

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Phillip Taylor called the meeting to order with Council Members, Gene Whetsell, Dr. Flowers, Evon Robinson, Steven Murdaugh in attendance.

Others present included: Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Kevin Griffin, Gary Brightwell, Jean Nettles, Nolan Simmons, Timothy A. Grimsley, Jane Darby, Iris Hill, Pete Anderson, Mary Henderson, Eleanor Hodges, Leroy Henderson, Isreal R. Hodges, Sr., Central Williams, Melody Craven, Leroy Riley, William Huston, Tom Mann, Gale Doggette, Robert A. Strickland, Roy Williams, Jessie Goudin, Margaret Sweat

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

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

Mr. Taylor recognized and welcomed Mr. Danny Black from South Carolina Alliance attending the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting April 1, 2014

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Awards & Recognitions**

Proclamation - Recognition of Hannah Houck

Mr. Taylor read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Houck.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to approve the proclamation and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said the Capitol Sales Tax Committee did conclude their work and we do have a 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only an Ordinance to that effect. I did want to kinda briefly go

over the project list with you. We will have a full presentation at our next meeting at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading when we have a full ordinance prepared. There are 13 projects at this time listed by the Capitol Sales Tax Committee, #1 is Beach Restoration at Edisto Beach at \$4 million, #2 was I-95 Business Loop Improvements at \$6.6 million, #3 Colleton County Airport Terminal Renovation \$1.6 million, #4 Colleton County Law Enforcement Center \$5.1 million, #5 Colleton County Solid Waste Transfer Station \$1.8 million, #6 Hampton Street Auditorium Renovations \$1.7 million, #7 Hampton, Washington, Ivanhoe Water Line \$691 thousand, #8 Colleton County Rural Water System \$1.5 million, #9 Well Pump for Lodge & Backup Generator for Lodge, Smoaks & Williams \$210 thousand, #10 Recreational Center Improvements, Fitness Center, Splashpad, & Gymnasium Expansion \$3.2 million, #11 Water/Wastewater to serve Airport Parcel C and Venture Park \$700 thousand, #12 Harrelson Building Customer Service Center \$1.9 million and #13 Town of Cottageville Recreational Area \$290 thousand. Total projects right at \$29.7 million. We projected to create somewhere in the area of \$26-30 million. That is the projections over the 8 years for the bond. We will discuss more at the next meeting.

We are still working on the budget and it is pretty much like it was from our last budget meeting. We have had a little bit better return in the last two months of reporting on our vehicle revenues. When we last met they were looking at being \$150-\$200,000 off from where we projected we would be. That has tended to recover in March and April from where it was. It is my understanding from working with the Auditor and Treasurers' Offices that, that is their heavy month of billing and that is where those 180 day bills mostly were caught up within those two months. Hopefully that is starting to catch itself back up in terms of what it looks like now.

On the downside we did get our health load factor finally from BCBS. That ended up being roughly and I know you Dr. Flowers, you had a number of questions about that at the budget meeting. That ended up being at roughly 34% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, which is going to be a \$306,000 impact overall on the health increase over the general fund and our other funds roughly another \$75,000 from what we have here. I had told you \$100,000 originally, but we had not received our load factor then. These two will kinda balance themselves out. Everything else is fairly...inaudible... I know the sheriff is here tonight to talk to you about his personnel changes.

One other issue we have regarding the budget and if any of you were here last night at our State Legislative Delegation Meeting we talked through that with primarily Senator Matthews and the other house members that were there, the Senate voted to reduce the LGF on us. They are still working through that, but they have told us if there is any new revenues created that we were 1<sup>st</sup> on the list to put that back in. I was a little dishearten to hear that from Sen. Matthews because he has generally been a pretty starch defender of LGF, but for him to say that I am hoping that they know there is some other revenues out there, but that will have a budgetary impact and we will certainly be watching that through the next month before we get final reading of the budget.

**Old Business**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 14-O-06, to Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Dr. Flowrs and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **By Title Only**, Ordinance 14-O-07, To Impose, Subject To Referendum Approval And Pursuant To The Capital Project Sales Tax Act, A One Percent (1%) Sales And Use Tax (The "Tax") Within Colleton County For Not More Than Eight (8) Years; To Order A County-Wide Referendum On The Question Of Imposing The Tax And To Prescribe The Contents Of The Ballot Question; To Specify The Purposes For Which The Proceeds From The Tax Are To Be Used, The Maximum Time For The Imposition Of The Tax; And To Provide For Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading **By Title Only**, Ordinance 14-R-08, Providing for a Fee In Lieu of Tax Arrangement for Project Meter; Providing for the Allocation of Fees-In-Lieu of Taxes Payable Under the Agreement for Development for a Joint County Industrial Park with Hampton County; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **By Title Only**, Ordinance 14-O-09, To Further Amend the Agreement for Development of a Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Colleton County, South Carolina and Hampton 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 1<sup>st</sup> reading by title only was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-38, To Approve a Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability Status and to Designate an ADA Coordinator.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-39, To Declare Saturday, May 10th, as Stewardship Day 2014 for the Edisto River Basin.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-40, To Reschedule the June and July County Council Meeting and Cancel the August County Council Meeting.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-41, To Award the Contract for County Audit Services.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-42, To Approve the County's Sponsoring and Providing the Local Match for a PARD Grant for Recreation Improvements at the Springtown Community Center.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-43, To Declare May 15<sup>th</sup> as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to Declare the Week of May 11<sup>th</sup> as Police Week.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

### **Council Time**

Mr. Murdaugh- Our Capitol Project Sales Tax Committee has been working real hard and tirelessly and ...inaudible... I wanted to thank the members of that committee for what they have done so far and we owe them a debt of gratitude for helping us with those projects. Also just wanted to point out that we started our meeting tonight as we customarily do with a word of prayer and we always have here, but I would just like to note that our Supreme Court has finally recognized that we have a right to do that and I think that is a just ruling and sometimes they get it right.

Mr. Robinson- I would like to say to our citizens at Edisto Beach, I know you just recently had a day of prayer and I was called and asked to come. Regretfully I had to go out of town to a relative who was sick and I could not be there, but I was there in my spirit and prayers for you all and wanted you to know, otherwise I would have been there.

Dr. Flowers- I would like to echo what Mr. Murdaugh said a while ago about the commission and the hard work they have done. I am also glad to see the Supreme Court ruled in favor of prayer at public meetings...inaudible... our country was founded upon this principle and we should continue to have that. One other thing in reference to what the administrator said a few minutes ago, certainly we are looking at some significant increase in healthcare costs with the new Affordable Care Act. We are going to see much more of this funding for our healthcare in the next year or two and it is going to be a significant increase in our budgetary experience. I just want to warn everybody that this is just the beginning of a difficult time we will go through for the next several years relative to this issue. It is going to require a large portion of our budget each year to meet the obligations we will have to meet under this new act. Being in the medical profession I see the difficulties because we deal with it every day. It is not anything good as far as the financial aspects are concerned.

Mr. Whetsell- Concurred with what Dr. Flowers had said.

Mr. Taylor-As I was reading through this agenda a going through it I gave some time to reflect on this memorial for the police officers. I don't know whether you have had opportunity to by the memorial we have at the courthouse. Take some time next week if you can, go by and recognize the hard work that our law enforcement really puts in everyday, they never know what kind of a call they are going to. I really appreciate the hard work of law enforcement and the work they do and I think it is very fitting if you would just take some time to go over to the courthouse, there is a memorial there. It is nicely done, just spend some time there and maybe say a word of prayer for their families as well.

**Executive Session**

- a) Economic Development – Project Meter
- b) Contractual – Colleton County Museum and Farmers Market
- c) Personnel - Sheriff

**Regular Session**

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

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

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Phillip M. Taylor, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

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Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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