

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
6:00 P.M.  
COLLETON COUNTY MUSEUM/FARMER'S MARKET**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM, at the Colleton County Museum/Farmer's Market. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Steven Murdaugh, Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor, Art Williams in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, Jessie Gooding, Gar Linder, Sue Keith, Suzanne Gant, Bernadette Farmer, Becky Hill, Julie Dempsey, Karen Way, Anderson Grant, Kimberly Mullinax, Kathy Harbeson, Renee Thornberry, David Irwin, Amy Bolulebosi, Kinstin Mumford, Christan Spires, Louise Slater, Roy Williams, David Smalls, Deborah Rodriguez, Barry McRoy, Meagan Utsey, David Greene, Jeffrey Ameat, Charles Davis, Jon Carpenter, Heyward Horton, Margie Bright Matthews

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting January 8, 2019

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

Mr. Williams said the minutes needs a correction on Resolution 19-R-09, the motion was made by me and the second by Mr. Taylor.

The motion was amended by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Awards and Recognitions**

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

2018 Audit Report – David Irwin, CPA-- Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Mr. Irwin gave an over review of the county's audit. The county received a clean audit opinion with no audit findings. He commended the county for a job very well done.

Dr. Flowers said we have a presentation from our Senator, Senator Margie Bright Matthews and Representative Robert Brown.

Senator Bright Matthews said she would like to follow up on something that councilman Murdaugh said earlier, sometimes it requires a lot of accountability in order for you to continue to get monies from State and Federal Government and other entities. About a year and a half ago, am I right?

Mr. Griffin said actually two and a half years ago.

Sen. Bright Matthews said two years plus I came, my first order of business was partnering with Representative Brown who represents Neyles as well as Jacksonboro. I told him about this crazy plan we had about getting a community center down here and we did. The first year we got the award, but I came and advised council of the award. (she asked members from the Neyles Community to come up). These folks came and worked very hard to make sure everything got done. The way it works is the State will make the award to the County for a particular project that was entered by the Senate and the House and you have a certain amount of time to do all of it. The county has to foot the money for the project and then they get the money back. In other words it requires accountability. Every year we get a list of municipalities in our local to the tune of \$300,000-\$400,000 that they failed to follow through and use. Thank you Colleton County, thank you for using your skills to make this project become a reality.

Senator Bright Matthews then presented the real check (\$400,000) to Chairman Flowers.

### **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said he wanted to thank on a personal note all the wonderful outpouring of Love and Prayer's that we have gotten to my family for my mother in law and City Council Woman Judy Bridge who passed and her family. My Father in Law Jack Bridge passed away last Monday very suddenly and we really appreciate the support and again it tells you what a wonderful community we live in here. I just want to thank ya'll for that.

Item "A" & "B" on New Business; that is a continuation of the Multi County Park Agreement we have with Charleston County. We are actually what they call a donor county in that particular agreement. These business are located within Charleston County, but every time they are added we get 1% of the revenue back and has turned into some pretty dog on significant revenue now that we've got things like Boeing, Google, and Amazon and other items over in Charleston County. We are glad to put those on the agenda as soon as they send them to us and we appreciate it.

The other item I wanted to touch on and it was of great note is Resolution 19-R-18, to approve the Enterprise Service Agreement between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative. We have been working on this project since roughly 2013. As you know rural counties all around have a hard time with broadband internet and high speed internet access and network connectivity and those type things. Colleton County even more so, because we are a county of just over 1,000 square miles and we have

been looking at a lot of different solutions. I was looking back in 2013 we had 109 different bills between 11 different providers. What we have done with this we had to work through some Federal Legislation while we were doing this with Palmetto Rural and this is going to allow through the network they have built here. Also they have been real good with the schools even going into Western Charleston County and handling an elementary school at Parkers Ferry. With this agreement the long and short of it is from a savings standpoint it is going to take us from roughly \$250,000 a year to about \$140,000 a year on what we spend on both phone access, internet access, and the other data. There is a lot of data that moves out of our center to our software providers, Ms. Becky's office, a lot of the others as well. We backup everything every day up to Lodge to another server ...inaudible... that PRTC does for Emergency Preparedness prospective as well. The other thing this is going to allow us to do is give us connectivity to all of our different offices throughout the county. Not just the Harrelson Bldg. We had a hard time just getting connected to the Museum back to the Harrelson Bldg. to the Courthouse. Now we will be able to get out to all of our fire stations, sub-stations, community centers like Neyles all those different things, we will be able to add that in our plan on one bill where it is itemized by them already coded to our stuff for Jon and his folks don't have near the hard time having to sort through those bills and make sure every department is coded. When you see the folks from Palmetto Rural Telephone, Jason Dandridge, Tony Stout did a mince amount of work on this with Eric Avant from our staff as well as Dewayne Wilson over there. It's been a long time coming and we appreciate them working. When I say 11 different providers and melted it down to a four page agreement, which is pretty significant in this day and age.

### **Public Hearing**

To Solicit Public Input on Community Needs & Priorities for Housing, Public Facilities and Economic Development in the County Under CDBG Program

Kimberly Mullinax explained/ reviewed the program to everyone and answered questions from individuals (names of individuals were not stated).

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business**

Resolution 19-R-11, To Approve Amendment Of The Agreement For The Establishment Of A Multi-County Industrial/Business Park For Properties Located In A Redevelopment Project Area, By And Between Charleston County, South Carolina And Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Charleston County As Part Of The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-12, 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. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-13, To Authorize the Renewal of the Commercial Lease Agreement between Colleton County and South Carolina Department of Corrections Young Offender Parole & Reentry Services for Office Space in the Bernard Warshaw Complex.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-14, To Authorize a Five-Year Purchasing Arrangement for Chevrolet Vehicles.

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

The motion carried 4-1 (Mr. Williams opposing)

Resolution 19-R-15, To Approve Purchase of a Kenworth Truck with an Ox Body Dump Bed as Included in the 2018-2019 Lease Purchase.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-16, To Authorize the Submittal of a Grant Application Related to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program for an Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

A Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-17, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and 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. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-18, To Approve the Enterprise Service Agreement between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-19, To Appoint Member to Board Vacancy.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to approve Stephanie Brown-Taylor to the Recreation Commission by acclimation and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

None

#### **Public Comments (3 minutes per person/max time 20 min.)**

Deborah Rodriguez asked if there was any plans to clean up all the trash on Hwy. 64 and Cottageville Hwy. There is a lot of trash on both sides of the road?

Dr. Flowers said trash has been a problem we have been addressing for quite a while.

Mr. Griffin said we have two openings on the Keep Colleton Beautiful Committee if she would like to participate.

Dr. Flowers said a judge has sentenced people on probation to pick up trash along the roads in the county, but I have not seen much of that happening recently. I think we need to ask our sheriff's department to please start enforcing the ordinances we have in place. The trash is certainly a reflection on the county especially when we are trying to get new industry here.

Mr. Murdaugh said it is a problem and I am not sure how to address it. ...inaudible...

Ms. Sue Keith said the problem we have is not just law enforcement, but a lot of times at the magistrate level. They look at it and they throw it out and no fines. Judge Buckner was very good at getting people ...inaudible..., but it is going to take a collaborative of

our Magistrates with ...inaudible... City and local municipalities. If the officer takes the time to write a ticket ...inaudible... There is no consequences.

Mr. Griffin said Ladson Fishburne is the new chair of the Keep Colleton Beautiful Commission and I am meeting with him Thursday and they are getting pretty proactive. I think he was involved in the bucket challenge. He has some ideas, but participation is the biggest key.

Christan Spires said she was on the City ...inaudible...there is actually a county cleanup day on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Edisto.

Kathy Harbeson said she had concerns with regards to the number of homes within Colleton County that are so built up with trash around them and I have expressed this to county facilities that from my understanding were responsible for this in implementing some changes to get it cleaned up. That has not occurred as of yet. I'm in a quandary as to what is the process.

Mr. Griffin said who did you speak to at the County?

Ms. Harbeson said she had spoken with...inaudible... Roads & Bridges, Animal Control because that was part of the issue

Mr. Griffin said Doug Mixson who is one of our Code Enforcement Officers, Chet Varnadoe who is in charge of the enforcement, those are the two that you would be need to working with and obviously we've got some property rights issues there and we do have a process as to handle that, which is ultimately up to the magistrate as Ms. Sue said earlier. If you want to give me the information after the meeting I will be glad to follow up on it.

Mr. Murdaugh said he had seen firsthand, been in the courtroom and example of what you are talking about where the person is cited by the county and then code enforcement officer appears in court and the magistrate rules against the homeowner in order for them to clean it up and then they are back in the 30 days if they don't have the money to clean it up, so the magistrates are then forced to incarcerate for not cleaning their yard. What is the next step? It is a very difficult issue ...inaudible... sometimes the magistrates hands are tied if they don't have the money and they put them in jail.

### **Council Time**

Dr. Flowers said he had gotten a letter from Ms. Peggy Smoak, wife of Gerald Smoak thanking us for honoring Mr. Smoak with the proclamation and how much the family appreciated it.

Mr. Whetsell said he would like anyone who hasn't been in the museum lately, we have a 1926 Ford Antique car that is on display. It was given by a person who remains anonymous. It has been restored and in the museum and would like for everyone to see.

Mr. Williams said because of all of the activities that are taking place this month locally here in Colleton, I would ask if it is not a problem that the council see fit to proclaim February of next year as Black History Month.

Mr. Taylor said there are quite a few activities going on. I failed to bring all of them forward. I was given a flyer, I think the east side community, Eastside Acres, Mr. Roy is here and they are having a Black History cookout on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and want to invite the community. There will be some art the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center, the Rev. Kenneth Hodges, working with that as well, there will also be Ms. Elizabeth Laney doing a talk around African Americans Post Civil War that made some of the colored troops who had residence here. Just wanted citizens to be aware that there are things going on in celebration of Black History Month.

### **Executive Session**

a) Economic Development

1. Project Global
2. Project Concrete

b) Contractual – Town of Edisto

### **Regular Session**

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

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Flowers, Chairman

ATTEST:

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

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