

MINUTES
TUESDAY, December 5, 2023
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, David Greene, Sue Keith, Jerome Kizer, Jake Jacobs, Gary Rhode, Josh Rowland, Clarence Wiggins,

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

Chairman Murdaugh made a motion to add Senator Sandy Senn under Appearances and Public Presentations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting November 7, 2023— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

- A. Proclamation-Colleton County Cougars Middle School Football Team –Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record. Councilman Taylor moved to adopt the Proclamation congratulating the Colleton County Middle School Football Team. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations

- A. Hurricane Evacuation Zone Changes 2024, Dr. David Greene, Deputy Chief, Colleton County Fire-Rescue

Dr. Greene: Stated, I am here tonight to publicly announce that we will have new hurricane evacuation zones for the 2024 hurricane season. The screen to your left is our two evacuation zones, A “Red” and B “Yellow”. On the right screen we have three evaluation zones, A “Red”, B “Yellow”, and C “Orange. The line passes below Wiggins and crosses the brickyard bridge on

Bennetts Point Road. All of you know that when you pass over that bridge there is an area that tends to flood during a good high tide. Zone B will become the balance of what Zone A is today. Zone C will become what Zone B is today. That line runs from the Edisto River at Jellico's down Cottageville Hwy to Walterboro then up I-95 to Jonesville. This is going to give us some flexibility in the future to do evacuations if we have a tropical cyclone that makes landfall South of us. Certainly, all those zones would be in play if it was a major hurricane. If it makes landfall just North of us, we will evacuate Zone A. We have had some problems in the past where we had evacuations of the barrier islands only, which would be Edisto Island only. That left those in Bennetts Point not included in the evacuation and perhaps should have been. ***Slide 2 shows the difference in the population with the old zones and new zones. Zone B will be where we get that flexibility if a tropical cyclone makes landfall just North of us. We would perhaps not need to evacuate Zone C. ***Slide 3 shows pins that represent where you will see the post covers stating A, B, or C. They will not be on every street signpost, but you will pass one as you're entering the main road. The sign you see at the bottom will indicate where a zone starts. So, at Brickyard Bridge you will see Zone A going into Bennetts Point and Zone B leaving Bennetts Point. We hope to get these out in the beginning of the year. The zones will be in effect for the 2024 Hurricane Season, which starts June 1st.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, how do we educate the public as to what zone they are in and the zone changes?

Dr. Greene: Stated, that is a very good question. We have a plan to push this out on all our social media platforms. We are working with SCEMD to do mail orders to the people that are in the zones that are affected. KC is back there, and we have been doing some work with PRTC tv channel for holiday safety. So, we will be trying to utilize that for this as well. We certainly have a few months before hurricane season starts.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, when there is a hurricane or weather event, will the evacuations be done at a local level, or will it come down from the state?

Dr. Greene: Stated, County Council is authorized by ordinance to order an evacuation. Normally, you all tend to leave that to the Governor's Office because it is coordinated through multiple counties. We don't want to evacuate all three of our zones and Charleston only evacuates one of theirs. There is a lot of coordination in that.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I guess more specifically, if the Governor orders an evacuation order, do we decide at the local level if it is A, B, and/or, C? Do they even know what A, B, and C are for Colleton County?

Dr. Greene: Stated, yes, we make recommendations ahead of time and he can decide to go with those or he can choose that this looks worse than we are thinking and order a full coast evacuation even if we thought only one zone needed to be.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you all for all of the hard work.

B. Senator Sandy -Senn District 41

Senator Senn: Stated, I wanted to come here today and introduce myself especially to those I have not met. My name is Sandy Senn, I live on Johns Island, and I have a law practice in West Ashley. I primarily represent first responders for a living. I am sorry that I did not make it to the last meeting. I had something blow up in court that day and it was not good for my client, so I had to deal with things for that. I wanted to let you all know that we are already transitioning. Senator Bright Matthews, who is my sister senator, she and I get along very well. She will be taking over more of the Charleston and Beaufort County, and I will be taking over pieces that run over in the Cottageville area. Where my husband's hunting property is, one side of the street is in my district and the other side is in Margie's. So, it is a very complicated district. I am very happy to be here, and I want to talk to you all about whatever it is that you need. I am already trying to get a couple of things from talking with Mr. Taylor. I believe that the Cottageville area really needs a new library from what I have seen. That area's library needs a good bit of help. I suspect that the building has asbestos and possibly mold. There are Federal grants available, so I am going to be writing letters of recommendation in order to get it completely funded rather than it having to be funded by county council. In addition, I am working on some recreational outlets such as basketball courts. I do have Mr. Taylor who is advocating for the Cottageville area, but I do know each of you has your own pieces. I am willing to speak with any of you about what the needs for the county are. I like to get any earmarks or requests that I am going to make to the state in January. So, please reach out and let me know what you all think.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, thank you for coming.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, as I was looking at the new districts today, I found out that my home is in your new district. I guess it swings out and picks up over there by the Coast gas station, Colleton Prep, the neighborhoods behind there, and then crosses I-95 and out onto Bells Hwy. It is kind of similar to the evacuation maps.

Senator Senn: Stated, it did. Actually, I was looking at that and thought "I can kind of see it now." When you are trying to drive down the road with a map and figure out where your new district is, it's quite hard. This is not the kind of district that I can go out and knock on doors, because the doors could be miles apart. I will certainly be answering phone calls and taking any questions.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, does the new district take on Longleaf?

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, yes, I believe it does. Senator Senn, we are glad to have you here. We have been adversaries in the practice of law, but I can tell you she does a great job for the state of South Carolina and for this area. We are glad to have you here and I hope we will work with you again in the future.

Senator Senn: Stated, thank you.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, Next, we have the Admonitor's Briefing, but It is my understanding that he is under the weather. Meagan, will you be giving the briefing tonight?

Sean Thornton: Stated, no sir, I think we should skip that based on the administrator's absence.

New Business

A. Resolution 23-R-66, To Approve the Enterprise Service Agreement between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-66, To Approve the Enterprise Service Agreement between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 23-R-67, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 23-R-67, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 23-R-68, To Approve Purchase of a Volvo Excavator for the Solid Waste Landfill

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-68, To Approve Purchase of a Volvo Excavator for the Solid Waste Landfill. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 23-R-69, To Amend the Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Architectural Design Services and Engineering Services

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 23-R-69, To Amend the Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Architectural Design Services and Engineering Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution 23-R-70, To Reschedule the January 2024 County Council Meeting

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-70, To Reschedule the January 2024 County Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, will that day be January 9th?

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, yes, the reason for the recommendation to reschedule is the 2nd is the day of the New Years holiday and some people will still be on a holiday schedule that day.

F. Resolution 23-R-71, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-71, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, there are two vacancies on the Colleton County Fire-Rescue Commission.

G. Resolution 23-R-72, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-72, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

The following appointments were made by acclimation: Colleton County Recreation Commission –Billy Chambers and Rodney Colson

Public Comment

No public comments.

Council Time

Councilman Trippe: Stated, PRTC showed a map of all the counties broadband and the green areas meant there was fiber available for their home. Colleton County was completely green. I am kind of biased because I retired from PRTC, but they do a great job. I also want to wish everyone a happy and Merry Christmas.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, PRTC not only does a good job, but they, along with our Co-Op and Dominion, are always willing to step up and they're there when we need them.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I wanted to thank Edisto Beach for being here. You all always have a big presence in this county. Merry Christmas to everybody out there.

Dr. Flowers and Councilman Taylor: Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I have one more comment. Dr. Flowers has a birthday this week.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, it is always good to have another one.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I would like to echo the sentiments about Christmas. We are all blessed, but this time of year and season makes us all think about those who aren't as fortunate. Hopefully, everyone can find time to give a little something to those that are in need. Let us all keep that in mind.

Adjournment

Councilman Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

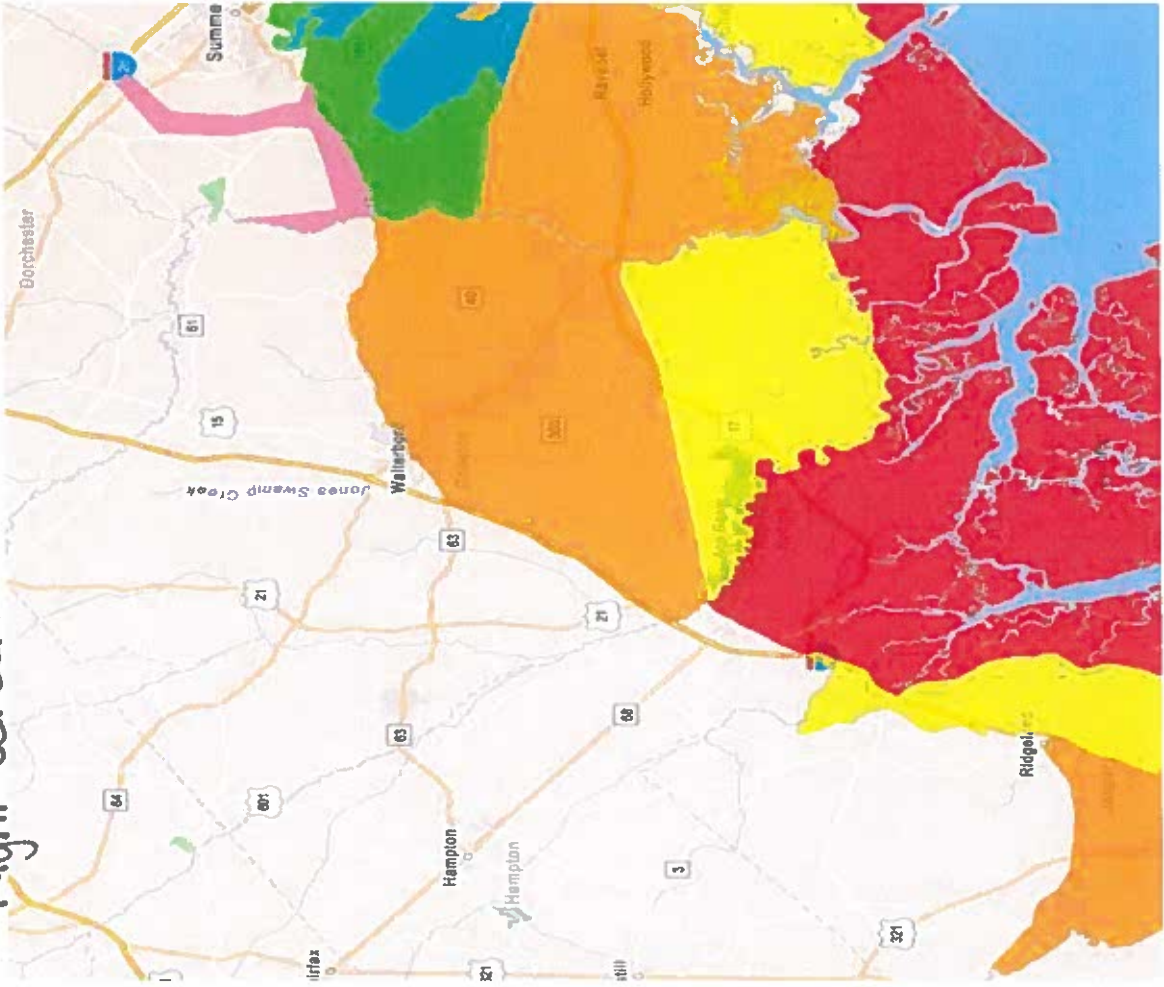
This 9th day of January 2024.


Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

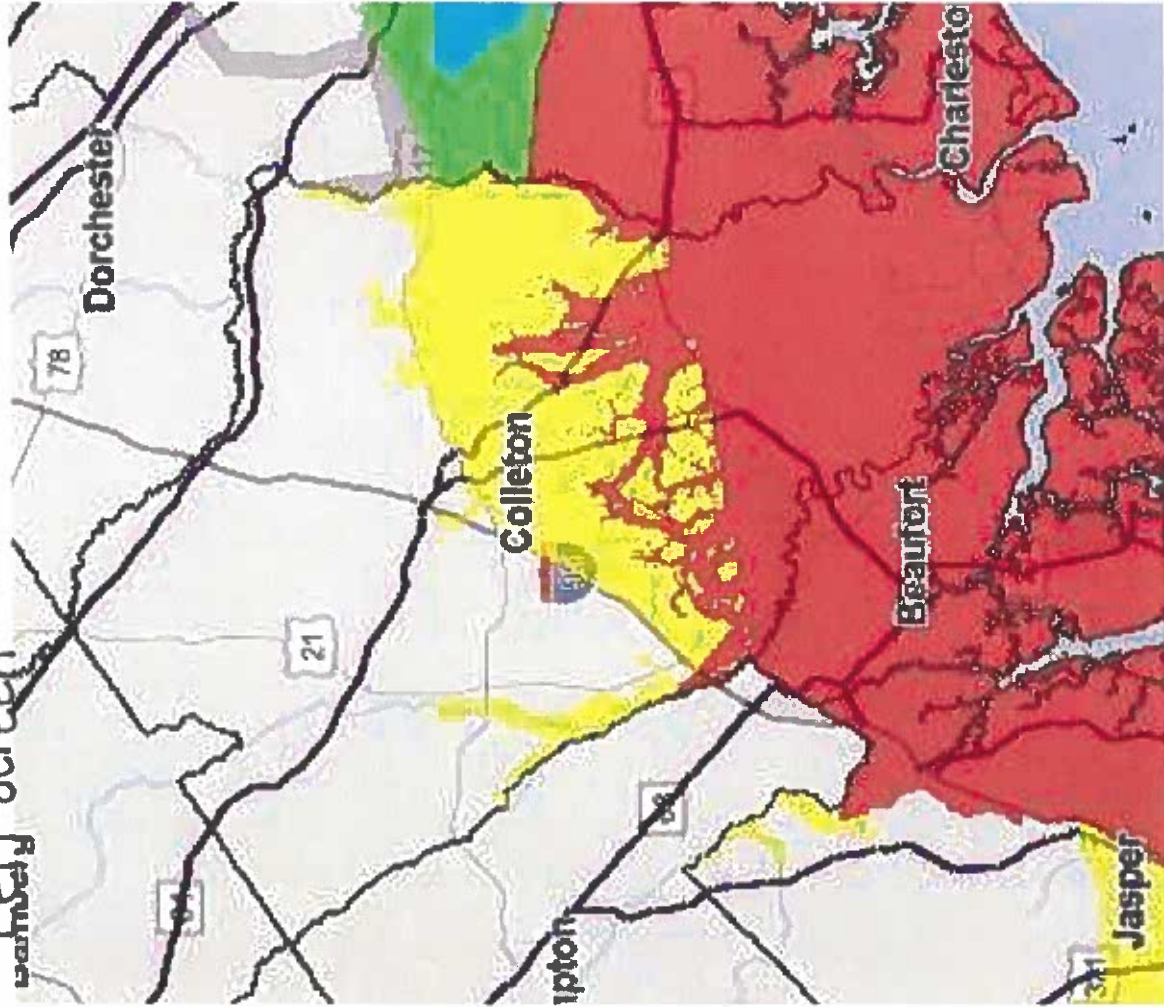
ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council

Right Screen



Left Screen



10/25/2024 10:00 AM

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	<u>Old Zones</u>	<u>New Zones</u>
Zone A	1,854	1,332
Zone B	12,912	703
Zone C	N/A	12,084

