

**City of Ridgeland  
Community Affairs**

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**THE CITY OF**  
  
**RIDGELAND**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact  
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**Citizen Vision Directs Ridgeland's Master Plan**

The Master Plan Steering Committee held its first meeting at City Hall, 6:00 p.m., Thursday, December 14. Comprised of 16 residents and leaders of the City of Ridgeland, the Committee will provide direction for the development of the City's Master Plan over the next 12 months. Committee members are charged with getting citizens and business leaders involved through participation in community visioning meetings and ensuring that Master Plan recommendations reflect the vision of citizens. By the end of the 12-month process, the Committee will present a Master Plan to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to consider for adoption.

Members of the Master Plan Steering Committee include the following: Roger Caperton, Bryan Carter, Susan Haltom and Pat Werne appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen; Michael Gandy, Peggy Gauthe and J.R. Hall appointed by the City's Community Awareness Committee; Scott Higginbotham appointed by the City's Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee; Mark Irby appointed by the City's Zoning Board; Polly Hammett appointed by the City's Architectural Review Board; Deborah Martin appointed by the Madison County Economic Development Authority; Elizabeth Raley appointed by the Madison County Foundation; and Bert Jackson appointed by the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce. Three appointments were made by the Committee to fill positions representing religion (Davis Odom), technology (Lyn Stabler) and education (Lee Boozer).

During the meeting, Nathan Gaspard of Moore Planning Group, LLC, the City's master planning consultant, discussed the balance that must exist between economic development, education, infrastructure and livability in order to be a sustainable community. Also during the December 14 meeting, the Committee adopted By-Laws and elected a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Susan Haltom, 2006 Chairman of the Community Awareness Committee, was elected as Chairman of the Master Plan Steering Committee. Michael Gandy, an appointee from the Community Awareness Committee, was elected as Vice-Chairman. Pat Werne, an appointee from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, was elected as Secretary.

The next meetings are scheduled for February when three separate visioning meetings are planned. One meeting will be to hear comments presented by business leaders and agencies. Two other meetings will hear comments from the community. A Vision Summary and Analysis will be developed as a result of these two meetings and used in the development of the City's Master Plan.

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