

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Colleton County Council met on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM, Virtually. Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Dr. Joseph Flowers, Art Williams, Phillip Taylor in attendance (via zoom)

Others included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Meagan Utsey

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting November 10, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

Maryann Blake, Vice Chairman of Voter Registration and Elections Commission

Ms. Blake – We need a larger building to accommodate our two staff members and all this fabulous new voting equipment that I am sure all of you saw during our recent Presidential Election. A million dollars or more of voting equipment that we are now having to store in the lobby of our present headquarters building, which is at PRTC Headquarters. We do have a lease agreement that we have executed or going to execute in the very new future over at the administrative building where PRTC is just to house the equipment. It is not adequate over there it will be for a very short time period, but with any of the elections, we need to have our staff and our equipment all at the same location where we can get the equipment up and running and make sure it is properly running correctly for all of the elections and some place where it can be carried out smoothly. I think our elections staff and volunteers have all done an excellent job with all of this, but ...inaudible... Out at the PRTC building we were having to store our equipment down the hallway and upstairs in one of the office rooms, which is now going to be rented out and that is the reason we had to go get extra storage. Ideally what we would have would be one location building that would have bay doors such as the old ford building downtown Walterboro, that is just one example of a building, building type that could be purchased and renovated or build a building on county land, but we need bay doors for when we have the equipment taken out to the locations we can bring the equipment back, it can be unload and reloaded on to the vehicles we have at that time. To keep everything properly

secure and that is our proposal to council. The request of either getting a building that we can refurbish and redo to house our election staff, room enough for our volunteers during election time and have all of our equipment at the same location, so elections can run more smoothly for Colleton County. Either build a building or purchase a building and have it renovated.

Mr. Williams asked how many square feet was she talking about?

Ms. Blake said are you asking how many square feet we would potentially need or that we are using?

Mr. Williams said yes, what you would potentially need.

Ms. Blake said I think what we would need is at least 3,000 sq./ft. to make everything work smoothly.

Mr. Taylor said a quick question maybe two. One is in relation to when is the next time that you feel like the staff will need use of the machines where they will have to upload all of them or something. When is the next time that would come up?

Ms. Blake said our next big election will be the 2022 elections, so we need to have something in place and up and ready to go by that time.

Mr. Taylor said let me stop there. Thank you.

Mr. Murdaugh said I know we have an item on the agenda tonight that would partially address that, but this is probably an issue that we can take up, we are still planning on trying to have a council retreat. Obviously COVID impacts that, but this could be an item that may need to make its way onto the agenda.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin – 1st of all I just wanted to inform you that our annual Christmas Luncheon will be next Tuesday, December 15th. We will be following COVID protocol with this so it will be a takeout luncheon, but if any of you want to participate in some sort of way, please feel free to give us a call and we will see how can make that workout.

A couple of items on the agenda tonight, a little bit unorthodox, but we have two ordinances on here for 2nd Reading and Public Hearing. That is in regards to the Bar Marine Fee-In-Lieu Tax Agreement for industry expansion there, as well as our Multi County Park Agreement with Charleston County in which we are the donor county. Both of those needed to be approved by the end of the year and at the time we were scheduling this we weren't sure when we could get the 3rd reading meeting together. That meeting has now been scheduled for next Wednesday, at 1:00PM. You can either join the meeting via zoom or you can call in. We will send that information out later this week. It shouldn't take more than about 10-15 minutes at the most to get those accomplished.

To follow up on Ms. Blake, I am grateful to Palmetto Rural Telephone Coop. I am sure you all have seen the voting machines by now, but I think they take up about five times as much space as the previous machines. They are somewhat tuff to move around. We worked through, fortunately they put together a good bit of staff even from our Summer Feeding Program, Facilities, Ms. Angela has been great to work with on getting all that, I don't know how she coordinated it all to be honest with you getting all those big machines moved around, but I do want to thank PRTC they did have all those machines throughout the building, was able week before last to sit down with Jason and his staff and worked out a minable price for the additional staff they had. The agreement we have on the agenda tonight will be a two year agreement. Our thinking on that was with that two years that would get us to the next election cycle as well as give us sufficient time to plan what will be a pretty large building. We do have a lease both on the current space they are in now as well as, actually the new lease that we are going into the storage, one of the grants we got here in the last month or so will pay for that. That portion is for the next two years, so that will cover us there and then we do have a significant lease that we are paying for the space now that we may could put towards debt service or get some other options for their space as well.

Mr. Williams asked what progress had been made towards accommodating the folks at the Delegation Office for moving from the back part of that building for safety reasons to the front part where it is vacant by the chamber.

Mr. Griffin said they had some conversations on today and I believe we've got that worked out. We just need for them to move completely out of the space they are in now so we can use that for another office and we are working through those. I should have that worked out by the end of the week.

Public Hearing

2nd Reading Ordinance 20-O-02, Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Among Colleton County And Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams, Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams; Providing For Payment By Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of *Ad Valorem* Taxes; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement 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 Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams, Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

No Comments were made.

3rd Reading Ordinance 20-O-09, To Ratify FY20 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.

2nd Reading Ordinance 20-O-10, 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

No Comments were made.

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 20-O-02, Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Among Colleton County And Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams, Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams; Providing For Payment By Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of *Ad Valorem* Taxes; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement 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 Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Bar Marine Group, LLC, And James W. Williams, Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd Reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 20-O-09, To Ratify FY20 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 Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance 20-O-10, 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 2nd Reading was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 20-R-54, To Authorize Execution of a Lease Agreement By and Between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., for Storage Space located at 266 Robertson Boulevard for the Voter Registration and Elections Office.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-55, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2020-2021

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-56, To Approve the Enterprise Service Agreement between Colleton County and Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-57, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid CC-32 for the Demolition and Disposal of the Floyd Buckner Building

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time

Council members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe Holiday Season

Mr. Williams said one of the things he would like to say is that I am concerned with the frequency of our meetings. I know we don't meet just to meet, but I think certainly once a month is not asking too much for us to meet at a regular scheduled meeting, simple because when we don't meet on a regular schedule time there are times when others have other meetings planned. I treat council as a priority, so if I have another meeting of course I am going to cancel it out but it is not fair to any other board that I sit on if I have to cancel the meeting on a night that they have scheduled and they are following their schedule, but then council not following their published schedule that we have, so I would like for us to insure that we are following schedule. I understand during election or years when there are conflicts, but other than election Tuesdays, I don't see any reason why we can't follow our own guidelines.

Mr. Murdaugh said he thought that was a fair enough comment. Hopefully 2021, we can finally get 2020 in the rearview mirror, we can get back to some sort of normalcy. It may not happen right away/immediately, but I do think we need to probably try to adhere to the meeting schedule barring something like a holiday or somethings else that would happen. Also hope we can get this workshop in, there may be something we will have to task our sparsely used committees we might have to assign ...inaudible...

Mr. Williams said he agreed.

Executive Session

- a) Personnel
 - 1) Coroner
 - 2) Voter Registration

Regular Session

Clerk was unable to access Regular Session after Executive Session

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**