

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013
6:00 P.M.
COLLETON MUSEUM, 506 E. WASHINGTON ST.**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 6:00 PM, at the Colleton Museum, 506 E. Washington St. Phillip Taylor called the meeting to order with Council Members, Gene Whetsell, Dr. Flowers, Steven Murdaugh, Evon Robinson (arrived 6:15) in attendance.

Others present included: Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Kevin Griffin, Dennis Averkin, Cary Coker, Susan Keith, Thomas & Donny Frank, Sharon Millings, Lance Calcutt, Kyle Gluck, Shirley Gibson, Claude Gibson, Pauline Todd, Pam Sheaf, Jean Harrigal, Donna Lamb. Lorine Ward, Adrienne Cobbs, Chandler Taylor, Susan Johnson, Donna Grant, Ruber Carter, Andy Strickland, Becky Hill, Theodore Reed, Shakerra Green, Roy Williams, Eleanor Hodges, Mary Henderson, Isreal Hodges, Leroy Henderson, Maeliza Grant, Cornelius Hamilton, Lynette Fryar

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

Appearances & Public Presentations

Sue Keith, Keep Colleton Beautiful Commission- Present Annual Report

Ms. Keith gave an overview of the accomplishments of the commission.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting November 5, 2013

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards & Recognitions

Recognition of Patricia Grant, Clerk of Court and Colleton County Fire-Rescue for Decorating the Courthouse.

Mr. Taylor said he wanted recognize Mrs. Grant and Fire-Rescue personnel for a job well done decorating the Courthouse and they have pictures on the Fire-Rescue Website if anyone wishes to see them.

Mr. Taylor recognized the boy scouts attending the meeting.

Administrative Briefing

Mr. Griffin said they had a rather extensive Administrative briefing so he submitted to them tonight in your packet.

Mr. Griffin said he wanted to extend a Merry Christmas to everyone and remind council 5:00 o'clock on Sunday afternoon will be the Walterboro Christmas parade and have a County vehicle for the council members to use in the parade.

Public Hearing

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Taylor request that Mr. Slayter come forward and help council members with any questions regarding the zoning changes.

1st Reading Ordinance 13-O-14, To Amend Chapter 14.08 – Zoning, Section 14.08-2 Zoning District Regulations, of the Colleton County Zoning Ordinance.

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

Mr. Murdaugh said he would just like an overview of all of the changes.

Mr. Slayter explained what these three ordinances represent are changes that came about as a result of discussion from the Planning Commission. You may recall when we adopted the zoning ordinance in 2010, I informed council as with any new regulatory code we would make changes over time, in part because as you live with those regulations, you learn what works, what doesn't work and what needs a little refining in order to make it more practical in terms of administering and that is what all three of these amendments are. In a brief way I will make a couple of brief comments on each one. On the 1st one 13-O-14, basically each zoning district in the county has allows a series of permitted uses. As well as permitted uses it has uses called special exceptions. Those activities have to appear before the Board of Zoning of Appeals to get permission to conduct those activities. A lot of what those represent are attempts to streamline the ordinance. What the ordinance had attempted to accomplish when we initially adopted it was to develop a series of categories for certain types of activities and break it down based on their location throughout the county. That is to say if you are out in the rural portion of the county, you would have a smaller footprint or allow for a smaller footprint, whereas the closer you came into the City of Walterboro, you have a larger footprint. The theory behind all of this was that most of the infrastructure was in and around the City of Walterboro, whereas the further you got out there wasn't as much infrastructure and therefore to allow much larger footprint or intensive use would not be a practical thing. ...inaudible... in terms of administering the ordinance it was

really becoming more cumbersome and in fact a little bit redundant, so what we decided to do is looking at this in a more global sense is consolidated and streamlines a lot of these categories so that you would be able to do what is permitted without the kind of segregation based on size, be it retail office, service use those kinds of things. We also had a few applications for simple things like I believe the 1st thing is cemeteries, we didn't permit a commercial cemetery out in the rural portions of the county, so it was kinda these little issues that would popup over the last couple of years that we have attempted to try to remedy. The other two ordinances, the next one dealing with signs and I believe the 3rd one deals with the definition of a Marina. Again it was sort of ...inaudible... many of you are probably familiar with in terms political seasons you will find political signs, particularly in Charleston County, they are all in the right of way and what was becoming more confusing for the public was trying to explain why in Charleston County DOT allowed them in the right of way and we weren't doing it here. In conversation with DOT, it just became easier just to make it uniform so that it wasn't problematic for the public to try to understand the distinction between the two. Because it represented a burden to the county it was actually more of a burden on DOT because they were the ones ...inaudible...With the definition of a marina to try to add a little clarity to the ordinance.

Mr. Murdaugh said with the information we have here it just isn't clear and it is just difficult to tell whether it is the language or removal of the use all together.

Mr. Slayter said I can speak to that one point. We are not removing any uses all we are doing all we are doing is consolidating where you had again sort of a high archie in the zoning districts and collapsing it so that the use is still permitted, we just got rid of the size requirements, with the dimensional requirement that was associated with it. We are not changing the spirit of any.

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading Ordinance 13-O-15, To Amend Chapter 14.08 – Zoning, Section 14.08-6 Signs, of the Colleton County Zoning Ordinance.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor said madam please note councilman Robinson is here.

1st Reading Ordinance 13-O-16, To Amend Chapter 14.08 – Zoning, Section 14.08-11 Definitions, of the Colleton County Zoning Ordinance.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st reading of Ordinance 13-O-17, To Create Chapter 3.36 – Property Taxes, of Title 3 – Revenue and Finance, of the Code of Ordinances of Colleton County and Section 3.36.20 – Installment Payment of Taxes as Part of Chapter 3.36. **BY TITLE ONLY**

A motion to approve 1st Reading by Title Only was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

Mr. Murdaugh said he wanted the Administrator to help him out on this.

Mr. Griffin said there was a change in the tax code made by the State, I want to say 4-5 years ago now, which allowed, prior to, we did not allow for prepayment installment of taxes, then you still have to adopt a local ordinance. We as a county have never done it. I think chairman Taylor had requested we take a look at it and put it on for 1st reading. I had communicated with the Treasurer. She feels like the system is setup flexible enough that we could put this program into place if county council so chooses and it got to us a little late when we were getting the agenda out, so we did it by Title and we will have the full ordinance to you at the next council meeting.

Dr. Flowers said that should clarify it a lot more and be able to ask appropriate questions.

Mr. Griffin said one of the key things to understand with it is that it is a prepayment of the future year's taxes. It is not an installment of back taxes. You are prepaying the next years taxes and a lot of times different folks what to pay that a little along and along rather than a lump sum in January, so to pay your next January 15th 2015 taxes you would actually start an installment plan say February or March depending on how we set it up in the ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-101, To Implement a Human Affairs Council in Colleton County.

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

Mr. Murdaugh said I am assuming we will fill in the gaps so to speak on this as far as size and makeup. What is the process we are going to go by to do this?

Mr. Taylor said the next step we are planning on doing is sit down with Ms. Saunders and Kevin and staff and kinda work through a framework of what the size and scope and kinda clearly define some of the responsibilities so we could address it a little further, so we want to give the staff enough time to kinda work through it and kinda give us something that would be suitable for the framework. This just initiates the process for us.

Dr. Flowers said looking through the information we received and acting on this it appears what they were proposing from the state level was very large, a large type of committee. In my opinion I think we have to be realistic about the number on the committee. ...inaudible...I think we need to look at this very carefully and structure it so that it will be functional and ...inaudible...

Mr. Robinson said if we succeed ...inaudible... will council appoint these members?

Mr. Griffin said this is a new process to everyone. Generally we will go out and look at a county that has already done something like this but everybody is doing the same thing and at the same time, so we are going to have to work on this.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-102, To Approve the Use of the Old Brown Hardware Parking Lot for the Band of Blue to Prepare for the Christmas Parade.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-103, To Appoint Employees to the Colleton County Grievance Committee.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-104 To Designate December 3, 2013 as Colleton County All Stars Day.

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

Mr. Taylor read the resolution and presented it to Mr. Grant and Mr. Hamilton.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-105, To Award Bid FMD-07 for the Purchase of Aluminum Refuse Trailer.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-106, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid CC-10 for the Renovation of the Stairwell and Installation of a New HVAC Unit for the Old Jail/Council Chambers Building.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-107, To Authorize the Submittal of a Grant Application for the 2013 Susteen Community Outreach Mobile Forensics Grant.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-108, to Authorize an Appropriation from E-911 (Fund 141) Fund Balance to Cover the Costs of Uniforms and Dispatch Chairs for E-911 Communications.

A motion was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-109, To Approve Appointment to the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor said for the record Ms. Shirlean Muckenfuss of the SC Indian Development Council, Inc.

Resolution 13-R-110, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

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

Mr. Taylor said it has properly moved and seconded that Mr. Bennett be appointed by acclimation.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 13-R-111, To Declare Surplus Various 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.

Public Comments

Mr. Cary Coker- Complained about the speeding traffic on Winter Drive.

Council Time

All of the council members extended warm wishes to everyone for the Holidays.

Executive Session

- a) Economic Development
- b) Personnel- 1)Sheriff 2)Auditor
- c) Legal Opinion-Delinquent Tax

Regular Session

Mr. Taylor said all of the items were discussed in executive 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**