

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, October 11, 2016
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 11, 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 (Late arrival) in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Lou Ann Adams, Roy Williams, Jessie Gooding, James Rutledge, Sabrina Johnson

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

Awards & Recognitions

Eagle Scout Proclamations – Thomas Frank, Claude Gibson, Ethan Smallwood

Mr. Murdaugh read the Proclamation.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Murdaugh presented the proclamations to the scouts present (Thomas Frank & Claude Gibson) Mr. Colson; Scoutmaster accepted the proclamation for Ethan Smallwood who was unable to attend.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting September 6, 2016

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Murdaugh said he would make a motion to amend the agenda to change the title of item “k” New Business Resolution 16-R-84, title to read to Authorize the Waiver of Solid Waste Residential Debris Disposal Fees, Building Permit Fees and Building Inspection Fees.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

Senator Margie Bright Matthews- Legislative Update

Mr. Murdaugh said Senator Margie Bright Matthew was unable to attend this evening, but we will reschedule her to be here at a later date.

Michael Butler, Workforce Dev. Dir. - Workforce Regional/Local Strategic 4 Year Plan

Mr. Butler gave an overview of the Regional/Local Strategic 4 year plan and explained the goals for the continuation of the SC work ready communities, Colleton County being the very 1st county that was 100% work ready certified; right now SC is the 1st state in the nation that is fully 100% work ready certified. We want to continue that for all counties.

Mr. Murdaugh said for the record he wanted to acknowledge that councilman Taylor is now here and all members are present.

Andy Brack & Dean Van Pelt – Update Promise Zone

Mr. Dean Van Pelt said he was serving as the Promise Zone Coordinator working with the South Carolina Alliance and gave a quick update on the Promise Zone.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said obviously since last Tuesday evening it has been spent with preparation for the storm and then our response afterwards. We have been very busy including the weekend. I did want to give you a brief update. Obviously Saturday as the storm passed through. We got all of our resources ready and put them on the road with SCDOT to try to get all of our primary and secondary highways cleared. They were clearly overwhelmed. We had the second wave of wind that came through Morning that really turned things around and we thought we were looking pretty good when we got up, but unfortunately that was not the case. I do want to commend both our Fire-Rescue and Sheriff's Office for their response during the storm. Thankfully we had no human casualties nor injuries that we are aware of during the storm. They did a fine job of both keeping people and their properties secured ...inaudible... when they needed them as well as assisting some of our surrounding counties, especially Beaufort with the issues that they have had. Obviously Edisto Beach was the hardest hit. We were on the scene 1st thing Sunday morning with our damage assessment team within the county, which consists of primarily our Assessor's Office appraisal staff. Chairman Murdaugh also joined us to go down to Edisto. Spent most of the day with that process they got up to about six million dollars in damages, which we knew we had met our threshold with FEMA so we moved on back to town and spent most of yesterday here

around Walterboro. We had a team from the National Insurance Bureau come down today. They are back on Edisto today and they actually have some technology, which is similar to Google Maps, you know how you can click on that and see a street view of businesses and such. This technology is mounted on all through the vehicle and it will actually grid all of Edisto Beach and take 360 images of all of the damage. Collect the data and provide it back to us. They did have pretty massive damage at least the first mile and one half to two miles front beach three to five feet sand all the way across Palmetto Blvd. Beyond that, luckily it was primarily flooding, shingles, siding, those type things. There is a lot of flooding down there. Obviously people getting on the Island is a big issue for them and it is going to be some time before they can get all that going.

From a county perspective, I have a notice in your packet that was sent out roughly 3:00pm this afternoon. We have met and activated our county debris management contract with Ashbritt Environmental. If you recall during the ice storm, very similar situation we asked all residence to push their vegetative debris to the edge of the right of way, no closer than 15 ft. to the actual edge of pavement/road and it outlines the public right of ways. We will start that collection Saturday.

We added an item to your agenda Item "j" which is the professional Services Agreement with Tetra Tech. This is involving debris monitoring under FEMA activation, they require a debris management contractor to follow the actual tree contractor as they move along to make sure they are doing what they are supposed to. We actually had it in our procurement pipeline, but it hadn't gotten there yet, so we are moving it along a little quicker.

As we have done before, we are going to waive our Solid Waste C&D Landfill debris disposal fees at our facility on Greenpond Hwy., as well as building permit and inspection fees related to storm damage. That would be item "k" those are the two items we added.

I did want you to know in regarding roads we have a lot of damage to the roads, a lot of trees across them, this is similar to the ice storm, but unfortunately it's got water involved with it too, so it is a combination between the ice and the flood. We have right now twenty nine roads that are closed within the county, there is another list that Ms. Harvey our county engineer sent about 4:30 this afternoon I wanted to get to you. Those are either to do with the river rising or they are washed out areas related to the storm. We will have by Thursday morning any roads that are passable will have been cleared of debris, at least cut and pushed by the roadside so that school buses on those roads can get through.

I want to thank our local contractors have really stepped in because we are really overwhelmed. We only have three crews that can go out and do this. Allen Butler Enterprises, PH Padgett Construction, Carroll Enterprises, IP Builders, JH Hiers Construction and Wood Brothers Construction all jumped in along with Ackerman Landscaping to get these roads opened up and it has been a huge help to us. They activated at seven o'clock this morning and are working all day and probably will be till

dark and tomorrow as well. I do want to thank those folks and if you see them, please thank them for helping out.

As far as county damage, what we have been able to assess so far, we did have two county convenience sites, one at Jacksonboro and one at Hudson Mill that were damaged rather extensively by tree damage falling on some of our equipment and such there. Recreation, Ace Basin Complex came out fairly well, they did have some damage to some fences and those facilities there. Green Acres Park, the shelter is going to be a total loss. Dogwood Hills, the golf course itself has a pretty fair amount of tree damage there, but no damage to the facilities. One large tree close to the pump house and irrigation, but it didn't get it so that was very fortunate. We have six boat landings that have trees down and damage to some extent. Cheehaw Landings' floating dock has got some issues. Looks like the pilings have been damaged and we will have to do some work.

Our preliminary damage assessment, we will be meeting with FEMA on Friday. That is where we come in with ...inaudible... requests to FEMA. We are collecting all that information, which would be the storm impacts to the county, which would be our overtime, the extra shifts we have to pull on as well as these damage items as I've already talk to you on. Our threshold as a county is \$140,000.00 which we have met that very rapidly. As you remember from the ice storm our largest expense is going to be the tree removal from the storm.

Mr. Murdaugh said with the flooding that we have had is FEMA giving any kind of money for repairing these roads.

Mr. Griffin said they do. Once we do our preliminary damage assessment, then you qualify for mitigation grants further down the line. Magellan Road, we did replace a 36" pipe with a 48" pipe, which is now washed out. I guess we need to go up a couple sizes larger next time. They were getting it filled into today to get passable. We have a couple like that, but it will qualify for those disaster mitigation grants as we move forward. Lowcountry food bank contacted us today, offered disaster recovery and we are going to provide them some space to store food and get that repackaged and back out to individuals that need it.

Mr. Murdaugh said on a personal level, I know you have already recognized the Fire-Rescue and Sheriff's Office, but it is just rare that I actually get a glimpse into what is going on as a county within the departments and being in and out of the EOC and going with the disaster assessment team. You get a rare glimpse into how the county departments actually work. I am not going to individually name departments, but I think all of the county staff really stepped up and I got to see what ya'll do. The citizens should be proud of really all of the employees and the effort they do. They have family members at home too, but they come in to work and do things to help everybody else. I didn't want to go without saying that. Certainly the Fire-Rescue and Sheriff's Office go above and beyond, but everybody chipped in and it is rare to see that as a council

member and I just want to thank all of the county employees & staff for what they did during the storm.

Mr. Griffin said a couple of items on the agenda Item “d” that is a request from Habitat for Humanity. That property is at the corner of N. Lemacks and Sweat Street. It was a former gas station, a very small lot and a few years ago the property was actually bought at a tax sale and I think the person that purchased it felt there were some hazards to the property and unbeknownst deeded it back to the county, which we have since done our homework and learned all the gas tank issues and everything it had prior to have been resolved with DHEC. It is small and we don’t really have a use for it in that respect. It’s in the middle of a residential community. They are requesting that we deed it over to them. They have a number of habitat homes right across the street and we thought it would be a good use of the property. Item “i” we spoke back during the budget process about some assistance for the nursing lab program. This is actually a carryover from last year; Ms. Carmichael was still getting this program together. I think she spoke with a number of council members and we spoke about it. They have since pulled that together and she has already gathered a lot of other funding for the project as well. That is a carryover from that item we had earlier.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 16-O-06, To Ratify FY16 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 public comments were made.

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 16-O-07, To Provide for an Encroachment Permit Process for Property Owners along the former Seaboard Coastline Railroad Right-of-Way, for which Property was Conveyed to the County and the City by Deed of CSX Transportation, Inc., dated August 5, 1991 and Recorded October 16, 1991 in Deed Book 538 at Page 55 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Colleton County; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 16-O-08, to Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, in Conjunction with Charleston County, South Carolina; to Provide for a Written Agreement with Charleston County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; to Provide for the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Among Taxing

Entities Having Jurisdiction Over the Park; to Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 16-O-09, Granting Easement No. 895166 to South Carolina Electric and Gas Across a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located on Ground Circle near Jonesville Road in County Colleton, SC; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Electrical and Gas Facilities within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 16-O-10, To Amend Chapter 13, Section 13.04.010 of the Colleton County Code of Laws to Provide for the Adoption of Certain Updated Codes as Mandated by State Law.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 16-O-11, To Provide for the Sale of Real Property Owned by Colleton County, South Carolina to Colleton Habitat for Humanity; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 1st reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-78, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for Various Grants for FY 2016-2017.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-79, To Award the Contract for Turf Maintenance and Insect Control for the Colleton County Recreation Department.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-80, To Authorize the Purchase of Equipment by the Fleet Management Department.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-81, To Approve Purchase of Equipment for the Jonesville Convenience Site.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-82, To Authorize an Appropriation from the General Fund (Fund 100) Fund Balance in the Amount of \$75,000 to USC Salkehatchie Direct Assistance.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-83, To Renew the Professional Services Agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc. for Emergency Debris Monitoring.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 16-R-84, To Authorize the Waiver of Solid Waste Residential Debris Disposal Fees, Building Permit fees & Building Inspection Fees.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

Mr. Griffin said if he could break in just a second; one item I did want to recognize I left out I do want to recognize we have a new Finance Director on staff, Mr. Jon Carpenter. He has been with us about a week and a half. Obviously we put him right into the fire with this FEMA stuff. We said here we go we are getting ready with the preliminary damage assessment here you and the department heads have at it. John comes to us from the Department of Juvenile Justice where he was the fiscal control officer. Prior to that he is a graduate of Appalachian State University, he is also a CPA and prior to that he was the Finance Director for Saluda County School District as well as Fiscal Control Officer with Richland County. Very fortunate to have Jon on and when were in one of our many, many meetings at ECO and calls we had Josh Morton who is a State EMD Representative and he looked down at the table and said that guy looks familiar. He said I am from Saluda where are you from? He said oh yeah that guy knows what he is doing, just give it to him. So, that is a good sign. I just wanted to recognize Jon.

Public Comments

None

Council Time

Dr. Flowers said he wanted to echo what the chairman had said about the great job that our county employees have done in this disaster we just had. All of us know that is a lot of hard work, long hours and we certainly appreciate all their dedication and perseverance in trying to bring this disaster that we have had to a positive conclusion. We appreciate everything they do.

Mr. Taylor said he too.

Mr. Whetsell said he echoed Dr. Flowers' remarks.

Mr. Robinson said he wanted to concur with his remarks also. To my surprise, I did get a call giving me compliments on what was going on in the county and I said no, I think you need to call Mr. Griffin and his staff. They are the ones that deserve the compliments for what is going on. Everybody is just doing a good job and we appreciate it.

Mr. Griffin said he appreciated it. We have some very fine people on our staff and it makes your heart feel good when you turn around and you have folks calling you that really don't have jobs and say tell me where you need me.

Executive Session

- a) Economic Development
 1. Project C
 2. Project Global

- b) Personnel
 - 1. Fire-Rescue

- c) Contractual
 - 1. CPST
 - 2. Real Estate, Public Defender's Office

Regular Session

Mr. Murdaugh said items were discussed in executive session.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to authorize the county administrator to enter into an agreement for rental of an office space for the Public Defender's Office on Lemacks Street and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

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**