

MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council  
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building  
109 Benson Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Kaela Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Robby Robbins, Gary Rhode, Jimmy Hiott, Sue Keith, Pat Grant, Mark Wysong, Stewart McAdoo, Crawford Moore, Janis Blocker, Queen Quet, and Frank Santorella.

Councilman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, that we will need to amend the agenda to add an item under Appearances and Public Presentations. We have Representative Robby Robbins here with us tonight representing District 97. He would like to address council. Dr. Flowers moved to amend the agenda to add item "B" – Representative Robby Robbins under Appearances and Public Presentations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Regular Meeting June 6, 2023— Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

**Awards and Recognitions**

- A. Proclaiming the Week of July 29 - August 5, 2023, as Gullah-Geechee Nation Appreciation Week— Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record. Councilman Taylor moved to adopt Proclaiming the Week of July 29 - August 5, 2023, as Gullah-Geechee Nation Appreciation Week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*Council presented the proclamation at this time.

Queen Quet: Stated, thank you Colleton County for this. We are so glad that we could be back here this year. I just learned that you all have a Wildlife Preserve for the first time after coming here for the last 23 years. So, we went there before we came here. We did not go fishing or anything. It is good to be here and to have the souls of Colleton County residents fed with Gullah

Geechee culture. I would like to invite everyone here to come to Beaufort County on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> to St. Helena Island at noon, at 16 Penn Center Circle. We will be having Gullah Geechee Family Day that launches the week of celebration. There will be good food, music, and positive people. We appreciate you Colleton County.

No comments.

### **Appearances & Public Presentations**

A. Colleton Medical Center – Jimmy Hiott, CEO

\*\*\*Please see the attached PowerPoint Presentation.

B. Representative Robby Robbins: Stated, I got to spend some time with Administrator Griffin this afternoon. We decided that the best way to open my comments was to steal a line from Governor Haley, "It is a great day in Colleton County." I believe that it is, and that we have great days to come. I wanted to report to you tonight and thank the Administration for working with me to get this list together. We were able to bring back to Colleton County, through the State budget this year, some funds that we didn't anticipate being able to get. They are in the form of ear marks, and I know that is a controversial word in some political circles. It is only controversial when people use it for the wrong purposes, but in this particular instance we received a request from the Administration. They are beneficial to the county and what we have done with this funding is going to be very helpful to you all and to the county going forward. Before I go into the specifics of what projects were funded, I would like to thank my fellow Representatives, Bill Hagar, Matt Leber, and Mike Rivers for assisting me in making these requests to the house leaderships. We also need to thank the Governor for seeing the value in these projects. As you all know the Governor has a veto pen, and he did not veto any of these requests. Of course, our Senators also assisted in making sure these matters made it through the Senate portion of the budget. I will start with the SC Artisans Center building. As you all know they are working on a renovation of the building that is adjacent to the one they currently occupy. I was able to go to their artisan's reception where they unveil the new artists that they will be displaying, and I got to see what they will be doing with this new building. They got \$75,000 for them to put into the renovation of that adjacent building. The second project is the Colleton County Career Skills Center. I met this afternoon with the Administrator, Mr. Griffin, and the Economic Development Director, Heyward Horton. We were able to get \$150,000 for the Career Skills Center. With the industry that we have already sited, and the industry that we are recruiting, we are going to need to train people, and this will assist in doing that. The third item that we were able to fund is the fire station in the Neyles Community. We have a lot of folks out there that need coverage. We were able to get \$600,000 for the fire upgrades that need to be done to that facility. We were also able to help you all with the Solid Waste recycling center. I do not know a great deal about Solid Waste recycling, but the administrator has been helping me with that. We were able to get \$250,000 to add to the quality of recycling that is taking place to help the county in that regard. Now, the one that got funded the most, the Coastal Exhibition Center. I was able to discuss this with Mr.

Griffin this afternoon and this sounds like a tremendous facility that has great potential, not only for the agricultural end of things, but also for tourism. We received one million dollars for that facility, and I look forward to seeing that come to fruition. We have received some great opportunities for the county, and we are glad to have received one million dollars for the proportion of the exhibition center. The final funding item that we were able to obtain was a recreational facility. I believe that you all are choosing and deciding what to do. We received \$500,000 for the recreational facility. The grand total of the funding we were able to bring to the county was 2.5 million dollars. I am delighted to bring this report to you all. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to speak with you all tonight.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you Representative Robbins. This is very good news.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, thank you.

Councilman Biering: Stated, we would like to thank you for the representation that we have with the new district lines. You have been more than gracious, and we thank you for that.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I want to thank you for all of these projects.

Representative Robbins: Stated, I would like to reiterate what I said at the bridge dedication for Councilman Whetsell. I have thoroughly enjoyed reacquainting with old friends and meeting new friends as I have campaigned over the last year and a half. It has been a wonderful experience for my wife and I to represent Colleton County, and we look forward to doing it for years to come.

No further comments.

### **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin: Stated, Chairman and Council, you could not make me any happier than having Representative Robbins up there giving that report. There are items on that list that we have been trying to get done, some for eight or ten years, and some for two or three years. I wanted to start off by discussing the mobile pool project that we have. We finally got it off the ground this year. Last year, Council funded constructing a mobile pool. We had everything set up with the school district and they had staff licensed to run it, and that staff took other jobs. So, it did not get off the ground last year, but this year we got it started about two weeks ago. We have had over 700 kids sign up for safety swimming lessons. As you know, we have had tragedies recently with the river. We have developed a great partnership with the YMCA over in Dorchester. They provide the pool operator and the teachers for the lessons. We are providing the pool and transporting it. It will be here for another week, and then it will be torn down, packed up, and will go over to St. George.

Councilman Biering: Stated, they already have it set up.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, they moved fast this week finding a trailer. I think this is a huge addition that we've been trying to do for a long time. Representative Robbins mentioned \$500,000 to go towards what we have already funded with CPST to build a permanent pool or aquatics facility to teach lessons here. We do at least have the portable pool as a stop gap until we are able to get the construction going. With the cost of construction, what he did for us is going to help us get an ideal facility. A couple of items I did want to run through on the agenda. There is a change order for the roof on the Harrelson Building. This was not a request by the contractor, it was a request made by us. There was a mistake made by the architect. If you notice, that building has a parapet that runs around it. We changed it out to match the tax center roof. They left out the flat roof when bidding it, so it did not get bid. We went back in and rebid it and put it in the package. We have the funding with the CPST funds to complete it as far as the roof goes. The other item is the IDC (Independent Delivery Contracts) with five engineering architecture firms that we will pick from as we move forward with not only the CPST projects, but the others as well. We have a staff committee that evaluates them and then they are ranked based on where their expertise is. The last item is Westbank Landing. The landing has deteriorated rather rapidly. Hopefully, Representative Robbins can help us get a Delegation meeting together. We have about \$260,000 in the water resources fund now to repair the boat landing, the dock and tie up area, as well as the parking area. That is all I have for you all, and I would be glad to take in questions.

No questions.

### **Public Hearing**

Dr. Flowers made a motion to move into Public Hearing. Councilman Taylor seconded that motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **A. Ordinance 23-O-09, To Adopt Title 5 – Business Licenses & Regulations, Chapter 5.04 – Late Night Establishments Preclearance, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances**

No comments were made. Councilman Taylor made a motion to close Public Hearing. Councilman Biering seconded that motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

#### **A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-09, To Adopt Title 5 – Business Licenses & Regulations, Chapter 5.04 – Late Night Establishments Preclearance, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-09, To Adopt Title 5 – Business Licenses & Regulations, Chapter 5.04 – Late Night Establishments Preclearance, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-12, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement by and Between Colleton County,**

**South Carolina and Project Palmetto Green to Provide for Payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits; Providing for the Allocation of Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes Paid by Project Palmetto Green, Under the Agreement for Establishment of Multi-County Industrial/ Business Park; and Other Related Matters**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-12, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes and Incentive Agreement by and Between Colleton County, South Carolina and Project Palmetto Green to Provide for Payment of a Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes; Authorizing Certain Infrastructure Credits; Providing for the Allocation of Fee-In-Lieu of Taxes Paid by Project Palmetto Green, Under the Agreement for Establishment of Multi-County Industrial/ Business Park; and Other Related Matters. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-13, By Title Only, To Ratify FY23 Grant and Budget Resolutions and Related Appropriations for All Funds; To Ratify Transfer and Other Resolutions Previously Authorized by Council; And Other Matters Related Thereto**

Councilman Taylor move 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-13, By Title Only, To Ratify FY23 Grant and Budget Resolutions and Related Appropriations for All Funds; To Ratify Transfer and Other Resolutions Previously Authorized by Council; And Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-14, By Title Only, to Amend Title 2 - Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.30 - County Council, Sections 2.30.030 – Meetings and 2.030.060 Committees of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 23-O-14, By Title Only, to Amend Title 2 - Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.30 - County Council, Sections 2.30.030 – Meetings and 2.030.060 Committees of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Resolution 23-R-44, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-44, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. Resolution 23-R-45, To Approve the Purchase of a Compactor for the Solid Waste C&D Landfill to Replace a Compactor that has been Declared a Total Loss**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-45, To Approve the Purchase of a Compactor for the Solid Waste C&D Landfill to Replace a Compactor that has been Declared a Total Loss. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. Resolution 23-R-46, To Approve a Change Order for Roof Replacement for the J. P. Harrelson Building New Entrance and Improvements Project**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-46, To Approve a Change Order for Roof Replacement for the J. P. Harrelson Building New Entrance and Improvements Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Resolution 23-R-47, To Approve Renewal of the Axon Enterprise, Inc. Contract for Sheriff's Office Tasers**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-47, To Approve Renewal of the Axon Enterprise, Inc. Contract for Sheriff's Office Tasers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. Resolution 23-R-48, To Award Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Architectural Design Services**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-48 To Award Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Architectural Design Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**H. Resolution 23-R-49, To Award the Contract for the Sale of Scrap Metal, Aluminum Cans and Batteries to Edisto Recycling, LLC**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-49, To Award the Contract for the Sale of Scrap Metal, Aluminum Cans and Batteries to Edisto Recycling, LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. Resolution 23-R-50, To Advertise Board Vacancies**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-50, To Request that the Colleton County State Legislative Delegation Recommend to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources that South Carolina Water Recreation Resource Funds Dedicated to Colleton County be used to Replace the Boardwalk and Dock at the Westbank Boat Landing on the Edisto River in Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**J. Resolution 23-R-51, to Award the Contract for the Voter Registration Building Renovation Project**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-51, to Award the Contract for the Voter Registration Building Renovation Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

Mark Wysong: Stated, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a group of individuals that came out to help renovate East Side Park. I apologize, I did not get here last month. I would like to acknowledge those individuals: Garrett Biering, Tommy Aiken, Justin Myers, Jack Wysong, Councilman Trippe, and Councilman Biering. I wanted to thank you all for taking time out of your schedules for coming out and doing a lot of heavy lifting and hard work. Thank you all for coming to East Side Acres and doing what you did, thank you.

### **Council Time**

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to mention the mobile prevention pool. I went out several times in the last two weeks. It was a palatable difference and amazing thing to see, and money well spent. If you could see the kids that came out on the first day that were scared to death to even look at that pool. I am talking children that were five and a half foot tall, and the water was only three foot tall. I came back on the second day and that kid ran to the pool excited to get in it. His fear and understanding of the water were replicated so many times with many children last week. If you could see that it is absolutely phenomenal, and I believe we saved lives with that operation. I would like to thank everyone in the county, County Council, and Parks and Recreation as they did a lot of heavy lifting.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I have also been out to the pool several times and these children were so excited. They were teaching them how to get back to the side of the pool if they fell in. It really is a great thing. It is all worth it if we can save even just one life.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I echo the sentiments on the pool. I do want to recognize Mayor Crawford Moore from Edisto Beach.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I was approached at church about Paradise Road. They were very pleased with the grading of the road. Please let whoever graded that road know they did a great job.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I wanted to follow up on what Representative Robbins spoke on. I wanted people to know, and I read it in the newspaper, that Senator Matthews was able to get some funding for the Pon Pon Chapel. I would like to recognize her for that. People don't always think that the government is working for them, but that is not the case. They have been able to get funding for some very worthy projects. Some of that money is "ear marked". That means that it comes from a source that can only be used for certain things, and those are the projects that we have that qualify. I am saying this to explain to those that will be upset and ask why we are spending money on those things when we have other needs in the county. We know those more basic needs are out there, but obtaining funding for the other items makes it easier for us to meet those other needs. We can't criticize the things that they're helping us do and at the same time

criticize us for not taking care of the basic needs. We all work together. Maybe this is not the project(s) of your choice, but the fact that we're able to do these things in the county, like this agricultural arena, are all things that help us in the long run. This doesn't mean we've taken our eye off the ball of those out there that have some real basic needs. Those are harder sometimes to deal with. I am thankful for our Delegation and what they have done. I want the naysayers who are going to ask, "Why are you putting money in a pool when we have a problem over here that is more urgent?" We are doing that because the resources are there. If Colleton County doesn't take that money, then it is going to someone else. So, let's thank them for what they are doing and celebrate all our victories and not just criticize. Again, I would like to thank Senator Matthews, Representative Robbins, and all those that are helping us.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I would like to echo that also. I do not think we have had this many projects earmarked since I have been on County Council, which has been many years. So, I would like to thank you for doing that. I believe it is important to come together to improve the quality of life in our county, and that is what we are trying to do. We are trying to enhance the quality of life for our citizens and give them good jobs so that they don't have to drive 50-100 miles for a good job. It takes a lot of time and effort to achieve that. You have to build a foundation before you can build a building, and that is what we have been trying to do for a number of years. Thank you for all your help.

#### Executive Session

Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Contractual – County Plaza and ADA Sidewalk Improvements and Tuskegee Monument/Airport, Personnel – Voter Registration, Boards and Commissions, and Clerk of Court, Economic Development – Sarla Flex, and Real Estate – Hampton Street School. Councilman Biering seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor moved to exit executive session. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering moved to approve **Resolution 23-R-52, to Authorize the Purchase of a Full-Size P-51D Mustang Airplane Replica**. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Adjournment

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

This 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

  
Steven D. Murdough, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council