

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor, Art Williams in attendance. Steven Murdaugh, absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Meagan Utsey, Chris Riley (Edisto Recycling), Matt Reeves, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal Hodges, Jeff Ament, Ladson Fishburne, Charles Davis, Ed Williams, Mare M. Bright, Medina Bright Jamison, David Linder, Louise Slater, Paul Summerville

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting February 5, 2019

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

None

Appearances & Public Presentations

Southern Carolina Alliance Quarterly Report – Kay Maxwell

Ms. Maxwell gave an overview of all of the activities for 2018

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said the last major project, the biggest project actually was in our Capitol Projects Sales Tax program the county actually assisted the City in bidding the 6 million dollar Streetscape Project and that was awarded this past month to Wildwood Contractors, which means that each one of our CPS projects have gone to a local vendor or contractor in the county. We are pretty proud of that. That project will start at Elizabeth Street, which is across the road from Blocker Boys Tires and come all the way up and end at the end of Benson Street by the traffic light.

The other item the Colleton Center Board wanted me to mention that March 22-23 is their big fund raiser for the year and that is the Smoke in the 'Boro. That will be at Coastal Electric Outback building March 22 and 23.

Dr. Flowers said he believed that was in the afternoon.

Mr. Griffin said afternoon on Friday and all day on Saturday.

Public Hearing

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1st Reading by Title Only Ordinance 19-O-01, To Accept the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections Related to the Town of Smoaks and the Town of Williams to the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-20, To Establish Priorities for the 2019 Annual CDBG County Needs Assessment.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-21, To Award the Contract for Aggregate Hauling on Behalf of the CTC

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

Mr. Williams said he looked at the bidding and if I could get someone to explain, I see where the price per ton for hauling and I also saw a price per ton each for any miles over 95.

Mr. Griffin said correct.

Mr. Williams said so the base price is the price the price we are going to more often deal with than the hauling price being involved?

Mr. Griffin said that is correct. I think that is the standard distance from where the aggregate will be hauled from. This is a CTC project, we just have to bless it to meet their audit requirements, but I will be glad to get Carla Harvey to respond to you and explain exactly how that works.

Mr. Williams said the reason why I asked those questions is because I saw where bidder #2 and bidder #3 were local businesses and if they were, when I do additional computations I saw where they would have been #1 and #2 if we don't just focus on the price per ton for hauling, but also included the mileage in there. I just wanted to make sure that our local businesses had 1st op and if it was anything close in dealing with it.

Mr. Griffin said we do have a 3% local vendor preference, but I don't think that was within that threshold is my understanding there. It is like I said this is a CTC project. It is their funding and is just pushed to us to formally award the bid through their process through the State.

Dr. Flowers said I think the price per ton is everything over 95 miles. Is that correct?

Mr. Griffin said that is correct. If ya'll would like to table it and we can get Ms. Harvey to come back and explain on behalf of the CTC of what their reasoning was.

Mr. Williams said personally I would like to see it tabled.

Mr. Griffin said we will be glad to get them to come in.

Dr. Flowers said I agree with you if we can get a local vendor to do it, we always grade on preferential treatment if we can. Do we have a motion to table this until next month?

Mr. Whetsell made a motion to table the resolution until next month and was seconded by Mr. Williams.

Mr. Griffin said he would relay it back to the CTC chairman and to the staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-22, To Award the Contract for the Sale of Scrap Metal, Aluminum Cans and Batteries to Edisto Recycling, LLC

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-23, To Appoint Member to Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

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

Jessie Gooding- Eastside Acres – County Park on Franklin Street conditions are not good. We had a Black History Month Cookout the benches were molded, mildewed and the equipment wasn't up to par. The bleachers we asked 5 years ago for paint to paint them and didn't get any. We have pictures where the children came together and painted the bleachers. Now the bleachers are in terrible condition. There are no awnings, nothing for children to sit under, just two tables. Other county parks don't look anything like Eastside Park and something needs to be done. I want children to be able to get out and have fun. I would like County Council to make some effort to fix up the park because it is very outdated. We need something for the children.

Christopher Riley- Edisto Recycling- I would like to thank the council for awarding the bid tonight for the contract for the scrap metal, aluminum cans and batteries. In speaking with the Purchasing Department, they said that County Council will be tonight setting the parameters for the start date and the duration of the contract because it is not stated in the bid when I submitted my bid. There is no terms of it in there. Ms. Syfrett said County Council would be showing that in the award.

Mr. Griffin said we have a concrete pad out there that we have to pour per DHEC regulations, so we could not start the term of your contract until we get that approved by DHEC and finalized so you can actually bring the product in and move in and out. Council approved tonight, gave me the authority and the county attorney to approve the contract once we get that pad finished.

Mr. Riley said do you know what the duration of the contract is going to be?

Mr. Griffin said off the top of his head I would say we would probably go back to the previous contract and whatever that term, we would stay with that. Typically County Council has a three year term with possible renewable two more years out is what State Law allows.

Mr. Riley said this is a list of the convenience centers in Colleton County, of the 14 sites, 5 of them are pretty close to our yard. I know previously with the other contract that Colleton County was delivering the material to the scrap yard that had this contract prior to this award tonight and to save Colleton County money it would make since instead of carrying this material all the way out to the landfill to Green Pond Hwy. we are a DHEC approved facility. It would save the county fuel, time, and wear and tear on the equipment to just drop from those 5 facilities by our location. We can issue them, we have certified

approved scales through Sisson Scales, supply them the tickets, and send them in that way and if the county is interested in bringing the material to us until ya'll get your pad in place, we would be more than happy to accept ...audible... material coming from all locations.

Mr. Griffin said I will be glad to sit down with you and work that out as we are negotiating the contract.

Matt Reeves- I wanted to touch base on what he was reiterating right now the county is getting a penny a pound per hundred. The award is going to be one dollar every 300 lbs. If the county wanted to I know they gotta pour a slab and everything, but the income the county will be bringing in would be four more dollars on the hundred than what they are getting right now. If they wanted to go ahead say we have 5 facilities ...inaudible... all of the northern parts it would save the county a lot more in time and fuel and the driver and in most cases everybody knows if you have to touch something more than once, then it is costing money. With that being said, if they wanted to put maybe a temporary thing in we have the facility DHEC approved, we have the room, the county would also automatically start getting and I assure you that once you start seeing the new paperwork and bills coming in the difference in the money right now from where they are getting a penny a pound to where like I said a dollar on a hundred it's going to be five dollars on a hundred. That is four more extra dollars per hundred pounds generated for our county. If you look at how many pounds and tons we generate per month that adds up to a lot. Until that gets approved if they wanted to we have the facilities and equipment and everything to do that. I just wanted to throw that out there about the revenue that the county would already be generating.

Ladson Fishburne- Leader, Keep Colleton Beautiful- I just wanted to update you on where Keep Colleton Beautiful is now. Presently we are not in good standing with our affiliate Keep America Beautiful who are the ones that provide all of the grant funds and who we report to. We haven't received grant funds in four years and the last report we submitted was in 2017. Because of not reporting, not meeting the deadlines for reports or spending all the funds we from previous grants, we weren't allowed to apply for grants this year. That being said we've got some money that we have to spend and they are still allowing us to be considered ...inaudible..., but we have to report to them where we spent the money and get back on good terms so we can apply for grants in the future. The future is actually very bright. We hit rock bottom, but the good thing is can get it back up to where we want it to be, but it is going to start with leaders and some support in the community. April 22nd we have been asked by Beaufort County to be part of an event called Lowcountry Pride Day. They have asked Hampton, Jasper, and Colleton to join them for a one day cleanup. Last year they did it ...inaudible... picked up over 1,000/lbs. of litter. I told them our status right now and I told them we don't have the support we need, but we are in, I was going to find the support and get volunteers, and we would be part of this event. I went to the Administration and in one meeting we've done more than we have in two years. We are making progress, but what I am asking County Council to do is hold us accountable. In our by-laws we state that we are supposed to have a yearly report. I don't know the last time they have given you a yearly report, so I am going to

ask ya'll to schedule a report with Keep Colleton Beautiful and we report to Keep America on August 1st so I would like for it to be before August 1st. I report to you and have it ready then you will feel confident that I will submit it by August 1st.

Paul Summerville- Beaufort County Council- I am very excited that you are going to participate with us on Earth Day. On the Lowcountry Pride Day we got into this a couple of years ago as a single county and then we brought Jasper into it and this year Hampton is going to join us along with Colleton. I want you to know on ...inaudible... you will see me personally out there picking up trash in Colleton County. Beaufort has more people than you do, so we have more traffic. We have a lot of people and a lot of trash. We are addressing it in a number of ways. We passed what is known as a bag ordinance and a lot of people are confused as to what that means. What it means is you can't have those half-filled bags along the road. We are trying to get people to use bags that are recyclable. The big box stores such as Walmart is working with us and some other big box stores are working with us to try to get people to use recyclable bags and it is working. We are working with our magistrates and asking them to please not let these people bond out. Get them out there on Saturday and pick up trash and that is working out. We now have a five person designated team. We have a supervisor and four folks that go out every day to the worse place in the county and work on that. We are having at least twice a year annual cleanup day and are seeing results. It is really about changing people's behavior. We will be happy to give you all a full presentation on all the things we are doing that are working.

Mr. Griffin asked how the county was using its staff during the Cleanup Day. I know the state did one about six months ago and they took all their Regional Office Staff and put them out for just one day.

Mr. Summerville said when we have the regional cleanup we offer our employees the option to either take off work and pick up trash or they can work. Some people are critical and we understand that and obviously with critical people that would not apply to and anybody that is not considered critical can go out and pick up trash with full pay and that is the way we do it and it has worked out great for us.

Mr. Williams said there were other counties that said they did the same thing.

Dr. Flowers said I understand Pickens County did the same and had success with that. I think we ought to do that in our County. I think County Council would certainly support that. That is one of the best things we could do by our county. That would help with our Economic Development more than anything else we could do. I think appearance means a lot when it comes to that. I would also like to ask our Magistrates as a council to have these people that appear before them charged with trashing the roads to let's get them out and do a cleanup/pickup rather than a fine. I think that would teach them more than anything else we could do. Instead of paying a fine have them get out and pick up trash and they may learn a lesson from that.

Ed Williams – President NAACP- A question was asked a couple weeks ago in conversation as to the meeting ya'll were invited to at the Chamber of Commerce for the State of the County and someone said why is it that the county giving a State of the County to the Chamber of Commerce and the people don't know anything about it. My comment was the County has a right to do what it wants, but it should have transparency within the county, so I came tonight cause I was going to get on the agenda, but I found out it's got to be two weeks and has to be in writing so I decided to come tonight and suggest that we start doing a better job of transparency and let our citizens know what is going on. I think that will go a long ways with us and what we do. I would like to comment on Mr. Summerville from Beaufort. I am glad to see that Beaufort County is doing a good job with their trash and I hope that we can do the same thing because the street I live on you can clean today and go down the road tomorrow and there is trash again. I have to pick up trash in front of my house every other day. It is still a problem we have to work with, but I would like for you all to think about the transparency because we all pay taxes, we do have a budget for education, budget for fire, budget for sheriff, we've got a budget for everything. Some people probably want to know where does my money go. There has been a lot of comments about a lot of improvements around here. Where is all this money coming from? They got the kitchen over there, but that came from grant money. A lot of things people don't know. Transparency would mean a lot.

Council Time

Mr. Williams said a couple of weeks ago I attended a meeting...tape ran out...we received some updates from the SC General Assembly. Senator Kevin Johnson from Clarendon, Darlington, Florence, and Sumter County he wanted county council members to know that he support Senate Bill 103 that establishes support in LGF. Also we had Rep. Todd Rutherford out of Richland County he said he felt the local government funding attempts for just another way to shifting the funds from one pot to the other pot, he also said he supports LGF, but in order for SC to truly fund Local Government they have to come up with ways to create new revenue streams. One of the suggestions he had rather than us keep sending our funds or dollars across the border, we need to consider, local government pushing for gambling casinos and medical marijuana. Rep. Steve Willis indicated that the full funding may be a longer process than we think cause there is not enough money to go around and he said each time a dollar comes in and we think they are additional funds that could be used for something else, it is used for state offices. No one would comment on the Jasper Port as to whether that would be something we could depend on anytime soon. Ms. Laura Lester from SC Dept. of Agriculture estimated by 2020 agriculture will be a 50 billion dollar market in SC and wanted us to encourage young people to get involved in farming because there is a lot a grants and scholarships involved. ...inaudible... talked about the Opportunity Zone and a opportunity for us to invest in the Opportunity Zone. John Tyler talked about affordable housing. I spoke with Sen. Margie-Bright Matthews, Sen. John Matthews and Rep. Michael Rivers wanted Colletonians to know that they were working for and on our behalf. One other thing and it was probably an oversight by the clerk, but we didn't have on the agenda voting for the proclamation for proclaiming February as Black History Month.

Dr. Flowers said we can vote on that proclamation next month.

Mr. Taylor said he had provided a copy of the SC Center for Fathers & Families Father Figures for council members. We had a press conference in Columbia last week and this brochure is some of the outlook of it and wanted to share it with you.

Dr. Flowers said let me mention about the opportunity zone. That is an investment of a capital gains type of profits if I recall correctly. So if you have anything that is capital gains that ...inaudible... would have the opportunity to put it in the opportunity investment scenario. The other thing talking about LGF we wouldn't need so much money from the State if the State didn't push down to the counties unfunded mandates on us. Our unfunded mandates are tremendous. In the last 5-6 years we are short about a five million dollars from LGF with what they should have funded by law. I just wanted to clarify that. I know we hear a lot from Columbia about their needs up there, but we have a tremendous need here and every time they give us an unfunded mandate and we have to fund, then that is the taxpayers of Colleton County that are funding that. Instead they are pushing these tax increases down to us rather than funding them on the state level, which is by law what they are supposed to be doing.

Executive Session

None

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**