

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Steven Murdaugh, Gene Whetsell, Art Williams, Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, Kelly Pedigo, James Pedigo, Jeff Ament, Ryan Pearson, Tiffany Pearson, Ed Williams, Antoinette Kinsey, Gregory Kinsey, Susan Mc Caskill, Lula Broughton, Annie Akins, Samuel Terry, Jesse Robinson, Sherry Robinson, Amiyah Robinson, Chyna Robinson, Ken M?, Mary Jo Fox, George Smith, Karen Addington, David Linder, Sharon Witkin, Harry Jenkins, Teddra Singleton, Jane Darby, Iris Hill, Chris H?, Tim Grimsley, Madeline Brawley, Sheri Stone, Cordelia Jenkin, C. Wiggins, Johnny Bartley, A. Strickland, Roy Williams Meredith Noah

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

Mr. Taylor made a motion to withdraw Resolution 19-R-44 to establish a millage for the school operations for fiscal year 2019/2020 budget year based on communication from Superintendent Foster, they would like to bring additional information to the council before this would be brought up again.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams.

The motion carried unanimously to amend the agenda to that effect.

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting May 7, 2019

Budget Meeting April 26, 2019

Budget Meeting May 10, 2019

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

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

Proclamation – Samuel Terry Day

Dr. Flowers read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Terry and his family members. Dr. Flowers congratulated Mr. Terry on having his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Appearances & Public Presentations**

Sandy Steele - Southern Carolina Alliance Quarterly Report

Brantley Strickland filled in for Sandy Steele and gave an overview of all of the activities.

## **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said we did have a question about item "a" on New Business, Project Colony as to where that would be located. That is a project that produces concrete risers and stair cases for major industrial buildings and they are looking to locate at what we now call Venture Park, which is the portion of un-developed property behind the Sarlaflex Building out off of the Industrial Road is where that is located.

I wanted to let council and everyone know, there is a lot of school folks here tonight as well. We did receive approval from the CDBG program this month to move forward with the stadium demo project, for which we and the city and the school district were awarded \$500,000 grant to remove the old stadium and bring that to a greenspace and park, so working through some agreements on that property we should have executed in the month or so and start seeing some activity over in that area.

The last thing is we have had a good bit of conversation and requests in regards to the Robertson Blvd. solid waste site. That is our most active solid waste site throughout the county. We probably take in four times as much refuse there as we do at any other site. The issues that we have been having is the cuing of cars and some other things there. Actually cars are stopping out on Robertson Blvd. because they can't get enough in there. We approached the, actually that property is owned by the Airport Commission, which is ultimately us and the City, but talking with their chairman, I have gotten approval from them to go through and look at enlarging or either doubling or putting a 2<sup>nd</sup> cuing lane in there to help take care of that safety issue. Ms. Carla is here today, she is going to be helping us engineer that to get that moving forward and we will be bringing you more information on that. Just want to make ya'll aware of that because we have been hearing a good bit about the issues getting in and out of that site.

## **Public Hearing**

Ordinance 19-O-02, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto

No comments were made.

**Old Business**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 19-O-03, Approving An Application For Preliminary Certification For Historic Rehabilitation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Ordinance 19-O-02, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; 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. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading by Title Only Ordinance 19-O-04, Providing For Infrastructure Or Special Source Revenue Credits To Project Colony; Authorizing An Infrastructure Credit Agreement Between Colleton County And Project Colony; Providing For The Allocation Of Fees-In-Lieu Of Taxes Payable Under The Agreement For Development For A Joint County Industrial Park With Hampton County; And Other Matters Relating Thereto

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading was made by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-40, To Set, Reschedule, and Adjust the County Council Summer Meeting Schedule

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-41, To Authorize Renewal of the Lease Agreements By and Between Colleton County and Colleton Genealogy Society 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. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-42, to Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Grant for FY 2018-2019

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-43, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Mr. Williams moved to approve the following by acclamation and was seconded by Mr. Taylor.

Colleton County Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse: Brandy Manigo  
Colleton County Memorial Library Board of Trustees: Vennie D. Mitchell

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-44, To Establish Millage for School Operations for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget Year **The agenda was previously amended to withdraw pending more info from Superintendent Foster**

#### **Items for Information and Public Record**

None

#### **Public Comments (3 minutes per person/max time 20 min.)**

Susan McCaskill – Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns affecting the children of Colleton. I am a fiscal conservative. I am also a speech pathologist at Black Street. Every day I see the challenges and difficulties faces many of our children in this county. For the sake of our children, additional funding is needed. At the same time non-negotiable directions sent down from our State Legislature in Columbia, requires money that our county simply does not have. These initiatives put our school board and ya'll (County Council) in a very difficult position. Too often the end results is that the needs of our children get passed over. Our children of Colleton County being tossed back and forth like a tennis ball. ...inaudible... needs are kicked down the road like an empty can becoming someone else's problem and responsibility. It often begins in the pre-school years and continues through high school. Citizens of our county have to tighten their financial belts as have our government boards. We are asked to do more and more with less. However, at the end of day it is all about our children. I don't have the answers, I don't have the solution and I personally would not want to be in your shoes and have to make the decisions that you must make, but we cannot give up. Parents, teachers, administrators, members of our school board, and members the county council, must each see that the children of our county are just as important as our city's beautification needs. They are just as important as the new law enforcement center, to be honest the responsibility of our children's education makes us all accountable. Sure future budgets must require streamlining and re-evaluation. It is a given. What could happen if the investment in our children beginning in the pre-school ages prevented the later need for law enforcement centers? Today, right now we owe our children more. I am part of a small group of teachers who are developing a two tier approach to the needs of our county. We have built relationships with interested State Legislatures allowing us to

present the problem facing our county's children. Our Lieutenant Governor, when I met her I absolutely cannot remember her name, but she has agreed to travel to Walterboro to see firsthand what educational challenges face our county. At the same time we also shared our concerns from teachers prospective with the school board members, with the desire to make positive an effective change, in fact we met with several last night. Our desire is only for the betterment of our children. We do not and will not have ...inaudible... and we do not mean to point fingers. In closing, what price tag can you place on a child's education? Simply providing additional money is not the only answer, but it is a start and a start that is needed today, why, because all children in Colleton County are precious.

Tim Grimsley – Mayor of Town of Cottageville, SC – Good evening gentlemen. My being here tonight is because I had requested to bring my concerns to council by being placed on the agenda by an executive session. My request was denied. I place myself in public participation so my concerns can be heard. I would like it to be known that I did not wish this to be general public knowledge as some of the issues may be quite sensitive to some individual. My request was to seek advice from my governing entity. It was mainly financial in nature, but felt I needed to voice my concerns in reference to the treatment of my police department by the sheriff of this county. At my February 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting it was announced by our auditor that the insurance monies for burnt buildings was received and then I received a letter dated February 5, 2019, and this letter outlined an agreement between the Town of Cottageville in Colleton County. The letter states Walterboro Fire EMS, Edisto all contribute to the price of the consolidated 911 dispatch center. The price for Cottageville will be a little over \$93,000. Now let's put that in prospective. This is rounded out to \$100,000 bucks from this little town. I was told that Edisto did not contribute. To confirm this I made several calls to Edisto, left messages for the Mayor and the Town Administrator and was not even given the courtesy of even a call back. Someone I did speak to said Edisto pays with barter system and I believe I discovered exactly what this trade is although I can't find anything in the budget that directs monies to the dispatch contribution. The letter states that the dispatch center serves 10 different entities. I would like to see breakdowns on their contributions. As you know the new dispatch center advertised as the Colleton County consolidated dispatch center was built using multimillion dollar share of the Capitol Improvement ...inaudible... our property tax has charges for Fire ...inaudible...Rescue and our home phone has a 911 fee as well as all of our cell phones. So this is revenue, so with this revenue how can you blame anything but bad budgeting. Town of Cottageville's budget on average is around \$600,000. The insurance monies are not included in that budget. That money will be utilized to replace buildings & equipment that was lost. It will also be used for grant matching for capital improvement projects such as water & sewer and streetscape. This money for lack of a better word a windfall for this small town. We'll never see that again. That money will not be squandered if I have anything to do with it. Now the sheriff has threatened to cut off radio services to the town police department, putting my officers and residents of Cottageville at great risk. The sheriff will tell you, that it takes the deputies less than 14.9 minutes to answer a call in Cottageville when called. I have been told it is basically 30 minutes. This is understandable due to the size of this county, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in the state and officers being stationed in the most populated areas. Response times I understand. Our police department reduces the need for County response. It should be

utilized as an asset. Our sheriff with proper leadership with EMS a major asset, yet our sheriff refuses to sign a mutual aid agreement. I have never heard of this happening anywhere before. In recent days there has been deputies patrolling the town, pulling people over and writing citations. They have been sitting just outside the limits in the past, I am assuming just to slow traffic down before they enter the town. He placed a 35 mph speed limit sign in a 55 mph just feet from our town limits. I got several calls from near accidents, people were coming into town and slammed on brakes and someone nearly rear-ending them. I had to call DOT, it moved a couple of days later and I don't know if DOT had anything to do with that, but this is bordering on ridiculous. What I wanted to talk to County Council about was where can I get extra money in order to pay \$100,000 a year to dispatch. We have never ever paid anything like that. This agreement that I got here, in the agreement the word agreement is used 30 something times. I was never approached, I was never called. The sheriff will tell you according to a newspaper report, that he has tried several times to get in touch with me. He has never, ever called me. He has never called my office, my secretary, my town clerk. His office has never called, his secretary has never called, no one has ever called, but he makes it sound like that I am a bad guy here and I'm not. I will meet with anybody at any time to discuss situations, especially such as this. Now he may be legal in pulling the plug on the dispatch, that doesn't make it morally right. In fact it is quite opposite. This county can't afford to have a lawsuit...inaudible...he's going to bring some lawsuits and that is all really that I've got to say unless council has questions for me.

No questions were asked.

Ed Williams – Middle School Teacher & President NAACP My roll here tonight to speak with you guys is to ask you one thing and I noticed you took it off the agenda for tonight, so maybe some good things are going to happen, but my objective is as the young lady stated earlier, the problems we have here in the school. I am here to say to you members of council, that you have to power and the due diligence to do it in working with the legislature that if you can't see fit to fund the school district beyond the state defined minimum, that perhaps you all need to consider, which is something I have heard many, many times over the years, not only in this county, but across the state and that is to give our school board the fiscal autonomy. Why? Because if you are afraid to raise millage and taxes on people, because you want to be around for the next election, then give it to the school board. Let them have the millage authority... inaudible... they have to deal with their constituents, but the one thing has to happen, I've heard the administrator said that we have possibility of a new plant coming behind Sarlaflex and I have watched Sarlaflex from the time they started and up to now and I think they stayed there for a total of 2 months and all I see now is 1 vehicle. I don't know what the reasoning is, but based on what I teach, I know that educational wise, we have to have students almost shovel ready to take these jobs and we can't do that if you allow 30 students in a class and 1 teacher, you are not going divide the money for that's 5 people to be in there to help those teachers ...inaudible... so I am simply saying when you decide to make your decision, if you see where you can't do it, ya'll need to decide to give the school district fiscal autonomy, so they can make the millage to where they need it to educate our children. Thank you very much.

Andy Strickland – Sheriff – I want to respond to the Mayor of Cottageville. There is a lot of things he said that he is incorrect on. The letter, I think he is talking in reference to Feb. 5, 2019, the standard Mutual Aid Agreement has nothing to do with the calls to dispatch. It is something that is standardized agreement that I have with every county, every municipality, in this state and it pretty much covers me to act in good faith and to uphold the laws and pretty much have permission & it covers me to be in that county or municipality. To get to the point, the mayor will sit there and tell you that I have never contacted his office about this. I am going to give you some numbers that really honestly he doesn't know because he has not taken the time to contact me in reference to my certified mail. I am very easy to work with and I take a highly offense to some of the things he said. I am a team player, I work with anybody, but you are not going to back be down in a corner and get up here and tell things that's not true with all respect. The 1<sup>st</sup> document I am going to present so the public will know. On Feb. 11, 2019 there were two certified letters that was sent one to the chief of police of Cottageville Police Dept.. It was signed by Shavon Glover, certified mail. One was to Mayor Grimsley and the other one was to Cottageville Police Chief. I asked for a response within 30 days. I waited over 90 days for a response. I have tried to make contact regardless of what he says through the Police Chief asked him who was in charge of this decision I have no knowledge of any kind of check they were getting at time or any kind of disagreement that the county had or whatever he wants to claim in reference to a building being torn down. I was not attacking him or asking for something that wasn't deserved. I have sent a certified letter, I have tried delivering messages and still he has pretty much told me to pack sand and I couldn't do what I am getting ready to do. Another letter over 90 days was sent (May 15, 2019) a second response certified mail, was sent to Mayor Tim Grimsley of Cottageville, along with the Police Chief, JD Cook. No Response. What they do? He spent more time contacting County Council, County Administrator, the Administrator of Edisto Beach, calls Channel 5 News on me, goes to the local newspapers when all reality all the man had to do was to talk to me. Let's talk like men, let's work this out. Since those things were said, I am going to tell you the truth and that's exactly what happened. I tell a story, just last week I am sure he is not aware of this. I would hope he is not. We had a Fire Rescue unit that the call came in, we are centralized dispatch by the way, we did get a new Law Enforcement Building as a matter of fact it is the 1<sup>st</sup> Law Enforcement Building that Colleton County or Sheriff's Office has ever owned. We have gone so far in the seven years that we have gone and the council and administrator have been great with us. I feel like we've got their faith, respect, and I run it like a business. We have gone up by 20% as far as personnel. To give you a few numbers and I know I'm on limited time with all respect. I put the numbers from 2012 to 2013 ...inaudible... from Cottageville Police Dept. 5,302 entries 2016 & 2017 it has gone up to 7,895 in other words any entry as far as a traffic stop, the driver's license, a tag, it is gone up from 5,302 to 7,895. Do the math on it and it is approximately 2,600. Our county is just growing. This isn't to punish anyone. Our dispatchers which we run 3-4 shift, we dispatch for Colleton County Fire-Rescue, the Sheriff's Office, Walterboro Police Department, Probation Parole, Cottageville, Edisto Beach, and so on. I take the time to call names to you, because I am not just pulling this number out of my head. Our dispatcher has answered and this is just phone calls 215,438 calls in 2016-2017. I did not pull the 2018 numbers because they are greater than this. This is the same numbers

I provided Walterboro Police Dept., which in return they pay for four dispatchers. I understand everybody is trying to do more with less. At one time and the Mayor is absolutely correct at one time he had one unit out there stopping cars. He's got 3-4 units stopping cars writing municipality charges and to the best of my knowledge, if I am wrong on this I'll move forward and I may not be certain on, but up to 88% of the violations that they charge, they say hey you are getting a better deal we are not going to charge you any points, but we are going to make the fine 3 times the amount, in state, out of state price according from where you are from. They keep 88% of that. If you write state charge there is a certain amount of that that goes to Columbia, it goes to the state a small amount comes back to the county. You can write your municipality charges and come up to whatever you are stopping people for and up to 88% of that goes to the City of Cottageville. Where's the money at? Who has accountability? I'm not asking anything unreasonable, but when you get up and tell that I'm going to tell you I have been standing up for myself since I was about 8 years old. I am 39 now and it ain't going to stop. What I was going to get to and I am very passionate at what I do and I have a love for people. Number one I am not going to put anyone in harm's way. He can sit up here and threaten me or the county with a lawsuit, so be it. I get threatened to be sued every day. We do what's right, we do what is best for the citizens in Colleton County. Unfortunately if you are going to have 3-4 units out there and you have gone up that amount of number and calls for service, I don't have the positions to just get him 2 dispatchers because they moved up from one to four officers stopping cars. We handle all their service calls from the hours of mid-night to 6:00 in the morning. We don't have to, we do it. We want to work with them, but I'm sure he doesn't know that. He has made no contact with me. I am not going to track him down. I have tried/attempted and in return ...inaudible... when he has exhausted all his energy trying to go around me. I talked to the mayor a couple of years ago. He's got one of his commanding officers, I will not name any names, is out there stopping cars driving under suspension. I am talking about the officer out there driving under suspension. You know what I did? I went down there and talked to the mayor and the police chief and it wasn't the 1<sup>st</sup> offense. I said mayor I got something I want to bring to your attention as a chief law enforcement official. I didn't call channel 5 news on him. What I did was give him the opportunity to fix it. I didn't tow his patrol car, I didn't write him some high ticket. What I did was brought to his attention and in return he acted like he got offended. One of the requirements to be a certified law enforcement officer is to have a valid driver's license. What happens to this guy in return, the man promotes him. Seriously. We get no respect from Cottageville. ...inaudible... Stop our cars, running our tags, listen, I don't mind working with anybody, but mayor I'd like to take this time to please advise you to come have a conversation with me. One more thing I want you to know and it's only fair, we I get defended is we had a call that came in our central dispatch a couple of weeks ago with the Fire-Rescue, a paramedic, the call came in as a individual that was not breathing, that was having trouble breathing. The 2<sup>nd</sup> call that comes in says that he actually stopped breathing, paramedic on the scene calls in, the dispatcher calls again a few minutes later to check on him. No response, calls are still coming in, no response, it's in the area of Cottageville. Our unit was coming from Walterboro and common sense ought to tell you if it is a high priority call we are coming, but if it is your neighbor's cat stepping on your windshield and we got people over here fighting and their lives are in jeopardy, then you are going to have a delayed response. Common sense.



He has been told, you can't go what you have been told mayor, cause I just proved you wrong. Anyways this paramedic, this guy is actually a mental subject. The paramedic had to go hands on hands with him. We asked Cottageville unit, which they had 3 working by the way, we ask the Cottageville unit to go to him and assist. He says he is in route. Couple minutes later he says I'm sorry, I locked by keys in my car. The police chief of Cottageville and another Cottageville unit gets up there and says, we are going to be outside the county for a few minutes, not available for call. That is ridicules. That is somebodies public servant, school teacher, police officer, fire-rescue that needed help and you want to play games. Mayor, I invite you to come talk to me and I can share a little bit more with you. Thank ya'll so much council.

Dr. Flowers (Chairman) said our time is now up.

Mayor Grimsely re-entered the chambers and request time to respond.

Dr. Flowers said the allotted time is up.

### **Council Time**

Mr. Taylor- We did have a meeting with the Health Committee on May 9<sup>th</sup> and I want to thank the committee and all those that came. A copy of the report is provided and I will share it with the Council Clerk, but in the meeting the Public Safety Committee met at the Colleton County Museum/Farmer's Market. Others present was our Solicitor, Sean Thornton, Council Clerk, Ruth Mayer, Lib Varnadoe from the Hospital, Angie Salley from Mental Health, Casey Ball from the Hospital, Barry McRoy fire chief, Joey Campbell along with Lavern Polk on the Fire Commission, Melissa Camp, Deborah Parker was also there  
TAPE RAN OUT AT THIS POINT

Brenda Hughes with SC DHEC, the report is brief and concise, but individual information should come out later in regards to the State of Health in Colleton County.

One more thing I would like to bring to attention is our County Planning Director, Mr. Zach Montgomery and the Planning Commission is going to beginning the Planning Consultants will be in for the Comprehensive Plan for 2030 and meetings will begin on July 9<sup>th</sup>. With meetings being held in Cottageville, Edisto Beach, Walterboro. There will be additional meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the comp plan will be viewed by the County Planning Commission on their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, which is held in this chamber. The Comp Plan public survey will be completed and ready for use when the new comp plan website is up and running. The comp plan website will be running on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a lot of interest in the community about things going on in the community and what they would like to see. This is a very good time for interested to be a part of the conversation about what's going to take place in Colleton County putting that Comprehensive Plan together. There will be additional meetings, this is just the 1<sup>st</sup> set of public meetings which will begin on July 9<sup>th</sup>, so I wanted to make you and everyone else aware of that.

Mr. Williams- Good evening to all of you. Just as a reminder for those of you who have neighbors that travel to Hilton Head and Bluffton area by using Palmetto Breeze, let them know that we have over 1,000 jobs through Job Service just here in Colleton County.

Also encourage the young people that are graduating now to apply for some of those jobs and there are some very good paying jobs that they have. Please encourage the folks instead of riding the bus half day it would certainly help you all as educators because they would be able to attend some of the events that their children have in the evenings. Thank you.

Mr. Murdaugh- I would like to make a couple of comments and these are not by way in response to anything that was said or addressed here, but the fact of the matter is I am not sure what the request was to be on executive session or information outside of executive session I do think perhaps the mayor should have been given that opportunity. I want to say this, I don't know if the moon is full or not or what's going on, but the fact of the matter is I would like for us to find out. I think the sheriff is within his right to do what he is doing legally. I would like to know what happens when that service is terminated. I do think these other municipalities are contributing to the 911 Center. I think Cottageville certainly would have to contribute. It is not left to me to make that determination as to what level, but they certainly need to do that. I want to say this in response to the comment not only about the law enforcement center, but there were comments, I think some folks here representing the school regarding beautification and these other projects. I just want to remind folks that County Council did not set those priorities, those items were voted on a referendum. All these projects that were funded were voted on by the tax payers of the county. It wasn't our decision exclusively to do those projects. We have a job here, when you get right down to it, the job as a council member or any elected official is about allocation of resources. We have to make tuff decisions, they are not always popular, but we have to allocate those decisions. There are times that the tax payers can make those decisions. There was a comment made about the school board ...inaudible... with the economy we have discussed that. This is my 21<sup>st</sup> year on council and the 21<sup>st</sup> year probably that we have discussed that. If county council votes to either fund the school board or not fund the school board if the public is not in favor of that, that issue would be addressed in the voting booth. I don't know that the economy is necessarily the solution however, that too maybe an issue voted on by the citizens. That is not a decision for County Council to make in my opinion.

Dr. Flowers – Echoed what Mr. Murdaugh had said. I also want to thank everyone for coming tonight. I appreciate everyone's interest in coming tonight. We have a job that is rather thankless sometimes and we have to make decisions that are not always popular, but that is the name of the game. In other words if you have this position you have to be objective and look at the issues that we have. There is just never enough money to go around. That's always the problem we have with State Mandates and unfunded State Mandates. These come down every year. It comes down to the schools and to us and we have a difficult time balancing our budget based on these mandates and based on the fact that a rural county such as ours certainly has a very finite amount of money that we can extract for the people of this community. We have to think about all of the folks in this community. We have a large number in our community and people over 65 on a fixed income that are struggling to pay their bills and sometimes they have to decide whether they are going to eat or take medicine and taxes to them are a big problem of their budget every year. We have to think of those things too. It's not just one facet, but we have to

think about all the facets for our community. So I just wanted to emphasize the fact that every decision we make is made by taking all the factors into consideration and these decisions are not easy, but they have to be made and somebody's got to make them and you elected us and it is our job to do this.

**Executive Session**

None

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Flowers, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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