

MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building
109 Benson Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Art Williams, Gene Whetsell, and Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Meagan Utsey, Jon Carpenter, Kaela Brinson and Barry McRoy.

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

Approval of Minutes

- A. **Regular Meeting Minutes, September 7, 2021** — Councilman Phillip Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Art Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

- A. **Proclamation for Colleton County Council's Recognition of Patricia C. Grant and her Service to Colleton County**— Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation aloud. Dr. Joseph Flowers moved to approve the motion, and it was seconded by Councilman Phillip Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations

- A. Michelle Gaston, Chapter Chair - Service Corps of Retired Executives: She and Michael Waters, Vice Chair, gave an overview presentation on SCORE SC Lowcountry.
- B. Charles Bright - Ritter Community Revitalization Project: Mr. Bright discussed the idea of a revitalization project for the Ritter area and the benefits it might give to the community.

No discussion or questions.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Kevin Griffin stated that we have recently reenacted the Colleton County Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. In previous years we have not collected enough accommodations tax to be available for grants added to the community from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. In

more recent years we have been able to collect in excess of \$25,000. That excess goes into a fund to be allocated back through the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board and then through council. The board has seven seats in total, four from lodging and hospitality, one from cultural arts, and two at large. We have \$60,000 that needs to be allocated, of that \$20,000 needs to be allocated by June 30, 2022, and the \$40,000 needs to be allocated by June 30, 2023. We need to encourage people from these industries to participate so we can keep this money in Colleton and not have to give it back to the state.

Councilman Taylor: I spoke with several people in hospitality and lodging, more specifically from hotels in the area, most of the ones you would seek to serve on our board are also serving on the city accommodation tax board. Would this be a conflict for an individual to do both?

Sean Thornton: I will do some research on this, however, there are some city positions that have been held to be offices for dual office holding. I don't know that one being city and one not being city would be dispositive of the issue, but I will be happy to research that for y'all.

Councilman Williams: Are these the same individuals, or do we need new members for the Colleton County Accommodations Tax Advisory Board?

Mr. Griffin: We do need all new individuals.

Councilman Taylor: Stated that we do have one member on the board so far.

No further discussion.

Public Hearing

- a) Ordinance 21-O-09, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Heavy Equipment and Vehicles by Colleton County, South Carolina by Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of Not Exceeding \$5,500,000; the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments, Including a Lease-Purchase Agreement by Colleton County; and Other Matters Relating Thereto
- b) Ordinance 21-O-10, To Amend the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 – Purchasing, to Provide for the Adoption of Section 3.08.175 for Protest Procedures Related to Purchasing for State and Federal Grants in Order to Meet Federal Grant Requirements
- c) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing Concerning Program Performance and Accomplishments.

Kimberly Mullinax, Lowcountry Council of Governments: Floyd Buckner building demolition which was awarded in September of 2020. This is a result of the tornado we had in April 2020. It took the roof off the building and deemed it structurally unsound. The building was located at the corner of Jefferies Blvd and W. Washington St. in downtown Walterboro. It was actually a three story building with much of it underground. It was backfilled with dirt and grass was planted. This project was eligible due to the spot slum/blight national objective and benefited approximately 5,165 residents of which 2,530 (@49%) were considered low-to-moderate income persons. The

grant was awarded for \$363,000. We have completed all the work and have spent \$196,000 and will be returning \$166,000 to the state that was unused. We had to commit the 10% match which was \$76,498.00. This project is set to be monitored financially and programmatically in October and hope to have it closed out by the end of October. Ms. Mullinax asked for any questions or comments.

No comments were made/received.

East Side Water Upgrade which was done in conjunction with the City of Walterboro. Awarded in June 2019. This project was done to improve the water pressure and fire flow on Francis Street, Barracada Road, Live Oak Street, 6th Street, and Hickory Street. This project served 135 residents at 81% LMI. This grant was awarded for \$487,500 we are still trying to total the last invoices on this but are looking to return about \$60,000 under budget. The local match on this was \$61,323 which is covered by the city of Walterboro since they will be the ones to own and maintain the water system. This project is set to be monitored financially and programmatically in October and set to have it closed out by the end of December.

No comments were made/received.

Councilmen Taylor made a motion to move out of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. 3rd Reading Ordinance 21-O-09, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Heavy Equipment and Vehicles by Colleton County, South Carolina by Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of Not Exceeding \$5,500,000; the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments, Including a Lease-Purchase Agreement by Colleton County; and Other Matters Relating Thereto

Dr. Joseph Flowers moved to approve the 3rd reading of Ordinance 21-O-09, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Heavy Equipment and Vehicles by Colleton County, South Carolina by Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of Not Exceeding \$5,500,000; the Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments, Including a Lease-Purchase Agreement by Colleton County; and Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell, which was approved unanimously.

B. 2nd Reading Ordinance 21-O-10, To Amend the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 – Purchasing, to Provide for the Adoption of Section 3.08.175 for Protest Procedures Related to Purchasing for State and Federal Grants in Order to Meet Federal Grant Requirements

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 3rd reading of Ordinance 21-O-10, to Amend the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3.08 – Purchasing, to Provide for the Adoption of Section 3.08.175 for Protest Procedures Related to Purchasing for State and

Federal Grants in Order to Meet Federal Grant Requirements. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 2nd Reading Ordinance 21-O-11, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$6,500,000 Fire Protection Service General Obligation Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended, Including the Refunding of Fire Protection Service General Obligation Bonds for Debt Service Savings and the Acquisition of Certain Property for Fire Protection Purposes; To Provide for the Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 21-O-11, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$6,500,000 Fire Protection Service General Obligation Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe the Purposes for Which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended, Including the Refunding of Fire Protection Service General Obligation Bonds for Debt Service Savings and the Acquisition of Certain Property for Fire Protection Purposes; To Provide for the Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. 2nd Reading Ordinance 21-O-12, Granting an Easement to Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 15583 Bennetts Point Road, County of Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 340-00-00-022.000; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of a Fiber Distribution Hub within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

Dr. Joseph Flowers moved to approve the 2nd reading of Ordinance 21-O-12, Granting an Easement to Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 15583 Bennetts Point Road, County of Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 340-00-00-022.000; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of a Fiber Distribution Hub within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion was carried unanimously.

E. 2nd Reading Ordinance 21-O-13, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$2,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe the Purposes for which the Proceeds Shall Be Expended; To Provide for the Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 21-O-13, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$2,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Prescribe the Purposes for which the

Proceeds Shall Be Expended; To Provide for the Payment Thereof; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

- A. **1st Reading Ordinance 21-O-14, By Title Only, To Ratify FY21 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.**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 21-O-14, By Title Only, To Ratify FY21 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. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. **Resolution 21-R-48, to Authorize the Acceptance of a Grant from the South Carolina Department of Social Services for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Grant for 2022**

Councilman Williams moved to approve Resolution 21-R-48, to Authorize the Acceptance of a Grant from the South Carolina Department of Social Services for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Grant for 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. **Resolution 21-R-49, To Declare October 24th – October 30th as Garnet and Gold Week in Colleton County**

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve Resolution 21-R-49, To Declare October 24th – October 30th as Garnet and Gold Week in Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, which was approved unanimously.

- D. **Resolution 21-R-50, To Authorize the Sole Source Purchase of Wheeled Coach Ambulances for Colleton County Fire-Rescue**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 21-R-50, to Authorize the Sole Source Purchase of Wheeled Coach Ambulances for Colleton County Fire-Rescue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion was carried unanimously.

- E. **Resolution 21-R-51, To Award the Contract for Design Build Services for the Colleton County Food Assistance Facility**

Councilman Whetsell moved to approve Resolution 21-R-51, to Award the Contract for Design Build Services for the Colleton County Food Assistance Facility. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution 21-R-52, to Appoint Members to the Colleton County Safety Committee

Councilman Williams moved to approve Resolution 21-R-52, To Appoint Members to the Colleton County Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor, which was approved unanimously.

G. Resolution 21-R-53, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies

Councilman Williams moved to approve Resolutoion21-R-53, to Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Whetsell, which was approved unanimously.

H. Resolution 21-R-54, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 21-R-54, to Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

The following appointments were made by acclamation: Vera Bodison and Leigh Cook– Colleton County Commission of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Angela McAdoo– Colleton County Keep Colleton Beautiful Commission, R. Ian Padgett– Colleton County Planning Commission, and Kimberly Crouse– Colleton County Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Public Comments

Carol Black: I believe the county should publicly recognize Barry McRoy for his efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. He and his department are already handling the emergencies that arise in "normal" times--but on top of that they have to assist those who have developed the COVID virus--whether the person has been vaccinated or not. Barry has recently come under criticism from a Colleton County resident (in two "letters to the editor" in the local newspaper)--and I think it is important for ALL citizens of the county to see that the council members support Barry and value his dedication to his truly "life-saving" work. I see that council recently issued a proclamation honoring the late Magistrate Richard Wood--and I think Barry deserves the same type of commendation--which I hope will be covered in the same local newspaper. Thank you.

Council Time

Councilman Taylor: We would like to make the public aware that we received as a County "Code Red" being implemented by Colleton County's Fire-Rescue Emergency Management Division. This is an opportunity available to every resident in Colleton County. They can get alerts sent to their home phones via a voice message, by a mobile phone via text message, or by an email address. The Code Red notifications are an alternative to social media, which I think came at a great time as we recently saw a huge outage on social media networks just yesterday. Code Red will also interface with the Integrated Public Alerting & Warning System (IPAWS). More information can be found about operation Code Red by visiting colletonfire.com/codered or by

red would send out an alert during incidents like these, so that residents can take an alternate route. All Colleton County residents should register with this free alerting system as it will be very beneficial.

Also, at the Lowcountry Council of Government there is a Lowcountry Rural Transportation survey for anyone who is concerned with transportation and/or roads issues. This can be found by going online to lowcountrycog.org. Look for LATS and Rural Area 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Survey. We need as many residents who would like to have input on this survey to read the information, make their concerns aware by completing the survey, or you can also call (843) 473-3990 to find out more about this survey.

Also, I just wanted to mention there is a concerted effort by the COG to take an extensive look at the senior and aging population, what we are doing right and what are we not doing right. Ms. Barbara Johnson is heading that up. I would like anyone who have some ideas on how we can better serve seniors in our community to please contact Lowcountry COG.

Also, tonight when we made the presentation to Ms. Grant, Senator Bright mentioned that maybe there could be a way that our county could have a recognition similar to what the state does with the Order of the Palmetto, other counties appear to be doing so. Maybe we have citizens that we would like to recognize beyond a normal proclamation; a citizen's award.

Art Williams: Lowcountry Community Action does have some funding to support those that are behind on their rent.

Executive Session

Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: facilities, Solicitor, and Clerk of Court. Councilman Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor moved to exit executive session. Councilman Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. Flowers moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The public/media was informed of the location, date, and time of the meeting on Friday, October 1, 2021 in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

This 5th day of November, 2021.


Steven D. Murchaugh, Chairmen

ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council