

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

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

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Mike Kouris, Coressa Dorkewitz, Kimberly Mullinax, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal Hodges, Clarence Albright, Reginald McNeil, Dennis Averkin, Patti Smyer, Crawford Moore, Roy Williams

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

Mr. Murdaugh said before we have approval of the minutes I would like to ask if you would notice on your agenda before you there is an item that is highlight, item "g" under New Business Resolution 16-R-07, to appoint members to board vacancies, it was inadvertently left off the agenda. We received prior to the meeting information that was in our packet, but the item was not on the agenda and also Ms. Sandy Steele is here from the Southern Carolina Alliance. I think she would like to make a few comments. We normally have Public Presentations, I think after the approval of the minutes, so we are going to insert her there. I would like to make that a motion and was seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously to amend the agenda accordingly.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting December 1, 2015

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

Southern Carolina Alliance- Sandy Steele

Mr. Murdaugh said let me point out that in the stack of information everyone received, there was an email copy of a report from the South Carolina Alliance, which is a confidential report.

Ms. Steele wished everyone a Happy New Year from Southern Carolina. You do have a marketing report in front of you and we are happy to answer any questions you may have. You can always call us individually if you would like more information. We just want to point out that 2015 was an extremely busy year. We worked over 60 active projects with 11 announcements throughout the region. Three were expansions for new companies coming into our region. The capital investment in 2015 was over four hundred million dollars creating 364 new jobs. 2015 was a great year and we are looking forward to a great 2016. As you can see in the report marketing efforts are aggressive...inaudible...will continue with both domestic and international marketing trips, so we just wanted to say Happy New Year. We sincerely value our relationship with Colleton County and look forward to working with you closely and our other counties in 2016.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said we have had a pretty good December. We have gotten a leg up on our Capital Projects Sales Tax Projects. We had our initial meetings on the Solid Waste Transfer Station. That went very well. Initial meetings on our Recreation, we actually have our 2nd Recreation Design meeting on January 12th. We have some pretty exciting things going on there. The Law Enforcement Center and the Airport Infrastructure Projects as you can see if you go down the by-pass you can see that one is underway as well as the Law Enforcement Center design. We are going to come to you in February and give you a full up date of all the CPST projects and where we are then, but did want to give you a brief progress report.

We also just completed, I got the final copy of it today in our annual audit, which we will present to you in February as well. With the belt tightening we did the 2nd half of last year, ...inaudible... we have come out in pretty decent shape. We will present that to you in February.

It is getting ready to be budget time again, so we will also begin starting that process as well. I've got all the budget packets out to all the department heads and elected officials, actually I think they go out this week.

A couple of items on the agenda I would like to give more detail on. Item "c" in regard to Shared Ice Storm Costs, this is the item that each of you spoke to our Legislative Delegation about particularly Rep. Knight actually came and spoke to us about it as well and we did receive an additional \$100,000 in December a reimbursement for those Ice Storm costs, so if you see them, please thank them.

Item "d" as you know we are entering into a reassessment year. This is a project that is kinda unique because all the Southern Alliance Counties have worked together to pool together resources that we talked about in a couple of meetings we had. It is joining everyone together for buying power and we are all going to do our countywide aerial flights at the same time which got us a substantial reduced cost there. Each one of the Alliance Counties will have the same imagery and other things from an economic development prospective when we go to working on those projects as well.

Item “f” that is general engineering services for the county. That contract is something we will have in place until we are able, we are hard trying to find us another county engineer, but the market is sucking the PE Engineers up very fast. Until such time we are able to get that we want to be able to contract out with the many things we got going on to have somebody on call to be able to do the things we need to do.

Public Hearing

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

Mr. Murdaugh said before Ms. Kimberly Mullinax speaks, we had a resolution before where we had established priorities in 2015 and wanted to refreshed everyone’s memory of the items:

Economic Development: Speculative buildings, infrastructure, rail access, rail yards, rail spurs, roads, water and sewer and airport improvements;

Recreational: sports complex, gymnasium, fitness center, water park facilities, pedestrian/bike trails, boat ramp improvements;

Public Safety: fire sub stations, fire training facilities, law enforcement complex, Sheriff substations;

County Public Facilities and Infrastructure: transfer station, new landfill, landfill equipment, landfill recycling, commercial kitchen equipment, public golf course, boat landing upgrades, auditorium renovations and upgrades, rural water implementation and infrastructure, rural sewer implementation and infrastructure, demolition of buildings in blighted areas, technology research and or infrastructure, county library technology upgrades, technology center expansion/upgrades, educational classroom technology;

Roads / Bridges and Drainage: road drainage—Bama Road, road drainage improvements, dirt road improvements, culvert repairs;

Transportation: I-95 corridor, intersection improvements, Exit 62/McLeod Rd street improvements;

Tourism and Marketing: beautification and litter control, billboard and other signage, video advertising.

Mr. Murdaugh asked Ms. Mullinax if she had anything she wanted to add to that or would she like for them to make additions or deletions to that list?

Ms. Mullinax said there is a little bit she needed to go over with everyone on a yearly basis and then if there is anything we need to change. What we are doing is the Community Development Block Grant. A lot of you are familiar with that, but it is done to provide assistance to units of local government to improve the economic opportunities and meet the needs that the community has, especially for low to moderate income people. All of this is done under the HUD US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development under title I. This year the state has been given about 18.5 million dollars for projects throughout the state. The allocation goes for community infrastructure, which is our ...inaudible... projects which will be our water, sewer, and our drainage. Then in the fall we’ve got community enrichment projects, neighborhood revitalization, and those are projects like the technologies, libraries, the public safety,

that kind of thing. We have income limits on what is considered low to moderate income people. For an example a family of four in Colleton County would be anybody under \$37,750.00 would be considered low to moderate income, so that is what they are looking at whenever they ...inaudible... A lot of this also has to do with Fair Housing. The requirements of the program, the locality that is expected to undertake activity that promotes Fair Housing, Title 8 of the civil rights of 1968 stipulates that we have the right to be treated fairly regardless of our race, color, religion, sex ...inaudible... or national origin and that goes for any of the ...inaudible... if you believe you have been discriminated against, you can call our office at 843-726-5536 and we can help with that. The application deadlines are the request deadlines are March and August. The application deadlines are April 15th and September 16th. We have certain projects that go in the Spring and certain ones go in the Fall. Our projects can go anywhere from \$50,000 to \$750,000 depending on the project type and we do have to have at least 10% coming from the local government to go in as match. Anything more than 10% would be seen as a good leverage, but what we are doing tonight is trying to get these needs that we talked about already and if there's any other needs that need to be added to this list or taken off this list. What we try to do is match up our community needs with our funding sources and get the most bang for our bucks on any of these projects.

Mr. Murdaugh said I don't know if this is appropriate use of these funds, but as far as identifying needs would be if it could be used for housing for student housing for USC Salk. I don't know how that might fit in the program, but that is a need and also a need is you have folks that who have applied for FEMA funding from the flood who have been partially qualified for funding, but then there is a gap, so you really have some gap funding between what their homeowners policy and what's being deemed as approving you still have a few folks that are hung out there with a gap in funding.

Ms. Mullinax said she would add those to the list.

Mr. Murdaugh said this is a Public Hearing and is the opportunity for the citizens to have input on the same needs that you may identify as a need if anyone would like to recommend something or identify a need you are certainly welcome to step to the podium and state your name for the record and we will be glad to hear your comment.

No comments were made.

New Business

Resolution 16-R-01, To Extend the Lease Agreement Between Colleton County and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for Office Space within the Bernard Warshaw Complex.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-02, To Approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Colleton County Sheriff's Office and the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-03, To Authorize the Budgeting of Funding Received from the State of South Carolina as Reimbursement for Shared Ice Storm Costs in Revenue and Expenditure Line Items in Fund 100 – General Fund in the FY 2016 Budget for Non-Departmental Capital Outlay.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-04, To Approve a Contract Between Colleton County and Kucera International, Inc. for Countywide Aerial-Ortho Photography and Structure Footprint Update Mapping for Colleton County.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-05, to Approve Acceptance of a Grant from Coastal Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$127,714.29 for Industrial Infrastructure Development.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-06, to Award the Engineering Contract for Colleton County General Engineering Services.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-07, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

A motion to approve (Resolution 16-R-07) the following by acclimation was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Colleton County Recreation Commission: C.Scott Craven, Benjamin W. Kennedy & Mark A. Tomedoloskey.

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

Public Comments

Michael Kours- 248 Altman PL.- It's a dirt and I understand we had a bad storm and it flooded out the road and I understand that, but every time it rains the ditches fill up and then it floods the road. What is happening is with the ditches lining my property is right behind it and when the ditches fill up with water, they bleed back into my driveway. I just spent a little over \$13,000 to repair my driveway and it is still continuing when it rains the ditches flood over and bleed back onto my driveway. I showed Mr. Taylor some pictures and I would ask for someone to go out there and take a look. I have called numerous times to see if they can come out and do something, but what is happening is they are coming down and scrapping the road lower and lower where the front of the ditch is lower than the back of the ditch, so when it floods, it floods out into the road and bleeds it to the driveway, so when it rains it don't drain quick enough it builds up and bleeds back onto my property and Coressa's property. My driveway is 675 ft. long, so it is costly for me to keep on buying the material to fill it in and support the water. I don't want to obstruct the natural flow of the water for the drainage, but at some point I am going to have to do something if I can get somebody out there. Nobody has returned my calls through the department. The only thing they do is send somebody out with a scrapper and scrape the road and that is not what they need. The ditches need to be re-dug and the road needs to be built up, so that when it does overflow, it want flood the road and also won't flood the back of our property.

Mr. Whetsell asked Mr. Griffin to make a note of that and we will have somebody go out there and do a little study of something and see if maybe the ditches can be cleaned or something that would elevate the problem.

Coressa Dorkewitz – 347 Altman PL. – I've lived there almost 5 years. The ditches there when I moved in were roughly about 4 feet deep. I have spoken with a multiple number of people, multiple number of times and they keep telling me well this is how it is going to be, there is nothing we can do, when that is incorrect. I have photos of the ditches if you would like to see them. My husband has gotten in the ditch to try to shovel some of the dirt out of it. They have grated it so steep. If you drive down the road ...inaudible... My driveway is four hundred and something feet back. I flood all the way up to my house. I have had to go through water this deep (pointing to her knees) with three children because of these ditches and the pipes are clogged. I have a 24 foot circumference pipe that is half full of sand. What are we suppose to do?

Mr. Whetsell said you got what kinda pipe?

Ms. Dorkewitz said the culvert pipes in the ditch are 24 inches the big ones that are going to cost me a good bit of money to replace because the road had flooded so much that it has washed the dirt out around it. It is half full of sand and we have asked for help so much that it is not even funny and it's getting worse. The buses can hardly drive on it. I have a letter from

another neighbor where she has emailed people for help and it is not helping. No one is helping.

Mr. Whetsell said you said you talked to people, that's people from the county?

Ms. Dorkewitz said I have talked to Mr. Washington. I have talked to Mr. Griffin. My husband has talked to Mr. Griffin. We have talked to Ms. Joyce? To find out how to come here. We have talked to so many people it is not even funny.

Mr. Whetsell said, well we do have places that flood and we can't do anything about that or down there on Edisto River, those people that were 6 foot under water and I don't know your situation.

Ms. Dorkewitz said that is on the other side of the road from us. The part that flooded is on the other side. We probably would have had some water, but we should have never had as much as we have had. From this past rain we just had, I was just able two days ago to be able to walk down my driveway. I am having to park in the road because I can't get to my house.

Mr. Whetsell said the flood waters on the Edisto is higher than it has been in 100 years.

Ms. Dorkewitz said well we are not draining. It's still in the ditches. You can get to the end of the road where it should be draining or suppose to be draining and it's not draining because there is ...inaudible... because the water is not getting there.

Council Time

Mr. Taylor said he wanted them to remember Senator Matthews lost his wife in recent time and didn't know if everyone was aware of that and just wanted you to keep him in your prayers.

Mr. Whetsell said Rep. Hodges announced on TV today that he would not be running for his house seat this upcoming term.

Mr. Murdaugh said he wanted to remind the members of council that Mr. White is retiring and there is an invitation in front of you for the drop in for him. Also, the 30th Annual Martin King, Jr. parade is Sunday, January 17th at 2:30 and the lineup will begin at 1:30.

Executive Session

- a) Economic Development
 - 1) Project Deck
 - 2) Wrapper
- b) Personnel - Recreation
- c) Real Estate

Regular Session

Mr. Murdaugh said the items were discussed in executive session.

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**