

**City of Fountain Inn
Council Meeting Minutes
August 13, 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)
Lori Cooper (Public Works)
Keith Morton (Police)
David Holmes (City Attorney)

Russell Alexander (Fire)
Mike Pitman (Gas)
Andrew Ratchford (City Planner)
Diane Turner (Community Dev)
Sandra Woods (Clerk/Treasurer)

VISITORS: 18

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Long called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilwoman, Rose Ann Woods gave prayer.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:

The Honorable Butch Kirven presented Brian Roberts, President of the Fountain Inn Rotary Club, a check in the amount of \$17,829 to help fund the Rotary Park Sculpture.

Police Chief, Keith Morton was recognized with a proclamation for serving 40 years in Law Enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:*

Minutes: July 9, 2015

July 2015 Budget Report – Motion by Michael Maier, second by Rose Ann Woods to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Economic Development - Lots of interest in economic opportunities in the down town area. Hospitality Tax should increase with the addition of Cucina 100, our second BoJangles, QT, Zaxby's and McDonalds. Growler House is under construction. Ryan

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Homes has started infrastructure development and should have a model home under construction soon on N. Main St. Ribbon cutting for the subdivision proposed date is Sept. 8th at 3pm at the subdivision.

Younts Center for the Performing Arts – The hallway should be completed by the end of Sept. and we will host a grand re-opening when completed. Great summer camp programs for theater, art and music. Still soliciting funds for shows next season and the capital campaign fund.

Summer music activities and Farmers Market have had a stellar season. Thanks to Diane Turner and Cortni Motes for a job well done.

Finance Department – Auditors were back August 3rd to continue working on the audit. Hope to have the audit by end of September. Please see your monthly budget statement in your packet.

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

Woodside Mill District public/private development partnership – Project is on hold until future date as funding is available. No Update

Public Works – Staff has installed new banners and baskets on Main St. They have contacted 31 property owners to maintain their properties. 10 owners went to court on September 8th for not maintaining their properties. Two men out on medical leave. Hospitality Tax continues to increase.

Fountain Inn Activities Center Expansion: Construction almost completed. Ribbon Cutting proposed for late Sept. or early Oct.

TIF Plan - Council Workshop on Tuesday Sept 1st at 6 pm. In Council Chambers

Fountain Chamber of Commerce – The Chamber Golf Tournament will be Thursday August 27th. Already receiving application for Aunt Het Sat. Oct. 3rd.

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 at noon. 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.

Judicial Court - Welcome Courtney Price, a new hire in the Judicial Department. Courtney replaced Pat Styles who retired in June of this year. Courtney resides in the City of Fountain Inn and has lived here for at least fourteen years. Please stop by the Courthouse and welcome her to our City family.

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The Fountain Inn Fire Dept. - YTD calls: 1387. July 2015: 199 Total. City Limits: 97. Greenville County: 63. Laurens County: 39.

Asst. Chief Alexander, Engineer Crist, FF's Eller and Cromer went to Columbia Fire Department to cover Columbia Station 3 July 31st while their department had funeral for a firefighter that died in the line of duty due to a stroke. There were departments from all over the state that did this as part of a state firefighter mobilization request.

We will begin a weekly car seat inspection most likely in September. This will be done with GHS Safe Kids. It will be from 4-7. We are waiting on firm dates.

Firefighter Perry completed a 40 hour Hazardous Material course.

We are working to keep overtime to a minimum by using part-time people when we can.

One open slot on A Shift due to an engineer going to work for the state

Yearly maintenance continues on SCBA's, trucks, and other equipment. Pre-incident value is currently about \$106,559,000.00 with losses running about \$602,000.00 which equates to just over .5%. I think the crews are doing an excellent job when it comes to saving property.

Fountain Inn Natural Gas –

Planet fitness - new commercial development on Harrison Bridge road slated to open in the fall/winter 2015

Installed 26 new service lines August '2015

81 new applications for service in August '2015

Beginning survey for new high pressure line on West Side of system in 3rd quarter of '2015

Year to date - installed 202 new service lines in 25 subdivisions

Police Department - Summer Camp for 'At Risk Kids' was completed in July - we had approximately 75 children attend the 3 one week sessions. We continue to have items stolen from vehicles that are being left unlocked - Please remember to lock you cars.

There has been an increase in wrecks that are occurring on Harrison Bridge Road due to Following Too Closely and Inattentive Driving - Pay Attention and Drive Defensively.

School Starts back on August 18th, SLOW DOWN in School Zones and Watch for Children. We have completed background checks on 6 candidates for the vacancy in the Police Departments and interviews of these 6 were conducted today. In case you are asked 4 of the 6 are minorities. We have sold all of the surplus vehicles on Govdeals.com except for one that was not listed due to oversight and one that the sale is pending on for another 4 days. We made an arrest on the Armed Robbery that occurred at the Dollar General on North Main Street in November of 2014 due to a DNA match

HR Department – Job Openings:

Police Dept. 1 fulltime police officer

Performing Arts Dept. 1 part-time box office staff

Performing Arts Dept. 1 fulltime Technical Coordinator

Public Works 1 fulltime sewer crew worker; 2 temporary part-time CDL drivers

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Fountain Inn Museum – Monday Sept. 14th Mrs. Carolyn White will present a program at the Museum entitled “Together Forever”. Had a great day last Saturday for the Tractor and Equipment Show.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Master Plan – Main St. Project is completed except for punch list. Diane Turner has done an excellent job working with SCDOT, Contractor and Merchants. Please mark your calendar for Thursday Sept. 24th for the Ribbon Cutting Celebration on Main 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Lieutenant Governor Henry D. McMaster will be our guest speaker and Miss South Carolina will sing the National Anthem.

Fountain Inn Commerce Park – Completed except for fountain sculpture. The sculpture and fountain will be named in honor of Dan Powell. We will received \$17,829 from Greenville County Councilman Butch Kirven tonight at the Council meeting. WP Law agreed to construct and install the Sculpture for \$48,829 which is the balance in the Rotary Park account. It will be installed by Thursday August 20th.

Farmers Market open every Sat. 8 am until 12 noon until Sept 26th.

All departments continue working hard on grants.

Staff continues looking at WIFI & Security Cameras - Commerce and Rotary Park 16 security cameras have been installed and operational. WIFI is operational

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.

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.

Senior staff meeting will be held Thursday August 20th at 8:30 a.m. Council members are welcome to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Eddie Case reminded everyone that the Main Street Ribbon Cutting/Grand Opening is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th from 5:30pm – 9pm at the intersection of Main Street and Trade Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Appointment – Mayor Long asked Council to approve Aaron Hood to serve on the Planning Commission. He will replace a member that had to resign due to illness.

Motion by John Mahony, second by Rose Ann Woods to approve the appointment. The motion carried unanimously.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Mayor Long asked Council to put on their calendar a workshop meeting scheduled for September 1st at 6pm to learn more about a TIF plan for Fountain Inn.

Executive Session: Receipt of legal advice on matters protected by the attorney client privilege and discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements. Motion by Michael Maier, second by Matthew King for council to meet in executive session.

Back in regular session.

Note: Matthew King left the meeting during executive session.

Ordinance 2015-007 - North Woods Drive Development Agreement, First Reading
Motion by John Mahony, second by Erick Chapman to approve Ordinance 2015-007 on first reading. Berry Woods, Jr. abstained from the vote. (Recusal attached) The motion carried 5/0.

Motion by Mayor Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Woods
City Clerk and Treasurer