



City of Camden
South Carolina

CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

4:30 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Jeffrey R. Graham
Councilmember Patrick D. Partin
Councilmember Walter M. Long
Mayor Pro-Tem Alfred Mae Drakeford
Councilmember X. Willard Polk

City Manager W. Kevin Bronson
Assistant City Manager Mel Pearson
City Clerk Brenda Davis
City Attorney Charles Cushman (absent)
Chronicle-Independent Reporter Martin Cahn
and interested Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jeffrey R. Graham called the Camden City Council Work Session to order at 4:30 p.m.

WELCOME – STATE ETHICS COMMISSION (2012 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) REPORT) - City Manager Kevin Bronson welcomed Council to their first 4:30 p.m. Work Session and also reminded Council of their first Budget Work Session on March 28, 2012 beginning at noon until 5 p.m.

SUNNY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ANNEXATIONS –Bronson

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented Council with a brief update regarding the Sunnyhill Neighborhood Annexation and the City's process for annexing properties. Five property owners were interested in annexation to include; 119 Welsh Street, 221 Welsh Street, 222 Welsh Street, 229 Welsh Street and 234 Welsh Street. Council directed staff to move forward with the five annexations on Welsh Street. See attached Memo **RE:** Sunnyhill Neighborhood Annexation.

UTILITY BILLING PRESENTATION - Bronson

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented Council with a sample copy of City of Camden's new utility billing format and he also explained each portion of the new utility billing format in its entirety to Council. City Manager Kevin Bronson informed Council that staff is prepared to issue the new bill on April 20, 2012, for payments due on May 4. The new billing format will be advertised on the City's Website and also in the Chronicle Independent on the following days: Friday, March 30, Wednesday, April 4, and Wednesday April 11.



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EXPANDING CITY COUNCIL MEETING ACCESS – Bronson

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented Council with follow-up information regarding ways to make the Camden City Council meetings accessible to a wider audience. Council was informed of conversations with TruVista and the Camden Media Company. TruVista is willing broadcast recorded Council meetings over their local access channel but at this time the company is unable to provide equipment or personnel to video and “produce” the meetings for broadcast. Publisher of Camden Media Company Mike Mischner presented a proposal to record and stream the City Council meeting over the internet. See attached Memo **RE:** Expanding City Council Meeting Access.

City Manager Kevin Bronson and Council discussed several ways in which Council could proceed with this matter.

Councilmember Long suggested comparing cost/quotes with other local entities that could produce video or online access. Councilmember Long also suggested giving local entities and opportunity to “test run” a City Council meeting.

Councilmember Polk concurred with Councilmember Long suggestions but suggested soliciting proposals from other media production companies because of the magnitude of expense. Councilmember Polk made several other suggestions as follow; contact the Municipal Association of South Carolina as resource body for video material and obtain a degree of a buy-in from other major governmental entities such as County Council, Hospital and the School District to see if these entities are willing to partner with City Council on broadcasting meetings and then proceed with joint request for proposal.

Upon future discussion, Council directed staff to proceed with the information and suggestions provided.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BROAD-Bronson

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented Council with a progress update on the Architectural Review Board. It was noted that staff is working on a new set of ordinance and complimentary guidelines to establish and implement an Architectural Review Board. An outline was presented to Council summarizing items that staff is working on to complete this goal for Council. See attached Memo **RE:** Progress Update on Architectural Review Board.

There was general discussion from Council regarding this matter.



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OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Long noted a change that needed to be made in the rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance; suggesting Council revise the sign ordinances to allow all business to have a free standing sign. There was general discussion regarding this matter.

Councilmember Drakeford asked for discussion on Agenda item #8 of the Regular Council Meeting of March 27- Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. There was general discussion regarding this matter. Council further decided it was most appropriate to discuss this item at the Regular City Council meeting.

There was no other business from Mayor Graham, Councilmember Partin and Councilmember Polk.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council, on motion by Councilmember Polk, seconded by Councilmember Long, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session 5:18 p.m.

Mayor, Jeffrey R. Graham

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk