

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:00 PM, at County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Evon Robinson called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Flowers, Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor, Steven Murdaugh, in attendance.

Others present included: Ruth Mayer, Karla Daddieco, Sean Thornton, Kevin Griffin, Edward Lowndes, III, Nate Bristow, Willard Long, Grey Holmes, Chad Ingram, Chase Ingram, Marry Harris, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal Hodges, Debbie Lemacks, Theodore Reed, Thurston Hiers, Lennie Johnson, A.J. Lucas, Ned Frownfelter, Iris Hill, "Babe" Hutto, Tommy Mann, Jane Darby, Jeanine Rhodes, Lawton Smith, Ed Williams, Pam & Dan Sheaf, Ashley Ingram, Cephus Rogers, Jr., Keith Crosby, Jackson Hughes, R.A Foster, Ehish Ysung, Elijah Woor, Cynthia Long.

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

Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Taylor moved to add Resolution 12-R-10, To Authorize Execution of Contracts By and Between Colleton County and Sumter Utilities, Inc. for the Replacement of Thirteen Ball Field Light Poles at the Colleton County Recreation Facility; Said Poles Being Damaged and/or in an Unsafe or Hazardous Condition. Mr. Murdaugh seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Griffin said Item "B" under Old Business 3rd Reading Ordinance 11-O-22 that one will be stricken from the agenda tonight. There is a little more legal work we have to do on that for the bonds to go to market in February. If you could please strike that from the agenda.

Appearances & Public Presentations

None

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting December 6, 2011

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting December 16, 2011

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognition's

None

Administrative Briefing

Mr. Griffin said the 1st thing he would like to bring up and council can rectify this later in the meeting tonight, Ms. Melissa Buckner sent an email today requesting that the council grant permission to put a thermometer like sign at the county parking lot on the corner of E. Washington and Jefferies. This would represent the Million Minute Community Challenge in regards to the East Smart Move More trying to get a million minutes of exercise in Colleton County from its residence and would ask that at some point in the agenda possibly under New Business that we could just grant that permission to place the thermometer on the property.

Quick update on a couple of things, we had our 1st budget meeting with staff this morning regarding the upcoming budget year. We will be moving into that in February. Looking at numerous workshops with council at the end of the month. We are still working on our ...inaudible... with reassessment. We have pretty much finished Edisto, hopefully at the end of the month we will have a really good figure on where we are going to be in our Ad Valorem revenues. As you know we have been doing a lot of preparations and savings through some bond work and some other things we did in the budget this past year to try to prepare for what we know as an eminent reduction in revenues on Ad Valorems in relations to the real estate market.

Only other item I wanted to bring up is the ball field project is moving along very well. There are some aerial photos out there. It is coming along very well and look forward to getting that completed.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 11-O-26, To Amend the 2020 Comprehensive Plan for a Portion of the Property Identified by TMS 255-00-00-005 to Change it From Rural Agriculture and Conservation to Urban Transition and Remove the Gateway Designation; and to Authorize the Rezoning of Said Property from Rural Development-1 (RD-1) to Urban Development-2 (UD-2).

Mr. Edward F. Lowndes III, property owner for 1001 White Farm Road, which is adjacent to the property being rezoned. My property contains a historic home that was built 1880 and the reason I purchased this home was due to its historical value to Colleton County and to South Carolina. This historical value is protected by the rural agricultural and conservation zoning of my property and also the surrounding properties including the current zoning of rural agricultural and conservation for TMS# 255-00-00-

005. Fact two TMS#255-00-00-005 and my property TMS#255-00-00-077 are also surrounded by the Ace Basin. Fact three and protocol in county zoning ordinance as adopted by Colleton County Council on September 7, 2010 as posted on the County's website chapter 1 ...inaudible... protecting scenic and unique areas in accordance with the comprehensive plan the Colleton County Council does ordain and in act into the law the following chapters and sections. Mr. Lowndes continued quoting chapters and sections of the zoning ordinance. He was unaware of the zoning changes until he happened upon one sign placed by a pile of trash on the corner of I-95 and Hwy. 21, which was not his normal travel route. This was the first he had heard about the rezoning and felt his property would be significantly affected by this zoning change. This zoning change does not fit with the surrounding areas and will devalue my property. It will negligently affect the overall quality of life for wildlife in the Ace Basin; it will degrade the soil and water quality in the Combahee River and Ace Basin.

Ed Williams, I live in the Jonesville Community. As I heard the gentleman speaking, there are signs down there (3 signs). From what I can see is the zoning is about 3 miles from the Combahee River and don't see how it is going to affect it. I have spoken with several people. The residents of the community down there are thrilled to know that number one we are going to have to get some business in the area where they can get some jobs even if they have to walk to it, so they don't have to worry about going to Hilton Head. Number two they are happy with that coming, we are going to have some lights down there. If you get off the interstate down there with a flat tire at night it is pitch black dark. This is the only exit in the county that doesn't have lights. The residents down there are not upset about it that is the majority of the residents. I just wanted to say that the residents down there feel that this is a welcome opportunity for them. I hope you gentlemen will proceed as you have done with the 1st and 2nd reading and approve it on the 3rd reading.

Grey Holmes, attorney with the law firm of Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth & Detrick and I represent Garvin Oil Company who originally applied before the Planning Commission for this request to carve out approximately 73 acres. It is 65 acres in the southeast quadrant and 7.9 in the northwest quadrant of exit 42 from the gateway corridor overlay and to rezone the property from rural development 1 to rural development 2 to build a travel plaza. The actual footprint of the plaza will be somewhere between 15 & 20 acres not covering the entire 73 acres that was requested for rezoning. When this came before the Planning Commission, they revisited the idea behind the overlay district and why it was put into place and when that was done they made the decision to completely remove the overlay seeing as the planning behind the overlay had not panned out. The reason why this property...inaudible... the overlay was never to prevent development. It was actually to promote development they just wanted to control what type of development could come in this area. At the time they put this overlay into place, the economy was booming and there was BMW going in Greenville County, had Honda going in Florence and they wanted to put this overlay in place to protect this one undeveloped interchange in Colleton County and hoped to get some very intense development. They hoped to get some manufacturing and some other interest into the area. It was a good idea at the time, but unfortunately since then

the economy just plummeted and it had to happen and I think we all know we are not going to get a major manufacturer here anytime soon. The plan behind the overlay zone pretty well is requiring that this property to sit there vacant I think you just heard Mr. Lowndes talk about all the piles of trash out there and there is no lights and that this area is receiving no development and no growth. There is nothing in this area. Garvin Oil has a portion of this property of the entire interchange under contract. A little bit about Garvin Oil, here I have Chad Ingram and Chase Ingram sitting beside me the president and vice president of Garvin Oil and they do business ...inaudible... they are a family owned business. They have been in business for over 50 years. They have 20 convenient stores throughout the state. They have two other travel plazas in South Carolina. They are incorporated in S.C. there only businesses are inside S.C. and they employ currently about 300 people in S.C. What they proposed to construct is a travel plaza consistent with the plans I handed out to council members. It is a state of the art facility. It will be about 15-20,000 square foot facility with signage. There will be 10 fuel pumps there for passenger cars, 10 fuel islands for large trucks and will be able to purchase all fuel types at the facility. It would also be a Huddle House, a Subway and possibly a Hunts Brothers Pizza....inaudible... best use of this piece of property. If you look at the facility there is ample room there for buffers. It is going to be something that is not aesthetically offensive and the benefit to the county would be tremendous. 1st looked at tax base. We are talking about multiple pumps and restaurants that would generate significant revenue, which would go to the hospitality tax. There will be prepared food and beverages there from two possible three different restaurants and the county would collect that hospitality tax. Will have the sales tax that would go along from generating these revenues and of course the property tax, the property value would increase and the property taxes would increase and the fuel allocation tax, I believe you all know that we get our fuel allocation tax based on what amount of fuel we sell in the county and bringing a facility like this, Colleton County would keep that percentage. There is currently two new facilities going up; one in St. George and one down in Hardeeville and we're basically by sitting back and not having a facility that can compete with that we are losing that market share and losing that percentage and not keeping up on our tax allocation for the fuel. Just generally the people in Jonesville currently, if you want to go from Jonesville or somewhere in that area and purchase gas, you are 4 miles from Yemassee or 11 miles from Walterboro, so you either go over into Hampton County as a Colleton County resident and spend your money on food & gas and whatever else you need or Beaufort County if you are in the Beaufort part of Yemassee rather than here in Colleton County, so having this facility here would also keep people from bearing the expense of having to travel to get food and fuel and those thing and also I think that the most important feature of having this travel plaza would be the jobs it creates. This is a large facility as far as hopefully the volume that it will do and its projected at least 50 permanent jobs here in Colleton County as a result of the facility. It would also be 10 management positions. Garvin Oil Company is a 50 year old company and they offer insurance benefits and incentives for their employees. They don't keep people from having to jump on the Palmetto Breeze and heading down to Hilton Head. It is as this man just said, it will keep jobs right here and especially in this area of the county where we have just this bearing stretch of 95 and 21 where there are no other opportunities. There are no other places to work. You have the opportunity of

putting 50 families or more to work at this facility. The timing of the project now with all the unfortunate publicity Colleton County has been getting, I think having a new stable business coming to Colleton County in a visible area of course would be positive for Colleton County. The actual facility itself will be consistent with this overlay district they decided to take out of place. Anyone that moves here will be fuel dependent and having this fuel source in this area is going to be a positive for anyone who was interested in coming and having a development. As far as the notice issue that was just raised, I understand there were a number of signs out there. The concerns I heard voiced to date are really 3. One is the environmental impact or aesthetics of the property and 1st off there is not going to be any water or sewer that is going to be run to the property. There is no wetlands on the property. All the permitting for septic, water and sewer is all done through DHEC. Whatever ya'll do here tonight, it doesn't matter the facility still has to go through those procedures, has to make sure all the wetlands are delineated and DHEC makes the decision and looks at the evidence and decides whether or not ...inaudible... I do not believe there would be any detrimental effect, but DHEC is here and that is who assesses that. You are talking about 15-28 acre footprint in 65 acres and they bought enough property to add a buffer. The property is presently wooded and there is ample property there to properly buffer the facility and will have to go back before the Planning to get permits. They are there to insure that as well. There was an issue raised regarding increased crime in the area. One I believe if you put traffic in this area, if you put some people there in the lights, you are going to deter crime rather than increase it, but Garvin Oil has agreed that if the sheriff's department would like, that they are all for having a sub-station there on the property. They have agreed to have it in the facility if that is what Colleton County would like. They would be glad to have a room in there and have it and they are all for having the most secured facility they could have. It is good for their business and that is what they are in this for. The other issues I heard is people with competing businesses; primarily exits 53 & 57 and I submit to you and can verify this with the council, your legal counsel; an economic advantage for economic competition between individuals is not a valid consideration for the council in their zoning request or to base a decision for zoning. Any of those concerns should not be subject to the council's consideration. I also heard people voice that this is not a local business and that we should have people from Colleton County that are doing this and give them the opportunity to do it. That is also not a valid reason and that is actually a violation of the protection laws of the US and the State of SC, so that is not a valid concern. There is going to be a number of people here in opposition to the request tonight and the people are often opposed to change and they show up and voice their opinions, but the people that won't be here that won't be able to be heard tonight are the 50 families with people that will be employed by having this facility put in place. There has been no hiring, it hasn't been approved, so there is no reason these people don't know yet that they are going to have a job at this facility, but if you permit this and you allow it to be built and you allow Garvin Oil to come in and employ these citizens, I guarantee you there would be a different makeup of the people here today. You would have 50 families here represented that would be promoting the project.

Lennie Johnson said he was at the December meeting for the 2nd reading. This is in response to what Mr. Homles just said. He said it is not a valid concern; there is not a valid economic concern of other businesses. I highly disagree with that. I talked with Sheriff Malone after the last meeting and he told me that doing a sub-station down in that area to have it policed correctly that we are looking closer to \$250,000 for new sheriff deputies, new cars, and a sub-station. Granted the sub-station would take part of the cost away, but if you have sheriff deputies there patrolling in Smoaks, you are looking at a 40 minute trip to get to a gas station all the way down in Yemassee. I don't see how that is not a valid concern. The economic concern from the other businesses, I'm not saying they can compete with the other businesses, competition is where businesses are located, but what I am saying is that they are going to have restaurants, they going to have a fuel stations and everything down at exit 42. What we gain from exit 42, we are going to lose in other places on exit 57, 53 & 68. Those three exits are already existing exits with existing ...inaudible... stops, existing restaurants, if people stop at exit 42, they are not going to stop at 53, 57, or 68. By not stopping there we are going to lose the hospitality tax he was talking about, the sales tax he was talking about, eventually if they close up we will lose the property tax. What we gain from 1 industry coming at exit 42, we are going to lose greatly by multiple businesses, on the lack of their businesses due to this one opening. He said they employ 300 people and I think he said they had 50 stations. If 50 families are going to be affected by the one station to me it doesn't jive. I've worked in the accounting field for over 2 decades. One of my prior clients was Circle C at exit 68. A very large truck stop opened 24 hrs. a day. Fifty families are not even involved in that and they are a huge truck stop. I'm all out for preserving the scenic area down there. It is one of the only areas in Colleton County that it seems like is not touched. If it is a matter of us getting lights down there, I think that can be addressed for safety issues. All of the taxes he is talking about those are a moot point. Whatever we gain at exit 42, we are going to lose at the other exits. Doing accounting for other counties on the interstate I see what has happened. This is not something that I am making up. I've seen this happen on paper. We are already down to nothing in these areas and we don't need anything else driving us down any further. It is nothing against Garvin Oil, I have nothing to gain or lose from this, but my clients have a ton to lose from this. I don't have anybody that's going to gain from this. All I'm asking is Council please take this into consideration when making your decision. I think it is a large mistake and I believe there are plenty of business owners out here. I don't agree with it. They don't agree with it. A lot of them won't come up and speak, but please take it into consideration before you vote on this because I don't think it is a good decision for Colleton County.

Clint Campbell said he practices law here in town. I think we have kinda danced around one of the more important issues and that is the inconsistency with this use with the comprehensive plan. We have a Comprehensive Plan and I know you all read it because you all helped write it. It was a collaborate effort in the community and the Planning Commission and the Council by its preface we spent over a year ...inaudible... the Comprehensive Plan and now what's been asked of you with this application is to deviate from it. That is sort of my position and the people I represent their position and what I would caution council on is that in such a short period of time as this application

being filed and now the 3rd reading, so much more work went into designing this Comprehensive Plan. So many more people thought about what the future of this corridor was going to be for this county and they spent so many man hours and for someone to ask you to abandon that Comprehensive Plan and rezone this property, you really have to take a step back and think about what were we thinking of all that time when we made the plan in the first place.

Tom Lewis owner of Shoney's in Walterboro, I am here to say I don't know a whole lot about what is going on here. I've only been in Walterboro about 8 years. Ya'll know a whole lot more about what needs to be done or what has to be done. The only reason why I am here tonight is because we formed a merchants association at exit 53 and we have for quite a while. We meet from time to time and I speak only for us from the standpoint that we know with the rest area down there, it has always been a concern of ours because the people who stop at the rest area we know are not going to stop again anytime soon. With this added to it, I don't know what kind of advertisement they will have on the interstate as far as gas prices, but the way things are now and the way the economy is, if they see a cent savings on gas somewhere they are going to go there. That means they are just not going to stop and I hear all this about the 50 families getting a job and all that. I employ 50-60 people myself. That is 50-60 families and goodness knows a lot of people that are here with me here tonight how many more families we employ. We are concerned that we have been kinda stuck out there now with Wal-Mart going at exit 57. That's just the way things go. The town is going to go that way. We understand that. Our traffic flow has slowed down a lot anyway. A lot of us in the last 2 years that have businesses are really starting to suffer. I try very hard to keep as many of my people as employees I can. Sometime I am unable to give them as many hours as they need, but we try to keep them around. I'm concerned with this just how many people we may have to lose in our positions. With the town going toward Wal-Mart and then this stop here, it is almost like I see our exit being boarded up. I hate to say that, but I do. The competition doesn't scare us, it's just a normal fact that when people stop once they are just not going to stop again. I am just concerned about it and there are a lot of others concerned also. I don't know all the laws that have been mentioned tonight about economic thing as far as us competition, that may be, but I am speaking on my behalf that we are very concerned because a lot of us are struggling right now.

Willard Long said I have a business out on exit 53 and I just want to reiterate what everybody said tonight about this going down there is really going to affect us. Like Tom said we don't want to see this exit boarded up, but that is what is going to happen if this thing goes down there. This gentleman just told you what they are going to have down there. They are going to have a little town down there with everything and 12 minutes from Walterboro and nobody once they stop there, they are not going to stop in Walterboro again. We are trying to ask ya'll to please look into this and keep up with our businesses and our employees, we employ a lot of people. We got over 1,000 rooms out there and these motels and restaurants employ a lot of people. We put our money back into the community. These big corporations, you are going to get tax out of them, but this go be it. Hwy. 21 is so close to Hampton County that they probably

gonna pull a lot of jobs out of Hampton County and I don't think Colleton County will have a chance at it. We just ask that ya'll really consider this and we know you will do the right thing in thinking about this.

Scott Crosby said he come unprepared, but I believe in free market and stuff like this, but there is an organization ya'll could call to check with to see exactly what it is going to affect, your exit, how much business you are going to lose off of it. It is called the National Association of Truck Stop Operators. There is a Flying J that is going in at St. George exit and I think there is four gas stations or five at the exit right now. NATSO says once that Flying J goes in there will be two left in 24 months. Flying J is one of the largest outfits in the US and is owned by Petro Oil and Petro Oil is the largest truck stop owner operation in the US. It is kinda like a Wal-Mart coming in across the street from you. There are people in here that own stations in St. George and I feel sorry for them already. The only reason why I don't have a facility coming in across the street from me at exit 68 is because I am kinda out on the outskirts of the county is because I happened to buy all the property over there about 15 years ago. I did that intentionally to keep these big boys from coming in. I employ about 88 employees and the county has never asked about anything and I have been in the business since 1980, so I have 31 years experience in this truck stop business. I am going to tell you up front the Flying J is going to hit this area. Not just me, but it is going to hit the Walterboro exit. If ya'll let this facility come in below it is going to affect the Walterboro exits. Not just me it is going to affect exit 53 and 57 also. All you had to do was go on the internet and check NATSO and it is the only organization that represents truck stops in the US. They got all these numbers so you don't have to make these off the cuff decision, but we didn't put any of ya'll in office to make decisions of the business community and I think that is what ya'll were thinking about, but anyhow. I think there is a lot of good people in this community, business community, who has employed a bunch of people and probably kept people on during this economy, this downturn we have been in since 07 and what they probably are not telling you right now is and I just pulled my numbers up this year and my numbers are back to where they were in 08 when all this stuff started. ..inaudible... These fellas are going to come in below us independent operators, they don't have 31 years of experience in this business, I do. I have been able to maintain, growed every year. All this stuff affects us every time you open up a new facility somewhere, gas station or whatever it is pulling from ya'lls exits. You can look at the numbers and tell it if ya'll got good numbers to go by. I don't want to tell anybody you can't go somewhere, but if I am not mistaken, the exit 42, I think it is in the ace basin, so isn't that coastal council service or whatever they got to deal with, so it is liable to be tied up in suites and stuff. There is no need to get the whole business community upset over it when the odds are it is going to get put off anyhow, but that is just my opinion. I just wanted ya'll to know where I was coming from. Everybody has tried to get me in here to say something about it. I know all of ya'll and I just want ya'll to make the best decision you can make and if one of you want to substain from it that is not what we put you in office for. We put you up here to vote on our behalf.

Ordinance 11-O-28, to Further Amend the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park, by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and Charleston 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 Joint County Industrial Park.

No comments were made.

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 11-O-26, To Amend the 2020 Comprehensive Plan for a Portion of the Property Identified by TMS 255-00-00-005 to Change it From Rural Agriculture and Conservation to Urban Transition and Remove the Gateway Designation; and to Authorize the Rezoning of Said Property from Rural Development-1 (RD-1) to Urban Development-2 (UD-2).

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

The motion carried 4-1 (Murdaugh abstained)

2nd Reading Ordinance 11-O-27, An Ordinance Providing For A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Arrangement For Colleton Aerospace, LLC; Providing For Special Source Revenue Credits Or Bonds To Fund Infrastructure Improvements; Providing For The Allocation Of Fees-In-Lieu Of Taxes Payable Under The Agreement For Development For A Joint County Industrial Park With Charleston County; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance 11-O-28, An Ordinance to Further Amend the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Colleton County, South Carolina, and Charleston 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 Joint County Industrial Park.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 12-R-01, To Award the Purchase of Three 2012 Chevrolet 1500 PPV Tahoe's from the State Contract Holder, Love Chevrolet of Columbia.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-02, To Ratify Fund Balance Appropriation in Fund 149- SSRB Economic Development & Capital Improvement Fund for an Economic Development Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-03, To Ratify Council Action in Acknowledging Incorporation of CCEDC, One, Inc. and CCEDC Two, Inc., South Carolina Nonprofit Corporations and Authorizing the County Administrator, the Economic Development Director, and the Chairman of the Colleton County Resource and Development Board to Serve Ex Officio as the Directors and Officers of Said Corporations.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-04, To Ratify Council Action Authorizing Assignment to CCEDC, One, Inc. of all Rights, Privileges, Obligations, and Interests In and To That Portion of the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of Industrial Real Property, Dated as of the 23rd of November, 2011, By and Between Colleton County and Mesh Realty, LLC, for the Parcel Identified by TMS 132-00-00-026

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-05, To Ratify Council Action Authorizing Assignment to CCEDC, Two, Inc. of all Rights, Privileges, Obligations, and Interests In and To That Portion of the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of Industrial Real Property, Dated as of the 23rd of November, 2011, By and Between Colleton County and Mesh Realty, LLC, for the Parcels Identified by TMS 132-00-00-122 and TMS 132-00-00-129.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-06, To Ratify Authorization of an Operating Loan to the South Carolina Artisans Center and to Approve Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-07, To Place a Solid Waste Vehicle Back into Service and Add it Back to the Insurance Policies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-08, To Approve Appointment to the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board.

A motion to approve Kevin Wicker was made by Mr. Murdaugh and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-09, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to approve the following by acclamation and was seconded by Dr. Flowers.

Keep Colleton Beautiful: Susan Keith
Colleton County Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Patricia C. Grant & Linda Poole

Resolution 12-R-10. To Authorize Execution of Contracts By and Between Colleton County and Sumter Utilities, Inc. for the Replacement of Thirteen Ball Field Light Poles at the Colleton County Recreation Facility; Said Poles Being Damaged and/or in an Unsafe or Hazardous Condition.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Items of Information & The Public Record

None

Public Comments

Tommy Mann, Edisto Beach- I have a request to I would like to make. We come up here to pretty much all the meetings and we are vitally interested in Colleton County and what is going on. Got a website out there in the name of Colleton County and would like to request that you put some of the information that backs this up (Agenda) on the website so it is assessable to the citizens. We hear you say resolution 12-R-09 and we don't have any clue what is involved in that. I would just like you to consider that.

Mr. Griffin said that is actually in process. Our technology department is in the process of upgrading the website as we speak.

Keith Crosby, ...inaudible...deputy with Colleton County Sheriff's Office and I got to things I would like to mention. Approximately 4 months ago deputy Corp. Hernandez with the sheriff's office gave a presentation before council where he had talked about we believe that our pay scale and benefit package is deficient in relationship to some of the surrounding agencies. Mr. Murdaugh was nice enough to ask Mr. Griffin to look into it. ...inaudible... next couple of months, we have not heard anything and of course all of us a curious as to what Mr. Griffin may have found out, so I can inquire as to that, but I would like to point out something else that was not in Corp. Hernandez presentation. I have been with the sheriff for 7 years now. I was with the city for 8 years before that. One of the things the City does very well is try to maintain their employees. They have always run neck and neck with the county as far as salary, but they offer some things that the county does not offer, like here I pay \$100 a month for my own insurance. At the City the City paid every penny of my insurance, so right away I lose \$1,200 a year. The City also gave merit increases. If you were there for 5 years you got a merit increase. If you were supervisor and got promoted, you got a merit increase. Fire Arms Instructor, Radar Instructor, Field Training Officer or whatever you did outside of the realm of normal duties, or if you took a further step to further your career, you got a merit increase for it. If you wanted to go back to school, they paid for your college, paid for half of your books. First 43,000 of your life insurance is paid for by them and I know at least in my mind, that Colleton County has to be in a financial position to be able to offer a benefit package at least as good as what the City can offer. Whenever ya'll can I would like to hear what Mr. Griffin was able to find out. The 2nd thing is I would like to give props to County Council and Mr. Griffin for something else. I volunteer coaching at the Recreation Center for the last 4-5 years now. I went by the Recreation Center yesterday and met your new director. Was very impressed, he told me about all the good things going on at the Recreation Department. About 4-5 years ago, when Doc came here you started to see a major change in the direction of the Recreation Center. I think it is going in the right direction and I would like to thank ya'll for the time, the money, and efforts ya'll put into it. I think it is something everybody in Colleton County can be proud of.

Council Time

No Comments

Mr. Griffin said the county attorney has asked if you would add Legal Matter to the Executive Session items as well.

Executive Session

- a) Personnel
- b) Economic Development
- c) Legal Matter

Regular Session

Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve 1st reading by title only Ordinance 12-O-01 (Granting an Easement to the City of Walterboro Across a Portion of the Property Located at the Corner of Washington Street and Jefferies Boulevard, the Site of the Colleton County Courthouse; Such Easement to be Used to Construct and Maintain a Part of the City's Planned Streetscape Improvement Project; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Document; and Other Matters Related Thereto) and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned

Date: _____

Steven D. Murdaugh, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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