

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Flowers, Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor in attendance. Evon Robinson, Absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Angie Salley, Susanne Douglas, Thomas Mann, Phillip Rizer, Jean Harrigal, Becky Hill, Lachelle Lewis, Shelby Segura, June Easterlin, Rainetta Simmons, Eric Avant, Tom Whitacre, James, Rutledge, Roy Williams, Eddie Roy, J. Gooding

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

Mr. Murdaugh said he would like to ask council if someone would make a motion to amend the agenda to add under executive session Legal Advice & a pending legal matter. A motion to amend the agenda was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously

**Awards and Recognitions**

Colleton County - Governmental Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Mr. Murdaugh said we have received a Certificate through the Governmental Finance Office Association. It is a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting known as the CAFR. We have received that. It is a certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting presented to Colleton County, SC for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 and is signed by the director.

Mr. Murdaugh recognized the Finance Department. A lot of time these things go unnoticed by the citizens of the county because these are the type things that you don't see. If you construct a road or provide a new fire truck or do something that is tangible it is easy to see. What you don't see are the things that go on behind closed doors with the staff of the county in the Finance Office and also the elected officials. The Treasurer, Becky Hill is an elected official, but she is a vital part of the Finance of the county and her staff, also the Auditor as well as the administration Mr. Griffin and his

staff. We want to thank all of you for this award. This is an award that most people don't know a whole lot about. I happen to know a little information about it because of my former life as an accountant when I audited municipalities and local governments. Their goals were always to receive a CAFR. It is a very difficult thing to do. You have to have in place very strict policies and procedures and not only do you have to have them in place, you have to actually follow them. The citizens in the county can take comfort in the fact our county has been recognized. This is the second year in a row we have received this award and again I can't ...inaudible... the significance of this award. I would like to congratulate them and present all of you with this certificate.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting March 1, 2016

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Appearances & Public Presentations**

Coastal Empire Mental Health – Update on new initiatives –Jenna Morehead & Angie Sally.

Susanne Douglas said Jenna Morehead was unable to come tonight so I am here tonight. I am the administrator at Coastal Empire.

Angie Sally then introduced herself and said she was the county area coordinator here for Coastal Empire Mental Health Center. We are located in the Forest Hills area of Walterboro and we provide services for adults & children and their families. One of the exciting things about our new initiatives are our school base services. At this time I am very proud to say they are expanding. We have a school base counselor at Colleton County Middle School and we have a school base counselor that was started in this school year at the Colleton County High School. We have a very well put together collaborative effort with the Colleton County School District in serving our county and the children in our school district as well as their families and we do want to see that initiative grow as it is a part of our department's to grow those initiatives as well as Dr. Foster here in Colleton County who at this point has been very pleased with the services we are providing. In addition to that we have a ...inaudible... rehabilitative program in Colleton County at 2004 Jefferies Highway that adult clients with more severe mental illnesses are able to attend and work on rehabilitation. It rehabilitates skills and learn new skills on how to be more independent and take care of themselves. That is a program that is also growing that we have been able to extend staff to be able to provide those services to the clients. Not only do they receive those services, but they continue to see our center's psychiatrists, our center's registered nurses as well as the conditions that run that program. At the Forest Circle Office we have two children...inaudible... family counselors that work with the children that are not in the schools that I identified. We are working the children in every school in the county and

their families as well as adults. We are serving right now somewhere in the neighborhood of around 300 adults in this county and those are active cases. It doesn't include the contacts we make with individuals and families throughout the year. Last year it was reported somewhere in the neighborhood of somewhere over 5500 contacts in the year that we made with individuals and those ...inaudible...after hours contacts as well as during the daytime. We work very closely with our local hospital as well as DSS, DJJ, Voc. Rehab, as well as Colleton County Alcohol & Drug. We have partnerships with all of those agencies and some that I may not have named. We also provide consultation services weekly to our county detention center. We have asked for consideration for a part-time person at least to assist in that capacity because we have so many requests that come from our detention center and we do the best that we can.

Phillip N. Rizer, Chairman Board of Zoning Appeals

Mr. Rizer asked if they had received the handout and had the opportunity to read it. (Council members responded with a nod) I was going to go over a little statement I have here and it is dealing with the pre-manufactured storage buildings. They are a great consumer item for many residents of Colleton County. However many residents that purchase these units have got no knowledge of the permitting process involved in zoning for these structures. Some of the vendors selling these storage buildings do not tell the consumer they need a permit or worse yet, there is no permit needed at all. This puts the zoning administration in a precarious situation in that the governing board having to continually deny ...inaudible...because the consumer was not informed of the permitting process. This has been a continuous cycle and needs a solution. It is an ongoing thing with us and a continued problem that we are having. A perfect example came up last month. We had a gentleman come in. He had gone to a vendor to purchase a 20x40 ft. structure to put in his yard. He was told by the vendor that he did not need a permit to put it on his property. He took the guy at his word. The guy goes and pours a \$5,000 slab of cement. Then he comes in and wants to put up the structure. He came before us wanting variance for that structure. We have to deny that request. We did everything we possibly could not to deny that request, but at the end of the day we are aware as quasi ...inaudible... judge and we had to go by what the law says. We had to deny, so he's got \$5,000 slab of cement sitting in his yard that nothing can be done about. He is going to have to throw it away. We are continually having problems like this, but this is just the last straw and the board voted unanimously for me to come before you tonight and see if we can rectify the situation. The storage pre-manufactured buildings are a good thing, but the average citizen out there, in fact if I was not on the zoning board and I would purchase one of them, I would have to have a zoning permit to be able to put it on my property. One of our own members of our, and he wouldn't mind me saying his name, in fact it is Doug Mixson Jr. he went to purchase one his self not too long ago. He talked with the guy, the vendor and the vendor told him you can purchase it and you don't need a permit you can put it anywhere on your yard you want to put it. Of course he knew better because he is on the zoning board. This is a continual problem that we are fighting as the zoning board and it is even worse for the zoning administration and the building inspector himself. We try to look for a solution. I have served on several state and national boards throughout my lifetime as

well as some local ones and I hate to come to you with a problem without a solution, so I came up with a solution that you may or may not use and I will give you a copy of it. (handed copies to council members and administrator) I am just going to read it to you real quick. Require the vendors and/or transporters of these pre-manufactured storage sheds to obtain a moving permit signed by the consumer. This moving permit will also state that the consumer is aware of the purchase of the storage shed to be used in Colleton County. Said consumer should be required to get a zoning permit before placing storage shed on property. The vendor then faxes or emails this permit to the zoning office so the zoning office will have a record on file. Any violation of vendor and/or transporter of not obtaining the permit and have it signed by said consumer will result in a \$500 fine for a violation. It is not just necessarily in Colleton County where these vendors are. A lot of people go to Summerville, Charleston, to buy these pre-manufactured homes. I am sure it is very honest pre-manufactured vendors in the county as well as in other counties, but something has got to be done. It is continually coming before us all of the time. This may not be the answer, but I would encourage council to get ...inaudible...look into try to find a way to be able to remedy this problem.

Mr. Taylor said he just want to say thank you to Mr. Rizer for this resolution that you brought forward, at least a concept of a resolution that you provided. I am certain the staff will be looking into it. I do want to say thank you again for at least providing some type of a solution as you come before us.

Mr. Rizer said it affects the Building Department, Zoning, the Planning and Development Department with Phillip Slayter and it also affects us. I forgot to mention Phillip Slayter has gone to some of these vendors especially in the local area. He has seen that they have the papers, handed them papers asking them to voluntarily give them to the consumer when they sell a shed and say that they had to come get a permit. It has been tried on a voluntary basis, so I can tell you right now voluntary basis is not going to work.

Dr. Flowers said he thought the thing to do with this, was to let the administrator put together an ordinance or something because I don't think we can just let this thing go on. We have to go ahead and work on it.

Council members discussed and concluded they needed to do that.

William Smyly, Keep Colleton Beautiful

Mr. Smyly said Keep Colleton Beautiful has not been active for about three years. What we have done in the past and currently is fight litter. This helps with the tourism, businesses and the general population. I along with Maryann Seals and Jean Harrigal have been working to get this program back up and running. There will be two more board members coming on tonight. We will have our Great American Clean Up on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM till 12:00PM at St. Center Ministry, which is on the corner of the By-Pass and Hwy.64. I would like to thank Mr. Taylor for getting that place for us. We have started to reach out to groups and start recruiting volunteers for the day. If

anybody does want to do a clean-up we do have supplies such as gloves, trash grabbers, and trash bags.

Mr. Murdaugh asked if there were specific areas they were targeting in the clean-up.

Mr. Smyly said we are going to target the area around that church and the neighborhood, Hampton Street, Black Street, the by-pass and Hwy.64, depending on how many volunteers we get as to how far out we go.

Dr. Flowers said we appreciate you coming before us because all you have to do is drive down any road and you can see the trash and we appreciate you coming before us and trying to get this started back up.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Smyly for coming and we are certainly looking forward to the 16<sup>th</sup>. As you know I will be out of town that day. It will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Great American Clean-Up I have missed. I think it is extended beyond just that area because people can call you from other parts of the county and get supplies if they are going to pick up in Ruffin, Smoaks, or Greenpond.

Mr. Smyly said that was correct. Anybody that wants to do a cleanup they can do it in their neighborhood or around where they live.

Mr. Taylor said did you bring a flyer tonight for the council with a phone number or something.

Mr. Smyly said no, but he would send one to Ms. Mayer and she can distribute to council.

Ms. Harrigal said the cleanup runs through May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said he also wanted to thank Mr. Smyly. He has gone out of his way. We have been searching for a while for a replacement for Ms. Harrigal who has moved on to the Colleton Center another great cause and we have been without some good leadership over there. I also wanted you to know that Mr. Smyly has also gone to the state and Palmetto Pride classes and he has gotten his first round of certifications and hours he needs to become the executive director. It is quite a process. You have to establish the training you have to have to run the program and run these volunteer programs. He has taken those steps already, so we do appreciate him stepping up to the plate.

Mr. Griffin said we are looking to have our first budget session on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. We are going to try to have it at Dogwood Hills Golf banquet hall. That is a week later than we generally have that meeting, but we have some critical staff that has to be out of the office next week so we moved it back a week.

I want to thank primarily Ms. Dee Sadler with our Human Resources as well as good number of Finance Staff who went through our first Affordable Health Care Act Employee Notifications, which it sounds fairly simple on its face, but you have to notify every employee of the coverage that has been offered to them or that they have as well as all their dependents as well as anybody that has worked for you for the last three years and tracking a lot of those folks down that were on our payroll. We are also dealing with software that we don't have right now that is being created on the fly by Harris(?) Local Government that handles everyone else. On the very last day we got all of them print, but it was quite a headache and Ms. Sadler was here many, many late hours as well as some other staff to get that done. We are very glad to have that out of the way, but it did eat up a lot of time last week.

We have a new employee with us tonight I would like to introduce. We've had a county engineer position open for a little while, Mr. Jared Fralix moved on to his own firm and I want to introduce Ms. Carla Harvey. Carla comes to us from Berkley County. She has been county engineer in Berkley County the last nine years and various other positions as she was doing that; served as interim Planning Director, and a number of other things. I will disappoint you Dr. Flowers and Chairman Murdaugh; no she is not a Citadel Graduate, but she is a Clemson graduate.

Discussion between Mr. Taylor and the clerk on the date for the budget work session.

Mr. Griffin said the budget work session was the 22<sup>nd</sup> , not 27<sup>th</sup> as he previously had said.

Dr. Flowers asked the clerk to send them out a flyer on this.

### **Public Hearing**

None

### **Old Business**

2<sup>nd</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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **By Title Only** Ordinance 16-O-02, Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement By And Between Colleton County, South Carolina, And Project Deck Providing For A Credit Against Certain Payments In Lieu Of Taxes To Be Made By Project Deck, The Inclusion Of The Project Deck Site In A Multicounty Business Park, And Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading by Title Only Ordinance 16-O-02 was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **By Title Only** Ordinance 16-O-03, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading by Title Only Ordinance 16-O-03 was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-34, To Declare April as Fair Housing Month.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-35, 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 Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-36, To Declare May 15<sup>th</sup> as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to Declare the Week of May 9<sup>th</sup> as Police Week.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-37, To Accept the Grant for the Colleton County Summer Feeding Program for 2016.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-38, To Declare Saturday, May 14th, as Stewardship Day 2016 for the Edisto River Basin.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-39, To Approve Execution and Renewal of a Service Agreement for Fire-Rescue's LifePak Cardiac Monitors and Lucas Chest Compression Systems.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-40, To Declare Surplus Various Firefighting and Medical 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 16-R-41, To Approve the Purchase of Two Vehicles for the Sheriff's Office from Butler Chrysler Dodge Jeep, Inc., to Approve the Addition of the Vehicles to the County's Insurance Policies and to Approve a Fund Balance Appropriation to Cover the Cost of the Vehicles.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-42, To Endorse the 2016 Community Development Block Grant, Community Enrichment Application for the Colleton County – Ruffin Water System Project and Funds for the 10% Local Match for the Grant from the City of Walterboro.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-43, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the following by acclimation and was seconded by Dr. Flowers.



Keep Colleton Beautiful: K. Jean Nettles & Lesley A. Jamison  
Southern Carolina Alliance Board of Directors Reappointment: Bill Workman

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-45, To Accept and Adopt the Lowcountry Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, as Required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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

The motion carried unanimously.

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

None

### **Public Comments**

No comments were made

### **Council Time**

Dr. Flowers reminded everyone about the Rice Festival Parade, Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 am

### **Executive Session**

- a) Economic Development
  - 1) Project Deck
  - 2) Project Wrapper
  - 3) Project Strick
  - 4) Project Global - Contractual
- b) Real Estate – Relocation of County Offices
- c) Contractual – Colleton County Law Enforcement Center
- d) Legal Advise
- e) Pending Legal Matter

### **Regular Session**

Mr. Murdaugh said Items were discussed.

Resolution 16-R-44, To Authorize a Transfer within Fund 142 – Infrastructure/Industrial Development Fund for Direct Assistance to Colleton County Intermodal Corporation for Economic Development Projects.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

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**