

Wagener Council Meeting
July 6, 2009

Minutes:

Present: Councilman Hudson, Councilman Heffron and Councilman Smith
Absent: Mayor Carver and Councilman Miller.

Mr. Scott Neely took minutes due to the absence of Ms. Tina Salley.

Councilman Hudson presided over the meeting in his capacity as Mayor Pro Tempore, due to the absence of Mayor Carver.

Councilman Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Councilman Smith gave the invocation.

Councilman Heffron asked that the agenda be amended to add an item under New Business concerning the Town's website. Councilman Heffron stated that Mr. Tom Sliker was present to present some information to the Council about proposed changes to the Town's website. There were no objections to the proposed addition to the agenda. Councilman Heffron made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. The agenda was approved as amended.

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2009 Council meeting as presented. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes from the meeting on June 1, 2009 were approved as presented.

Citizens Input

Mr. O'Byrne asked whether or not the Council was able to balance the FY 2010 budget without increasing taxes or utility rates. Councilman Hudson confirmed that the FY 2010 budget was balanced without raising taxes or utility rates. A lady in the audience asked why the Council minutes from recent meetings had not been posted on the Town's website. Mr. Heffron told the lady that the Council would be discussing the Town's website at some length later on during the course of the meeting, and he told her that her question concerning the Town's minutes would be answered during that time.

Old Business

Departmental Reports

Fire Chief Mark Redd gave the report for the Wagener Fire Department. He distributed a written summary of activities during the previous month.

Police Chief Jeff Key gave the report for the Wagener Police Department. He reported that the department held firearms training and conducted alcohol compliance checks within the past month. He mentioned that several riding lawnmowers had been stolen recently in Wagener. He also distributed a written report detailing his department's activities during the previous month.

New Business

Contract with the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Neely explained the terms of the agreement and why the agreement had to be approved. Councilman Heffron made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. The agreement was approved as presented.

Town Website – Presentation by Mr. Sliker

Mr. Tom Sliker greeted the Council and distributed handouts concerning the Town's existing website and proposed changes that might reduce the Town's cost for maintaining the website. Mr. Sliker stated that the Town's existing website was approximately 4 years old. He stated that the existing website was fairly difficult to update unless the person updating the website had been trained in the software used to build the website. Mr. Sliker stated that he was looking for a way to make the website easier to update and for ways to save the Town money.

Mr. Sliker stated that the minutes for recent Council meetings had not been placed on the Town's website, because he had not received copies of the minutes from Town Hall. He stated that he requested in the past that the minutes be forwarded to him once the minutes are approved by Council.

Mr. Sliker stated that Councilman Heffron had been working on a new version of the Town's website. The new version was designed using the software known as Drupal. Sites designed using Drupal are much easier to update. One does not need a great amount of technical ability to update a Drupal based website. The handout Mr. Sliker distributed contained screenshots from the new version of the website. Mr. Sliker explained that Councilman Heffron had created the new version of the Town's website at no cost to the Town.

Mr. Sliker discussed his proposal to reduce the Town's cost for maintaining the website. He proposed selling ads to help fund the cost of maintaining the website. Mr. Sliker stated that the ads would be sold primarily to local businesses. Councilman Heffron stated that the Town spent about \$500 during the last fiscal year on maintaining the Town's website. If the Council approves the advertising proposal, the only cost the Town will have each year is the cost for hosting the site (about \$120 a year). Town staff will update the routine areas of the site (minutes, personnel, announcements, etc.).

Councilman Smith stated that the entire plan sounded great, but he would rather hold off until all of the Council was present before making a decision. He stated that he thought the matter should be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Sliker stated that he was fine with that. He stated that he would hold off on selling any ads for the website until the Council made a final decision.

Councilman Heffron stated that he would like to go ahead and publish the new version of the website that he had been working on, since that would not involve any additional cost to the Town. Council was fine with that idea. The issue of whether or not to sell ads for the website will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councilman Smith made a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. The Council went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Councilman Heffron made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. No action was taken during executive session.

Councilman Heffron made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meetings on May 14, 2009 and June 11, 2009 as presented. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes for the Council meetings on May 14, 2009 and June 11, 2009 were approved as presented.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Heffron seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.