

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 12, 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, James White, Alan Linkous, Jerry & Donna Crosby, Clarence Albright

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

Mr. Taylor said tonight we would like to make an addition under our "Appearances & Public Presentations. We have a special request from our Veteran's Council, James White our Veteran Affairs Director, so this will be a slight addition to our agenda tonight, do I hear a motion to that effect.

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to amend the agenda to add the item and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

Alliance Consulting Engineers - Capital Projects Sales Tax

Mr. Griffin introduced the Capital Projects Sales Tax Committee members.

Mr. Kyle Clampitt with Alliance Consulting Engineers gave a PowerPoint presentation of "What is the Capital Projects Tax Program". He reviewed the schedule associated with it, went through how the projects were sorted, and what projects were selected.

Mr. Huggins, Chairman of the Capital Projects Sales Tax Committee- Thanked council for putting their trust in him and his fellow commissioners to undertake this project and explained how the committee spent their many hours working through the whole process.

### **VA Council- James White**

Mr. White explained they were in the process of proposing a Veterans Park and wanted council's support. He then reviewed their preliminary plans with council members and said they would come back again with more detailed information.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting May 6, 2014

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting May 20, 2014

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Awards & Recognitions**

None

Mr. Taylor said next month we will probably bring a proclamation to recognize Mr. Franklin Smalls for his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday coming this month.

Mr. Whetsell said how about a proclamation to recognize our youth baseball groups being the State Champions this year. The City has already done that.

### **Administrative Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said we have finalized the Budget. There were a couple of outstanding items remaining from our last conversation regarding primarily the LGF, That was in limbo the last time we spoke, it had been cut at the Senate level. The funding was restored to last year's amount. We had some brief discussions and many conversations with the Solicitor's Office as you know we handle the Solicitor's Office payroll for the entire 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit. That is roughly 80% of their operation. There are some new financial requirements coming out from the State regarding each of the Solicitor's office as well as the increased GASB requirements. The Solicitor approached us about a month ago about possibly because of that since we are already covering 80% of their operation how about bring the entire operation in house and working their budget through our process as well as our audit process and the other financial controls with Mr. Averkin. After some discussions, the Solicitor has agreed to fund an additional position within the Finance, which will come off our direct system, so it would be a net neutral proposition, but it would also give us some good additional resources in the finance office. We have added that for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. I did want you to know that tonight and if you had any objections or things you would like to discuss, I would like to discuss those at this time.

Dr. Flowers said he thought that was a good idea.

Mr. Murdaugh said he did not object as long as it did not impact our budget or impede our operation in anyway. I don't see why we don't extend the courtesy to them.

Mr. Griffin said it pretty much mends a fence from the past as well, because when we took over the operation personnel, they did not add any additional staff for us to do that, so that will kinda get us back ...inaudible..., but we work with them real well, so I think that will be fine and they have a financial staff person that is already certified on staff that is contemplating going to move into that roll here.

Mr. Griffin said I think all of you have confirmed for the June 19<sup>th</sup> Chamber Annual Awards Banquet to be held at USC Salk on Hampton Street at 6:00PM. Also Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM will be the Grand Opening and Christening of Crescent Dairy in our new Industrial Park. I understand the Governor plans to be there as well as a number of other people. They are planning quite a show out there. We have a tournament this weekend at our Ball Park that has just over 50 teams coming in to participate.

### **Public Hearing**

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.

No comments were made

### **Old Business**

3<sup>rd</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 3<sup>rd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Murdaugh and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Ordinance 14-R-08, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Arrangement by and between Colleton County and Project Meter, Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into a Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Arrangement with Project Meter; Providing for Payment by Project Meter of Certain Fees in Lieu of *Ad Valorem* Taxes; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Ordinance 14-O-10, To Schedule a Referendum, to Be Held at the November 4, 2014 General Election, to Authorize the South Carolina Department of Revenue to Sell Sunday Alcohol Sales Permits in Colleton County.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-46, To Authorize Renewal of the Lease Agreements By and Between Colleton County and Old St. Bartholomew Chapter for Genealogical Research and By and Between Colleton County and the Lowcountry Community Action Agency (LCAA) for the Use of County Facilities Located on Black Street in Walterboro.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-47, To Approve Execution of a Renewal Service Contract for Fire-Rescue's LifePak12 Cardiac Monitors.

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

Resolution 14-R-48, To Declare Surplus Certain Sheriff's Office ATVs and to Authorize the Trade or Sale of ATVs.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-49, To Approve Renewal of Service Contracts for the Sheriff's Office.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-50, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crosby we are the owners of the Forks Convenient Store in Walterboro. I also operate some other small businesses within the county. We are just here in favor of the reading for Alcohol Sales on Sunday. A small business is tuff to run anymore in this county. We have done it for the last 20 years at the convenience store. It is hard when folks come in and they can't distinguish the county from the city when they come into your business. They go to buy alcohol and you have to turn them away. When you can't sell them that you can't sell them the other goods that you do such as gas, food, and other things that go along with our business. We just feel that we are at a disadvantage being in the county right now and we need to be equal with our partners in the City, if we can get that going and we do appreciate ya'll approving 1<sup>st</sup> reading tonight and we will be back if we need to for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, but we do appreciate ya'll doing this where we have equal competition throughout the City and County with our small businesses. Mr. Crosby said he also wanted to thank all the council members and Mr. Griffin for everything you do. We have been through tough economic times, but things seem to be changing and moving forward. We appreciate all that you do for the county. I know each of you put in a lot of hard work and time in for

the county and if there is anything we can do to help we are also here to do what we can to help.

### **Council Time**

Dr. Flowers congratulated Mr. Murdaugh on his win on Tuesday.

Mr. Murdaugh said he would like to thank Dr. Flowers for that and thank the voters too. I hope the turnout will be better in the general election. We need to encourage all of our citizens to try to get out and vote, but I certainly appreciate it.

Mr. Murdaugh said the 50 teams tournaments out there, I can't reiterate how much, that really has an impact on our local merchants and we were hoping we would see this and it is starting to happen now. Hopefully we will continue to have these size tournaments. We have a first class facility there. Actually, Mr. Crosby that just spoke is responsible for that. One of his other small businesses as he called it helped built that park.

Mr. Murdaugh said on Memorial Day at Public Landing, Mr. Administrator we have some issue out there with the sanitation.

Mr. Griffin said I have been working this out with Mr. Bartley and Mr. Averkin. What has happened as you know we had Mr. Breland who was out there and lived at the landing and kinda monitored what was happening. He has since passed, so we don't have anyone manning it. We do not have a convenient site in that part of the county. Actually we have looked at where we just placed our new fire station in Jonesville; we have six acres, what we are looking at doing now, we are site planning work with Public Works to see what we can do in house and plan on bringing something back to you in July. In regards to this is creating a convenient site for that portion of the county and removing those dumpsters at the landing. We are working on it.

Mr. Murdaugh with the coming of this Project Capital Sales Tax and I know a lot of these projects may involve the expenditure of Federal Funds, but I would like for us to take another look at maybe bolter up this Local Vendor Preference Ordinance a little bit, because this has the potential to really help our local folks and we need to make sure we do whatever we can do to make sure our local folks are involved in the construction of these projects, so in the coming months we can maybe take it out and take another look at it or send it to a committee, whatever you may deem appropriate Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Robinson said going back to Mr. Murdaugh's election Tuesday, for the record, those of you who thinks that democrats and republicans cannot work together I'm from the democrats prospective and I want to congratulate you on your win.

Mr. Taylor said he wanted to echo the comments from my fellow councilmen.

Mr. Taylor said I would also like to say thank you to the county and I think you would be really proud for supporting the Summer Camp that was held by Salkehatchie and the Tuskegee Airmen. Today I got the opportunity to go down to Boeing and view all of the Dreamliners; where they construct and assemble all of the parts. They put the children

through a very good training exercise in how to make paper planes and they had a flight test. For the ladies the females won in the flying contest! They had a little more finesse with their flying. It was a tremendous opportunity and as we talked with some of the Boeing Officials there they said it is really good, that Boeing likes to see communities that supports their young people and are good team players and they like to partner with communities that do the same, so I told them bring us some jobs.

Mr. Taylor said he also wanted to offer thanks to the county and the SCAC. Mr. Michael Cone & Ms. Anna Burger at the SCAC were very instrumental in nominating me to represent South Carolina at the County Leadership Institute in Washington, DC last week. It was a tremendous training and I plan to offer all of the council members some of the things gained from that training, but I did want to say thank you for that.

Mr. Whetsell said he would like to issue thanks to our Election Commission. This election went off real well and nobody gets thanks for that, but you let one little thing slip up and you will have all kind of people talking about how awful the election was run or something, but this one was run very well and I would like to thank the Commission and everybody that was involved in that.

#### **Executive Session**

- a) Legal Advice
  - 1. Capital Projects Sales Tax
  - 2. Contractual Matters
  
- b) Economic Development

#### **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**