

**CITY OF FOUNTAIN INN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2010 – 6:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL**

COUNCIL PRESENT: Jay Thomason, Celia Tuttle, Rose Ann Woods, Erick Chapman, Berry Woods, Jr., Matthew King, Mayor Gary Long

STAFF PRESENT: Sandra Woods, Eddie Case, Dale Watson, William Luttrell, Mike Pitman, Steve Ivester, Chad Chandler, Kenny Jarrett, Billy O’Hara, Keith Morton, Clay Sarratt, Roger Case, David Holmes, Dan Powell

VISITORS: 15

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION: Councilman Matthew King

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

The following employees were recognized as employee of the quarter. Each employee was awarded a \$25 check.

Police – Robert Davis

Economic Development/Performing Arts – Paul Patton (not present)

Public Works – Ronnie Gault (not present)

Recreation – Chad Chandler

Gas – Billy O’Hara – Billy was also recognized for a heroic act during a gas leak last year.

Fire – Fred Hoppis

Mike Pitman introduced new employee Kenny Jarrett

Keith Morton introduced reserve officer Ezekiel Dean

Dale Watson introduced new firemen: Jason Crist, Michael Knox, David Hill, Dennis Satterfield, Daniel Cooley, Russell Alexander and Lee Turner (not present)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports were read and are on file with the City Clerk.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval 12/1/09 Council meeting minutes

Approval of November and December 2009 financial statement

MOTION BY BERRY WOODS: to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Engineering – Tom Keith - Commerce Park Streetscape and Main Streetscape

Mr. Keith gave a brief overview of the project.

Main Street – we are about to start the market study with property owners. It will probably take a couple of months to complete and we will come back and make recommendations to staff.

Depot Street – we will move much quicker on this project. This project will be more of a gathering place...the new center of town. We will be looking at accessibility, is it ADA, multiple entrance, comfort, shade, benches, amenities, etc. We are trying to create a place where the cars will become secondary and the pedestrians will become primary. He reviewed several design plans with Council.

Ordinance 2010-001 Procurement Code, First Reading – David Holmes

David Holmes explained that state law requires cities to have a procurement code. A copy of the procurement code that I wrote is in your packet. If we don't have our own procurement code, we have to follow the state code, which is quite cumbersome and lengthy. This ordinance is based on the model that materials management came up with a number of years ago. This code is similar to Greenville County's.

MOTION BY JAY THOMASON: to approve Ordinance 2010-001 Procurement Code on first reading. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Energy Grant – Karin Von Kaenel

Karin Von Kaenel with the City of Mauldin reviewed with Council an energy grant that Simpsonville, Mauldin and Fountain Inn has applied for from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project title is "The Golden Strip Goes Green". The Goldenstrip will retrofit 23 public buildings with the new ENERGY STAR qualified Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs. One building consuming the most power from each municipality will have solar panels installed to further reduce energy costs. An energy education campaign will teach residents about many energy resources available to them in the Goldenstrip. The grant will be awarded March 15th and the money should be available in May. No match is required from the municipalities.

Resolution 2010-001 Point of Sale – Scott Slatton

Scott Slatton with the Municipal Association reviewed with Council the Point of Sale bill. The Point of Sale legislation is a piece of legislation that is going to be very detrimental to all local governments...not just municipalities across the state of South Carolina. It is a proposal to repeal a portion of Act 388 that was passed in 2006. It is short sided. It is a reaction to a problem with the global economy. Realtors in SC are proposing that the slow down in real estate sales are due, in part, to act 388 and the Point

of Sale reassessment provision within Act 388. Your ability to raise property taxes from year to year is capped by the CPI plus growth. At re-assessment every five years the increase in the amount of value of a piece of property cannot go up any more than 15% except when a piece of property is sold. The point of sale provision would cap that. The change at sale would not go to the market value, but be capped at 15%. The City of Greenville did a quick study and used conservative numbers and estimated over the next 20 years the city would lose \$140,000,000 in property taxes. It never allows the value of property to true up to its market value. It is another piecemeal change. The resolution states that the taxation realignment commission should be allowed to complete its study of the state's tax structure before any further changes to the tax code are passed by the South Carolina General Assembly. If the resolution is approved, Mr. Slatton asked us to send a copy to the Municipal Association and our Senators as the Point of Sale Bill can be brought up anytime in the next couple of weeks.

MOTION BY JAY THOMASON: to approve the Point of Sale resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution 2010-002 Fire Training Facility – Todd Milam

Todd Milam, Phillip Hill, and Gary Castle with Greenville Technical College gave an overview of the joint Fire Training Center proposal. Greenville Technical College proposes to spearhead an effort to develop a new fire training facility, centrally located, that can be utilized by five fire departments (Donaldson Center, Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville, South Greenville) and Greenville Tech, and conceptually such local/joint training facility will reduce training expense and make more specialized training available. They are requesting that the City of Fountain Inn support, in concept, a joint Fire Training Center and Greenville Tech's efforts to seek adequate financing to fund the program.

MOTION BY BERRY WOODS JR., to approve the Fire Training Facility resolution. The resolution approved unanimously,

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel matter, Legal briefing, Contract matter

MOTION BY JAY THOMASON: for Council to meet in executive session.

Back in session

Mayor Long explained that several contractual matters were discussed and no votes were taken.

MOTION BY ALL: to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra H. Woods
City Clerk and Treasurer