

**City of Fountain Inn
Council Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2015 – 6pm – Council Chambers**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL PRESENT:

Erick Chapman
Matthew King
Mayor, Gary Long
John Mahony

Michael Maier
Berry Woods, Jr.
Rose Ann Woods

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Barrineau (Recreation)
Gwen Britt (Administration)
Eddie Case (City Administrator)
Roger Case (Public Works)
Michael Hamilton (Police)
David Holmes (City Attorney)

Ronnie Myers (Fire)
Mike Pitman (Gas)
Johanna Inman (HR)
Andrew Ratchford (City Planner)
Sandra Woods (Clerk/Treasurer)

VISITORS: 13

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Long called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman, Rose Ann Woods gave prayer.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

Citizen of the Quarter – Steve Rogers

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:*

Minutes: June 11, 2015

June 2015 Budget Report – Motion by Mike Maier to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Economic Development - Still have a few options for downtown buildings. Working with Main Stop at intersection of Trade & Main St. to find a developer or improve appearance and available for parking. A French/European Bistro is looking at a building on N. Main. Cucina 100 has opened. Continue on recruiting a Micro-Brewery. New interest in apartments at market rate rent. Zaxby's should open late July or early August. Friday by Fountain, Bluegrass and Farmers Market all with record crowds.

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Younts Center for the Performing Arts – Season has closed and making plans for fund raising and new season. Fountain Inn Orchestra has a new director – Come meet him on Tuesday August 11th in the Banquet Hall from 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

2. Finance Department – Jill Vales is working on monthly allocations for 2015/16 budget. Auditors have started on year end and will be in the week of August 1st to finalize the audit. Hope to have the audit by end of September.
3. Diamond Tip Blvd. Woodside Street Construction. Hope to take bids for the streetscape/landscape this year. SCDOT has reviewed the drawings and we are obtaining right-of-way. No Update
4. Woodside Mill District public/private development partnership – Project is on hold until future date as funding is available. Final subdivision plans should be completed by June 30 and will be held for future. No Update
5. Fountain Inn Activities Center Expansion: Construction moving forward.
6. TIF Plan is back on the drawing board. Council Workshop on Thursday August 27th at 6 pm.
7. City Elections – Mayor and Council Wards 2, 4 & 6 are up for election on November 3rd. Signups begin July 15th at noon and will close on Monday August 17th. We are waiting on Mr. Bobby Bowers with the SC Budget & Control Board to let us know if we will need to redistrict this year. No Update.
8. The Fountain Inn Fire Dept. has requested a 7% increase in the Laurens County Fire Contract. Greenville County approved on third reading a 3.9 mill increase for the Fountain Inn Fire Service area (outside the City limits) Nelson Cooley received the Fountain Inn Rotary Club Fireman of the Year award.
9. Public Works - Hospitality tax collections continue strong. 32 building permits issued and 73 inspections. 32 business licenses issued. 23 animals transported.
10. The Police Department continues to work on State Accreditation, summer camp started, fence on police department grounds in progress, and interviewing for a new police officer. Scott Nelson was the Fountain Inn Rotary Club Policeman of the Year award.
11. Fountain Inn Municipal Court – Pat Styles has retired – Opening for part-time position for Clerk of Court Assistant.
12. Fountain Inn Natural Gas - System deliveries for June 2015 were 7.98% lower than average. 2.33% lower than last year's deliveries for June. Year to date we are running 30.33% higher than average. Hedging complete for summer 2015 and 50% hedged for winter 2015/16. 66 new application in June. 36 new residential services completed in

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June. Currently evaluating staffing need and/or overtime requirements to keep up with system growth.

13. Recreation Department – Construction at the Activities Center are moving forward. See Senior Adult Calendar attached to Chris’s report. Flag & tackle football starts August 3rd.
14. HR Department – Part time positions available in Clerk of Court, and Technical support at the Performing Arts Center. Interviewing for a police officer. New Health insurance carrier effective July 1st.
15. Fountain Inn Museum – Monday July 13th at 7 pm Engineer Ray Sheen, to show and tell how mapping and cartography was essential to early Americans and armies. Sat. July 25th Charleston Bus trip to see historic sites. Deadline Monday. Tractors & Hit & Miss Engine and old Farm Days on Sat. Aug. 8th 9am – 2 pm.
16. The City will start working on the engineering plans for City Hall grounds This will utilize the \$500,000 ARC funding the city has been awarded. Meeting with SCDOT and ARC in the next few weeks. No Update.
17. Greenlink - Funding application should be approved by end of May by State/Federal agencies. Looks like we will have a short fall of approx. \$10,000 per year and we are exploring funding/sponsorship opportunities. Final proposal will be presented to Council for approval. No update.
18. The City Staff has examined and compared the cost of IT services and found that it is more economical to subcontract out as compared to a full time staff person. We will go out for RFP on all city services after third quarter of this year.
19. Ft. Inn Cemetery - has now been surveyed and graves located. We will be seeking funding for this upgrade. Seeking additional funding for updating cemetery. No Update.
20. Master Plan – Main St. Project. Almost completed. Diane Turner is Fountain Inn’s point of contact for SCDOT & Sossamon Construction. Please inform everyone not to contact SCDOT or Sossamon Construction, but go to Diane first. Target date for completion is August 7th, 2015. Please mark your calendar for Thursday August 20th for the Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Main 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
21. Fountain Inn Commerce Park – Completed except for fountain sculpture. The sculpture and fountain will be named in honor of Dan Powell. We received \$17,829 of the requested \$23,245 requested from Greenville County Council. Now in negotiations with WP Law the contractor.
22. Farmers Market open every Sat. 8 am until 12 noon until Sept 26th. More produce vendors (18) last Sat. plus craft vendors. Best year ever.

23. All departments continue working hard on grants.
24. Staff continues looking at WIFI & Security Cameras - Commerce and Rotary Park 16 security cameras have been installed and operational. WIFI is operational
25. All departments have suggestion boxes for the public to comment on how city employees are doing their jobs. Only a limited number of comments have been received and all have been positive. Encourage all citizens to complete cards when they visit any department.
26. City website: www.fountaininn.org is being updated weekly and visited more each month. We are working to use social media to promote Fountain Inn through twitter and face book.
27. Senior staff meeting will be held Thursday June 16th at 8:30 a.m. Council members are welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Z 2015-002 175 North Woods Drive – Rezone from I-1 to RM, Residential Multi-Family District

Jay Martin with Arbor Engineering reviewed the plans for the new apartment community that is being planned to be constructed at 175 North Woods Drive.

David Holmes: The Planning Commission posted the property, had a public hearing and the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the rezoning from I-1 to RM with certain conditions that had to do with buffering. Staff has met with Arbor Engineering and the Developer and discussed the rezoning. The City is excited about the development that is proposed, but there is concern that the development they are proposing will actually end up on the site. We have a tentative agreement with them that before second reading we will hammer out a development agreement that says what they say will go on the site will go on the site. We are recommending you pass this on first reading, but we do have a lot of work to do before second reading.

Berry Woods: Asked to abstain from voting on the rezoning due to being a property owner adjacent to the property. Concerned about the project or any project...over the years we have seen good plans, but something happens and it falls through. We have made mistakes along the way. Would like council to consider that in the preparations there be a bank letter prior to rezoning stating funds are available to complete the total project. This is a valuable tax base property...there are considerations that need to be made. I am disappointed that our gas utility will not be used at the property.

Discussion on the Development Plan process.

Motion by Erick Chapman (Public Works Committee Chair) to approve ordinance Z 2015-002 on first reading. The motion carried 6/0. Berry Woods abstained from voting.

Board Appointments

Planning Commission Board

Bob Kendrick to replace Art Gibson
Bobby Dillard to replace Steve Rogers
Chuck Collins to be re-appointed

Board of Appeals

John McMullan to replace Bobby Dillard

Property Maintenance Board of Appeals

Art Gibson to replace Barbara Davis
George Hammond to replace Steve Allen
Ward Kellett to replace Brian Underwood

Motion by Rose Ann Woods, second by Matthew King to approve the proposed appointments. The motion carried unanimously 7/0.

Council Workshop scheduled for August 27th at 6pm to discuss TIF District.

Mayor Long asked everyone to put August 26th on the calendar for a workshop to discuss the TIF District.

Motion by Matthew King adjourn the meeting at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Woods
City Clerk and Treasurer