Mark Foundation; SECONDED by Councilwoman Maddox; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Ms. Adams spoke and encouraged any help from the Council and the community. Councilwoman Rogers commended Ms. Adams and Mr. Finklin for their work with The Mark Foundation.

7. Approval of Financial Statements

a) Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to approve the financials of July, 2009; SECONDED by Councilman Williams; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Councilman Nordeen asked whether there was a budget for telephones in Municipal Court. City Clerk Sanders stated it was not captured in the municipal budget. City Clerk Sanders, after checking a copy of the budget, stated the telephone costs are included in the administrative portion of the budget.

8. Approval of Council Minutes

a) *July 20, 2009 – Regular Meeting.* Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Shaw MOVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 20, 2009; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 5-2 (Councilman Braswell and Councilman Dunbar abstained due to absence).***

City Clerk Sanders stated to City Council a new transcriptionist is now preparing the council minutes at a flat fee of \$20.00 for three pages and under. Anything over three pages would be \$5.00 per page. City Clerk Sanders stated once the agreement has been signed a copy will be distributed to the Council members.

9. Old Business
(None to Report)

10. New Business

a) *Consideration of hiring three police officers to fill Police Department vacancies.* Chief Parks stated four applicants were interviewed out of twenty. Three applicants were chosen and presented to Councilman Williams, Mayor Dunbar, and Councilwoman Rogers for an interview. Chief Parks stated the police department has three full-time officers, at the present time, including herself. Chief Parks stated two of the candidates will have to attend the academy and can be enrolled as early as September 21st. The third candidate has completed the academy and currently holds a criminal justice degree. Councilman Shaw asked if officers are required to serve a required amount of time if the City provides training through the academy. Chief Parks responded that there is a policy in place requiring officers to serve at least three years. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to hire the three police officers interviewed; Councilwoman Maddox SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Mayor Dunbar stated compensation for new hires will be discussed in the Executive Session.

b) *Consideration of awarding contract to repair the front of City Hall – two bids.* Councilman Williams stated three bids were needed for the repair the cracked glass and wood to the front of City Hall. Councilman Williams stated only two bids were received because the job was considered a small job. Councilman Nordeen stated the difference between the two bids is one would replace everything and the other is going to replace the rotten wood and then cap it. Mayor Dunbar asked the Council if they were prepared to vote or table the motion. Mayor Dunbar suggested extending the bids until the next meeting for lack of adequate bids. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Shaw MOVED to table Item #2; Councilman Braswell SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

c) *Resolution to change Short Street to a continuation of Florida Avenue.* Mayor Dunbar stated the request was coming from 911 Addressing. Mayor Dunbar stated there are no houses located on Short Street. 911 Addressing is requesting a street sign be placed at the location or make it a continuation of Florida Avenue. Councilman Nordeen stated the maps will need to be changed. City Administrator L.C. Greene read the proposed Resolution 081709. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Williams***

MOVED to adopt Resolution 081709; Councilwoman Maddox SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

d) *Consideration of approval for business license for R&R Hand-Washing Detail.* Mayor Dunbar stated this business will be located behind Anthony's Automotive. Councilman Shaw stated it consists of two stalls in the back of the facility for washing and detailing cars. ***Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to approve the business license for R&R Car and Detailing Shop; Councilman Williams SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED on a vote of 6-1 (Councilman Shaw abstained due to conflict of interest).***

11. Report from Police Chief

Chief Parks gave stats for month of July. Chief Parks stated she and Cpt. Cook met with the Augusta Sports Council in reference to the Iron Man bike race, a national race, that will be traveling through the City of New Ellenton on September 27th, 2009, between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. They are expecting approximately 2,800 participants to travel through the City of New Ellenton. Chief Parks announced the route the Iron Man bike race would be taking. Councilman Nordeen asked if the police department would be supporting traffic control. Chief Parks stated that traffic control has been requested. Mayor Dunbar thanked Chief Parks for all her hard work and dedication. Councilman Williams stated he will be participating in a 4K run fundraiser and will be requesting donations per mile from local businesses to help with the budget cuts from the State. Councilman Williams requested the police department provide someone to "shadow" him from New Ellenton to Church Street to verify the mileage. Councilman Williams stated a date had not been decided. Pledges will be \$50.00 per mile for businesses and \$10.00 per mile for citizens. Councilwoman Maddox asked what the money would be used for? Mayor Dunbar stated it would be used to provide instructional material, school supplies, and books to the New Ellenton Middle and Greenville schools.

12. Report from Fire Chief

Chief Kellems was not present due to training. Councilwoman Rogers gave stats for the fire department for the month of July. Councilwoman Rogers stated the generator for the fire department has been received and SCE&G is scheduled to complete the installation. Councilwoman Rogers stated the fire department has received two new fire trucks. City Clerk Sanders stated the fire department offered to provide a tour of the new trucks.

13. Report from Recreation Director

Mr. Perry was not present. Councilman Williams stated registration fees will be taken at City Hall. Councilman Williams stated equipment is needed. Councilman Williams stated registration is slow but is expected to pick up. Councilman Williams stated ninety uniforms were ordered but it is possible forty additional uniforms may be needed. Councilman Williams stated a bid of \$2,800.00 was received for the uniforms and the league agreed to provide \$1,000.00 towards the purchase of new uniforms. Councilman Williams stated the colors were changed to silver with the blue numbers.

14. Report from Committees

a) *Administration* – No Report.

b) *Fire Department* – No Report.

c) *Police Department* – No Report.

d) *Streets and Roads and Parks* - Councilwoman Rogers stated it was estimated at \$1,500.00 to replace the steps and railings in the park with a metal material. Councilman Nordeen asked if it would be a concrete foundation and metal footers. Mr. Keenan stated it would be metal. City Clerk Sanders suggested getting more bids from other companies. Councilman Braswell stated the chipper for Streets and Roads is not working. City Clerk Sanders stated complaints from citizens have been received. Mayor Dunbar stated Streets and Roads are in need of a back hoe. Councilman Braswell stated the estimate to replace the chipper's engine was approximately \$8,700.00. Councilman Braswell suggested accepting bids on a new chipper and a front end loader. Councilman Shaw requested if a new chipper, back hoe, and loader are purchased that maintenance logs need to be kept to assure they are maintained properly.

e) *Sewer and Sanitation* – Mayor Dunbar stated the contract with Tyler's Sanitation will soon expire. Councilman Shaw asked if a price was ever received for services and carts? City Administrator L.C. Greene stated there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2009, with Joe Duncan Sanitation. City Clerk Sanders asked if the City had ever considered doing own sanitation services. Mayor Dunbar stated it would be a consideration. Councilwoman Rogers asked if the City would have to purchase sanitation trucks. City Administrator L.C. Greene stated trucks, two people, and approximately 300,000 herbie curbies would need to be purchased at approximately \$139.00 each. Councilman Nordeen asked if there was a fee for dumping. City Clerk Sanders stated there is only a charge for certain material, such as tires.

f) *Recreation* – Mayor Dunbar asked Mr. Perry if he had anything additional to add to the report that had already been given. Mr. Perry stated registration was low. Mayor Dunbar asked if there was a deadline for registration. Mr. Perry stated the Jamboree was scheduled for August 29, 2009. He should have more information regarding the deadline at that time. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated there were fourteen football players and three cheerleaders registered at this time. Councilman Williams stated ninety registered players are needed. Mr. Perry stated at least 45 are needed. Mr. Perry stated the fees have gone up substantially because of school cuts and the parents do not have the money. Councilman Williams asked what was the cost to register a child for football. Mr. Perry stated \$50.00 for football and \$25.00 for cheerleaders. Councilwoman Maddox asked how many kids are unable to pay the registration fees. Mr. Perry stated at least 15 to 16 boys per age group and approximately 20 girls for cheerleading. Mr. Perry stated the age groups for registration start at six-years-old and go to 13-years-old. Mayor Dunbar questioned Mr. Perry regarding the invoice for the stand. Mr. Perry stated something is needed for the officials to be high enough to see the head official for directions. Mr. Perry stated after this football season the stand would no longer be needed. Mr. Perry stated the ladder is needed to get to the stand but there are safety issues.

g) *Technology Center* – Mayor Dunbar stated the City will be applying for a grant in collaboration with the National Small Town Alliance and Mr. Rosenthal, for the Technology Center. The City will attempt to partner with Aiken Tech or USC-Aiken, the Area 5 School District, in order to apply for some of the stimulus funds. Mayor Dunbar stated Mr. Rosenthal would write the grant and the City of New Ellenton would only be named as being in collaboration. Mayor Dunbar stated if the grant is received it will be fully-funded. Mayor Dunbar stated the center will set up a computer lab and refurbish computers. They will also provide after- school programs for the kids and teach information technology. Aiken Tech and USC-Aiken will provide the students to manage and run the Technology Center. Councilman Nordeen asked if payment had been made to the landlord of the Technology Center. City Clerk Sanders stated payments have been made and a payment schedule is in place. Mayor Dunbar stated the lease will expire soon. Councilman Nordeen asked if the City would consider entering into another lease with the Technology Center if the grant is not accepted. Mayor Dunbar stated he did not expect to enter into another lease but the City would have to pay the balance on the lease. Mayor Dunbar stated if the grant is approved it will be in the hands of the entity that is running the center. Mayor Dunbar stated a letter of support would need to be forwarded informing the Alliance of the City’s participation. Mayor Dunbar asked for a motion. ***Councilwoman Rogers MOVED to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter to proceed with the grant for the stimulus package; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Councilman Braswell stated someone from the City is needed on the Advisory Board to offer input.

Mayor Dunbar asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Finklin thanked everyone for their support.

15. Executive Session – Contractual Matter

At 8:40 p.m. ***Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to enter Executive Session; SECONDED by Councilman Shaw. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

At 10:20 p.m. ***Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to exit Executive Session and return to open Session; Councilman Shaw SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED***

UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Dunbar stated that compensation for three newly hired police officers was discussed in Executive Session. Officer Merkle’s salary, as a patrolman, will begin at \$13.00 per hour, with an increase to \$13.85 after a 90 day probation. MaryAnn France and Andrew Christiansen’s salary, as uncertified patrolmen, will begin at \$12.00 per hour while attending the academy. Upon graduation, their salaries will increase to \$13.00 per hour and begin a 90 day probation period. After probation their salary will increase to \$13.85 as patrolmen. Mayor Dunbar stated, upon the request of Chief Parks, Patrolman Spires will be promoted to Corporal increasing his salary to \$14.27 per hour. Mayor Dunbar stated one lieutenant and one sergeant’s position with the police department are still open. Chief Parks stated this was correct. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Shaw MOVED to hire the three officers at the rates discussed; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilwoman Maddox MOVED to promote Officer Spires to Corporal; SECONDED by Councilman Shaw; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Mayor Dunbar stated it was discussed in

Executive Session to follow the Solid Waste Ordinance as it is written and to revise it at a later date. Mayor Dunbar stated a 5% pay increase was discussed for City Clerk Sanders and Assistant City Clerk Moseley. Mayor Dunbar stated since it was not in the budget the Council would review it. City Clerk Sanders gave stats with respect to revenue overages for the Council to consider.

16. Adjournment

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

Mayor's Signature

Date

Municipal Clerk Signature

Date