



**City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers
145 West Broad Street
Spartanburg, SC
Monday, September 9, 2013
5:30 p.m.**

**(These minutes were approved at the
September 30, 2013, City Council meeting.)**

City Council met this date with the following members present: Mayor pro tem Jerome Rice, Councilmembers Linda Dogan, Cate Ryba, Robert Reeder, Jan Scalisi, and Councilmember W. Sterling Anderson II. Mayor White was out on medical leave. City Manager Ed Memmott and City Attorney Cathy McCabe were also in attendance. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Media 24 hours in advance according to the Freedom of Information Act. All City Council meetings are recorded for a complete transcript.

I. Moment of Silence – observed.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Cub Scout Micah Kennedy lead everyone in the pledge.

III. Approval of Minutes of the August 26, 2013 City Council Meeting –
Councilmember Dogan made a motion to approve the minutes as received. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.

IV. Approval of Agenda of the September 9, 2013 City Council Meeting –
Councilmember Dogan made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Councilmember Ryba seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.

V. Public Comment

**Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk*
Harry Ragsdale and Sara Ragsdale introduced themselves to City Council. They recently moved to Spartanburg from Charleston and wanted to make Council aware of Ms. Ragsdale’s food truck “Sara on the Go”. Council welcomed them and wished them well.

VI. Ordinance

A. Providing for the Issuance and Sale of a Series of Water System Revenue Bonds of the City of Spartanburg, South Carolina, in a Principal Amount Not to Exceed Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000); and Other Matters Relating Thereto (First Reading)

Presenter: Chris Story, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Story presented the item to City Council as follows:

“As you know, the City of Spartanburg Commission of Public Works (“CPW”) operates the Spartanburg Water System and from time to time bond debt is issued to fund system needs. City Council action is required in order for water system revenue bonds to be issued. Earlier this year, the CPW and City Council executed an agreement, which among other things, describes the conditions under which City Council will authorize such debt. We have received a request which is in full compliance with that agreement. Passage of the attached ordinance is necessary for the issuance to proceed.

We recommend City Council adopt the attached ordinance.

BUDGET AND FINANCE DATA: The bonds are secured solely by water system revenues. There is no financial impact or exposure to the City budget.”

Councilmember Anderson made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented on first reading. Councilmember Dogan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. To Amend the Code of the City of Spartanburg 1988, Chapter 18, By Adding Article III to Provide for a Special Property Tax Assessment for Rehabilitated Historic Property (Second Reading)

Presenter: Chris Story, Assistant City Manager

Councilmember Reeder made a motion to approve the consent agenda as received. Councilmember Dogan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.

VIII. Other Business

A. Request for Approval for the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract with a Benefits and Wellness Consultant

Presenter: Michelle Clyburn, Director of Human Resources

“We consider it important to provide a competitive collection of benefits to city employees. We expend considerable city resources to provide our employees and their families with medical, dental, and vision coverage as well as short and long-term disability, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance. These benefits make a meaningful difference in the lives of our employees and their families and in the city’s ability to attract and retain a talented workforce.

Likewise, it is very important that we carefully manage our investments in these employee benefits to stretch the dollars we spend in the arena to yield the maximum possible. We are proud of the improvements made in recent years and believe we maintain a cost effective approach to the design and administration of these programs. However, we believe we can further improve in the years to come. To that end, we have conducted an open procurement process to identify a Benefits and Wellness Consultant best suited to advise us through the shifting marketplace to identify the best benefits package we can afford.

In this process we emphasized a commitment to employee wellness, a proven track record of cost containment, a commitment to full cost transparency, the ability to utilize data and technology to ease administration, new approaches to rising drug costs,

and experience designing high performing health plans for firms our size. Our effort was not to identify the consultant with the lowest fees. Instead it was to identify the firm that could help us to achieve the most cost effective benefits program overall when all costs are considered.

Seven firms responded to our request for proposals. A committee, which included two neutral industry experts from outside of the City staff, scored the proposals and interviewed three finalists. The selection committee recommends Argus Benefits of Greenville, SC. Argus Benefits is a Division of Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. Annual compensation paid to Argus will be in the \$70,000 - \$90,000 range depending on subsequent decisions on specific tasks. This cost will replace the commissions and administrative fees which have been built in to the various insurance costs we have paid in recent years. Therefore no net added expense is expected.

We request Council approval for the City Manager to enter into a three-year contract with Argus Benefits. The contract shall automatically renew for additional periods of one (1) year each, unless either party should elect to terminate. Renewal shall be based on acceptable performance under the terms of the contract.”

Councilmember Dogan made a motion to approve the request as presented and allow the City Manager to enter into a three-year contract with Argus Benefits.

Councilmember Reeder seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0.

IX. City Council Updates -

Councilmember Scalisi mentioned the article in the newspaper regarding V-Com’s nearly \$50 million impact on the local economy. She reminded everyone of the Pride March to be held on Saturday, September 14 at 11:30 at Barnet Park.

She share that the Growler Haus on Church Street had opened.

Councilmember Ryba mentioned that David Ball, musician recently inducted into the Music Trail, would be performing at the Hub Bub Showroom on Friday night. She encouraged everyone to become a part of the entrepreneurial program at Wofford as mentors.

Councilmember Anderson reminded everyone of the High Heel Hundred Run sponsored by Converse College to raise awareness of pay discrepancies between women and men.

He shared that he was excited about the possibilities of Food Trucks in the City.

Councilmember Reeder reminded everyone about the event at Stewart and Irwin Parks on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

Councilmember Dogan reminded everyone that the longtime residents of the Northside were central to its success, not just investments of public and private partnerships.

She also shared that she had given greetings and welcome to those attending the Nepalese Group Convention the previous Sunday.

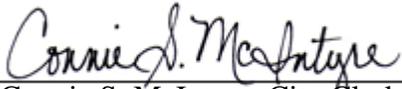
Mayor pro tem Rice mentioned an article about Landon Cohen, a recent hire of the Dallas Cowboys, and his love of his hometown Spartanburg.

Mr. Memmott thanked Human Resources Director Michelle Clyburn and Benefits Coordinator Ingrid Crawford for their efforts in recruiting a Benefits and Wellness

Consultant. He also thanked Mark Ford and his team for their efforts in grounds maintenance and ground waste pickup.

X. Adjournment –

Councilmember Dogan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Ryba seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 6 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Connie S. McIntyre, City Clerk