

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members, Gene Whetsell, Evon Robinson, Phillip Taylor in attendance. Steven Murdaugh, Absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Roland Gruber, Nate Bristow, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal R. Hodges, Sr., Iris Hill, Jane Darby, Michelle Strickland, John Washington, Benjamin Gallett, Annett Williams, Regionald McNeil, James Rutledge, Roy Williams, Horace Simmons, Mackey L. Williams, Sheriff Andy Strickland, Travis Smalls

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

**Awards and Recognitions**

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism Charles A. Bundy Award – Colleton Museum & Farmers Market.

Michelle Strickland presented the award to Gary Brightwell, Director of the Colleton Museum & Farmers Market

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting February 2, 2016

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

FY2015 Audit Report, Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC – David Irwin, Partner

Mr. David Irwin briefly reviewed the audit which gave Colleton County a clean or unmodified opinion on this year's report. This is what you want. The audit went extremely well.

SC Department of Mental Health – Update Council on new initiatives – Susanne Douglas

No one was present to give the update.

### **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said I want to follow-up on Ms. Strickland and Ms. Brightwell. That award was something about two weeks ago Mr. Whetsell accompanied us to Charleston and that is the Charles A. Bundy Governor's Award on Rural Tourism. I don't think we got into that as the meeting started. That is something that the City actually nominated the Museum/Farmers Market and we were fortunate enough to be recognized in that capacity and got a nice piece of hardware and some other nice things that go along with it. We will also be promoted on the State Parks Recreation & Tourism Website for this year and they are going to be doing some special things in promoting that facility as well. Again I think Ms. Brightwell and Ms. Strickland for their efforts in that regard.

We are still fighting road issues. We had a number of calls to and we are doing our best. I think Bill and them are starting to kinda get it turned around if we can keep the rains off of us. It's starting to dry out a little bit. We are getting some sunshine and wind and get those things moved out. We did unfortunately during this process loose a motor grater that was a total loss. It blew up on us about three weeks ago and called around a little bit to get another one ordered or in the process which is on the agenda tonight for us to go ahead and finalize it and get moving as well.

All of our Capital Projects are moving forward as far as design stage and so forth. Making a good bit of progress there. Mr. Stieglitz is staying extremely busy in that regard.

I also wanted to mention briefly, I had a good visit with Senator Bright-Matthews yesterday. She came by and visited. Gave us an update on what was happening in the State House both the LGF and with specifically the Roads Bill and some things that were happening there. They are going through a filibuster right now in that regard in the Senate and I am not sure they may have come out of it today trying to get some compromising language in it and get some money following back into our roads program. She was certainly interested in assisting in any way she could. As well as she has asked me to convey to you all as well if there's some specific projects that you would like for her to look at on the State level as things are moving forward, if we could get some info to her in the next 2-3 weeks or so as they are moving into the State Budget. She would like to start introducing some of those things as well.

I wanted to thank all of the staff. This past year has been a very tough one. I felt very fortunate when we only lost \$40,000 out of fund balance when we had a year that we lost about 2.5 million in revenue with the Canady's Coal Plant coming off the books. Everyone tightened up their belt and their budgets and we were able to keep it manageable and hopefully into this year with the adjustments council was willing to make we will keep it level and start moving in the other direction.

**Public Hearing**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 16-O-01, To Amend Various Sections of Chapter 13.12 - Flood Damage Prevention of Title 13, Buildings and Construction, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-23, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for Various Grants for FY 2015-2016.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-24, To Approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Colleton County Sheriff's Office and the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-25, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for the June 2016 Mission Serve Home Repair Program.

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

Mr. Taylor said he did get a call from some of the people serving with this process this summer. They have a special grant in the Lemacks Street area of Walterboro that they are working with the City of Walterboro to do and they are trying to identify homes that they can serve, so if the citizens would make sure that they are aware these funds are available. I don't think they do metal roofs, but they will do shingle roofs, but people have to be living in the home that is a relative or a homeowner as I understand it. Working in conjunction with the City on this grant and Mission Service this summer, so they are looking for people.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-26, To Declare Surplus Various Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-27, To Approve Joint Use Agreements between Colleton County and the Neyles Community Center and between Colleton County and the Jonesville Community Center for Recreation Improvements Provided by the 2015 PARD Grant.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-28, To Authorize the Sole Source Purchase of Generac Generators for a Period Not to Exceed Five Years.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-29, To Approve a Services Agreement between Colleton County, the Colleton County Sheriff's Office and Colleton Medical Center for Hospital Security.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-30, To Approve the Amended Facility Operation Agreement between Colleton County and the Lowcountry Council of Governments for the Operation of the Colleton County Career Skills Center.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-31, 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.

Resolution 16-R-32, To Authorize the Purchase of Equipment by the Fleet Management Department.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-33, To Appoint Member to Board Vacancy.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve Patti Lohr to the Colleton County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs by acclimation and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Items for Information and Public Record**

None

#### **Public Comments**

Mayor Jane Darby- Four young men with the Edisto Volunteer Fire Department graduated from the SC Fire Academy. I wanted to thank the Fire Depart and Chief Barry McRoy who found and put together turnout gear for these guys and they actually semi fit them, which I think is miracle considering they were able to put them together. We want to say thank you to the Colleton County Fire Department for giving us this opportunity to keep young people in our neighborhood and ...inaudible...

Mr. Roland Gruber- Those of you who know me personally, know that it would never be my intent to hurt anyone's feelings. What I am going to say tonight is certainly not to offend anyone. I have been a permanent resident of Colleton County for more than 55 years and have paid Colleton County taxes during this entire period of time. The accumulated total taxes paid exceeds the combined total I initially paid for all the properties I presently own in Colleton County. Since the County implemented periodical assessments of properties my taxes have increased considerably, even though most of my properties are in a flood zone and have depreciated yearly. As a result of the last conducted properties assessment, my taxes escalated again. I fully realize a portion of this increase was a result of a millage increase, however, some open-type carports; factory fabricated & installed structures that have been on my property for many years were assessed and recorded and I paid 2015 taxes on these structures even though they were not assessed before 2015. I appealed this action and I am not completely satisfied with the answers given. I was informed there are many

subject type structures on other properties in Colleton County, but very few have been documented and recorded for tax purposes. I feel it is unethical, inequitable, unfair, and discriminating to tax me on subject structures until all county-wide structures are documented and recorded for tax purposes. My sincere thanks to each and everyone participating in this matter in order that your decision may be favorable for all Colleton County Taxpayers affected by your actions.

Annett Williams, Ben Gallet, & Travis Smalls- Ms. Williams said we live at 391 Lone Tree Lane in Yemassee, SC where the road is almost impassable. The road is so bad that it has now torn the bumper off of my car. We try to avoid the holes, but trying to avoid one and then there is another hole bigger than that one. Now we have a circle going around almost in the ditch trying to avoid these deep holes. There is also one more person that lives in the community, but they have a death in the family at this time. Our road has not been paved since it was 1<sup>st</sup> paved in the 1990's. My thing is how much longer are we suppose to wait. What are we supposed to do because we pay taxes also and I don't think it is fair.

Mr. Whetsell asked if they were on a paved road.

Ms. Williams said yes.

Mr. Whetsell said have ya'll been to the highway department?

Mr. Griffin said Lone Tree Lane was a road that the CTC actually paved many years back.

Mr. Whetsell said 1990?

Mr. Griffin said I can't be exact on the date, but I do know with the last round of funding that came through from the state and then we got some additional funds last year, that that road has been programmed for repaving as far part of this last package that came. I think it was 4.5 million that came back for existing road maintenance through the state this past year. I will double check, but I am almost positive it has now been programmed, meaning it is funded and a project on the list for repaving.

Dr. Flowers requested them to leave their contact information with the administrator and let him follow-up on this and get some clarification.

A gentleman said they also had three very large pine trees that is very close to the road on Lone Tree Road. We have school buses that goes up and down the road two times a day and this time of the year with the winds and stuff the rocking of the trees and all the stuff off of the tree in the road, I am afraid that one of those trees is going to fall, hurt somebody, hit a school bus, kill somebody. We complained about this two years ago when the tree 1<sup>st</sup> got struck by lightning. It is three of them and they said it was nothing they could do because the road is not far enough from the road, some something I didn't understand, but we wonder what we could do to get that checked out.

Dr. Flowers said are they dead trees?

Gentleman said yes sir.

Dr. Flowers said and all of them are dead?

Gentleman said all of them are dead.

Dr. Flowers said if they are in the right of way that the county owns, we might be able to do something about it, but if it is on private property, we can't do it. We will have our administrator look into it.

### **Council Time**

No comments were made

### **Executive Session**

- a) Economic Development
  - 1) Project Deck
  - 2) Project Wrapper
  - 3) Project Strick

- b) Real Estate - Mable T. Willis Blvd.

### **Regular Session**

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

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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