

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

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone to and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Invocation

Councilman Braswell offered the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Roll Call for the Record

Present: Rex Nordeen, Vernon Dunbar, Daniel Braswell, Anthony Shaw.

Absent: Eartha Rogers, Deborah Maddox, Terence Williams.

Others Present : Assistant City Clerk Courtney Moseley, City Administrator L.C. Greene, Chief Alesia Parks, Gene Wood, Patrick Finklin, Keenan Smith, Hank Rowland, Tommy Brock, Roy Shaw, Roger Henderson, Belinda Henderson, Joyce Lambert, Patricia Booth, Cynthia Young, Jackie Keenan, Kelley Keenan, Doris Green. There were others present but their names were inaudible.

5. Recognition of Visitors: No visitors present.

Mayor Dunbar stated the School Board meeting was scheduled for the same time as the City Council meeting. Councilwoman Rogers and Councilman Williams are representing the City Council at the School Board meeting at Silver Bluff High School where it is being discussed the possibility of consolidating Jackson Middle School and New Ellenton Middle School.

6. Approval of Financial Statements

a) *January 2010* - Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Braswell MOVED to approve the financials for January, 2010; SECONDED by Councilman Shaw. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

7. Approval of Council Minutes

a) *January 19, 2010 – Regular Meeting:* Councilman Nordeen requested that the numbers be reported on the city council minutes of events that have taken place in the different departments. Mayor Dunbar suggested the minutes be more detailed in order to capture everything that has taken place in the meetings. Councilman Braswell suggested sending a copy of the stats report along with the audio. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Braswell MOVED to approve the January 19, 2010 Regular Meeting minutes; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

b) *February 1, 2010 – Special Meeting:* Mayor Dunbar requested this set of City Council minutes be tabled because they needed to be more specific. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Shaw MOVED to table the February 1, 2010 Special Meeting minutes; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

8. Old Business: None to report.

9. New Business:

a) *Regional Home Consortium Resolution -* Mayor Dunbar stated the Town has been approached by Lower Savannah to join a housing consortium. Lower Savannah represents three counties and eighteen municipalities. The housing consortium would give the Town access to HUD funds, which are currently not available. Mayor Dunbar stated by joining the group the Town would qualify to receive a projected \$1,500,000.00 per year and the funds would be divided according to population. Mayor Dunbar stated it does require a yearly fee to join the consortium, which is unknown at this time. Mayor Dunbar stated a resolution would need to be established to state the Town of New Ellenton's interest in joining the consortium. Mayor Dunbar stated it will be finalized in June and the numbers will be published at that time. Mayor Dunbar stated if the price of joining is too high the Town will have the opportunity to opt out. Ms. Young asked what the money given to the Town is used for? Mayor Dunbar stated it would be used for addressing housing issues in municipalities, such as condemned housing. Mayor Dunbar stated other projects that could be funded would be rehabilitation of owner/occupied housing units, new construction of housing units, or for rental/ownership rehab, vacant housing units, first time home buyer program providing down payments. Ms. Young asked if the Town would be overseeing the program. City Administrator Greene replied that it is not overseen by the Town, but by a committee. A list of projects will be submitted to the committee, and based on population and the amount of money provided to the consortium, the committee will oversee from that point. Ms. Young asked how the Town would qualify if the income per person is too high. Mayor Dunbar stated when the Town joins the consortium the household income is lower than the Town's household income. Mayor Dunbar asked if there were any other questions and called for a motion. Ms. Young asked if there was an estimate on what it would cost to receive the money. Mayor Dunbar stated the cost could range anywhere from \$6,500.00 to \$60,000.00, depending on the number of municipalities who participate. ***Councilman Nordeen MOVED to approve the resolution for the Regional Home Consortium; SECONDED***

by Councilman Braswell. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Unidentified speaker asked if summons were continuing to be sent for abandoned houses and cars. Mayor Dunbar stated Chief Parks began the process and it was put on hold because the ordinance covering this issue is being rewritten. Mr. Rowland asked which ordinance is being changed and how many ordinances does the Town have. Mayor Dunbar stated this particular ordinance was done in the '80's. Unidentified speaker asked when the ordinance is rewritten will it be brought before City Council. Mayor Dunbar stated it will be brought before City Council and will have to pass two readings.

b) *Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum to renew 1% sales tax that was approved in 2000 & 2004* – Mayor Dunbar stated the County is reapplying for the 1% sales tax and the City of New Ellenton has been asked to submit a list by the 1st of March at the latest. Mayor Dunbar stated the prior to sales tax referendum was discussed in City Council's Work Session and it was decided that a special meeting would be scheduled specifically for this matter and submit it to the County. Mayor Dunbar stated it may appear on the November ballot or a special election may be held specifically for the 1% sales tax. ***Councilman Braswell MOVED to table Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum; SECONDED by Councilman Shaw. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.*** Mayor Dunbar stated the special meeting to discuss this issue will be scheduled for February 22nd, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Dunbar called for a motion to amend the agenda. ***Councilman Braswell MOVED to amend the agenda, under new business, to add approval of contracts for sewer lines; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

c) *Bids for Sewer Lines* - City Administrator Greene stated four bids were received on the off-site sewer line for the new subdivision on White Pond Road. The land has been cleared and the off-site sewer is ready to be installed. City Administrator Greene stated a line will have to be run down to the lift station in order to tie lines into the subdivision. City Administrator Greene stated the lowest bid received was \$116,766.35. City Administrator Greene stated a grant was received from the State for \$90,000.00, and the developer will be responsible for the remaining balance. The Town of New Ellenton will be responsible for having the lines inspected. An unidentified speaker asked if bids would be obtained for the inspection. City Administrator Greene responded the inspection would be conducted by Danny Lowe, the Sewer Director. An unidentified speaker asked who the contractor would be. City Administrator Greene responded Lonergan & Son, from Harlem, Georgia are the contractors on the project. City Administrator Greene stated all of the bids submitted ranged in the amount of \$116,766.00 to \$169,951.00. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Nordeen MOVED to approve Lonergan & Son, Inc. out of Harlem, Georgia for the White Pine sewer extension; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

10. Report from Police Chief

Chief Parks stated for the month of January there was a total of 127 cases. Traffic – 84; Criminal – 19; Warnings – 24; Arrests – 7. Chief Parks stated the following breakdown

of calls: Threats – 1; Escort – 1; Accident – 1; Assisting Another Agency – 2; Aggravated Assault – 2; Simple Assault – 2; Burglary – 1; Larceny -3; Vandalism – 1; Weapon Violations – 2; Animal at Large – 1; Mental Transport – 1; Abandoned Vehicle – 1. Chief Parks requested approval to repair radar unit. Chief Parks stated Custom Radar provided an estimate of \$662.42 for the repair of the radar. An unidentified speaker asked what the cost of a new radar would be. Chief Parks responded that a new radar is priced at \$1,400.00. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion. ***Councilman Nordeen MOVED to approve the repair with Custom Signals, Inc. of the radar unit; SECONDED by Councilman Braswell. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

Mr. Finklin asked Chief Parks about the activity on Sanders Avenue since the closing of Club Sunshine. Chief Parks stated there has been nothing reported in that area as far as she is aware. Mr. Keenan stated a headlight was out on the Durango. Chief Parks stated she was aware and it is being taken care of.

11. Report from Fire Chief

No Report.

12. Report from Committees

a) *Administration* – No Report.

b) *Fire Department* – No Report.

c) *Police Department* – No Report.

d) *Streets and Roads and Parks* – Councilman Braswell stated he has contacted the State regarding the drain issue in the city. Councilman Braswell stated the Town is working with the State and County to resolve the drainage issue. Unidentified speaker asked whether the road at the corner of Green Street and Williamson Avenue will be paved. Mayor Dunbar stated it is a county road and it has been requested for the road to be paved. Joe Berry, the County Engineer, stated the road would be stabilized, but there are no plans to pave it in the immediate future. Unidentified speaker stated citizens are having to go through yards and driveways to get down the road, especially after it rains. The condition of the road is causing damage to vehicles. Unidentified speaker asked who would one contact regarding paving the road. Mayor Dunbar stated the Aiken County Transportation Committee, represented by Mr. Joe Berry, oversees paving the dirt roads in the county. Mayor Dunbar stated also, Scott Singer, Aiken County Councilman, who represents the New Ellenton district could also be contacted. Mayor Dunbar suggested it would be beneficial for the citizens of New Ellenton to attend the Aiken County Council meetings and let their concerns be known. Mr. Rowland suggested the County place gravel down to make the road passable. Mr. Finklin stated he is also aware of vehicles being damaged because of the condition of the roads. Mr. Finklin asked what the citizens can do to prevent their vehicles from being damaged. Mayor Dunbar stated the City does not maintain any dirt or paved roads. Mayor Dunbar stated a list of dirt roads has been submitted to the County's one cent local sales tax list. Ms. Young stated there was a form available to citizens from the County regarding damage to their vehicle caused by

pot holes in the road. Mayor Dunbar suggested that every time the dirt road becomes impassable to call Councilman Singer.

e) *Sewer and Sanitation* – Mayor Dunbar stated that Danny Lowe is now back with the Sewer Plant doing maintenance. Mayor Dunbar stated Mr. Lowe removed approximately 150 trees from one of the standby basins, which was part of DHEC’s recommendation at the last inspection. Mr. Wood asked when a council meeting was held to allow a private entity to dump into the sewer system. Councilman Nordeen stated he spoke with Mr. Lowe about using the camera to find the taps in New Ellenton and it was discussed trading out dumping loads at \$30.00 apiece in exchange for using the camera for a day. Mayor Dunbar asked how much it would cost to use the camera normally. Councilman Nordeen stated the charge is \$150.00 per hour. Mr. Wood asked if it was the Town’s responsibility to show where the taps are? Councilman Nordeen stated if the orange posts in the ground are removed by the owner then the taps cannot be located. City Administrator Greene stated sometimes the plans generated to locate the taps may not always be correct.

f) *Recreation* – Councilman Nordeen stated registration is ongoing. Assistant City Clerk Moseley stated the number has increased for registration as well as sponsorships. Mayor Dunbar stated he discussed with Dr. Stowe the lease for the field. Mayor Dunbar stated repairs were needed on the backstop before baseball season began. Mayor Dunbar stated it is not clear as to when the concession stands and restrooms will be built. Mayor Dunbar stated that both the New Ellenton and Silver Bluff concession stands will be built simultaneously. Unidentified speaker asked where the funding for this building would be coming from. Mayor Dunbar stated the school’s insurance would be funding the project.

g) *Technology Center* – The Technology Center has been closed. Councilman Nordeen inquired regarding an update on the library. Mayor Dunbar stated the County has recently hired an attorney and the lease on the land for the library is being worked out. Councilman Williams arrived and entered the City County meeting. Councilman Williams stated he spoke with the School Board attorney and a rough draft of the lease will be available for review. Unidentified speaker asked why the City Council meeting could not have been postponed and the Council show support at the School Board meeting. Mayor Dunbar responded by saying he requested the School Board to schedule the meeting, but he did not request that it be made the same night as the City Council meeting. Mayor Dunbar stated Councilman Williams represented City Council at the School Board meeting.

13. Executive Session – Not needed.

14. Adjournment

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

Mayor's Signature

Date

Municipal Clerk Signature

Date