

MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 6, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building
109 Benson Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance.

Others Included: Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Kaela Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Sue Keith, Kimberly Mullinax, Stewart McAdoo, Wesley McDonald, Dawn Stuckey, Austin Murdaugh, Brandi Murdaugh, Bristol Williams, Harper Garcia, Kyle Garcia, Felicia Johnson, Ulyseese Robinson, Shannon Murray, Victoria Rizer, Juliette Williams, Denise Rhodes, Herbert Brown, Regina Brown, Audrey Brown, Mark Pinckney, Jimmy Wiggins, William Scott Catterton, Jerome Risher, Israel Jenkins, Joe Hamilton, Clarence Wiggins, Art Williams, Nancy Thomas, and Denise Rhodes.

Councilman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting December 5, 2023— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Work Session January 16, 2024— Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Work Session held on January 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, Senator Margie Bright-Matthews was scheduled to be here tonight, but it is my understanding that she is tied up with legislative issues.

Mrs. Sue Keith agreed with that statement.

- A. 2023 Audit Report— David Irwin, CPA - Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

***See attached presentation given by David Irwin.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you for the report. Are there any proposed changes to GASB heading down the pipe that we should be concerned about?

Mr. Irwin: Stated, no, we are actually in a reprieve over the next 2-3 years. There is nothing coming down the pipe that would really have an effect on your financial status. They are really giving us a break.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I remember a few years ago about the post closure landfill accumulation and I don't think since the year it came out that we've heard much about it. I wanted to make sure there wasn't anything like that coming down the pipe that we needed to be concerned about.

Mr. Irwin: Stated, no, not at all and with things like that we try to give our clients a heads up. There are no significant county standards upcoming over the next few years.

B. 4-H Youth Development– Dawn Stuckey, Clemson University

Mrs. Stuckey: Stated, good evening, Chairman Murdaugh, Mr. Trippe, Mr. Beiring, Mr. Taylor, Dr. Flowers, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. Brinson. Thank you for allowing Colleton County 4-H to meet with you tonight. It has been a while since we have updated you on our presence and the work we are doing through SC 4-H in Colleton County. Currently, 583 youth have participated in at least one 4-H program, and that number reaches closer to 1500 by the end of the summer. We have 3 clubs operating monthly. These clubs meet monthly and operate independently from each other. Two of the clubs are run by our volunteers, Madeline Ingalls and Robin Barr, along with their assistants and the parents of their members. I conduct the third program. Tonight, we have Madeline Ingalls here along with representatives from her club. Without the dedication of community volunteers, the opportunities for youth to participate in 4-H programs would not exist.

Mrs. Maddie Ingalls is the leader of the Blue Ribbon Riders 4-H Club. Her club focuses on horses, leadership, and civic engagement. The club has 13 members who work to learn proper horsemanship and skills to participate in the State Horse Show held in Clemson every June. Last year, 5 of her members qualified to compete at Southern Regionals held in Perry, Ga. Although we did not bring back a blue ribbon, the girls who attended learned a lot of great information on how to prepare for this year. The Blue Ribbon Riders have engaged in several civic engagement opportunities, focusing on the elderly, and adopting a highway.

***Harper Garcia, Vice President of the Blue Ribbon Riders 4-H Club, introduced herself, followed by Bristol Williams from the Blue Ribbon Riders 4-H Club.

Mrs. Stuckey: Stated, they are doing a great job. They have taken on revitalizing the Saddle Club, which is going to be huge for the riders in our area. Mrs. Robin Barr, who was unable to be here tonight, is the leader of the Palmetto Pony 4-H Club. This club has 27 members. Although the club's name implies a horse club, this club also shows chickens and rabbits. This year, Palmetto Pony members showed animals at the Orangeburg County Fair and the Coastal Carolina Fair. In addition to livestock projects, this club works on civic engagement and leadership. The club has participated in River Sweep and volunteered to care for the animals in the exhibit barns at both fairs. I'm sure you realize what a commitment that was, as neither fair is close to Walterboro. Now, the club that I run is the Colleton County 4-H Club. It is a general interest club where members can explore numerous projects in 4-H. The club meets in the Extension office and learns leadership

skills while participating in a wide variety of projects. This club has 23 members. The Colleton 4-H club has chosen to work with the Colleton County Animal Shelter as their civic engagement project. They planned how they would provide their services last night at the club meeting.

***Austin Murdaugh, vice president of the Colleton County 4-H Club, introduced himself and spoke on what he enjoys about the club.

Mrs. Stuckey: Stated, as I stated earlier, many of our club members participate in 4-H projects. I would like to share with you those projects and awards. Although those members are not here tonight, we would like to recognize them. We planned to be here in January but the weather did not allow for that. If you participated in the State 4-H Horse Show, please raise your hand. If you were eligible to compete in Southern Regionals, please raise your hand. Southern Regionals is a group of states that come together to compete. We had four members participate in the rabbit project, and three members participated in the poultry project. The dairy goat project is the result of a needs assessment done by the Dorchester County 4-H Agent and myself. Piloted in Colleton, Dorchester, and Hampton Counties, it is now offered in other counties across the state. We had members participate in the Beef or Dairy project, we had four members participate in the swine project, we have two members who participated in the Honeybee project. The McIntyres were the first two in Colleton County to participate in this project. Members participated in the small garden project. The Scott family, a Native American family, won at the State Level for their garden project. We have several members who are completing the Wildlife Food Plot project and the Quick Breads and Baking project. We have two who participated in the creative arts project.

Mrs. Ingalls: Stated, we had one member who won up in state, a door contest. She won first place out of 20-30 kids. My main goal with my members is to keep the kids off the streets. I am retired law enforcement, and I want to see less kids on the streets and more kids involved in programs to keep them occupied and teach them things.

Mrs. Stuckey: Stated, I want to thank all of our club leaders and volunteers again for their commitment to the youth we serve through 4-H. Without them, there would be no program. Thank you, council members, for allowing us to share the great work our youth are doing through these tremendous youth-adult partnerships. As we move into the new project year, I hope to be back to share many more of our members' accomplishments.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you Mrs. Stuckey and thank you young men and young ladies. It takes a lot of courage to get up here and speak in front of elected officials.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I would like to reiterate what Chairman Murdaugh stated. I know how much fortitude it takes for young people to get up and speak in front of a formal body like this. I was in 4-H growing up and I am proud of them. They were really well spoken, in my opinion, and how they brought things forward. I do not want to steal anyone's thunder, but we are working on a Lowcountry Agro Exposition Center. We have received over 4 million dollars worth of commitments out of the state. We are the only region in the state that does have a regional farmers market and expo center. That is coming along extremely well as we continue to work on building that, and hopefully kick off in the fall. That'll be something that can certainly help and expand

what you all are doing. We plan to have a horse arena, exposition center, as well as a retail center, and commercial kitchen. So, thank you all for coming and being a part of it, we really do appreciate it.

I've just a couple items on the agenda. The MRB group item C, that is the response we're working on now. As you are aware, we got a letter from the jail system department corrections. Come to find out, later on we were the only ones that got that letter. I think about every county in the state. They're working now on what we need to do, to do some improvements and upfit of the jail itself. We should have that together by the time we're getting into our budget sessions in April and May. Also, if you don't know what an auto car is, it is a big piece of equipment to move stuff around at the landfill. It is used to move items around and those types of things. It's a large piece of equipment. The other item, "Revolution H", is a grant from the state to reuse our old transfer station. We built the new transfer station here about four years ago. The old transfer station will be reused to turn it into a recycling center. I'm thankful to Senator Bright-Matthews and Representative Robbins for getting us that grant from the state. We already had some work going on out there, and we are amending that contract with the change in order to go ahead and put the walls in, as well as the Baylor and those types of things into the recycling facility. That is everything I have for you this evening. I do have to run out at about 07:00. We have our folks from Wayne Brothers in town and they have some folks that want to help us do some other things, and they asked me to be there at night. So, I'm going to try to get out there.

Councilman Biering: Stated, Kevin, we talked in a work session about the Roads and Bridges department to come up with some solutions to that.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, we've received some bids back on actually going out and doing some private contract work to help us with that. We are very shorthanded right now. We have two operators for six different circuits, but we put bids out last week. We're working on them, but she hasn't said anything further yet. We should have that back this week to move forward. We'll basically take the money that we have allotted for salaries and push it over to the contract side to help get somebody to fill the void. There hasn't been an issue until all this rain started here recently.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, Mr. Griffin, I've been getting quite a few calls from people in the elderly parts of the county. There is something called Motive Care, where Humana and other insurance individuals provide rides to doctor's appointments, and they're missing their appointments, because the rides are not showing. It is supposed to be state supported, and people are missing surgeries. I am getting quite a few calls and I'm seeing that it is an issue around the state.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, is this something we can possibly use Palmetto Breeze for?

Councilman Taylor: Stated, it could be, let's look into that.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, we will certainly do that. Could you get me some more information on that? We contribute heavily to Palmetto Breeze, and maybe we could have them get out and help them get to where they need to go.

Public Hearing

Lowcountry Council of Government Needs Assessment- Kimberly Mullinax

***See attached Public Notice and Presentation given by Kimberly Mullinax

Mrs. Mullinax: Stated, I left a list at your seat with last year's needs. Council may open the floor for public comments and discussion. You may also rank them tonight or at your next meeting.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest we rank them and come back with that information at the next meeting. Kimberly, if you do not mind me asking, my understanding is that it is focusing more on community enrichment this year rather than infrastructure.

Mrs. Mullinax: Stated, we have had so much money come through the federal government for infrastructure that they kind of got a little bit less money in that category and put more money in the enrichment for this year.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, the total you have here for community infrastructures, 9 million and 7 million, is that just in our COG, or is that statewide?

Mrs. Mullinax: Stated, that is statewide. So, if we were to put in an application for infrastructure, that's \$9 million to divide between the state, we do have ten COGs, that is not even a million dollars per COG if you were to divide it equally. We never know what's going in from our counties or from across the state. It is definitely going to be competitive in that round. Community Enrichment had \$7 million last year, and I think we were around \$3 million. So, that's going up quite a bit, and that's because it's taken the Neighborhood Revitalization category out.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, they still have to meet though, even if they were in some other case in the upstate. They would have to meet to handle my requirements.

Mrs. Mullinax: Stated, right.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I know we have some on council that heard the Gadsden Loop Project is going to be clear to close. Are we confident that it might be clear by the spring deadline?

Mrs. Mullinax: Stated, it'll definitely be clear before spring.

Councilman Biering: Stated, thank you so much, I appreciate it.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you. We will rank the projects at the next meeting.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to close Public Hearing. Councilman Taylor seconded that motion and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Resolution 24-R-01, To Declare February as Black History Month in Colleton County

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 24-R-01, To Declare February as Black History Month in Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 24-R-02, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-02, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 24-R-03, To Award the Contract for Architectural Services for the Colleton County Detention Center Renovations and Upgrades to MRB Group Consulting, P.C.

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-03, To Award the Contract for Architectural Services for the Colleton County Detention Center Renovations and Upgrades to MRB Group Consulting, P.C. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, Mr. Chairman, as you know my wife is the Captain at the jail. I wanted to say I have no conflict of interest or any personal interest. I have received counsel on this matter from the county attorney.

Chairman Murdaugh was in agreement and proceeded.

D. Resolution 24-R-04, To Award Bid FMD-17 for the Purchase of one Auto Car to Worldwide Equipment, Inc.

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 24-R-04, To Award Bid FMD-17 for the Purchase of one Auto Car to Worldwide Equipment, Inc. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution 24-R-05, To Amend the Colleton County Record of Roads to Include Caboose Court

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-05, To Amend the Colleton County Record of Roads to Include Caboose Court. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution 24-R-06, To Approve a Food Service Agreement for the Sheriff's Office for the Colleton County Detention Center

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 24-R-06, To Approve a Food Service Agreement for the Sheriff's Office for the Colleton County Detention Center. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution 24-R-07, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid FM-58 for Courthouse Window Replacement and Exterior Painting

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-07, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid FM-58 for Courthouse Window Replacement and Exterior Painting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, the bid is being awarded to Mitchell Construction Company.

H. Resolution 24-R-08, To Approve a Change Order to the County's Current Contract with IP Builders, Inc. for the Old Transfer Station Reuse Project

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 24-R-08, To Approve a Change Order to the County's Current Contract with IP Builders, Inc. for the Old Transfer Station Reuse Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Resolution 24-R-09, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-09, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Resolution 24-R-10, To Authorize the Initiation of Condemnation Proceedings for the Purpose of Acquiring Certain Real Property Owned by FLB, LLC and Being Subject to a Conservation Easement in Favor of the Lowcountry Land Trust

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 24-R-10, To Authorize the Initiation of Condemnation Proceedings for the Purpose of Acquiring Certain Real Property Owned by FLB, LLC and Being Subject to a Conservation Easement in Favor of the Lowcountry Land Trust. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Resolution 24-R-11, To Appoint Employees to the Colleton County Grievance Committee

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-11, To Appoint Employees to the Colleton County Grievance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Resolution 24-R-12, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 24-R-12, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Resolution 24-R-13, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-13, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, the Colleton County Fire-Rescue Commission has two vacancies and four applicants. There was a ballot and the two that received the most votes were Mr. Clyde Capers, who received 3 votes, and Mr. David Sauls, who received 4 votes.

Councilman Taylor moved that we appoint Mr. Capers and Mr. Sauls to the Fire-Rescue Commission. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The following appointments were made by acclamation:

Colleton County Recreation Commission– Ashley Shearin and Mark Tomedolskey and Colleton County Drug and Alcohol Commission– Shannon Murray.

Dr. Flowers moved to appoint them by acclamation. Councilman Biering seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering moved to reappoint Steven D. Murdaugh to the Southern Carolina Alliance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, Mr. Chairman, I wanted to point out that the personnel item for the Sheriff under executive session will be removed and discussed during the budget process.

Public Comment

Mrs. Sue Keith: Stated, I would like to take this time to announce that the Legislative Delegation will have a brief meeting in Columbia on Wednesday, March 13th at 11 a.m. This meeting will be to review any board appointments, PARD requests, and DNR funding requests. We are meeting to fill any holes in any boards and to get started on PARD requests so that we meet the June 30th deadline. It is an open meeting that will be at the Gressette Building, room 207 in Columbia.

Mrs. Felicia Johnson: Stated, I would like to thank all of you for closing down the club. We thought for sure it was going to open last month, but I reached out and thank God it didn't. Tonight, I want to talk about these ditches. You all have to do something very soon about these ditches and streetlights. Around 4 o'clock today we almost had a head on collision. Thank God no one got hurt, but these ditches. On Christmas, my ex-husband went into the water and thought he was going to drown. I am not trying to die, because I can't swim. Last time, my grandson was in the water. He and my granddaughter are at my house regularly. This water is not going anywhere. It stops right at my house at Madison and Rivers. I was afraid my house was going to get flooded out again, because my insurance does not pay for this. This is a serious matter with this ditch and water. It is very dangerous. I hurt my ankle on each side of that ditch. I don't know what you all's

funding is, but all DOT did was dug out the ditches and put bricks around. They don't need to dig any deeper. They need to drain that water off Rivers and let it go on out to those woods. Everyone's water drains to my house. Then I have to go out there and clean out all their mess, and I am disabled. Just like my neighbor, she had someone rake her yard and the man put everything in the ditch. Now, it is clogged. She called the highway department, and I told her she is calling the wrong people. I did that 20 years ago. All they do is come out and dig deeper and deeper. The water is not going anywhere. The ditches are loaded right now. We need help, thank you.

Mark Pinckney (Neyles Community Center): Stated, thank you all for taking the time to listen to us tonight. I want to give a special thank you to Mr. Griffin, Mr. Biering, and Mr. Trippe. We appreciate all the help that you all give to us at the Neyles Community Center. Right now, we have some concerns about an issue we are having with funding on some projects that we supposedly got approved for. I know we are all trying to improve our community and community center to better serve our people. We have a list of issues and concerns that Dr. Denise Rhodes is going to speak on.

Dr.. Rhodes: Stated, it is a pleasure to be here. Tonight, I'm exploring accountability on behalf of the Neyels Community Center. Let's start with the timeline.

- February 7, 2023, Neyles Community Center's (NCC) board drafted a letter and provided a brief presentation (by me) to County Council requesting funds to improve the grounds at the Neyles Community Center.
- February 18, 2023, NCC's board provided various examples of acceptable fencing, a pavilion with picnic tables, etc.
- February 20, 2023, NCC's board sent State Senator Margie Bright-Matthews a letter requesting \$40,000 via the Community Investment Project (CIP) for the improvement of the grounds area at Neyles Community Center.
- May 9, 2023, via email, the County's Administrator (Mr. Kevin Griffin) along with NCC's Chairman (Mr. Mark Pinckney) received a letter extending congratulations on receiving \$40,000 in funding from the SC budget. This letter specifically mentions projects such as.
 - Tree removal (NCC Received)
 - Fencing/Gate
 - Pavilion and Picnic Tables
 - Playground Equipment (NCC Received)
- November 1, 2023, NCC's board forwarded a letter to the county regarding no responses.
- The following are NCC's issues.
 - Flooding at the playground area
 - No Fencing
 - No pavilion or seating for children and family
 - No covering at the basketball court
 - No storage building (that was approved) adjacent to the center.

All these items were approved in April 2023. Lastly, the following addresses accountability.

- NCC's board members are unable to make contact with the person managing the project at the community center.

- All info concerning all measures has been provided to the county.
- We are asking for complete transparency going forward.

What does that look like to us?

- We are asking for a start date for the projects.
- We expect the project manager to communicate with our president and other board members within a reasonable amount of time.

Chairman Murdaugh asked for Dr. Rhodes to provide a copy of the concerns.

Mrs. Audrey Brown: Stated, again we wanted to thank you for all that you do for the Neyles Community Center. We are the voice for our children. We are working to make sure our kids are safe. If there is a drainage problem, of course we have snakes in the area among other things, but we are the voice of our children. We work really hard at Neyles to make sure it is a good place for the children and a good place for our community. Thank you for what you do, but we need some communication.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you for the list and thank you for being here.

Mr. Joe Hamilton: Stated, I do not have any grievances at all. In fact, I retired 10 years ago, and I am enjoying myself at my tree farm down on Green Pond Hwy. In the mornings, I go for a walk to the gate at the front of my property all the way to the back. On the 22nd of January, I realized I was having some discomfort in my chest. So, I went back to the house and checked my blood pressure, it was going up. I called my wife who works in Walterboro, and I told her I would meet her at the Fire-Rescue station in Green Pond. The reason I am here tonight is to say, I don't want you to take any more of my taxes but if you do and it is being used for the EMT/Paramedics training, I am all for it. It is a dollar well spent. Kelly and Noah immediately put the blood pressure cuffs on me and checked me out. They told me right now you are having a stroke or a heart attack, and because of your physical being you are able to walk around and talk. Needless to say, I was transported to MUSC. I had a catheterization done and a complete work up. Kelly and Noah were extremely professional! I called Mr. McRoy and told him I was a GIS manager before I retired from Parris Island. I would hold daily meetings to tell them what was working and what wasn't. This is working! Those guys were immediately there, and they did their jobs. I get back home and wake up early Thursday morning to take my meds. Next thing I know, I am on the floor wondering why my chair is turned over on its side. My wife immediately called an ambulance, and Josh and Michael responded and immediately got things squared away. Long story short, I am doing well. One of the things we need to take away from this, I will be 72 in November, and I want to thank the County Council for what they are doing for Fire-Rescue. I wanted you all to know that that department is doing a stellar job, and I commend them for their work.

Mr. Art Williams: Stated, the members of the Tuskegee Airmen HEM Chapter would like to address the Council. We recently sent an email to be added to the agenda and I noticed that we were not. Our topic of concern is our lack of response to requested information in reference to the Tuskegee Airmen Memorial Park after one meeting, three emails, a text message, and a few phone

calls. The point we are trying to get to be that the members of the HEM Chapter are shocked to hear at your previous meeting that you eluded to the project manager and other members of the council, that the Tuskegee Airmen HEM Chapter were not in cooperation with the Veterans Council and that you were moving on. Furthermore, our chapter reached out to you as a voice for Colleton County Council on December 4, 2023 with several questions that we still have not received a written response to. However, there was some clarification given by you at the December 6th meeting, which relaxed most of our original concerns. I hope you will reflect back to the December 6th Joint meeting where major concerns were shared by both groups. To further substantiate our willingness to work together on December the 18th a letter was sent to you and your administrative staff requesting a date that the HEM Chapter could meet with your park architect and the county. We are anxiously waiting to move forward. The Chapter would've liked clarification from you as to what we could be expecting next. On December the 18th we did a follow up and said that the Tuskegee Airmen Chapter Committee would like to request again from you and your administrative staff as to when we could meet with your park architect as suggested by you at our last joint meeting. Tonight, I think it is only fair that we request clarification and at least know where we stand so we know the next step for us and our planning process.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, let me just say that sometimes we get criticized and we deserve it.

Mr. Williams: Stated, no, I am not criticizing.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, the failure to respond falls on me because I have had an extremely busy month and that is a good thing in some ways. You did reach out to me. Everything Mr. Williams has said is 100% accurate. We do plan to have the park architect come back to the airport. I do not have a date for that yet. When he does come, we certainly welcome the Tuskegee Airmen to come and be involved or whomever you all designate to be the representative. Again, I apologize that we have not been responsive. I particularly apologize that I have not been responsive. Nothing has happened, and the project is not in jeopardy. I think the comments that were made at the last meeting were in response to the asking if the Veterans project was on hold. The answer was that it is not on hold, but the Tuskegee Airmen is on hold. We really haven't had the opportunity to really meet with representatives of the Tuskegee Airmen to determine what you all want in the park. When we make a mistake, we have to own up to it, and I have not responded timely like I should have. The good news is that nothing has happened and you're not in any worse condition than anybody else. We are at the starting point. We will have a date coming up when the architect will come out to determine what everyone would like to see in the park. Then we will start working on the funding, which is the most critical step. We welcome the opportunity to work with you all. Again, I apologize that we have not been as responsive as we should have and that falls on me and not anyone else at this table.

Mr. Williams: Stated, I appreciate you for letting us come up. We look forward to working with you all.

Council Time

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I just wanted to mention to the community that *A Father's Place*, a center for fathers and families, is having a community meeting for non-custodial parents, and others concerned with the care of children who have noncustodial parents on March 12th from 11am-2pm at the Colleton County Memorial Library. This is *A Father's Place* with Mr. Wallace Evans and Mr. Mark Hines.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I wanted to say that the 4-H clubs are doing a great job.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I am the oldest member of the 4-H club in Colleton County here. I was a member myself in grammar school and high school.

Councilman Biering: Stated, it is great to see young people get up there and speak like that to the community. As for the Tuskegee Group, I want to reassure you all that we have a lot of interest in moving that project forward. As you know, last year we fully funded a life size replica of a P-51 Mustang. It is being built as we speak to honor the Tuskegee and we would love to tie it into this project. Thank you all for being here tonight.

Executive Session

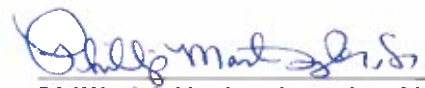
Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Economic Development—Update on current projects and Solar Farm, Real Estate— Nancy Thomas, Smoaks Community Center-Israel Jenkins, and Recreation. Councilman Biering seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor moved to exit executive session. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.


Adjournment

Dr. Flowers moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

This 5th day of March 2024.


Phillip M. Taylor, Sr., Vice Chairman

ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council

Colleton County, South Carolina

Financial & Compliance Audit – June 30, 2023



Presented by:
David Irwin, CPA
Partner



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Purpose of Today's Presentation

- Overview of:
 - Independent Auditor's Report
 - Compliance Reports
 - Financial Statements
- Required Communications
- Answer Any Questions



Financial & Compliance Audit
June 30, 2023



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Audit Opinion

- Colleton County: responsible for financial statements.
- M&J: to express opinions.
- Auditing Standards = *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and Government Auditing Standards*
- Financial Audit : Unmodified (Clean) Opinion
 - Highest level of Assurance
 - Financial Statements are fairly presented in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP



Financial & Compliance Audit
June 30, 2023



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Compliance Reports

Financial Report contains two (2) Compliance Reports:

- Single Audit Report
 - Compliance audit
 - Required > \$750k in federal expenditures
 - Unmodified (Clean) Opinion
- Yellow Book Report
 - Report on County's Internal Controls and Compliance
 - Not Intended to Provide an Opinion
 - No Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies Noted During Our Audit



Financial & Compliance Audit
June 30, 2023



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Overview of Financial Statements

- County prepares an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)
- ACFR goes above and beyond basic reporting requirements
- Submitted annually to Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- County awarded ACFR Certificate for 10th year in a row.



Overview of Financial Statements

- Management's Discussion & Analysis (MD&A)
 - Written by Management
 - Introduces and Summarizes Basic Financial Statements
 - Comparative Information
- County's Financial Statements Include Three (3) Components
 - Government-Wide Financial Statements
 - Funds Financial Statements
 - Notes to the Financial Statements

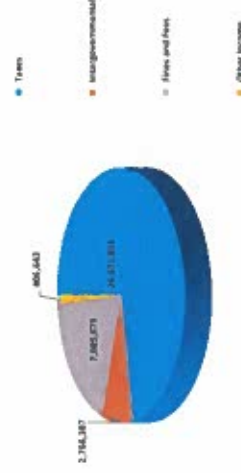


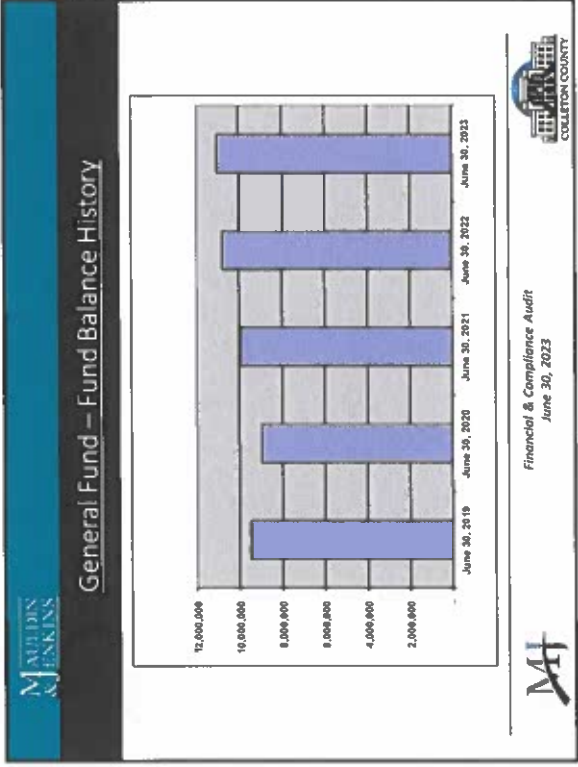
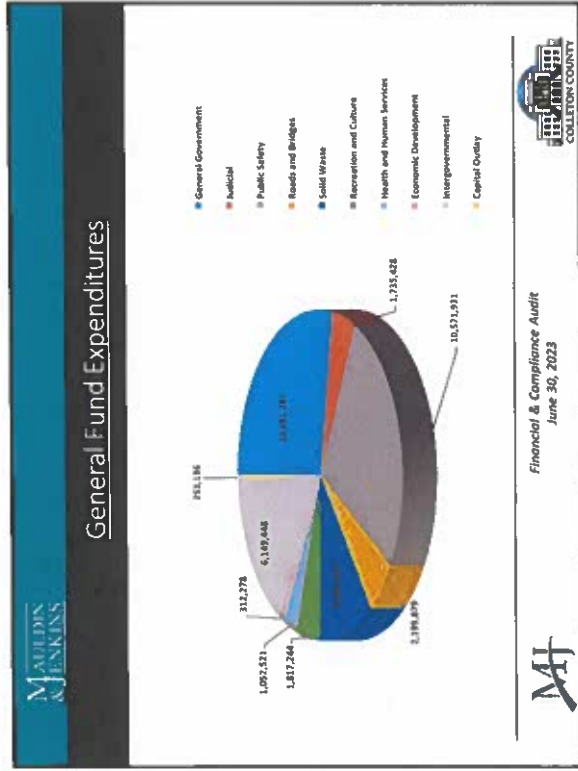
Government-Wide Financial Statements

- \$152.7 Million = total assets and deferred outflows
- \$62.1 Million = capital assets, net of A/D
- \$107.7 Million = total liabilities and deferred inflows
- \$45 Million = net position (or equity)
- \$70.5 million = revenues (\$62.8M in FY22)
- \$67.3 million = expenses (\$56.8M in FY22)
- Increase in Net Position of \$3.2M vs \$5.8M increase in FY22



General Fund Revenues






- ### Required Communications
- Clean Opinion and No Audit Findings
 - We Received Full Cooperation from Management and Staff
 - No Disagreements with Management
 - No Significant Issues Discussed with Management
 - No Uncorrected Misstatements
 - We are Independent of the County as Required by Government Auditing Standards
- Financial & Compliance Audit
June 30, 2023

Closing

We appreciate the opportunity to serve Colleton County and look forward to serving the County in the future.

MAULDIN & JENKINS
CPAs & ADVISORS


Financial & Compliance Audit
June 30, 2023



**2024
Community
Development
Block Grant (CDBG)**

Program Year: April 1, 2024—March 31, 2025
Community and Economic Development

Strengthening People Strengthening Communities

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FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW

Also, as a part of the requirements of the program, the locality is expected to undertake activities that promote Fair Housing. Title VIII of the Civil Rights of 1968 stipulates that we all have the right to be treated fairly regardless of our **race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.**



- In the sale and rental of housing
- In residential real estate transactions
- In the provision of brokerage services

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If you believe that you have been a victim of discriminatory housing practices, you have avenues by which the matter can be investigated.




Beaufort County and Lowcountry Council of Governments are committed to Fair Housing.

**For more information contact
LCOG at (843) 473-3990.**

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The SC CDBG Program is designed to provide assistance to units of local government in improving economic opportunities and meeting community revitalization needs, particularly for persons of low and moderate income (LMI).

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LMI QUALIFIED

Colleton County

Colleton County	1/2023	2/2023	3/2023	4/2023	5/2023	6/2023	7/2023	8/2023	9/2023	10/2023	11/2023	12/2023
20% Limits	\$11,100	\$14,950	\$16,800	\$18,650	\$20,150	\$21,650	\$23,150	\$24,650	\$26,150	\$27,650	\$29,150	\$30,650
50% Limits	\$21,800	\$24,900	\$28,000	\$31,100	\$33,600	\$36,100	\$38,600	\$41,100	\$43,600	\$46,100	\$48,600	\$51,100
80% Limits	\$34,850	\$39,800	\$44,800	\$49,750	\$53,750	\$57,750	\$61,700	\$65,700	\$69,650	\$73,600	\$77,550	\$81,500

2023 income limits effective June 15, 2023 (cdbgsc.com)

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The CDBG program has been funded through the State since 1982 by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act of 1974 as amended (Title I).

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The Annual allocation from HUD for the program is administered by the SC Department of Commerce – Division of Grant Administration.

SC has been allotted approximately **\$19,866,653** in CDBG funds for 2024.

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SC STATE CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Draft 2024 Action Plan

Written comments on the plan can be submitted from **January 15-February 13, 2024.**


Email: lross@sccommerce.com
 Mail: Liese Ross
 SC Department of Commerce
 Business Incentives & Grants Administration
 1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
 Columbia, SC 29201

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GRANT PROGRAM CATEGORIES



There are three broad grant program categories:

- Community Development
- Business Development
- Regional Planning


The Community Development Program is further broken down into several subcategories to address infrastructure, community facilities, and neighborhood priorities as follows:



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Community Development Program

<p>COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION REQUEST: \$9,000,000 est. APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 22, 2024 WATER SEWER DRAINAGE ROADS MINIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$50,000 MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$1,000,000 est.</p> <p>LOCAL PRIORITIES APPLICATION REQUEST: August 14, 2024 APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 14, 2024 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND SUSTAINABILITY RESILIENCY AND NARROW THE DIGITAL DIVIDE</p> <p>MINIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$50,000 MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$300,000</p>	<p>COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT APPLICATION REQUEST: \$7,170,654 est. APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 16, 2024 BROWNFIELD PROJECTS/DEMOLITION OR OBSOLETE BUILDINGS DOWNTOWN STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS* PLANNING FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE (\$50,000 maximum) LIBRARIES PUBLICLY OWNED FACILITIES TRANSPORTATION-ORIENTED PUBLIC FACILITIES PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES/SERVICES DEMOLITION VACANT, DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES TO ADDRESS/SUPPORT CRIME PREVENTION FIRE SUBSTATIONS OR FIRE TRUCKS HEALTH CLINIC FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT PUBLIC FACILITY MODIFICATIONS NEW SIDEWALKS IN LMI AREAS</p> <p>MINIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$50,000 MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$750,000</p>
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Community Development Program

<p>READY TO GO \$500,000 APPLICATION REQUEST: ONGOING APPLICATION DUE: 30 DAYS AFTER REQUEST ACTIVITIES LISTED IN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT MINIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$50,000 MAXIMUM FUNDING AMOUNT - \$500,000* (*maximum waiver available)</p>	<p>NATIONAL OBJECTIVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit low-to-moderate income ("LMI") Persons • Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight • Meet other urgent community needs posing a serious threat to the health or welfare of the community
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10% MATCH REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PROJECTS



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GRANT PROGRAM CATEGORIES

Business Development Program: \$1,000,000
 This program provides financial resources for local governments to pursue opportunities that create new jobs, retain existing employment, stimulate private investment, and revitalize or facilitate the competitiveness of the local economy. Funding will be prioritized based on the following order:

1. New or expanding businesses tied to job creation
2. Area economic development activities not associated with job creation
3. New or expanding local businesses that provide essential goods and services in predominately LMI communities

Regional Planning Program: \$500,000
 This program is designed to provide CDBG funds to Councils of Governments to assist local governments in developing plans and building local community development capacity.


State TA & Admin: \$ 695,999




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OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Projects located in Opportunity Zones will receive an additional 10 bonus points (scopportunityzone.com)



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PERFORMANCE THRESHOLD

A unit of local government can apply for an additional Community Development grant if it has no more than two open CDBG grants (excluding Business Development or Regional Planning grants).


However, the open grants must not have exceeded a **30-month grant period**.

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PERFORMANCE THRESHOLD



No more than one Neighborhood Revitalization/Village Renaissance or streetscape project.




No more than one Ready to Go project.



No more than one project for the same general target area/neighborhood open at the same time, unless the current project is under construction.

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BEAUFORT COUNTY/ LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM

The Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium (LRHC) is comprised of the following counties: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper and all 21 municipalities in the region.

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BEAUFORT COUNTY / LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM

TOP THREE OBJECTIVES:

Rehabilitation of substandard housing

Increase accessibility to adequate and affordable housing

Support the development and availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing



BEAUFORT COUNTY / LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL HOME CONSORTIUM



Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton and Jasper Counties have areas that are in need of affordable housing rehabilitation of substandard housing, and demolition of vacant/dilapidated houses.



As the housing stock ages, there becomes a greater need for rehabilitation of substandard houses and the number of vacant/dilapidated houses increases while increasing the number of persons at risk for homelessness.



Please give us a list of the priority housing needs for your area to be considered in our upcoming 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan to be submitted to HUD by April 26, 2024.

Beaufort County Council of Governments | www.bchousing.org



CDBG & HOME Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Needs Assessment

COLLETON COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in Colleton County Council Chambers, located at 109 Benson Street, Walterboro, SC, Colleton County will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities, and economic development. At this public hearing Colleton County will provide the results of its needs assessment and the activities which might be undertaken to meet identified needs, including the estimated amount proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate income. County Council will be holding the meeting in person. Meetings are broadcasted live at www.colletoncounty.org/live. Individuals who would like to participate in public comments should attend in person.

The County will also discuss matters related to housing needs and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in anticipation of participation in the Beaufort County/Lowcountry Regional HOME Consortium funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the County's Citizen Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of County in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds. The Citizen Participation Plan is available for review at Colleton County, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or the Citizen Participation Plan may contact Kimberly Mullinax, Lowcountry Council of Governments, PO Box 98, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 473-3990.

Colleton County does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Deadgrea Sadler, PO Box 157, Walterboro, SC 29488, (843)549-5221 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations.

Note: Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of disabled and/or Limited English Proficient persons upon request with forty-eight hour notice.

CDBG & HOME Aviso de audiencia pública sobre evaluación de necesidades

Nota: Se proporcionará asistencia para acomodar las necesidades especiales de personas discapacitadas o con dominio limitado del inglés previa solicitud con un aviso de cuarenta y ocho horas.