



City of Camden
South Carolina

CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, September 11, 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 –City Manager Kevin Bronson welcomed Council to the September 11, 2012 Camden City Council Administrative Briefing and Work Session.

CITY BOND RATING

Council was presented with a briefing of the City of Camden bond rating. The City of Camden received an “A” rating from Standard & Poor’s Rating Services. The review of the bond rating from S&P indicated that the city of Camden was affirmed with an “A” rating with a five year stable outlook. Despite the tough economy the city is reinvesting its own money into reinforcing utility infrastructure and building up its cash reserves.

There was general discussion and questions regarding this matter.

Assistant City Manager, Mel Pearson presented this item to Council. For additional information please refer to press release dated September 6, 2012, **RE:** SC’s Oldest Inland City receives an “A” Rating from S&P.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Downtown Christmas Decorations Committee met to discuss decorating options for the upcoming holiday season. Committee Members Jack Brantley, Betsy Greenway, Dot Goodwin, Deborah Davis, Linda Goodale, Wade Luther and Liz Gilland met with the intention of accomplishing two objectives; to find an alternative way to decorate DeKalb Street in the absence of the traditional overhead lights and find an alternative way to decorate the street light poles specifically along Broad and possible expand to other light poles throughout town to increase visibility.



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The committee met and discussed several decorating options and recommended the following for DeKalb and Broad Street:

DEKALB STREET

Option A-

Hang Skyline lights (if possible) as well as sparkling pole mounts and wrap poles with lit garland. Three different designs are recommended (toy soldier, candle and candy cane). Red lit garland would be added to the poles for more visual color contrast.

Option B-

Hang skyline lights (if possible) as well as side –mounted lit wreaths and wrap poles with garland. Green lit garland would be added to the poles to match what is currently done along Broad Street.

BROAD STREET

Hang skyline lights (if possible) as well as add side-mounted lit wreaths and wrap poles with lit garland. Garland would be green to match wreaths and more lights would be added to the existing garland for greater visual appeal.

Council discussed the committee recommendations and directed staff to go with two skyline street lights across DeKalb Street, three skyline street lights across Broad Street, and Option A on DeKalb Street with the exception of the red garland.

During further discussion, Councilmember Polk recommended staff research the technical guidelines for Broad Street.

Urban Forester Liz Gilland presented the item to the City Council. For additional information, please refer to the Downtown Christmas Decoration Committee Summary dated September 6, 2012 Prepared by Liz Gilland, Urban Forester.

WHOLESALE POWER

On December 31, 2013, the City of Camden wholesale power contact with Progress Energy will expire. As a result the City of Camden is investigating a variety of wholesale providers to provide electric service for the city of Camden. Potential providers invited to respond to the Request for Power Supply Proposals issued August 31, 2012 are as follow: Progress Energy Carolinas, Santee Cooper; SCE& G, Southern-Kenneth Kelly, Electric Cities, Central Electric Power Cooperative, Lockhart Power, Aces Power Marketing, PMPA, Ogelthorpe Power Corp, MEAG, NCEMC and The Energy Authority.



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There was general discussion regarding this matter.

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented the item to Council. For additional information please refer to MEMO dated September 6, 2012 **RE: Wholesale Power.**

CITIZEN SURVEY

A briefing was provided to council with additional details in reference to conducting a citizen survey. At the August 28, 2012 City Council Work Session, Council affirmed their desires to move forward with conducting a citizen survey. Staff reports that the survey design will be conducted via telephone; consist of approximately 95 questions relating to demographics, city service provision and the quality of life. Staff explained the methodology process that will be used to conduct the survey and the public outreach process.

There was lengthy discussion regarding this matter. Council voiced some concerns on the length of questions and the time frame for citizens to complete the survey via telephone. Councilmember Long suggested moving the survey interviews to after January 2013. Councilmember Polk suggested amending the current fiscal year budget to fund the citizen survey.

After further discussion Council directed staff to proceed with the survey seeking an appropriate time after the beginning of year, use the funds left over from the 800 MHz radio system and perform a budget amendment to specify that the funds from the 800 MHz radio system will be used to fund the citizen survey.

ADJOURNMENT

Council, on motion by Councilmember Polk, seconded by Councilmember Drakeford, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 6:15 p.m.

RECONVENE

Council, on motion by Councilmember Polk, seconded by Councilmember Drakeford agreed unanimously to reconvene Council's Administrative Briefing and Work Session.

PUBLIC PARTICIAPATION PLAN for ARB and GUIDELINES DESIGN

Previously City Council directed staff to draft an ordinance to replace the Historic Landmarks Commission with a Board of Architectural Review (BAR). As a part of this transition, staff has worked though out the calendar year of 2012 to study and revise a draft ordinance. On August 28, 2012 at the City Council Work Session staff presented a draft of the design guidelines to the Council for review, a copy was presented to the Historic



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Landmarks Commission for review and also to the public for feedback. During discussion at the August 28, 2012 City Council Work Session, Council specifically suggested more opportunities for public input. As a result staff has developed a public involvement schedule which will allow for discussion, questions and answers and general comments regarding the revised Camden Design Guidelines and the draft Ordinance of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR).

The following schedule will be advertised on the city's website and in the Chronicle-Independent:

- Public Meeting, Historic Design Guidelines – September 20, 2012 -6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Meeting with Historic Preservation Consultant – September 25, 2012 4:00 pm at City Council Work Session.
- Public Input Meeting on BAR ordinance – September 27, 2012 6:30 pm at City Hall

There was general discussion regarding this matter. As requested by Council, a copy of the revised design guidelines will be posted on the City of Camden website for public view and feedback. As an additional public input process, Council Long suggested sending a survey questionnaire to citizens regarding this matter.

City Manager Kevin Bronson presented the item to the City Council. Please refer to Memo dated September 6, 2012 **RE:** Public Participation Plan for the Architectural Review Board Ordinance and Associated Design Guidelines prepared by City Manager

RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM

As a beneficial response to the citizens of Camden who have expressed interest in having access to larger containers for weekly recyclables, the city of Camden is offering a pilot program with a limited number of 65-gallon recycling bins for weekly recyclables.

The pilot program is voluntary and is for residential sanitation service customers of the city of Camden only. Participants are chosen equally on a first-come-first-serve basis and are required to trade in existing containers in order to receive a larger container. No cost or fee will be required for customers to participate in the pilot program.

Over the course of the pilot program, staff will monitor the usage of the containers to measure the effectiveness of the program.

There was general discussion regarding this matter.



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City Manager Kevin Bronson presented the item to Council. For additional information please refer to Memo dated September 6, 2012 **RE:** Pilot Program to Increase Residential Recycling.

OTHER BUSINESS – Council

Councilmember Long discussed putting out a press release of the “Grab Life” Branding Campaign.

Councilmember Long also suggested Council consider moving the Work Session time from 4:30 to 4:00 pm. Council unanimously agreed to move the City Council Work Session to 4:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council, on motion by Councilmember Polk, seconded by Councilmember Drakeford, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor, Jeffrey R. Graham

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk