

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, November 10, 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, Steven Murdaugh in attendance. Evon Robinson, Absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Joseph Hamilton, Donna Lamb, Amy Stivender, Isreal Hodges, Sr., Eleanor Hodges, Mary Henderson, Leroy Henderson, Carl Coffin, Shiela Kearse, Bill Procter, James White, Iris Hill, Jane Darby, Patti Smyer, Johnny Holmes, Kimberly Perkins, James Gahagan, Timothy Grant, Vicki Brown, Millie Murray, Arlene Francis, Nolan Simmons

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

Appearances & Public Presentations

Colleton County Memorial Library- Carl Coffin- Overview of annual report & services

Mr. Coffin gave the overview and council received as information.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting October 7, 2014

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

Purple Heart Proclamation

Mr. Taylor read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Johnny Holmes, Bill Proctor, & James White.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Briefing

Mr. Griffin said he wanted go over a couple of items on the agenda. Item 8 is a Charleston County Multi Park Agreement Amendment. This park includes Boeing and another number of other investments in Charleston County. One item of note. We are going to need to have a 3rd meeting; a 2nd meeting in December for 3rd reading on this. We can do at lunch time one day. It needs to be December 10th or afterwards, if possible if you all can get together tonight we can discuss the meeting time tonight, because we will have to notice that for final reading to get it back over to them. They need it before the end of the year to meet some business needs.

Item "D", we have had a lot of conversation about our safety at boat landings and security. We have been working with both our Legislative Delegation and DNR. There is a pool of money there that is allotted to each county called SC Water Recreation Resource Fund. This fund is actually controlled by SCDNR, but the way the legislation is written, the Legislative Delegation has to actually recommend a project to DNR and then they will consider it for funding, but this is a pool that is set aside just for Colleton County. The 1st two we are looking at in the pilot project for security, would be West Bank Landing and Public Landing. If those go well we would anticipate expanding the program throughout some of the other landings. What we are doing tonight is a resolution requesting the Delegation to recommend to DNR to let the funds go for this purpose.

Item "H", is the Risher Mountain Road site that was the former Westvaco Office, just off McLeod Road. I have the real-estate deal put together, this is to fund it. This would provide service both to the park and we have an ISO class 10 hole on Maple Ridge Road/Cripple Creek area and this will cover that area also and bring them under our class 4.

Item "K" &"L" are both is regards to SCDOT. The 1st we have had some conversation about some additional clearing at exit 62 to help open up the park and some safety needs there. Last time I spoke with you I told you we were in negotiations with SCDOT to get a permit to clear from exit 62 all the way down to exit 57. We would certainly do that in phases and not all at one time. As part of that agreement we have to enter into a maintenance agreement with SCDOT, similar to the one that the City would have at exit 53 and 57 on the interstate. We also did the same thing on Hwy. 17-A at Jacksonboro and at Greenpond.

Item "L" in regards to SCDOT the LPA Agreement allows us to be a partner and manage our own projects that have both State and Federal Funding. This is important for some of our local projects like our intersection improvements at Tuskegee Airman/Academy Road and Hwy. 17 and some other things like that. It would allow us to manage the projects and not have to absorb the administrative costs that SCDOT hands us now and we could also control the timing of the projects. Once they accept them into their program we are at their mercy when they complete the projects. Now that we have passed the CPST it will give us the opportunity such as the water project

that we are working on, rural water project in the upper part of the county. We will have a number of State and Federal Funds that we are actually matching with that money and we can manage our own projects there as well.

Item "M" is consummating an agreement with LCOG. We have been working on the Career Skill Center and we have kinda worked this agreement for a little while with LCOG and they actually manage the center and provide/ allow folks like Palmetto Training to come in and use the facility as well as what they are doing with the Department of Workforce. That is just consummating that relationship, very similar to the agreement with the exception that they are paying us in this agreement that we have with TCL.

Back to DOT there was one other item I did want to mention, we have had a number of calls and requests in regarding to Hwy. 15 coming from Robertson Blvd. back down to roughly where Heritage Trust is, that intersection Bells coming in. A number of accidents have been had. There is no turning lane on that road and you have a number of banks and businesses there. We actually submitted that for a safety project. Both county and city kinda come in and out there. We have actually gotten some positive correspondence back from DOT. They have looked at the vehicle data; looks like they are interested in putting it in their Safety Project Program, so that is moving along as well.

On other items, we have had auditors in this week, last week and this we and are just about finished up now. Everything seems to be going pretty smooth with that including the addition of the Solicitor's Office. They are coming into the audit this year. We have had a few things to work out there, but is coming along pretty well.

The kitchen project is about 70% complete. We are looking at it being complete by January 15th, maybe earlier; looking at a possible grand opening January 31st. We have hired a kitchen manager, Mr. Chad Carter, who is finishing up his masters at Clemson right now in food science. He is also a graduate of Johnson Whales University. He has numerous different experiencing managing these type of facilities as well as kitchens abroad. Good personality, I think ya'll will like him. He will be on board with us no later than the 1st of December. He will put the finishing touches on the equipment and other things we have to do.

Lastly we got the Capital Project Sales Tax passed. In December we will do a resolution declaring the results as well as we will do a reimbursement resolution so we can go ahead and get the design phase started on the projects. Basically that resolution will just say we are declaring these as a general obligation bond project, these costs call all be reimbursed once the bonds are issued. That way we can move forward with the design. We already got a RFP out for the design of the law enforcement center, which will be back in this week. We may have time to get that on the December Agenda or maybe a special meeting to get it moving.

The County Christmas Dinner will be Wednesday, December 17th at noon at the Museum/Farmer's Market. Please put that on your calendar and come if you can.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 14-O-12, To Ratify FY14 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.

No Comments were made

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 14-O-12, To Ratify FY14 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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading, Ordinance 14-O-13, 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 Charleston County as Part of the Joint County Industrial Park and to Amend the Terms of the Agreement.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading, Ordinance 14-O-14, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, Article 14-08-6 – Signs of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-66, To Express Colleton County's Request that the South Carolina General Assembly Increase the Allocation to the Local Government Fund to Both Provide Property Taxpayers with the Relief they have been Promised and Allow County Government the Ability to Provide the State and Local Government Services Required Under State Law.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-67, To Request that the Colleton County State Legislative Delegation Recommend to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources that South Carolina Water Resource Recreation Funds Dedicated to Colleton County be used to Improve Safety and Security at Colleton County Boat Landings.

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

Mr. Murdaugh said I just wanted to ask, I know you mentioned that we submitted a proposal for two landings I presume that is related to this.

Mr. Griffin said this resolution does not actually limit it to just those two, but those will be the 1st two that we are anticipating as pilot ...inaudible...

Mr. Murdaugh said so the scope of what we are going to do is still left to be determined.

Mr. Griffin said that is correct.

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 14-R-68, To Authorize the Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Justice Assistance Grant for the Solicitor's Office Received for FY 2014-2015.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-69, To Declare Surplus Various Computer Equipment and to Authorize Its Sale in Accordance with County Policy.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-70, To Award the Contract for Engineering Services for the Bama Road Drainage Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-71, To Authorize the Transfer of \$154,100.78 from the Fire GOB Debt Service Fund – Fund 131 to the Fire and Rescue Fund – Fund 156 for the Purchase of Property Located at 157 Risher Mountain Road, to Authorize the Purchase of Said Property and to Authorize the County Administrator to Execute all Purchase Documents.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-72, To Approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Colleton County Sheriff's Office and the City of Walterboro Police Department.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-73, To Authorize the Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for the Justice Assistance Grant Received for FY 2014-2015 by the Colleton County Sheriff's Office, to Authorize the Addition of a Sergeant Position within the Sheriff's Office for the Duration of the Grant, to Authorize the Purchase of a Vehicle and Equipment, and to Authorize the Addition of Vehicle and Equipment to the County's Insurance Policy.

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

Dr. Flowers said he noticed this was for the duration of a grant. What happens to this position at the end of the grant, because it is creating a new position?

Mr. Griffin said that is correct. That position would then be a reduction in force if the funding discontinues. It is my understanding and someone from the Sheriff's Department may want to speak regarding this. This has the possibility of being a reoccurring position over two or three years. If it were not to be funded he would issue a reduction in force for that position.

Ms. Stivender said that was correct.

Mr. Murdaugh said I guess this funding includes the purchase of the vehicle and payment for the position, but do we know what the vehicle is and the cost?

Ms. Stivender said we are going to be purchasing a 2014 Dodge Charger. We were budgeted through the grant for \$26,500 for the vehicle. The vehicle we just approved for purchase is going to be roughly about \$24,000, so we are going to come a little bit under budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-74, To Approve the Maintenance Partnership Agreement between Colleton County and the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-75, To Authorize the County Administrator to Enter Into a Project Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 14-R-76, To Approve the Facility Operation Agreement between Colleton County and the Lowcountry Council of Governments for the Operation of the Colleton County Career Skills Center.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-77, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

The clerk gave ballots to the council members for the Colleton County Library Board of Trustees.

Results of the ballots: Jane McT. Brown, Janis Blocker, Sylvia Rowland

Mr. Murdaugh said there was an applicant who applied for numerous boards and would recommend Keep Colleton Beautiful. We know we can only appoint them to one so I would just recommend for the sake of us voting 6 different times that we appoint Ms. Seals to that board.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to appoint all of them by acclimation and was seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-78, To authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Kimberly Perkins- I am from the Governor's Office-Continuum of Care and was of the understanding that I was going to be part of the agenda tonight, but I don't see us listed on there for a request for office space in the county building.

Mr. Taylor said he would make an exception and let her speak.

I am the Regional Program Director from the Governor's Office on Continuum Care. We serve emotionally disturbed children in eleven counties in our state. We currently are hoping to get a Continuum Care office here in Colleton. We currently have an office in Orangeburg and Beaufort County and our main office is in Charleston. We currently serve 6 children in this county and we have an influx of applications coming in and I think it would benefit if we actually had an office here to serve the kids. I think it would benefit taxpayers overall and did a calculation. It costs about \$8,655.90 to hospitalize a child for Medicaid, so if we have children where we can do services in the home, in the most least restricted environment, which is what our services are that we link them to behavioral modification. We link them to family services in the home, crisis management, so that it prevents police involvement, DJJ, that kind of thing and we work with the family to help them alleviate ...inaudible... where they need to be at home and not in a hospital or DJJ. It is really our hope that you guys would allow us in. Guardian Ad Litem also has an office here and they are also under the Governor's Office. We hope you will also allow us to have a space.

Mr. Taylor said he appreciated her coming tonight and communicating our staff. I think you have been here and been able to see that we are faced with some issues in relation to how we get funded to provide access to groups of this nature, so we are under some strain right now in relating to that same issue you are talking about, so we can refer that information right on up the food chain and see if we can make some things happen. As you say it is a very necessary service, it is just where do we get the money from?

Mr. Murdaugh said the office that you need, you are not meeting with your clientele however you want to refer to it, are you meeting them in the office? I know you said you go do home visits. Is this a place where you would have children coming into the office or are you looking at

Ms. Perkins interrupted, they do come there occasionally, like to do assessments, but most of the meetings happen the referrals come from the schools, Dept. of Mental Health, DJJ, DSS sometimes, so actually those meeting are taking place in the homes or in those agencies, so most of the time that is exactly where they would take place

...inaudible... but there would be a need to have an office where they could do assessments or do notes that kind of thing. It wouldn't have to be a very big office space. We are not asking for a conference room or anything like that.

Mr. Murdaugh said but your office only serves children though; and when you define children as less than 18 years old?

Ms. Perkins said right the youngest child we have served was 4 the oldest is 18 unless they have an IEP and are actually in school at 21, so we can serve up to the age of 21 depending on the severity of the mental illness.

Dr. Flowers said we would love to be able to accommodate it, but as you know we are under budget restraints. You should carry a message back to the governor if you don't mind and tell her we would love to see her put full Local Government Funding in her budget, so that we can at least know that she is on board to help us. We need that money. It has been cut so severely until we are having difficulty with our budget. It is not anything as far as you are concerned I'm sure, but she needs to understand that is one of our problems and all of the people in Columbia need to understand that we can only do so much, we can only stretch our dollar so far. We would be delighted to try to help do what we can and certainly these mentally ill children need help, there is no question about that. I am a physician, I have been practicing for 50 years now, so I understand the needs, but also that we need as far as rural communities are concerned we need full funding from the State relative to the law. They are breaking the law every time they don't fully fund us and then they are throwing things...inaudible... on our back down here, but yet these are unfunded mandates that are coming down to us. We have a real issue with that relative to how we can continue to stretch our dollars any further. We would be glad to certainly take this into consideration.

Council Time

Mr. Murdaugh said he just wanted to say Happy Veteran's Day to our Veterans. Just a comment and I don't know that there is anything we can do about it, but keep pressing forward, our voter turnout is still discouraging in the county. I don't know what we can do to try to get people out to vote, but our percentages, apparently our library has a higher percentage of people that come to the library than we get to come out and vote. Maybe we ought to let people vote at the library. I don't know what you do, but it just an observation that voter turnout and the only thing I know we can do is keep encouraging people to participate in the system, but it is certainly discouraging when you look on the Statewide map and we are one of the lower percentages.

Dr. Flowers said he would echo that. I would like to congratulate everyone that ran for public office this year. It takes a lot of time and effort and I applaud people for running for public office and serve the public. I want to congratulate Mr. Whetsell on his re-election. Also I certainly think we need to, I'm a veteran myself and am very disappointed in the turnout that we had for the Veteran's Parade yesterday. It was very meager and I would like to say I applaud all the fellas who have gone before us that have kept this country free because freedom is certainly not free. It is a big price to be

paid and it has been paid by hundreds of thousands of people that have been killed to keep this country free and we need to remind everybody of that. This is a good time to do it on Veteran's Day. I just wanted to remind everyone of that.

Executive Session

- a) Personnel
- b) Economic Development

Regular Session

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: _____

Phillip M. Taylor, Sr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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