



**City Council Meeting
City Council Chambers
145 West Broad Street
Spartanburg, SC
Monday, November 9, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

**(These minutes were approved at the
November 23, 2015 City Council meeting.)**

City Council met this date with the following members present: Mayor Junie White, Mayor pro tem Erica Brown, Councilmembers Jan Scalisi, Robert Reeder, Jerome Rice, Sterling Anderson, and Laura Stille. 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 - recited**
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2015 City Council Meeting –**
Councilmember Rice made a motion to approve the minutes as received.
Councilmember Reeder seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.
- IV. Approval of Agenda of the November 9, 2015 City Council Meeting –**
Councilmember Scalisi made a motion to approve the agenda as received. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.
- V. Public Comment – Joe Kowal from the Beaumont Neighborhood Association, 790 Camp Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303, informed and invited City Council to participate in the many events that would take place over the year for the Beaumont Village 125th Year Anniversary.**
- VI. Announcement of the Winners of the Neighborhood Challenge to Participate in Seeing Spartanburg In A New Light Public Art Project**
Presenter: Jennifer Evins, CEO & Director of Development, Chapman Cultural Center
Ms. Evins announced the following winners of the “Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light”:
 - Beaumont Village
 - Downtown Spartanburg
 - Forest Park
 - Hampton Heights

Highland Neighborhood
Maxwell Hills/Duncan Park
Northside
South Converse

Andrews Farm and Converse Heights will participate in a joint installation on the Cottonwood Trail that connects both neighborhoods

She shared that Neighborhood Design Charrettes would take place December 8 -10, the design process January – March 2016, fabrication and installation April-July 2016 and “Lights On” Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Council received the report as information.

VII. Spartanburg School District 7 Potential Capital Improvements Update

Presenter: Dr. Russell Booker, District 7 Superintendent

Dr. Booker reviewed District 7 plans for a new high school, stadium, elementary school, and renovations to the current high school for a move of the middle school to that location. He stated that public meetings had and were continuing to be held, that the District 7 board would need to vote to move forward with the plan, and that after the board vote, the plan would go to the voters as a referendum.

Council received the report as information.

VIII. Other Business

A. Authorization to Proceed with Demolition of 142 Oakland Avenue

Presenter: Ed Memmott, City Manager

“**Mr. Memmott** presented the item to City Council as follows:

Buddy Bush, City Building Official, has determined that 142 Oakland Avenue is a hazardous structure that poses serious health and safety concerns. 142 Oakland is a large two story structure that has a significant amount of asbestos in it. Mr. Bush recently ordered the owner to either repair or demolish the structure. The property owner, Mr. Joe Mabry resides in a nursing home. His wife, Ida Mabry also resides in a nursing home. They do not have the financial means to repair the property. It has been vacant for several months. The home was left with furniture, clothing, and other household items in it. The Mabry’s have no ability to correct the extensive deficiencies at the structure. Staff has been in contact with family members who have no interest and/or financial ability to intervene. There are several lenders who have recorded mortgages on the property. These lenders have determined that is not in their financial interest to involve themselves in the matter. At this point, there is no other party for the City to hold responsible for the property. Staff does not believe these circumstances will change.

At my direction, code enforcement staff solicited bids for asbestos abatement and demolition of the structure. Two bids were received. The low bid for removal of the structure was \$79,950. There are no funds budgeted to cover this expense. A total of \$101,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds was budgeted for FY16 for demolition. These funds have been obligated for the demolition of other derelict structures.

As I see it, the following options are available:

- Do nothing.
- Postpone demolition until July/August of 2016 when additional funds would be available. I would remind Council that the amounts of Community Development Block Grants have been declining. Budgeting sufficient funds for demolition of 142 Oakland Avenue and the 12-14 homes which typically require demolition in the course of any year would necessitate significant cuts in other programs supported by CDBG funding.
- Rebid to determine if a lower bid price emerges. This approach can result in higher expenses.
- Pursue other options such as a controlled burn of the property. Given the location of this property and its very close proximity to other businesses, I have been reluctant to pursue this option.

ACTION REQUESTED: I am requesting Council authorization to proceed with asbestos abatement and demolition as an unbudgeted expense.

BUDGET & FINANCIAL DATA: \$79,950 expense to General Fund.

Councilmember Reeder made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.

B. Police Department Records Management Purchase

Presenter: Alonzo Thompson, Police Chief

Chief Thompson presented the item to Council as follows:

“The Police Department has utilized its current computer based police records management system for over fifteen years. This TriTech software system, formally known as VisionAir, has replaced the officers’ clipboard with a mobile computer that is utilized within the patrol vehicle. This system manages millions of police records and archives every criminal incident that occurs in our community. However, with the development of technology, the current system has become stagnant, offering very few options that are available through modern technologically advanced software. Because of the current software limitations, the police department has had to purchase multiple software databases to compensate for TriTech’s shortcomings. We must utilize separate databases for evidence tracking, image storage, training, equipment, personnel records, GIS mapping and data research, and incident link analysis.

UPDATE INFORMATION: Within the recent years, the police department and the City IT team has researched and evaluated several innovative police records management systems. During this research, a top priority was finding a database through which data sharing could be accomplished. The research continuously led back to a locally used records management system, Spillman Technologies. The Spartanburg Sheriff’s Office utilizes the Spillman Technology’s RMS system and has for many years. Through their usage, the Sheriff’s Office has established a wealth of sharable data which would be advantageous for the betterment of the City Police Department because of the opportunity for data sharing. Data sharing in policing is critical because individuals involved in the commission of crimes do not limit their activities to specific jurisdictions.

Advantages of Moving from TriTech to Spillman's Record Management System

1. Acquisition of Spillman would lead to the two largest law enforcement agencies in Spartanburg County sharing real-time police intelligence and incident data. This also opens the door for smaller, local municipalities to join the data sharing initiative, with little or no cost. A software agreement has already been signed between the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County.
2. The transition would combine multiple in-house databases into one user-friendly system. Over time, these databases will transition into the main Spillman system. This in turn, would eliminate the yearly maintenance fees for these systems which would mean a potential for an estimated \$80,000 annual savings.
3. Each officer would have crime analysis, crime mapping, and predictive policing tools on the mobile computer in their patrol vehicle. These tools will greatly enhance the in-the-field crime fighting strategies and tactics.
4. The City and County databases would be a mirror system. This would allow for a duplicate and identical data storage system. This creates a stronger disaster recovery protocol for both agencies. For example, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster resulting in destruction of one system, the redundancy and duplication of the software database would provide a secure and safe system through the other agency.
5. Spillman Technologies is a stable company that has been privately owned for over 30 years. They have never been "bought out" and only focus on public safety clients.
6. Because the Sheriff's Department has a successful history with the Spillman organization, and data sharing is the most logical solution for our agency, this would be a sole source purchase.

BUDGET AND FINANCE DATA: The net cost of this system upgrade would be \$116,000 in the current fiscal year and \$46,000 each of the next seven years. We intend to repurpose \$66,000 of existing grant funds currently in hand to reduce the impact on the current fiscal year to \$50,000.

We recommend that the City Manager be authorized to execute the necessary agreements."

After discussion, Councilmember Rice made a motion to approve the request as received with the understanding that an ordinance would be presented for approval at the next council meeting. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IX. City Council Updates –

Councilmember Stille shared she had attended the National League of Cities in Nashville with Councilmembers Scalisi and Reeder. She stated that she enjoyed the networking opportunities, the workshops, and that she would be sharing more from the workshops at a later date.

Councilmember Rice shared that he was pleased with the District 7 plan forward and looking forward to the possibilities it presented. He stated that he had participated

Tuesday past in a panel discussion with Assistant City Manager Chris Story about a transit system collaboration with the county.

Mayor pro tem Brown reminded everyone of “Sundays Unplugged” at the Chapman Cultural Center from 2 – 4. She encouraged everyone to vote in the runoff election on Tuesday, November 17 for the Commissioner of Public Works seat. She complemented Spartanburg Little Theatre for the great opening of “Of Mice and Men”. She reminded everyone of the Art Walk on Thursday from 5 – 9.

Councilmember Reeder offered congratulations to all the winners of the “Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light Public Art Project”. He shared that he enjoyed the NLC Nashville conference and the great workshops he attended. He shared that he would continue to serve on the NLC Economic Development Committee for another two year term. He congratulated the Spartanburg High School Football for advancing to Region Champions.

Councilmember Scalisi shared that she also enjoyed the NLC conference. She was particularly impressed with a workshop entitled, “Innovation in Courts” and the information indicating courts were moving more toward social services and rehabilitation of lives. She cited an urban revitalization that involved renting property in an empty box mall to Vanderbilt University that they repurposed by building around it.

Councilmember Anderson shared that he had attended a SPATS meeting that morning with the Mayor where Highway 29 and the needs on it were addressed. He mentioned Veteran’s Day on Wednesday and expressed appreciation to all who have and are serving in the armed forces of our country.

X. Adjournment -

Councilmember Reeder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Scalisi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.



Connie S. McIntyre, City Clerk