

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Steven Murdaugh, Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor, Evon Robinson in attendance.

Others present included: Sean Thornton, Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Nate Bristo, Ericka Davis, Audrey Henderson, J.D.Daus, Tyeesha Aiken, Delbert DuBois, Roy Williams, James Rutledge, George Morris, Shamera Stephens, Blaire Colson w/Boy Scouts Troop 686

Mr. Robinson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting March 7, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said I wanted to update council. I think all of you have been contacted by the clerk to council, April 21st at 12:00PM we will be having our 1st budget meeting at the Colleton County Museum/Farmer's Market. I am sure all of you have been following closely our biggest issue this year is the retirement insolvency at the State level, which is almost half a million dollar impact at that the county level. A crossover bill came out of the House only we have had some better developments at the end of last week. The last report that came back from SCAC is it came out of Senate Finance was that they were going to fund at least have of the impact on the counties, but rather than doing that as a direct funding through the retirement system, they are going to increase the funding to the local government fund. We are going to see how that works out. All those bills are due to cross over no later than April 15th so we are hoping to have some good direction, because that is going to have a heavy impact on what direction or what things we are going to be able to do in the budget this year. It is going to be the largest impact on our, although our revenues are recovering well, an impact like that would pretty much flat line us for the year. Hopefully we will get some good news prior to April 21st as to how we move forward.

Item “g” is also what I just spoke about with the retirement impact to the counties. This is a resolution that has been passing around throughout the Lowcountry Counties. It was initiated in Bamberg & Orangeburg and they asked us to join in regarding the fiscal impact to the retirement system. We also have, there is a Water Resources Fund application, this item was discussed in our Legislative Delegation meeting and this will be the formal request in regards to Chehaw Landing with the issues we’ve had there with the boat dock and other things trying to get that back up where it needs to be. Also Item “j” I know we just did an update to our donor agreement with Charleston County on the Multi County Park Agreement, but they have now done another as things are moving along fairly well in our region. Two more expansion with Mercedes and a couple of other items, so they are ready to adjust it again and happily we will be glad to join those agreements. That is why you are seeing that so soon.

New Business

1st Reading by Title Only Ordinance 17-O-03, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 1st reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-24, To Request That The Colleton County State Legislative Delegation Recommend To The South Carolina Department Of Natural Resources That South Carolina Water Recreation Resource Funds Dedicated To Colleton County Be Used To Replace The Boardwalk And Dock At The Chehaw Boat Landing On The Combahee River In Colleton.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-25, To Declare April as Fair Housing Month.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-26, To Approve a Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability Status and to Designate an ADA Coordinator.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-27, To Declare May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to Declare the Week of May 15th as Police Week.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-28, To Declare Saturday, May 13th, as Stewardship Day 2017 for the Edisto River Basin.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 17-R-29, To Express Concern over the Fiscal Impact of H.3726 on Smaller Counties within the State of South Carolina.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-30, To Award the Purchasing Contract in Accordance with Request for Proposals FMD-08 for the Installation of Emergency Equipment.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-31, To Award the Contract for the Greenway Trail Project.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-32, To Approve Amendment Of The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park, By And Between Charleston County, South Carolina And Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Charleston County As Part Of The Joint County Industrial Park.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

Public Comments (3 minutes per person/max time 20 min.)

Erica Davis – President of the Colleton County National Action Network. Our concerns are does County Council allows county employees to make racial comments to patriants and nothing gets done? This a question to you guys.

The 2nd question is does County Council allow citizens to serve on a board of trustees that either doesn't see anything wrong with making racial comments, dragging their feets on a resolution to change their behaviors.

Dr. Flowers said we don't even comment because that would make it personnel, so go ahead give us the information. Go ahead with any questions you might have and finish.

Ms. Davis said those are the only two questions I have at this time.

Dr. Flowers said we will take that under advisement and we don't usually discuss this type thing. We haven't had a chance to look at, but we will certainly take it under advisement and give you a reply.

Mr. Taylor said can she leave the information with the clerk so we will be able

Dr. Flowers yes, please give those questions to the clerk so that we will have that.

George Morris - ...inaudible..Manager for Life Net South Carolina. We offer an air medical transport service in Colleton County and have for the last five years. Five years ago I was instrumental in establishing that service. I've learned today of this honorable gathering and I wanted to come here and make representation for my company because I don't believe that we have had an opportunity to present to this council. There are certain things that we would certainly like to be considered and I see that there is an executive session planned instead of being contractual arrangement that we learned of last week between Colleton County Fire-Rescue and Med Trans. I realize there is only three minutes and I wish to have the appropriate time to address this more fully and expect that you give me some latitude to do so.

Dr. Flowers said this is something new that we have not heard from you before and of course in executive session this is something about a contractual matter and by law we can't discuss it in the open session.

Mr. Morris said I would just again request that there be an opportunity whether this forum or another for us to present a case for our company and to explain to the honorable members whom I consider ...inaudible... a contractual agreement offer to present some information for your consideration with relation to our commitment here in Colleton County.

Mr. Flowers said if you give us that information in writing so we will all be privy to the information before there is any further discussion. This would be beneficial to us.

Mr. Morris said they would certainly do that.

Council Time

Mr. Taylor said I want to thank the Johnsville Community Center, Councilman Robinson and I had an opportunity to go up there and met with them. They sent a thank you letter, a note of thanks for allowing us to come speak with them and give them an update on what we did.

Another thing I want to bring up, we want to see if we can put together a proclamation Welcoming the Robinson Family, Family Reunion. It is going to happen this week actually in Colleton County. The young lady called and said our family has been in Colleton County since 1871 and located on Hwy.17 and now this is in the Jonesville part of the county. I would like to see if we could have the administrator work and put a proclamation together for that, welcoming that family reunion (Robinson) to Colleton County.

Next, I would like to make the council as well as the citizens aware as chairperson of the Lowcountry Community Action Agency, in an endeavor to raise significant funding to insure that we can keep the homeless shelter open for the next three months during a period before our next grant cycle comes in, just making a request for citizens and for those that would like to make a small donation to the Lowcountry Community Action Agency Homeless Shelter Fund. They can do that by visiting our website lowcountrycaa.org or if they would like to give a check to LCAA they can do that as well. We would like to just say thank you to those who have already contributed and to welcome anyone else who would like to contribute. We do have a homeless shelter here in the county and I learned today from a lady that she had a squatter on her property and she was reminded that she had to have the person removed because they were setting campfires and didn't want to homes in the neighborhood to get burned and she was told by someone wearing a uniform that there was no shelter in the county. That it was just a shelter for women. I think we need to do a better job getting the word out, but we do have regular occupants. That is not the problem. Right now the issue is that we have to raise some funds and we could use support from people in the community.

Mr. Murdaugh said he would like to say, again we got a letter related to the litter issue. I know we might be facing a very strict budget, but I would like for us to work some discussion in there about how we can try to at least address some of that.

Mr. Griffin said I think we are planning on addressing that in the budget. The proclamation issue. I think you all would just need to make a motion to proclaim the Robinson Family and Welcome them to the county so we can officially do that and get it out.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that a proclamation be drawn for the Robinson Family Reunion taking place in Colleton County and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Flowers said about the litter, I certainly hope we can come up with solution with this because all the litter on the road certainly gives us a bad look for people coming in from out of town. I think we could do a much better job at keeping it clean. Hopefully we can prevail upon our people in the county not to trash the roadways and byways. I would ask all the people here tonight, please talk to everyone that you can and ask them to help us keep it clean. This reflects on all of us. We are certainly going to try to address that in budget, but we can't do it all by ourselves. We have to have the corporation and coordination of the county and citizens. This reflects on all of us.

Mr. Taylor said on that same note, the Keep Colleton Beautiful Great American Clean-Up and St. ...inaudible... Ministries is going to be hosting it, I believe it is the 22nd of April, so that any citizen in the county, I may be wrong with the date, but keep an eye out for the date that is coming up. It is going to be hosted by St. ...inaudible... Ministries on Robertson Blvd. and Hampton Street. Anybody is welcome to come. They don't have to clean up in that general area, but they will have supplies available, bags and other things available for people.

Executive Session

- a) Economic Development
 - 1. Project Global
 - 2. Project Imperial

- b) Contractual
 - 1. Fire-Rescue – Med-Trans Agreement
 - 2. Real Estate – CPST Harrelson Building Expansion

Regular Session

Dr. Flowers said the items were discussed in executive session.

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: _____

Joseph F. Flowers, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

******* NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**