

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

Monday, February 22, 2010 (8:00 p.m.)

1. Welcome

Mayor Dunbar welcomed everyone to and called the meeting to order at 8:00 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, Deborah Maddox, Daniel Braswell

Absent: Anthony Shaw

Others Present: City Clerk Vernel Sanders, City Administrator L.C. Greene, Holly Haywood, Mike Burton, Marion Clark, Prestic Faulk, Alesia Parks.

5. New Business

a) *Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Referendum to renew 1% sales tax that was approved in 2000 & 2004* – Mayor Dunbar stated Aiken County Council has requested the Town of New Ellenton submit a list of projects for a Referendum to be vote upon. City Administrator Greene stated the County is deciding whether to vote on the School Board issue and the Referendum separately or together. Mayor Dunbar stated a copy of the previous Referendum was distributed. City Administrator Greene stated Council was asked to submit a list of projects that would be prioritized. City Administrator Greene stated the Town of New Ellenton may receive approximately \$2,000,000.00. Councilman Nordeen asked if these projects are different from the eight projects sent to Lower Savannah. City Administrator Greene stated those eight projects would be covered by the stimulus funds in the amount of approximately \$16,000,000.00. Councilwoman Rogers asked if paving the streets were included. Councilman Braswell responded that the Town would not want to use the 1% sales tax funds when the roads are owned by the County. Mayor Dunbar asked to compare the previous Referendum to the new list of projects. Mayor Dunbar stated there was \$451,000.00 for the following projects: \$435,000.00 for the construction of a new Civic Center to house police, fire, city, and community functions. City Administrator Greene stated most of that project has

been accomplished. Mayor Dunbar stated in 2000 with the first Referendum the walking track was paved in the amount of \$16,000.00. In the 2004 list there was \$1,258,750.00 projected for the following projects: additional municipal complex expansion equipment and capital improvement. City Administrator Greene stated that project has not been completed. Mayor Dunbar stated \$247,000.00 for park development and capital improvements at Evans Park and the Greendale area. City Administrator Greene stated there was equipment purchased and also paving was done. Mayor Dunbar stated the \$200,000.00 library relocation expansion. City Administrator Greene stated these funds were put aside for the library expansion. Mayor Dunbar stated Joe Berry sent Council a draft copy of the library lease for approval. Mayor Dunbar further stated that \$361,750.00 for infrastructure improvements and equipment to support city departments to include, police, fire, sanitation, recreation, streets and roads, and sewer. City Clerk Sanders asked if technology could be included in infrastructure improvements for purposes of purchasing a more powerful computer server with compatible computers. City Clerk Sanders stated several entities were discussing Wi-Fi improvements and felt the Town should be up-to-date. Mayor Dunbar was not agreeable to Wi-Fi because of government security issues. City Clerk Sanders stated the Town's computers do not have adequate speed. City Clerk Sanders suggested reviewing a technology plan. Mayor Dunbar stated the Town does not need to acquire a T4 line. City Administrator Greene stated a new City Hall needed to be built. City Administrator Greene suggested including a technology plan with the City Hall project as opposed to it being a separate project. City Clerk Sanders stated several projects have been completed, to include the improvement of a chipper for Streets and Roads, and also a back hoe. City Clerk Sanders also stated some sewer projects were completed. Councilman Nordeen asked if the new liner for the sewer basin should be included in the list of projects. Councilman Braswell stated sewer is included in the list. Mayor Dunbar asked about the cost of the liner. City Clerk Sanders stated it was approximately \$60,000.00 for the liner and approximately \$100,000.00 for the liner and installation. Councilman Nordeen stated there was additional work included in that project to include prepping the ground. City Administrator Greene stated that everything needed to complete the sewer project would be incorporated in the estimate. Mayor Dunbar asked if a dollar figure needed to be placed on each project or is it better to use a total figure for everything. City Administrator Greene stated it is correct either way. Mayor Dunbar stated he thought it was important to be flexible. City Administrator Greene stated he placed an estimate on each project. City Administrator Greene stated his project list consists of new City Hall and incorporating the new computer upgrades. City Administrator Greene listed patrol vehicles with a cost of approximately \$35,000.00 each. There are four patrol vehicles that presently need replacing. City Administrator Greene stated sewer projects are also listed, recreation equipment, and to expand and renovate the Civic Center. City Administrator Greene stated the Civic Center and City Hall were in poor condition. City Administrator Greene estimated a total of \$1,100,000.00 for the new City Hall; 175,000.00 for five patrol vehicles; approximately 250,000.00 for sewer projects. Councilman Nordeen asked once the Referendum is voted on will they be locked in to the figure submitted to spend on the project. City Administrator responded by saying that was his reason for using categories as opposed to specific items. Mayor Dunbar stated another consideration would be once the library is built there may be additional

expenses, such as landscaping. Councilman Braswell asked whether landscaping is included around the new buildings. City Administrator Greene stated it is all incorporated. City Administrator Greene further stated that \$75,000.00 was estimated for recreation equipment and \$400,000.00 expand and renovate the Civic Center. City Clerk Sanders asked if that estimate included repairing the retention pond. City Administrator Greene stated he was informed the fence is being installed around the retention pond and the Fire Department is purchasing the fencing. Mayor Dunbar asked about moving the Civic Center to another location. City Administrator Greene suggested following the same design that was previously voted on for the new City Hall to keep it in compliance with the looks of the other departments. City Clerk Sanders asked if a large metal building could be constructed in the Civic Center's vacant space as a recreation center for the youth. Mayor Dunbar stated it would not be needed because a recreation area would be included in the new Civic Center. Mayor Dunbar stated the building the Town was considering cost 3.2 million. Unidentified speaker, who works for Two State Construction, stated they build metal buildings for churches, fire departments, and the school system and at this time the cost of steel is down. Councilman Braswell stated if the metal building has a kitchen then a fire suppression would be required for the whole building with a cost of approximately \$40,000.00. Unidentified speaker stated a deposit may be placed with a metal building company to lock in a certain price and then build at a later date. Mayor Dunbar asked what the total figures came to. Unidentified speaker stated a new Civic Center would benefit the community and memberships could possibly be sold to contribute to the upkeep of the building. City Administrator Greene stated his total figures came to \$2,000,000.00. Unidentified speaker also suggested if the buildings are hurricane proof to inquire about FEMA grants to help with the cost. Unidentified speaker stated if the Town opened the building with a backup generator, in the event of a disaster, the Town could house citizens who have lost their homes. Councilman Nordeen asked if the amount asked for needed to be increased. City Administrator Greene stated it comes down to allocation and is based on the population. City Administrator Greene stated if all the funds are placed together they can be moved around to cover any project that may be short of funds because it is on the list. City Administrator Greene stated the smaller municipalities receive funding first and at the end of the year if additional funds are generated then additional funds would be received. City Administrator Greene stated the Town received an additional \$65,000.00. Mayor Dunbar asked if the statement for infrastructure improvement should support all city departments, including the sewer department. City Administrator Greene suggested keeping the sewer department's funding separate from the other departments. Mayor Dunbar stated the Town applied for a State grant but have not heard anything back on it. Mayor Dunbar stated he submitted a list of city dirt roads needing repair to Joe Berry. Councilwoman Rogers stated Million Avenue needed to be placed on the list of roads to be repaired. City Administrator Greene stated stimulus funds could be used to replace drainage problems if it was received. Mayor Dunbar stated the stimulus money is available, but the Town does not qualify for it because of income. City Administrator Greene stated he felt placing the total funding amount together, instead of by individual departments, would be more effective. Unidentified speaker stated he was employed with Two State Construction in Thomson, Georgia. Unidentified speaker stated they have built for Millbrook Church, buildings for SRS, and in the process of building for Silver Bluff

Fire Station. Unidentified speaker suggested Council visit TwoStateConstruction.com and a representative would provide an estimate for from residential buildings up to commercial industrial. Unidentified speaker also suggested using outside grills with covered areas in place of a kitchen inside the Civic Center due to liabilities it would create for the Town and it would also take responsibilities off of the fire department. Mayor Dunbar asked if the figures can be changed according to the needs of each project with the funding the Town receives. City Administrator Greene stated the projects have to be listed but the figures can be changed if needed. Councilwoman Rogers stated the Town would not be locked in to one figure per project. City Administrator Greene stated the total would be provided. Mayor Dunbar stated that 2.5 million should cover infrastructure improvements and equipment to all City departments. Unidentified person suggested using big words, when writing grants, to disguise different things, such as Community Center in place of Civic Center. Mayor Dunbar stated he was informed not to address it as a Civic Center. Unidentified speaker also requested using emergency shelter. Councilman Nordeen asked if there was a letter that could be sent to the citizens prior to voting that lists the items considered on the Referendum. City Administrator Greene stated all of these issues need to be addressed at every council meeting and send out letters before the Referendum is voted on. City Administrator Greene stated it would hopefully be voted on in November. City Administrator Greene stated that 35% of every dollar received is paid for by those passing through or working in town. Mayor Dunbar stated the list of projects consisted of the new City Hall – 1.1. mill; police cars - \$175,000.00; sewer - \$250,000.00; recreation equipment - \$75,000.00; construct new Community Center - \$700,000.00; infrastructure/improvements/equipment for all City departments, including police, fire, sanitation, recreation, streets and roads, sewer, and administration - \$200,000.00, bringing the total of the Referendum to 2.5 mill. Councilwoman Rogers asked Chief Parks if there were five cars in poor condition. Chief Parks responded they were all in poor condition and the cost of maintenance is high. Councilman Rogers asked who performed maintenance of the police vehicles. Chief Parks stated they get estimates from Mundy's and Goodyear and submit the lowest estimate for maintenance. Mayor Dunbar stated the Sewer Director needs a small truck. Mayor Dunbar stated there were two Crown Vic automobiles that needed to be sold. City Administrator Greene suggested taking the two automobiles to Surplus to sell. Mr. Faulk stated the title has not been obtained for the Crown Vic. City Clerk Sanders stated the DMV would not accept the paperwork submitted.

Councilman Braswell MOVED to approve the project list as the Town of New Ellenton's request for 1% sales tax projects; SECONDED by Councilman Williams. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Executive Session – Contractual Matters.

Councilman Williams MOVED to enter into Executive Session; SECONDED by Councilwoman Maddox. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Williams MOVED to exit Executive Session; SECONDED by Councilman Nordeen. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Dunbar stated contractual issues were discussed in Executive Session regarding Council seeking advice from the CEA to move forward with a sewer company. Mayor Dunbar called for a motion to adjourn.

7. Adjournment

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

Mayor's Signature

Date

Municipal Clerk Signature

Date