

MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022
VIRTUAL 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, Art Williams, Gene Whetsell and Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Meagan Utsey, Jon Carpenter, Joshua Rowland.

Phillip Taylor gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Capital Projects Sales Tax County Project Ranking January 19, 2022—Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Capital Projects Sales Tax County Project Ranking Meeting held on January 19, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Special Meeting – Opioid Litigation January 24, 2022—Councilman Whetsell moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting – Opioid Litigation Meeting held on January 24, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and the motion carried unanimously.
- C. Special Meeting – Redistricting Public Hearing January 26, 2022—Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting – Redistricting Public Hearing Meeting held on January 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell and the motion carried unanimously.
- D. Regular Meeting February 1, 2022—Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

- A. **Colleton County Risk Management received the 2021 Outstanding Safety Achievement Award from the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust**— Chairman Murdaugh read the award aloud.

Mr. Griffin: Stated that Mr. Welch has done a fine job and we do appreciate the work that he is doing with the risk management.

***All Council members congratulated the Risk Management team on a job well done.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin stated that the first three items listed under new business are related to our 10 year update to the Colleton County comprehensive plan. The next step is the update to the Colleton County zoning ordinance. Those three items will pertain to that by title only. We will have a full review of that for you at the next council meeting. Next, we have put out for bid the public defender services. Ashley Hudson has resigned and moved on to do different things. We were able to, with a lot of help from the county attorney, negotiate with the public defender's office for services. Also, there is a change order for the venture park waste water improvement project. They had a 90 day reservation on pipe and other construction items, with the time that it took to get through both, the state and especially the EDA regulations, we've got until about 110-120 days. So, that pricing had to go back out for bid, which calls for a price increase. We did have the funds within the grant project so there would be no impact on the general fund. With all that being said, I would like to introduce our new Planning and Development director, Josh Rowland. He has been hired since Mr. Montgomery moved back to Arizona.

Mr. Rowland stated that he wanted to thank Mr. Griffin, County Council, and staff for this opportunity, it is an honor to serve Colleton County and its residents. In regards to the zoning ordinance, the staff has been working diligently to review these codes and review recent trends happening not only in Colleton County, but within the state to ensure that we are ready to handle certain development trends long term. To my knowledge an update has not happened since a previous ordinance in 2010 other than a few minor updates along the way. The goal of this was to look at the comprehensive plan for future land use to identify those trends of whether it is industrial areas. There has been a few areas of UDI 1 and UDI 2 for urban developments. They really did not address certain types of recreation, from an aspect of commercial recreation. We have looked at a lot of the flood plan items and have coordinated with FEMA and DNR to be sure we have stayed within compliance. They did have a few comments that the planning commission did review three times already, and we will be taking it back this month again to review these final changes that our staff has made. We should have it together and ready for council next month.

Mr. Griffin stated that the final item that we did under council time is the county mask requirement. I know there are a number of things both local jurisdiction, state, and federal that are looking at lifting those requirements. We did put that item on the agenda for council discussion.

Councilman Williams stated that he appreciates the administrator taking his time and explaining to us why the change order took place, because you know I am a stickler for change orders.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to move into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

- A. **CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) & HOME Public Hearing Concerning Needs Assessment**

Michelle Knight stated that I am here to run through the program, so that hopefully at the next meeting council can rank their priorities. This public hearing is for our 2022 program year.

***Ms. Knight discussed the information provided on the slide show attached.

Ms. Knight stated that is all I have for my formal comments. I will be glad to answer any questions. I did pull the county's priority list from last year, so if you all are interested in what you all ranked last year. I don't know if you all typically go back and discuss that as a committee with staff and then rank them at your next meeting. I will be glad to call out what was identified last year if you would like to know.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that I would like to get a copy of the presentation and go through that in detail as there is a lot of information there. For me personally I would like to go through the slide before we prioritize them. There seemed to be some new stuff in there that I am not familiar with.

Councilman Williams agrees with the Chairman.

Ms. Knight stated that the biggest new thing is they are upping the maximum grant requirements and their neighborhood program, if you are doing water and sewer activity, and then with the streetscape. They've upped their maximum grant amount for special projects, because when we originally started it was \$150,000 set aside per project which is really not a lot of money to do anything even back then. So, those were the big things money wise. As far as the actual activities, they haven't really changed a lot in the last couple of years. If you have any questions after reviewing the hard copy of the slide send me an email or give me a call.

Chairman Murdaugh asked if it would put us at some disadvantage if we do not rank these items tonight.

Ms. Knight stated no, and the reason it won't is because Gadsden Loop will not close before the middle of April.

Councilman Williams stated that he would like to take Michelle up on the offer to share with us the ranking of last year's projects. I would like the community to be able to hear, as well as, myself.

Ms. Knight stated that last year's ranking is as follows, first priority was public facilities and infrastructure described as landfill recycling, boat landing upgrades, Walterboro and rural water and sewer implementation, technology research, library technology upgrades, technology center expansion upgrades, and educational classrooms technology upgrades. The second priority was Economic Development which included the development of product, infrastructure, rail access, roads, water, sewer, and airport improvements. The third priority was public safety. This included fire sub stations, fire training facilities, Sheriff sub-stations, and corona virus preparedness, response, and recovery. The fourth priority was road, bridges, and drainage which included continued road drainage improvements, dirt road improvements, and culvert repairs. The fifth priority was recreation which included pedestrian bike trails, boat

ramp improvements and parks. The sixth priority was transportation which is described as the I-95 intersection improvements at exit 62-mcleod road, street improvements and sidewalks. The seventh priority is for tourism and marketing described as beautification and litter control, billboard and other signage, and video advertisement. The eighth priority was housing and you talked about USC Salk student housing and affordable housing. Now, that was a very long prioritization which is fine as it was general enough that we could make things work. However, typically when you get ready to rank you will be looking at for the coming year with CDBG your top three. That is not to say you shouldn't list all these because there could be a reason to go to a lower priority and skip to it.

Councilman Taylor asked Ms. Knight, "When you talk about the Gadsden loop Project being open, you're saying that we will not be in the position to make any other applications until that is complete, even though that is neighborhood revitalization?"

Ms. Knight stated that is correct, because it is over 30 months old. We are in the last final leg of it. I think the sidewalk is the very last piece that we have there to do.

Councilman Taylor stated that I have spoken with the contractor today and he mentioned that there may be something with the park and the driveway, but I am not sure what he was referring to. In relation to that, will we be eligible for a fall round?

Ms. Knight replied that you should be able to because I think the schedule is such that everyone is anticipating that we should be eligible no later than fall round, and possibly before which means if the County had some project that was ready to go that they've done some initial work on that we might be able to do something on.

Dr. Flowers stated that we need to move away from this and do our ranking at the next meeting.

Councilman Murdaugh stated that he has not received any public comments.

Ms. Utsey stated yes we have one public comment by Stacey See from In His Name Colleton.

Public Comment: I am with In His Name Colleton and we want to know more about the affordable housing plan for the homeless and low income. We have clients that we deal with every day that are in need of affordable housing. We have several clients that have been looking for housing for several months and have not been able to find any.

Ms. Knight stated that from our stand point the home ARPA money, the American Rescue Plan Act money, we are receiving through HUD. We're in the process of trying to get together a substantial amendment to be able to start utilizing those funds. We are getting ready to engage a consultant to help us get through the amendment process. We will be having some meetings on that in the future separate from this. Also, Kimberly and I talked and we are going to try and set up a meeting with In His Name-Colleton just to see what some of their needs are and to see if there are some places where we can work together on some things.

No further discussion.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to move out of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- A. **2nd Reading Ordinance 22-O-01, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Colleton County And An Industry Currently Known To The County As “Project Ruby,” Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Project Ruby; Providing For Payment By Project Ruby Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing For Assignment Of Certain Existing Economic Development Incentives To Project Ruby; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Hampton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Project Ruby Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance 22-O-01, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Colleton County And An Industry Currently Known To The County As “Project Ruby,” Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Project Ruby; Providing For Payment By Project Ruby Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing For Assignment Of Certain Existing Economic Development Incentives To Project Ruby; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Hampton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Project Ruby Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion was carried unanimously.

- B. **2nd Reading Ordinance 22-O-02, Authorizing the Execution of a Temporary Lease Agreement Between Colleton County and Causie Contracting, Inc. for the Staging of Personnel and Equipment related to the I-95 Construction and Repaving from St. George to Point South.**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 2nd Reading Ordinance 22-O-02, Authorizing the Execution of a Temporary Lease Agreement Between Colleton County and Causie Contracting, Inc. for the Staging of Personnel and Equipment related to the I-95

Construction and Repaving from St. George to Point South. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

A. 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-03, By Title Only, To Amend Title 9 – Public Peace and Welfare, Chapter 9.02 – Public Nuisance Generally and Chapter 9.04 – Littering, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve the 22-O-03, By Title Only, To Amend Title 9 – Public Peace and Welfare, Chapter 9.02 – Public Nuisance Generally and Chapter 9.04 – Littering, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan. This motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-04, By Title Only, To Amend Title 13 – Buildings and Construction, Chapter 13.04 – Construction Codes Adopted, Chapter 13.12 – Flood Damage Prevention, Chapter 13.16 – Manufactured Homes and Chapter 13.20 – Uniform Ordinance Summons, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan

Dr. Flowers moved to approve the 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-04, By Title Only, To Amend Title 13 – Buildings and Construction, Chapter 13.04 – Construction Codes Adopted, Chapter 13.12 – Flood Damage Prevention, Chapter 13.16 – Manufactured Homes and Chapter 13.20 – Uniform Ordinance Summons, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-05, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, Chapter 14.04 – Land Development Regulations And Chapter 14.08 – Zoning, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-05, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, Chapter 14.04 – Land Development Regulations And Chapter 14.08 – Zoning, To Coincide With The Ten Year Update Of The Colleton County Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 22-R-09, To Approve a Change Order for the Venture Park Water and Wastewater Improvements Project

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve Resolution 22-R-09, To Approve a Change Order for the Venture Park Water and Wastewater Improvements Project. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

E. **Resolution 22-R-10, To Award the Contract For Magistrates Court Public Defender Services**

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve Resolution 22-R-10, To Award the Contract For Magistrates Court Public Defender Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

F. **Resolution 22-R-11 To Advertise Board Vacancies**

Councilman Williams moved to approve Resolution 22-R-11 To Advertise Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that we have three vacancies on the Colleton County Library Board of Trustees and five vacancies on the Keep Colleton Beautiful Board.

Councilman Taylor asked, "Is there any reason that...are there any more members on Keep Colleton Beautiful that we have five vacancies, do we have zero members?"

Chairman Murdaugh stated I don't know if we have any.

Ms. Brinson stated that we do have some members.

Chairman Murdaugh asked if that is a seven or nine member board?

Ms. Brinson stated that it is a nine member board if I am not mistaken.

Councilman Williams asked Ms. Brinson, "Are those folks notified when their time limit is up?"

Ms. Brinson stated that they have been notified by letter.

No further discussion.

G. **Resolution 22-R-12 To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies**

Councilman Williams stated that he recommends taking a look at one of the applicants closely.

Dr. Flowers stated that one of them is not a resident of Colleton County.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that he did notice that earlier today and I called and spoke with Mr. Griffin. This Accommodations Advisory Board is not created by Resolution of Council or Ordinance of Council. It is a statutory created board and that statute does not require the board members to be residents of the county. That does not mean that we can't require it, but it does have to be in that specific industry. Mr. Griffin if you can kind of highlight the statute.

Mr. Griffin stated that we did have some wrestle with staff when we first looked at this. It is not a board created by Resolution or Ordinance; it is created by state law and is not a board but an advisory committee in regard to the accommodations tax funds. The advisory

committee consists of seven members with a majority being selected from the hospitality industry of the municipality or county receiving the revenue. At least two of the hospitality industry members must be from the lodging industry where applicable. It does not say anything about residency, however that is certainly up to council if they would like to require the person reside in the county. My understanding is that this person works for two individuals who own a number of lodging establishments within the county, but those two individuals did not feel like they had the time for the requirements of the board. Therefore, they designated this person to apply to the board and represent them. Certainly that is within council's purview with which way they want to go with it.

Councilman Taylor stated I served on that accommodations tax committee years ago and I do recall working with people who are in hospitality and own hotels in different parts of the state and other communities and they have them here and they've been on there. So, I didn't see the major issue because I realized it was going on before.

Mr. Griffin stated that we are having a really hard time getting applicants to fill those statutory positions as well, and we have some money that we have to appropriate to some projects by July 1 or we are going to lose the funds.

Councilman Williams stated my biggest concern is once we....you know we always talk about the state running Colleton County from Columbia...and now is an opportunity where we are to yield to appointing someone that doesn't live in the county. However, I do realize that it is a unique situation because of where they work but I would hope that there is someone from some form of management from some of the hospitality industries that are applying for this that they could appoint someone that lives in the county to serve.

Chairman Murdaugh asked if there were any further comments.

Councilman Taylor stated there is not a motion of the floor yet. Appoint the members by acclamation to the Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee, Steven Dorner and Jennie Smith; and the Colleton County Library Board of Trustees, Olivia Padgett.

Councilman Williams stated that he preferred this to be separated.

Councilman Taylor moved that the Accommodations Advisory Tax Committee vacancies be filled by applicants Steven Dorner and Jennie Smith. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion.

Councilman Williams stated that for point of discussion since I requested to separate them. I will be in support of Ms. Jennie Smith but I will not be in support of Steven Dorner that does not live in the county.

Chairman Murdaugh stated to clarify the vote everyone except Councilman Williams is in favor of Steven Dorner and there is a unanimous vote for Ms. Jennie Smith

All councilmembers are in favor except Councilman Williams of Steven Dorner and there is a unanimous vote on Ms. Jennie Smith.

Chairman Murdaugh made a motion to appoint Mr. Steven Dorner to the Accommodations Tax Advisory committee. Councilman Taylor seconded that motion. All in favor say "I", Dr. Flowers and Councilman Whetsell said "I". All opposed, Councilman Williams stated "Nah".

Chairman Murdaugh made a motion to appoint Ms. Jennie Smith to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee. Councilman Williams seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor made a motion to appoint Ms. Olivia Padgett to the Library Board of Trustees. Councilman Williams seconded that motion. The motion carries unanimously.

Mr. Griffin stated that he would like to ask that we add another item to executive session, Real Estate for Voter Registration office.

Chairman Murdaugh asks if anyone would like to make a motion to amend executive session.

Councilman Williams made a motion to amend the agenda to add real estate for voter's registration to executive session. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh stated we will add that as line item "d".

Public Comment

Sabrina Johnson: This is a request that the minutes from the Wednesday, January 19, 2022, Special Meeting – Capital Projects Sales Tax, 5:30 PM Meeting be amended to include the Capital Sales Tax Priority List votes from each of the Colleton County Council members. The individual priority lists are important to reflect the Councilmen's priorities for Colleton County and should be in the public record.

Thanks,
Sabrina L.W. Johnson

Council Time

Chairman Murdaugh: We have a couple of items here item "a", County Mask Requirements and item "b", CPST Referendum. We have some discussion in executive session so I am going to hold that item until we come out of executive session. However, we do have the county mask requirement. Mr. Griffin would you like to speak to that. It seems like a lot of people are doing away with this mask requirement.

Mr. Griffin stated that both the State and Federal requirements have been relaxed within the last week to two weeks. I believe the school board is also considering this at their next school board meeting this week as well. We have had a lot of requests by citizens within the county to remove this requirement within the buildings. Hopefully we are at the point where this pandemic is receding somewhat. I wanted to bring this to council for review. This would also put us back to in person council meetings.

Dr. Flowers stated that he thinks it is time to relax it. I have seen so much covid now and I think it's time to understand we will not get rid of it, we are going to have to live with it. We are going to have to let people individually take care of their own health and not require it.

Councilman Taylor and Councilman Whetsell concur.

Councilman Williams stated that if we are going to do that I recommend that we start back having public meetings...open meetings in a public setting.

Councilman Taylor stated that he concurs.

Chairman Murdaugh asks Mr. Griffin if the last Ordinance that was adopted had a sunset.

Mr. Griffin stated that he does not believe so.

Chairman Murdaugh asks if this was done by resolution or ordinance.

Ms. Utsey: Neither.

Chairman Murdaugh asks if council would like to make a motion to rescind the mask requirement.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to rescind the mask requirement within county buildings. Councilman Whetsell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that before we go into executive session I want to read into the record an email sent to me by Councilman Phillip Taylor.

“Dear Honorable Chairman Steve Murdaugh,

Please accept notice that I must recuse myself from the matter on the agenda for executive session with the Colleton Sheriff's Office.

Please ensure that this notice is read for the minutes.

Thank you,

Phillip M Taylor, Sr.
Vice Chairman
Colleton County Council”

Councilman Williams stated that before we go into executive session, since it is council time, I have two requests that I would like for consideration. First, I would like for us to set up a meeting for all municipalities within Colleton County and maybe even including the school district. Secondly, I would like for us to reconsider reentering the Lake Marion water project process along the I-95 corridor.

Chairman Murdaugh asked, "Are you wanting to have an informal meeting?"

Councilman Williams stated, "Yes, an informal meeting."

Chairman Murdaugh asked, "Are you wanting to do this as part of our regular council meeting?"

Councilman Williams replied, "No, I think we should schedule something separate. I just think we are all in the same county and we very rarely have us and the municipalities discussing anything. We should have the same common goals, but then sometimes I question that. Not council, just speaking of all the municipalities and the school district. I don't see us growing until we get on the same page.

Chairman Murdaugh stated I do not have a problem with meeting. I believe we have more involvement with the City of Walterboro because they are right here and we have members that serve on boards. Definitely the smaller municipalities we don't have any communication with them. I do not have any opposition to meeting. I am just trying to think of what is the most convenient.

Councilman Williams stated I was thinking we all sit around the table and have a conversation that is if they are willing. If we extend the offer and they don't take the offer, then silence gives consent and we will move on and do our thing and they do their thing. I think at some point we need to start a conversation and work together if we are hoping to develop Colleton County. I believe that since we are County Council that maybe we need to be the ones to extend the olive branch.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that what you're envisioning is if we can get everyone together.

Councilman Williams replied yes, if we can find a 5th Monday any time coming up or one of those unusual dates that no one would normally have plans for.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that maybe we can set a date and ask all the municipalities. We will have to do this somewhere like the farmer's market in order to accommodate all those individuals.

Mr. Griffin stated I met with Iris from the Town of Edisto last week. I have been working back and forth with her as they would like to have a joint council meeting as well to discuss some issues. Are we discussing each individual municipality or all of them in one meeting?

Chairman Murdaugh stated that I think Councilman Williams suggested we get them all together at one time. It might benefit them to hear each other's problems and solutions.

Dr. Flowers stated if we are going to have a meeting I think we need to have some outline of what we are going to discuss. We need to look at what we are trying to accomplish rather than just having a meeting.

Councilman Williams stated I agree and if I need to be the one who gets with the county administrator to work on points of emphasis that is fine with me.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that I think we should extend the invitation to the municipalities and ask them to send us a list of topics they would like to discuss, and then from that list we can form an agenda. If Kaela can contact all the municipalities...do we want to pick a date with all of us here?

Mr. Griffin stated let us work the Calendar and we'll coordinate back with council on a date in late March early April.

Chairman Murdaugh stated as far as the second item, Lake Marion Water process. We looked at this once before and I don't mind us discussing it again if we have some legitimate area or need for it. The cost of that thing just escalated to the point it was almost cost prohibited. Particularly now that we actually have water and sewer quality and it seems the infrastructure for sewer is more difficult than the water. I am certainly open to us discussing it if they want to have a representative come meet with us. We need to assess what need we would have to get back into that arrangement.

Councilman Williams stated one of the main needs that I see is, where does the City of Walterboro provide services beyond the city limits? You've got some a little bit outside of the city, but there are other areas up and down the I-95 from Dorchester County to Hampton County that we don't address. I think at some point in order for us to be in a position to develop and grow economically we are going to have to plan beyond what limitations that the city provides for us.

Chairman Murdaugh stated I certainly understand that, but I think back when we first actually talked with them we didn't have our own water and sewer authority, which we do now. However, I am open to the discussion if they want to tell us how they can benefit the county and make it cost effective. I do have some concerns, because the last time we had this discussion it got so cost prohibited.

Councilman Taylor stated one thing I will mention is I have spent a great deal of time talking with the rural infrastructure authority, Ms. Bonnie and several others. Dorchester County has done some very innovative things working with the project of late. They're encouraging regional development, and multiple counties to work on projects together. So, there has been some conversations and Mr. Griffin has received some information. In fact we talked a little earlier this morning. I was waiting to bring it out until I read through it, but I am glad Councilman Williams brought it out. I was not here when the county initially looked at the Lake Marion project. There is what they call tranches of funds coming down from the feds to do infrastructure projects. We would be remiss if we don't take the time to look at the opportunities that may exist and to work together regionally. We have some real critical issues, housing is deplorable and peoples water quality, tap and feeds, and to get water across the street is almost \$6000. How does a family of low to moderate income get \$6000 to get a water tap? So, we need to look at a solution and maybe this will be a way for us to do it.

Chairman Murdaugh stated I hear what you all are saying and I have no problem with us looking into it again to see. When they developed it before they had different phases of development and you had to buy in each phase. So then the next phase would come along and people who were buying in, the people of the first phase would say we paid all this cost upfront so you have to pay

all this to get in. So by the time it was all done...what we would have to evaluate is what can they provide us, water cost per unit, to what we can do ourselves.

Dr. Flowers stated Mr. Chairman we can't solve all this tonight. I think we need to have them send us a representative and listen to what they have to say and that's fine, but before we thought it was cost prohibitive.

Chairman Murdaugh stated I think we can certainly can reach out to them. Mr. Griffin if you want to reach out to them.

Councilman Whetsell stated that the last time we discussed this there was a lot of development going on around Cottageville and this pipeline coming down, the water is not going to help Cottageville at all. I mean you're going to have to run a long way through the power lines that go through the western section of the county to get down to Cottageville, that is a pretty long pull. They decided they could put a well at Cottageville that would serve that area down there a lot cheaper than bringing water from anywhere else if they had to have it down there.

Chairman Murdaugh stated we could still see what they have to say. Also, since we are in council time, the request that was made by Ms. Johnson about the individual council members and how they ranked the projects, does anyone have a problem with it being released?

Councilman Taylor stated I just asked the chairman this week for us to reconsider re-ranking the projects. I had some consolation after leaving the meeting, I don't mind if they are shared, but I felt kind of hurried and on the spot with it. I felt like we could look at it in a greater way. If we could have a chance to go through and have a walkthrough of the detention center. The request came through and we talked about doing it. We can have a greater look...eyes on project so we can see how we can work with these projects. Maybe the Council can reconsider and really look at some of the things the community wants.

No further discussion.

Executive Session

Councilman Williams moved to go into executive session. Councilman Whetsell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Williams moved to exit executive session. Councilman Whetsell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh stated that we were back in open session, during Executive Session we discussed a real estate matter involving an easement of the Green Pond Railway, Legal matter involving the Lowcountry Community Action Agency, opioid litigation settlement, Capital Project sales tax referendum, a personnel matter involving the Sheriff's Office, and a real estate matter involving the voter's registration. Are there any legal actions to take at this time?

Dr. Flowers moves to move the Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum to the next election cycle. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh made a motion that we transfer from the general funds to the Sheriff Department's budget, \$200,588.00 to allow for personnel adjustments to the Sheriff's Department. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. I would like to note for the record that Councilman Taylor recused himself from this.


Councilman Whetsell stated that he is also recusing himself.

The motion carried 3 votes and 2 that recused themselves, zero opposed.

Adjournment

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

This 12th day of April, 2022.


Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council

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