

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 at 6:00 PM, at County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Evon Robinson called the meeting to order with Council Members, Gene Whetsell, Dr. Flowers, Steven Murdaugh, Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others present included: Ruth Mayer, Karla Daddieco, Sean Thornton, Kevin Griffin, Mary Harris, Iris Hill, Pete Anderson, Tommy Mann, Bob Sandifer, Carolina Padgett, Mike Padgett, George Malone, Gary Brightwell

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

Changes to the Agenda

None

Appearances & Public Presentations

None

Approval of Minutes

Special Meeting May 23, 2012

Regular Meeting June 5, 2012

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

The motion carried unanimously

Awards and Recognition's

2012 NACO Achievement Award- Colleton Museum & Farmers Market

Mrs. Gary Brightwell said it was her pleasure to accept on behalf of Colleton County the National Association of Counties' Award for our county on receiving a National Achievement Award for the Colleton Museum and Farmer's Market. I am here today to say thank you to everyone in this room. Thank you particularly to Colleton County Council for the support they have given this project. It was a very forward thinking thing for our county to do and it has been tremendously successful and for the help of Colleton County Administrator, Kevin Griffin and Karla Daddieco. Their help has been invaluable and for the public in general the support we have had both for the museum and market has really exceeded all expectations. We are just thrilled with the response

that we have and are looking forward to more growth in the future. All of these efforts, not only with all of your help, it would not have been possible without the help of our own facilities management and Ron Shoupe and his crew helping us out as county folks and to Mitchell Construction who did a very fine job in the renovation of the project and indeed our county is deeply indebted to all of you who were involved in the project and we thank you so much. We were just thrilled that we were recognized on the National Level.

Administrative Briefing

Mr. Griffin said as I report about every meeting the ballpark project is really moving along. It is coming out of the ground. They have turf down now on three of the fields. We have had a few drainage issues related to all of the rain we have had the last 3-4 weeks, but we are working them out and will probably come to you with a couple of small changes at the August meeting. Everything else seems to be moving along alright. We have primarily been working on getting this final version of the budget amendment out and had a few folks out related to the retirement issues here lately,

Public Hearing

Ordinance 12-O-04, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 Through June 30, 2013; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

Bob Sandifer- I reside at 502 Jungle Road, Edisto Beach. I represent a number of property owners on the beach. I would like some discussion if you will on 1st of all the millage increase based on the information in the local newspaper. There was a chart of how the millage was reached. If I recall if you add the millage up, it looks like it is 10.29 mills increase. The 1st question is I would like to see your calculation how I understand it and I am certainly no expert at this. I understand there are two elements to this thing; Population increase and inflation. There maybe more, but certainly those two elements. I would like some discussion as to how you arrived at this increase in millage. Also the question has to be asked at least the way it has been explained to me in what we have heard about it, is the millage increase is being done to attempt to compensate for reduced property value assessments in the current reassessment period. I assume you must know what the reassessments are if you have already arrived at the calculation. We as property owners don't know what the reassessment is and obviously we would like to know that. One point I will make. If you raise the millage obviously if the property values go down, if you have done your calculations properly, your revenue will run roughly the same. The question is one property owner may see his/her assessment go up and another may see it go down. ...inaudible... some people are going to pay more, some people are going to pay less, but I assume that most of the people if you have done your calculation in what you have presented is the reason for this, they are all are going to break even. Those are the questions I have. I would like to know again to see your calculations and I would like to know how do you propose to talk to property owners that are seeing the value go down, their property reassessment go down, which we assume that is what is going to happen, but your taxes remain the same. That is a

question your constituents are going to ask. I'll leave you with that and appreciate the opportunity to speak.

No other comments were made

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 12-O-04, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 Through June 30, 2013; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

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

Dr. Flowers said since the gentleman raised a question a while ago I think it would be proper at this time to address that issue relative to and I would ask the administrator to explain, if you will relative to the calculation that we have to do.

Mr. Griffin said 1st of all, across the entire county tax base the millage adjustment was roughly 3.53 mills. In the previous draft we did have an adjustment on the debt millage and that was calculated on our previous debt service. Because of the interest savings we have had over the last year with the re-financings we have done and the new debt issue replacing the old, we do not have to raise any debit millage at this time. As you know that does not apply to the CPI factor the way the statute reads, just debt millage as you need it because of your commitment to the bond holder. Otherwise both operations and fire service and general fund, the general fund adjustment was roughly 2.59 mills. That is a 2.4 increase and the fire service was just under a mill at .93 mills for a total of 3.53, both for which are well within the CPI allowance that we are allowed every year. I believe it was 3.19 this year. We can actually call back three years on that which would be just over 9 mills, but we chose to adjust just within to cover what we think is going to be about a 400-500,000 allowance in the reassessment program for lost revenue. I am not including the school millage with that, they do have a school millage. There is a 2.48 mill difference. In their increase they chose to relegate the general operation funds the same amount of millage at the 2.44% as we have done in this budget.

Dr. Flowers said personally I think we have done as good as we could do. This is the 1st millage increase we have had in a number of years. I think that we have held our fiscal responsibility relative to the tax increases for a number of years now. It has been at least 4-5 years since we have had a millage increase. ...inaudible...

Mr. Griffin said as you know two years ago we actually rolled the millage back when we implemented the new reassessment. The figures we have now within the ordinance are within about a tenth of a percent point on the millage of what it was prior to us implementing reassessment, so basically the millage has gone back to what it was about 2 ½ years ago because of the decline in the tax base.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 12-R-65, To Approve Execution of a Renewal Service Contract for Fire-Rescue's LifePak12 Cardiac Monitors.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-66, To Authorize Use of the Grounds of the Old Jail Building for Salkehatchie Stew Activities on the Last Weekend of October.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-67, To Approve Acceptance of a Grant from Coastal Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$105,000 for Industrial Infrastructure Development.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-68, To Award Purchase of Various Vehicles.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 12-R-69, To Award the Purchase of Kitchen/Concession Equipment for the Recreation Ballfield Complex.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 12-O-08, To Grant an Easement to South Carolina Electric and Gas Across a Portion of the Railroad Right of Way Owned Jointly By the City of Walterboro and Colleton County adjacent to Rivers Street in Walterboro, SC.

A motion to approve 1st reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Items of Information & The Public Record

August 7, 2012, Regular Council Meeting moved to August 14, 2012 to avoid conflict with South Carolina Association of Counties Annual Meeting.

Public Comments

No comments were made

Council Time

No comments were made.

Executive Session

- a) Personnel matter

Regular Session

No further actions were taken

The meeting was adjourned

Date: _____

Evon Robinson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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