



**City Council Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
145 West Broad Street  
Spartanburg, SC  
Monday, August 24, 2015  
5:30 p.m.**

**(These minutes were approved at the  
September 14, 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 August 10, 15 City Council Meeting –**  
*Councilmember Reeder made a motion to approve the minutes as received.*  
*Councilmember Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**IV. Approval of Agenda of the August 24, 2015 City Council Meeting –**  
*Councilmember Rice made a motion to approve the agenda as received.*  
*Councilmember Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**V. Public Comment - None**

*\*Citizen Appearance forms are available at the door and should be submitted to the City Clerk*

**VI. Resolution**

**A. To Approve the Purchase of 85 Body Worn Cameras and 85 Electronic Control Devices from Taser International**

**Presenters: Chief Alonzo Thompson, Spartanburg Police Department**  
**Chris Story, Assistant City Manager**

**Chief Thompson and Mr. Story presented the item to Council as follows:**

**“Last September, the Spartanburg Police Department started a body camera pilot program. The department deployed twenty (20) Taser brand body cameras on a variety of uniform officers. These small video cameras have captured over 10,200**

incidents from the officer's field of view. These interactions with the community range from simple traffic stops to arresting unruly suspects. Once the incident is recorded, it is securely stored on Taser's cloud-based storage system called Evidence.com

With only six months into the pilot program, the camera system has been a huge success. The ever growing database is full of compelling video footage. This system has improved citizen behavior, revealed false complaints, created a more efficient officer, and greatly increased public trust.

During March of this year, the City of Charlotte went through the procurement process for body cameras for Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD). This process mirrors the City of Spartanburg's procurement process. Five vendors returned with proposals for the implementation of a head mounted camera and cloud-based storage systems. The Taser Axon Flex camera and Evidence.com cloud storage system were selected by the procurement team. This is the same Vendor and camera system the Spartanburg Police Department utilized during the twenty (20) camera pilot system. The vendors that responded to CMPD's request were:

1. Taser International
2. MediaSolv
3. Digital Ally
4. Reveal Media
5. Motorola

The second phase of the project was to research and review Electronic Control Devices, commonly known as Tasers. This less than lethal device deploys two electrical probes that causes temporary paralysis to an unruly suspect. The implementation of these devices across the United States has greatly reduced the use of deadly force by law enforcement. It has also reduced the number of suspect as well as officer injuries. This in turn reduces the number of hospital bills and workman compensation claims. Over 16,900 law enforcement and government agencies currently have the Taser system as a less that lethal option.

The City of Spartanburg created a bid process for 85 Taser style Electronic Control Devices. Two vendors responded to Proposal Number 1516-08-11-01

Taser International	\$142,162.77
Lawmen's Safety Supply Inc.	\$149,937.73

**BUDGET AND FINANCE DATA:** Uniform patrol officers are usually the first responders to all emergency incidences. These officers would be the logical choice to have a body camera system. They are also more likely to encounter an

incident where a less than lethal option would be applicable. Our agency currently has 85 officers assigned to the uniform patrol division as first responders.

<b><u>Taser Only Purchase (five year plan)</u></b>	
One Time Payment Plan	\$142,162
Estimated First Payment (tax and Shipping added)	\$35,733
Estimated Remaining Four Payments	\$26,607

<b><u>Body Camera Only Purchase (five year plan)</u></b>	
One Time Payment Plan	\$542,544
Estimated First Payment (tax and Shipping added)	\$207,983
Estimated Remaining Four Payments	\$83,640

<b><u>Taser and Body Camera Purchase (five year plan)</u></b>	
One Time Payment Plan	\$633,665
Estimated First Payment (tax and shipping added)	\$229,744
Estimated Remaining Four Payments	\$100,980

The above prices do not reflect the 3.5 – 4 % increase for the five year payment option. However, since Taser International is the preferred vendor for both Taser ECD and Body Cameras, a combined purchase will save approximately \$51,041. The 2015-2016 Police budget has \$30,000 earmarked for the first year payment for 85 Taser ECD. For the combined purchase, the City of Spartanburg will need to contribute approximately \$199,744 (shipping and tax added) to facilitate the first year payment for the combined equipment purchase plan.

We intend to seek reimbursement from the state for the costs attributed to body cameras.”

*After discussion, Councilmember Anderson made a motion to approve the resolution as requested with the understanding that staff will research, verify and comply with necessary procurement procedures, and seek reimbursement from the state. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**VII. Consent Agenda**

- A. Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Deed to Upstate Housing Partnership Conveying Property Located at 191 Sunny Street, Block Map Sheet 7-16-10, Parcels 182.00 and 183.00 (Second Reading)**

**Presenter: Mitch Kennedy, Director of Community Services**

*Councilmember Reeder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda on second reading. Councilmember Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**VIII. Other Business**

**A. Boards and Commissions – Housing Authority Board (Interview Committee Recommendation) and Minority Women Business Enterprise Committee**

**Presenter: Connie McIntyre, City Clerk**

**Councilmember Stille**, chairperson of the Housing Authority Board interview committee, reported to Council that interviews of four applicants were held on August 17. She thanked all of the applicants who were willing to be considered. She recommended to Council that Dr. Charles (Chuck) White be appointed to the Housing Authority Board.

*Councilmember Stille made the motion to appoint Dr. Charles White to the Housing Authority Board. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**B. Grant to City of Spartanburg Development Corporation to Facilitate Demolition of Economy Inn Located at 150 South Pine Street**

**Presenter: Ed Memmott, City Manager**

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

“The City is seeking to improve the appearance and increase the development potential of the downtown. The removal of the Sunshine Inn by the Northside Development Corporation, the demolition of the former Hammond Brown Jennings Building at 135 North Church Street, and the pending redevelopment of the former Consolidated Tire Building on Liberty Street are examples of the positive momentum underway in downtown.

Over the past several months, staff has been in contact with the owner of the former Economy Inn motel on Pine Street. The motel closed in 2014. Staff believes the vacant building is a detriment to nearby properties. It is not, however, an unsafe building and there is no legal basis for the City to require demolition. In an effort to positively resolve this situation, staff has tentatively negotiated the terms of an agreement, which if approved by Council and the Board of Directors of the Spartanburg Development Corporation (SDC), would result in the demolition of the motel.

The SDC is a nonprofit entity created by the City to facilitate economic development. In the past, the SDC has made direct loans, procured purchase options, aggregated grant funds, taken equity positions, and facilitated tax credit transactions on a variety of economic and community development projects.

With respect to the Economy Inn, staff is requesting that Council approve a grant of up to \$80,000 to the SDC. The SDC, subject to approval of its Board, would

enter into a loan agreement with the owner of the Economy Inn. The loan would fund up to 50% of the documented demolition costs. The exact terms of the loan would be approved by the SDC Board but staff would anticipate interest only repayment with a balloon payment due on the seventh anniversary of the loan. The loan would be payable in full if the site is sold during the term of the loan. Once repaid, the SDC would use the loan proceeds for other economic development projects in the City.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of grant agreement providing up to \$80,000 to the Spartanburg Development Corporation and authorization for the City Manager to execute necessary documents.

**BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA:** \$80,000 from MCIP/Economic Development Funding”

*After discussion, Councilmember Rice made a motion to approve the grant request as presented and requested. Councilmember Stille seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**C. Authorization to Enter Into Management Agreement for Oakview Apartments**

**Presenter: Ed Memmott, City Manager**

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

“Council is aware that legal proceedings to acquire Oakview are underway. Under state law, the City is entitled to possession of Oakview so that it can proceed with its public use (construction of TK Gregg Center) of the property. The matter of compensation due to Oakview’s owner will be determined by the court.

Because Oakview is an operating, subsidized housing complex that primarily serves very low income residents, the City has sought to reach agreement with Oakview ownership on an orderly transfer of operational control to the City. The City has been unsuccessful in these efforts. To bring this particular dispute to a close, the City has filed a motion to compel Related to turn the property over to the City. Once in control, the City will operate Oakview for 9-12 months while tenants are relocated. Once fully vacant, the apartment complex would be demolished.

The City’s motion will be heard by the Circuit Court in early September. In anticipation of gaining control of Oakview, staff has been in discussions with management of the Spartanburg Housing Authority regarding options for Oakview management during this wind down phase. Under this option, if finalized, Spartanburg Housing Management (SHM), an affiliate corporation of the SHA, would manage Oakview Apartments for the City.

It is expected that the rental income from Oakview will be sufficient to pay all expenses associated with project management.

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization for the City Manager to negotiate final terms and enter into a management contract of Oakview Apartments during its wind down phase.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL DATA: Contract expenses expected to be offset by rental income from Oakview.

*Councilmember Stille made a motion to give authorization to the City Manager as requested. Mayor pro tem Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0.*

**D. Traffic Calming Program**

**Presenter: Ed Memmott, City Manager**

**Mr. Memmott and Gaye Sprague, of Sprague and Sprague Traffic Engineering Consultants**, reviewed the City's current Traffic Calming policy with Council, seeking direction from them as to how staff should proceed. A lengthy discussion was held regarding different traffic calming devices, procedures, and issues.

Mr. Memmott stated that after hearing Council's comments, he would come back to them with several recommendations including consideration of the use of stop signs as a traffic calming measure, and increasing the number of city residents participating in the voting process.

*Council received the report as information.*

**IX. City Council Updates –**

**Councilmember Anderson** mentioned that the Texas Roadhouse on W.O. Ezell Boulevard would open on August 31.

**Councilmember Scalisi** share that she attended the opening of Brown Roof Thrift Shop and was impressed with the set up and operation. She congratulated everyone involved in the Rev. Thornton Building at Stewart Park, especially Kim Moultrie, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, for her choice of colors for the interior décor. She congratulated the Hub City Book Shop, Cake Head Bakery, and the Coffee Shop on their anniversary celebration.

**Councilmember Stille** also commended those involved in the Rev. Thornton Building dedication ceremony at Stewart Park. She mentioned the large turnout for the reopening of Main Street and that is was a great day.

**Councilmember Rice** thanked everyone involved in the Rev. Thornton building dedication event, particularly the residents of the area who came up with the name. He mentioned that the Panthers Training Camp exceeded all expectations with an attendance over the course of the camp of 77,600 Carolina Panther fans. He reminded everyone that Jazz on the Square would start back up on September 4. He shared that the Spartanburg High School Vikings Football Team would travel to Wakulla, Florida to play their season opener. He stated that the game would be televised on ESPNU at 1:00 on Saturday.

**Councilmember Reeder** shared that the Carolina Panthers Training Camp was a huge success. He added that he spoke to people from all over the country when he attended

the camp. He thanked the Panthers for continuing to come to the Wofford College campus for their training camp.

**Mayor pro tem Brown** reminded everyone of One Spark at the Chapman Cultural Center on September 5 from 11:00 – 5:00. He commended the City for receiving the Cultural Arts Designation, as one of 3 in the state.

- X. Executive Session Pursuant to Section 30-4-70 (a) (5) of the South Carolina Code to Discuss Matters Relating to Encouraging the Location of a Business in the City – Councilmember Reeder made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Councilmember Scalisi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously 7 to 0. Council adjourned to Executive session at 7:05 p.m.**

*Council reconvened at 7:24 p.m. Mayor White stated that discussion was held with no decisions made.*

- XI. Adjournment – Councilmember Reeder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.**



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Connie S. McIntyre, City Clerk