



City of Camden
South Carolina

CAMDEN CITY COUNCIL

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 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 Editor 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 June 11, 2013 Camden City Council Work Session.

Councilmember Long suggested Council revise the Work Session Agenda to move item number five as the first item for discussion. Council agreed unanimously to discuss item number five (Petition for Annexing Town & Country, Inc.) as the first Work Session agenda item.

PETITION FOR ANNEXING TOWN & COUNTY, INC – Pearson

City Manager Mel Pearson presented Council with a request for approval regarding a petition for annexation for the property located at 2175 West DeKalb Street. The property is approximately 16.9 acres and owned by Town & County, Inc. One of the owners of Town & Country, Inc., Mac Willetts and Council had a brief discussion regarding the use of the property upon annexation.

Staff will forward the proposed annexation request of 2175 West DeKalb Street to the Camden Planning Commission; there were no objections from Council.

TOURISM ADVERTISING GRANT - Pearson

Council was briefed on the 2013 Tourism Advertising Grant (TAG) awarded to the City of Camden. The grant in the amount of \$10,086 will pay for tourism advertising expenditures aimed at bringing tourists to the City. There was brief discussion regarding this matter.



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FAÇADE GRANT PROGRAM- Pearson

Council was briefed on the 2012/2013 budget allocation of funds approved for the Façade Grant Program. There was general discussion regarding this matter. For additional information, please refer to the Budget Allocation 2012/2013 Façade Grant Worksheet.

UPDATE OF AMTRAK RAIL STATION REPAIRS –Pearson

Renovations to the Amtrak Train Station to include renovating the canopy, replace and repair the fascia boards, the exterior trim, some gutter work, and replace the cooper flashing and the roof (if necessary) is set to be on schedule for Amtrak to start renovation spring of 2014. Amtrak will also replace the station’s windows and renovate the restrooms to meet ADA standards if funds allow. Amtrak will not pave the parking lot due to limited funds. Council was informed of Amtrak’s plans for renovations in the event Council would like to change their plans for re-paving the City’s portion of the station’s entrance. The City is prepared to re-pave the entrance, update lighting and perform any underground work with funds allocated in the excess of \$100,000, however, Council will discuss the plans to fix, pave or patch the station and the City’s portion of the station’s entrance at a later date.

ARNETT MULDROW – SCOPE OF WORK –LUTHER

Camden Economic Development Director Wade Luther presented a draft scope of work for tourism planning and branding services for the City from the consultants, Arnett Muldrow. Arnett Muldrow proposed scope of work consist of eight tasks; Information Gathering and Background Review, Project Kickoff (visit one), Market Assessment, Tourism Destination Plan/Action Plan, Progress Report and Presentation (visit two), Marketing and Branding Workshop (visit three), Tourism and Marketing Implementation Strategy, and Final Presentation and Implementation Workshop (visit four).

Economic Development Director Wade Luther reviewed each task with Council and explained that the purpose of his presentation was for Council to have the opportunity to make any additions or deletions to items in the draft scope of work to ensure all areas of concern were covered and to also receive Council’s input on a time frame to begin the project.

There was lengthy discussion regarding this matter. Council voiced some concerns on the steering committee (members to be appointed) and incorporating the 2010 Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ) study with this project. During further discussion, Council voiced some other concerns and later agreed to have Arnett Muldrow begin its work in Camden around mid-August, as opposed to the second week of July. Staff will verify with Arnett Muldrow on this time frame.



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TREE ORDINANCE

City of Camden Urban Forester Liz Gilland presented Council with a draft of a Public Tree Ordinance. Ms. Gilland reviewed each section of the draft ordinance with Council. Council voiced some concerns regarding an annual tree work/planting plan and incorporating a heritage tree program into the ordinance. Staff will prepare the Public Tree Ordinance for Council approval at a later date.

ADDITIONAL

Council unanimously agreed to cancel the June 25, 2013 City Council Work Session and the June 25, 2013, regular City Council Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Parks requested an update on the hanging basket project. Liz Gilland explained that the encroachment permit was approved however, the Garden Club decided to wait until spring of 2014 to begin the project. Council requested staff contact the Garden Club to encourage them to proceed with the project this summer 2013.

Councilmember Drakeford requested staff research the number of abandon buildings located in the City of Camden; referencing the dilapidated bill introduced in the House/Senate.

Councilmember Long noted his concerns of Chapter 158 Ordinance and asked Council to consider tabling the item at Council's Regular June 11, Meeting. Councilmember Long suggested the design guidelines be re-written, approved, and voted on along with Chapter 158 Ordinance. There was lengthy discussion regarding this matter; Council will vote on first reading of Chapter 158 at their regular scheduled meeting at 6:30 p.m. June 11, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Council on motion by Mayor Scully, seconded by Councilmember Drakeford, voted unanimously to adjourn the Work Session at 4:45 p.m.

Mayor Anthony P. Scully

Attest:

Brenda Davis, City Clerk