

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members, Gene Whetsell, Dr. Flowers, Evon Robinson, Phillip Taylor, in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Sheriff R.A. Strickland, Stg. K. Strickland, Donna Lamb, Jane Darby, Iris Hill, Delores Williams, Johnson Williams, Florrie B. Levine, Maj. Jamison, Isreal R. Hodges, Sr., Timothy A. Grimsley, Lynette B. Fryar, Betty Rhode, Carl Coffin, Buddy Hill, Joe Hamilton, Roy Williams, Mary C. Harris, Vella Chisolm, Ed Williams, Art Williams, Tom Mann, Sylvia Rowland, Jane McT. Brown, Dolphus Pinckney, Central Williams, Lori & Chad Beard, Nancy Wright, Katrina Reeves

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

Appearances & Public Presentations

Phillip Slayter - Presentation "Colleton County Bikeway & Pedestrian Master Plan"

Mr. Slayter – This is a project I am very proud to be a part of. Eat Smart Move More Colleton County is an organization promoting eating habits as well as increased physical activity as part of that group we were lucky to receive funding from DHEC as well as a contribution from the County Transportation Committee in order to undertake this planning effort. We started about the middle of last summer year and have been able to complete a planning process for which we hired a very well known state wide consultant that has been working on bike way and pedestrian master plans. That process included the development of an advisory group, which consisted of members of the public, both bike enthusiasts as well as health advocates including many people who enjoyed going around town walking and exercising. That group was about a 16 member group, which served as a steering committee for that planning effort. We undertook a couple of public hearings in order to solicit input from the public to try to get feedback on what we felt were opportunities and constraints for the development of the plan. That process brought us forward with the development of some draft recommendations and subsequently the development of a full scale plan. February 17th the advisory group voted to bring forward the plan and to ask both County Council and City Council to adopt it. I made a presentation in front of the Planning Commission, they voted to recommend to you the approval of that plan, which occurred on the 23rd of last month. I am appearing before the City Planning Commission tomorrow night and

with luck I will appear before City Council to move for adoption on March 14th. That gives you a framework, sort of a development of the plan and the impetus behind its creation.

Mr. Slayter then reviewed the plan with the council members.

Mr. Murdaugh said we have a resolution on our agenda to adopt this plan and I think given the depth of this plan, I don't know what all encompasses the plan, if it has financial projections and things, but I think we need to perhaps table this until we can get a copy of that and look at it and see. I know we are not necessarily the sponsor of the project, but what the resolution is asking us to do is adopt it.

Council member's consensus was that they needed to see the plan.

Mr. Slayter said he certainly understood, the only footnote that I would add to that is that the plan does not obligate either the County or the City to spending any money or implementing it. It simply is a policy statement for which the County would acknowledge that the need is there and where possible and funds exist it could be constructed. I totally understand council's reluctance to approving it sight unseen. It was the Planning Commission's determination because they evaluated it and they made that call for council, but I certainly do understand that if council wants to digest the plan itself before moving forward with it.

Mr. Murdaugh said we will address that when we get to that particular item.

Town of Cottageville - Mayor Grimsley - Present proposal for funding Cottageville Branch Library

Mayor Grimsley said the one thing about Cottageville is that there is nothing for the children to do. I am very passionate about that and it is something I am trying to change and working on it. We are working on a community center and the parks. The last four years we have been trying to get a library branch there and I think we are very close to doing that.

Mayor Grimsley then reviewed his proposal for the Cottageville branch library with council members.

Mr. Murdaugh said they would take the information and get with the administrator and the library board of trustees and see what we can get.

Mr. Murdaugh said the building that you got, I know it was given to you by the school. Has there been renovations made to the building?

Mayor Grimsley said it was the kindergarten building. It is brick and half is walled off and we utilize it for the Police Department. The front half it was we were looking at to renovate for the library.

Mr. Murdaugh said I was looking at the startup cost and didn't see a whole lot of technology included in that.

Mayor Grimsley said the Friends of the Library have agreed to donate all computer equipment and software. That is all donated. I have carpet,...inaudible... the furnishing for the library is coming from the old school.

Mr. Murdaugh said someone will correspond with you we will have to run it through our budget process to see what we can do.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting February 3, 2015

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

Mr. Taylor said he was not in attendance of the last meeting and my name should be removed from the attendance and shown as absent.

The motion was amended by Dr. Flowers & Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said he attended the SCAC mid-year meeting last week. We had discussion regarding the LGF at our last meeting. There is a number of doable bills in the house right now. We have some amendments to those that are being offered this week if you get a chance to reach out to any of our house representative folks it would be very valuable. Right now with Representative Merrill's bill is still moving forward, which would require the State's Revenues to increase 4%, it would freeze us where we are right now. If the State Budget of revenues were increased 4% they would increase the LGF 2%, anything less than that the LGF would not be increased in anyway whatsoever. The State revenues have not increased 4% in the last 10-12 years. That gives you an idea what we are looking at. There are a number of amendments that are being offered this week to correct that and to add that it be fully funded over 3 years. There is also conversations about road bills there is a few of those that. A representative out of Anderson who is head of Ways and Means would like to put half of the roads back on to the counties. This would be detrimental especially to the larger rural counties such as us. Obviously the funding is not coming along with it like we feel it should, but it appears that Gov. Haley's bill on roads is that she does not want to address any roads being transferred over to the counties. It appears she has taken that off the table for now. Hopefully that will help us out.

Mr. Griffin said we did get our kick off meeting for the Law Enforcement Center last week. That went very well. We are starting to work on a schedule on that. We are looking at roughly 10-18 month billed out period. We will move forward and later on the

agenda tonight the Policy & Procedure for the Construction Manager at Risk that we had discussed previously. As soon as that is done we will have that ad out and begin working towards that. Last week we interviewed for both the Solid Waste Project and the Cottageville Recreation Project as far as architects & design professionals. Those will be coming forward to you at the next regular council meeting.

Mr. Griffin said with the rain, some specific issues with roads especially in the upper part of the county, they tend to have gotten a little more rain. I know a couple of you have contacted me about different roads up there, but there is also a lot of timber movement going on. A lot of timber is being cut within the county at the same time and those two have seemed to intersect a lot here lately. We are kinda monitoring; most of the time we are able to talk to those folks and ask them to get off the dirt county roads while we have heavy rains, but if it continues to be an issue it maybe something council would want to take a little harder look at. We had some folks up on Shiloh Loop last week who were pretty much completely lodged into their homes because we have had some really rough rains up there and they were continually running some log trucks. Eventually got back up and got them to move around and got some things there to move them out, but it could be an issue if it continues. This is about the 4th of 5th time in the last two months that this has happened and we may have to take another look at it.

Mr. Griffin said just got revenue numbers from Treasurer Hill today, so we will really start taking off in the next week or two. I will be contacting you probably the end of the month for our 1st budget meeting going into next year.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 15-O-01, Granting Easement No. 892842 to South Carolina Electric and Gas Across a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 506 E. Washington Street in the City of Walterboro, County Colleton, SC; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Facilities within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

No commits were made.

Ordinance 15-O-02, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Section 14.08-6.050(A)(3)(a) – Freestanding On-Premise Signs, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.

No comments were made.

Ordinance 15-O-03, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$29,700,757 General Obligation Capital Project Sales Tax Bonds Of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended; To Provide For The Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

No comments were made.

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 15-O-03, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$29,700,757 General Obligation Capital Project Sales Tax Bonds Of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Shall Be Expended; To Provide For The Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell

The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance 15-O-04, Authorizing The Acquisition Of Certain Property By Colleton County By Lease-Purchase Financing In The Amount Of \$1,759,724; The Execution And Delivery Of Certain Instruments, Including An Acquisition, Use And Security Agreement By Colleton County; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 15-O-01, Granting Easement No. 892842 to South Carolina Electric and Gas Across a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 506 E. Washington Street in the City of Walterboro, County Colleton, SC; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Facilities within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto

A motion to approve 3rd reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 15-O-02, To Amend Title 14-Land Management, Section 14.08-6.050(A)(3)(a) – Freestanding On-Premise Signs, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.

A motion to approve 3rd reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading **by Title Only** Ordinance 15-O-05, Providing For Infrastructure Or Special Source Revenue Credits To Project “C”; Authorising An Infrastructure Credit Agreement Between Colleton County And Project “C”; Providing For The Allocation Of Fees-In-Lieu

Of Taxes Payable Under The Agreement For Development For A Joint County Industrial Park With Hampton County; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-20, To Approve a Facilities Use Agreement By and Between Colleton County and the Town of Edisto Beach and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute Said Agreement.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 15-R-21, To Award the Contract for Engineering Services for Engineering Services for the Rivers Street Drainage Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-22, 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 15-R-23, To Declare Surplus VHF Radio 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 Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-24, to Donate Surplused VHF Radio Equipment to Bamberg County.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-25, To Award the Contract for the Paving of County Dirt Roads.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-26, To Adopt the County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan.

A motion to table the resolution until council members have a chance to review the plan was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-27, To Establish Priorities for the 2015 Annual CDBG County Needs Assessment.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-28, To Award the Contract for Annual Hose and Ladder Testing for Fire-Rescue to Mill Dam Enterprises.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-29, To Authorize the Budgeting of Funds and Purchase of a Portable 800 MHz Radio Console by the Fire-Rescue Department.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-30, To Authorize the Submittal of a Grant Application for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant in the Amount of \$41,250 and the Approval of 25% Matching Funds in the Amount of \$10,312 to be Budgeted in the FY 2016 Budget Process.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-31, To Appoint Member to Board Vacancy.

A motion to approve Chris Bickley to the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority by acclimation was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-32, To Adopt a Policy for Defining and Selecting a Construction Manager-at-Risk.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-33, To Award the Bid for Tax Exempt Lease Purchase Financial Services.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Edward Williams- I'm here this evening on behalf of some concerned citizens of Colleton County. In most recent times as early as last council meeting there were some circumstances that came to light of council and some misinformation perhaps was given, so a group of us community people got together in a community forum and we would like to address some of those concerns. One thing I want to make clear off the very top and that is the Rev. Al Sharpton was never asked to come to Colleton County. I don't know where that information got out from

Mr. Murdaugh said let me interrupt you before we get started. What I want everyone to understand is that this is a business meeting and we are here to address the business of the county and I understand the issues that were raised by council and the sheriff has responded and if he wants to respond he has that opportunity. I do not want this meeting to turn into a platform where if you've got an issue with this body that is sitting on this board, we will be glad for you to address that. I don't want this meeting to turn into a forum where we debate the on goings in the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff has an open door policy and you are more that welcome to go and do that. If it is an issue that involves funding or something that council can address, we will be glad to hear that, but who's coming and what's coming, we are trying to have a business meeting and not get into personal attacks on

Mr. Williams interrupted saying I don't want to get into any personal attacks. I just wanted to bring some information to the council and I don't even have to discuss it. I did have a packet here for you sir if you want to take it.

Mr. Murdaugh said yes sir I will be happy to take that.

Mr. Williams said take it and look over it and work with it because I came because I was asked to come before this council because we feel that there are some serious problems going on and that the issues have been addressed for your information council, but to no avail and so that is why we were asked to come to this body to present this information so that ya'll could see.

Mr. Murdaugh said and I will be happy to take that information and let me say this, if you have issues, they are concerns of ours as well, but understand my position; I am having to run and orchestrate this meeting and some of the issues that we get into by nature are going to go over into personnel issues. We cannot address those in a public forum.

Mr. Williams said I didn't come from that and I wasn't going to call names, I just wanted to state what the community expectation was, to give you that information so that you can see the concerns, not from me, not from anyone else, but the actual individuals that are concerned. I have been around long enough to know sir to know that we cannot go with calling names and I don't do that unless I'm in the right setting. That is why I made that packet for you so that you could read over it. I didn't make any copies for the other council members; you can give them a copy.

Mr. Murdaugh said I will promise you this each one of the council members will get this packet and will have their opportunity to read it and respond and I will assure you, your concerns are always our concerns, but I do not want to turn this meeting into a forum where we simply get up here and if we've got issues can address we can certainly address those, but I don't think it is fair to anyone to get up, this is a business meeting and we are here to address business ...inaudible... that is simply my point and I certainly don't want to get into personnel issues in a open forum.

Betty Rhode said I just wanted to reiterate some of the things that Mayor Grimsley brought out about the proposed library for Cottageville. It is a need that we desperately have. We are a rural community and it is very hard for many children who attend school in Walterboro to be able to get resources for studies and for different programs and everything they have to do. On my way up here at 5:30 I me a school bus with children still riding and they had not gotten home, so the opportunity for them to come back to Walterboro to use the library in Walterboro is limited. I really would like for ya'll to take that into consideration as well as one of the questions that ya'll asked was about the building itself. That is the newest edition that has been built to Cottageville Elementary School prior to the new elementary. It is not part of the original school building which was built in the late 40's. It was built a couple of years before we moved into the school, so it is a very modern up to date facility and is in excellent condition. Thank you for your attention.

Council Time

Mr. Taylor said he would like to see if we could authorize the administrator to look a little bit further into issues regarding private dirt roads. I have met several times with our county planner, Mr. Slayter and our engineer Mr. Fralix as well as councilman Whetsell and I have gone out to several places and we think we have a plausible solution that citizens can agree with, possibly, so I would like to authorize him to go ahead and look further into that see what we can do about it. A solution to help with these private dirt roads, cause that is one of the number one concerns we get every week and I think we got a plausible solution if you give him the opportunity to do that.

Mr. Murdaugh said I am in agreement 100% with that, in fact I have been bending the Administrator's ear this very morning about issues with roads; of course these were not private roads these were actual county roads that I was calling about, but the private roads clearly are a big problem for citizens. Frankly, we have not come up with a way to address. We will absolutely authorize the administrator to look into it and also the county roads.

The consensus of council members was to have the administrator to look into the dirt roads situation.

Executive Session

- a) Contractual – Proposed Purchase of Property
- b) Legal Matter – LCAA Board Appointments
- c) Economic Development
 - 1. Project Vittorio
 - 2. Project C
 - 3. Project Hero
 - 4. Project Corn
 - 5. Project Global

Regular Session

Mr. Murdaugh said during executive session we discussed all of the matters.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize the administrator to move forward with the term Project Global as discussed in executive session and was seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize the administrator to move forward with the term sheet in regards to the Dogwood Hills Golf Course and associated facilities as discussed in executive session and was seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

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**