



City of Camden
South Carolina

CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

4:00 P.M.

Council Chambers-City Hall

PRESENT

Mayor Anthony P. Scully

Mayor Pro-Tem X. Willard Polk

Councilmember Walter M. Long

Councilmember Alfred Mae Drakeford

Councilmember Laurel M. Parks

City Manager Mel Pearson

City Clerk Brenda Davis

Chronicle-Independent Reporter Martin Cahn

and interested Citizens

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Anthony P. Scully called the Camden City Council Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

WELCOME –City Manager Mel Pearson welcomed Council to the April 23, 2013 Camden City Council Work Session.

REQUEST FOR SPACE TO HOLD A TOWN MEETING- Pearson

Council was informed of a request from US Representative Mick Mulvaney-5th District to utilize Council Chambers for a Town Hall meeting to be held on May 13th between the hours of 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mr. Mulvaney will speak on topics such as the economy and take questions from the public.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Council was updated on emergency preparedness by Chief John Bowers. Chief Bowers's brief presentation highlighted emergency preparedness items that were put into place for the city of Camden due to recent terrorist attacks.

Council voiced some concerns and questions and later thanked Chief Bowers and his staff for their efforts in maintaining safety and security for the citizens of Camden.

FAÇADE GRANT POLICY

City Manager Mel Pearson opened discussion regarding the review of façade grant guidelines. During discussion, Council was asked to give staff direction on the following changes for allocating façade grant funds:

- Increase the maximum amount to \$15,000 per building from \$2,500 per grant.
- Base the award on \$75 per lineal footage for each façade (a façade may be a front, a side or the back of a building).



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- The maximum of \$15,000 will be allowed over a (5) year period beginning with the date that the first grant is awarded.

During further discussion, Council voiced some concerns and questions and then unanimously agreed to adopt the above revised façade grant guidelines.

For additional information please refer to the revised copy of the City of Camden Façade Grant Program Guidelines dated April 23, 2013.

POTABLE WATER UPDATE

Deputy Director of Public Works, Sam Davis updated Council on the progress of the taste and order issues regarding the City of Camden drinking water. Mr. Davis explained each step that has been taken to treat the taste and odor in the city's drinking water. Mr. Davis also explained additional steps the City is taking to address the anticipation of a recurrence of conditions that may cause taste and odor issues.

Mr. Davis answered questions from Council regarding the taste and odor issues and insured Council that efforts will be made to deter potential algal growth and taste and odor problems that may occur this summer and fall. Council later requested a tour of the Water Plant. The Water Plant tour is scheduled for May 29, 2013 at 10 a.m.

For additional information please refer to the memo dated April 16, 2013 **RE: Drinking Water Update for Council Work Session.**

HANGING BASKETS/PLANTERS DOWNTOWN

Urban Forester Liz Gilland opened discussion regarding the Camden Garden Club proposal for hanging baskets along Broad Street. The hanging baskets would be hung on the eight light poles between DeKalb and Rutledge Street with a required water reservoir. The Camden Garden Club proposal includes the purchase of the baskets, water reservoirs and light pole hardware to hang the baskets. The City would be responsible for watering at least three days per week or possibly every day.

There was general discussion and questions from Council regarding this matter. Council was asked to give staff direction on the proposal. There was general discussion on which type of planted hanging basket should be mounted on the light poles. Council later agreed to have staff move forward with the Camden Garden Club proposal. Staff will prepare a Resolution for approval in regards to this matter at an upcoming regular meeting.



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LEADER’S LEGACY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

City Manager Mel Pearson updated Council on the Leader’s Legacy Recognition Program. There was general discussion regarding this matter. Council voiced some concerns regarding the city covering the entire cost of the Leader’s Legacy benches. It was noted that the city could cover the total actual cost, if approved by Council.

During further discussion, Council agreed to continue with the Leader’s Legacy Recognition Program Policy as adopted on May 22, 2012.

SOUTH RUTLEDGE STREET PARKING LOT

Economic Development Director Wade Luther made a brief presentation on the progress of the South Rutledge Parking Lot design plans. Mr. Luther reported that the plans for the South Rutledge Parking lot have moved to final design. There was general discussion regarding this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Drakeford noted that the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church would like to withdraw its petition to annex into the City due to cost of tying into the city’s utilities.

Councilmember Long questioned Urban Forester Liz Gilland about developing a comprehensive tree plan and noted the need to develop a plan to offer alternatives to downtown business owners where trees are causing blockage of their business signage.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council on motion by Mayor Scully, seconded by Councilmember Polk, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 5:50 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor Anthony P. Scully

Brenda Davis, City Clerk