

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 7, 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: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Meagan Chaplin, Dale Mann, Pete Anderson, Tom Mann, Iris Hill Jane Darby, Paula Todd, Roy Williams, Horace Simmons, Jim Hill

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

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

Coastal Empire Community Mental Health - Agency & Services- Mr. Ramon Norris & Dr. Jan Holt

Mr. Norris said in times past the council was able to provide some local funding for local mental health operations. One of the things that has made that continuing for all the counties difficult, I am told, has been public law that was passed in the 90's that made it increasingly difficult for local counties and municipalities to sometimes effectively generate more revenue. There is an opportunity. In recent years there have been ...inaudible... incidents across the nation. Some involving people with mental illness, that combined with the limitations that were set, it limited the choices in how counties ...inaudible... a law was passed with the help of Senator Cleary of Horry County and what it does it enables counties to put on the ballot during a general election a referendum that would allow the county to dedicate a small millage for local mental health services. The brochure outlines those steps. With this coming election it is not sufficient time to follow the law with the readings that are necessary, but again in two years there will be an opportunity and we would like to come back and talk to council again as we get closer to that period of time to talk about specific things we would be able to do for the community (Colleton County). In the tax information about the law any money that came would have to be spent for mental health services in this county and could not be taken outside of the county.

## Mead Westvaco- Plans for Marketing & Development of their Colleton Industrial Campus property- Jim Hill & Derek Mathis

Mr. Hill said he was responsible for all of the industrial/commercial development for MeadWestvaco and Derek recently joined them and has been working closely with Heyward Horton & the Davis team to try to generate additional interest to generate a lot of activity that would be good for Colleton County whether it comes to our particular portion of the park or whether it comes to the County portion of the park. I would like to pass out some marketing brochures that we are using right now for your reference. Then I would like to talk about what our strategy is for the marketing & how we are working together to try to make better things happen for the county. One of the flyers shows the County Park and Westvaco's portion of the park. We have worked with the county to try to make sure that the offerings that our property can provide really work hand and hand and not compete against the offerings can provide. What was originally setup as the strategy was for the county portion of the park to be able to offer what some peoples vernacular might be small to mid-size buildings that could be good for either manufacturing or distribution and because we had larger blocks of land we would try to offer the larger buildings that someone might need so that the county can then market the entire area for the entire spectrum of what a particular user might need if they were coming to the area. We have been working together for several years to get the strategy right and we are very excited to be working with the county to bring infrastructure into the county and make this a true Class "A" Number One Park that a lot of companies look at and say this is where I want to be because it has all the right things that I need to make my business successful. We have engaged a national broker (JLL) which is one of the most premier industrial brokers in the country with a network that goes coast to coast and they are frequently involved in all the major searches that large companies do to try to find the right location. They already talked to folks that have expressed interest in coming here and as they get further down the road of appearing to be a true prospect, we will be working very closely with Heyward and his group to see how we may be able to entice those folks to either location. In addition to the flyers we also do a lot of web marketing as well.

Derek demonstrated how their site worked.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting September 2, 2014

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Administrative Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said we have completely closed out all activity with FEMA and the Ice Storm. All the bills are paid. We ended up receiving a little over two million dollars from FEMA, which we ended up with an out of pocket cost to the County of two hundred eighty thousand dollars. We actually had budgeted half a million so we came in a lot better.

Most of that is because our staff. We were the 2<sup>nd</sup> person in the state, to get our application in, so we got funded at 80% rather than 75%. That is good news and we appreciate all of their hard work.

On the Ace Basin Recreation Park- We have a big tournament this weekend with over 53 teams, so you will be seeing a lot of young 9-14 year old boys here in town with their family this weekend.

Springtown Ball Field- That has been completed. They are going to have a ribbon cutting and would like to invite all the council and staff to attend this Saturday morning at 11:00 am in Springtown.

Jonesville Solid Waste Site- We have the DHEC encroachment permit. We have made notice to close the containers at Public Landing on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We will create a temporary site with some containers at the Fire Station until we work through the permitting of the permanent site.

We have a verbal from SCDOT on the day lighting (Clearing the trees & debris) for the permit so you can see the Industrial Park at Exit 62. We will have a permit from 62.9 all the way down to exit 57 to clear. Mead Westvaco has been very kind working with us on that. We will have the approval for five years, so we don't have to do it all at one time.

Kitchen Update- Everything on schedule. Interviewing now for Kitchen Manager Position and going very well. We have had a good response and I look for us to have someone in place our next council meeting.

Standard & Poor's has rated us from an A+ to AA-, which is an upgrade.

SCAC has been proactive re: LGF and has asked each county to produce a document regarding what we get in LGF Revenue and what we expend as far as State Mandates are required.

Mr. Whetsell asked the administrator if it has been decided what the next meeting date would be. It happens to be on Election Day and I wondered if there was any concern.

Mr. Griffin said that is an item we need to bring up. If you all would like to decide that now, we could either do it the night before or put it back a week.

Mr. Murdaugh said he would recommend they put it back a week because everybody will be busy with the election.

Mr. Griffin said the 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day.

Mr. Murdaugh said how about the 10<sup>th</sup>.

The consensus of council was to change the next council meeting to Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Hearing**

Ordinance 14-O-11, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Sections 14.08-2.130(3) Special Exceptions, 14.08-2.150(3)(c) Overlay District Uses and 14.08-3.020(A)(7) Accessory Structure.

No comments were made.

### **Old Business**

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading, Ordinance 14-O-11, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Sections 14.08-2.130(3) Special Exceptions, 14.08-2.150(3)(c) Overlay District Uses and 14.08-3.020(A)(7) Accessory Structure.

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-12, To Ratify FY14 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

Resolution 14-R-60, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-61, To Award the Contract for the County Roads Improvement Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-62, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for the South Carolina Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Grant Received for FY2014-2015.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-63, To Authorize the Purchase of a Parcel of Land for Colleton County Recreation.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 14-R-64, To Appoint Members to the Fire-Rescue Commission.

Ballots were given to the council members and the results were unanimous electing LaVern Polk, Doug Mixson, Sr. & Gerald (Jerry) Breland to serve on the commission.

Resolution 14-R-65, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

No Comments were made

### **Council Time**

Mr. Taylor- I met earlier this year with some of the White House Administration staff in relation to the My Brother's Keeper initiative and this is not a government program as much as it is a challenge to the communities. This is just a play book and I gave one to the administrator earlier and he recognized what was going on with it. I just wanted to share this as information for you to kinda review and then you can look at whether or not we can engage the county in this challenge. I will be on a conference call tomorrow in relation to getting more information about it specifically and how counties can be involved, but I wanted you to have this in advance to that meeting. If there are any questions, I will have that meeting tomorrow at 2:00 and you can call me and I will convey it to the NACo committee at that time. Additionally I wanted to remind you of the Springtown Community new Ball Field ceremony 11:00 on Saturday and appreciate the council as well as the staff that worked so hard to get that done.

Dr. Flowers- I would like for us to send our Delegation a cover letter with a copy of this LGF analysis for Colleton County. I think they should be recognitive of this. After all

they are supposed to represent us in Columbia and we do need their support in funding the LGF. I would also encourage members of our community to call your representatives and tell them you need to have this thing funded. This is three million dollars of tax money that we are short because of the government funding and we are having to pick up this with taxes on your houses and property and everything in this county. The LGF needs to be funded, it is by law, passed by the legislation that this should be done and they are certainly circumventing the law that they passed. Pressure needs to be put on our delegation to make sure they understand the seriousness ...inaudible...

Mr. Administrator, I mentioned to you several months ago about some money that's available for recreational activities, especially through the DNR...inaudible... the landings we have always had problems with vandalism at the landings and I think some of these funds might be available to maybe put some cameras there to try to see if we can deter some of the vandalism that occurs there especially since we are moving on the landing in Jonesville, maybe this would be an ideal time to look into something along that line and see if we can get some matching funds for that. I think there is a good bit of money available. I just wanted to mention that to you.

Mr. Griffin said just to follow up with you, the gentleman with DNR that did the presentation we called and spoke with him, actually scheduled a meeting to go up. The shooting range they did was in Laurens County, but he had an emergency and had to cancel and we are going to reschedule and get back up there. We do have water resource funds available and the big issue with the cameras is PRTC getting fiber because most of those are remote sites, which they are working through a wonderful fiber plan throughout the rural areas of the county, a major investment. They are alerting us they move forward with getting those fibers out there. Many of these landings barely have electricity. We have been working that plan. We do have a fairly significant amount of water resource funds available.

Mr. Murdaugh said I think we need to take it a step farther and look at during our peak season having some presence there as far as personnel. All the other counties I go to a lot of them charge slip fees, I think the county residence could certainly register and display a sticker in their vehicle, but other counties are charging slip fees and I guess that is to defray the cost of having personnel there that is manning the slip, but during the peak season I think we ought to take a look at doing that as well. We have so much vandalism and things going on at that landing that deters some of our local citizens from using them. I think we ought to take a look at that. I agree with Dr. Flowers about sending a letter to the delegation with this information. It is pretty staggering when you look at the financial outlay we have to make as a council and the reality is we have no ability to have any impact or say so in how these organizations are run, but yet we are footing the bill, so something needs to be balanced. If they want us to pay for them, then we ought to have more say so.

Mr. Robinson said in addition to that is it feasible or permissible that a continuation of reminding the citizens of this county that we need to write the Legislation coming from the council and maybe both of the papers over a period of time so that people won't sit

down and forget the importance of getting LGF funding, keeping this for us ...inaudible... Is it feasible Mr. Griffin that the council can do something in the newspaper, something to remind the citizens of Colleton County that they need

Mr. Griffin said hopefully this information today we'll have something in the newspaper about it, but yes sir. I have a feeling that we are going to hear a lot about this, this legislative season.

Mr. Taylor said in relation to that, again a letter is good and those things are good. I would like it if each one of our councilmen would make individual calls to each one of the members of our delegation and actually speak to them and have a conversation. In addition to that we are organizing a gathering through the Southern Carolina Alliance maybe potentially in February that all of the council will go up as a contingency to Columbia and address some of the concerns we have.

Mr. Whetsell said to follow up a little on Mr. Murdaugh's plan about the landings. The ideal situation is to have an individual to stay there all the time. We have tried that time and time again. We can get people to stay there in the daytime, but at night time, the people come down to shad fish and stuff like that, the people break into the vehicles. We've talked about having a person on the county payroll that would check on the landings. That is no good. He could be at Springtown and a fellow on a cellphone he picks up and leaves going to Greenpond and he says your man is on the way to Greenpond the one man being there, we don't know what that answer is. If you put someone down there all day with the fees that is going to work good during the day, but the break-ins and stealing of the pumps and tables come at night when nobody is there. I have people talk to me all the time and say why don't you put somebody at the landings? I said if you can find somebody that is willing to stay at the landing, we will give him a place to stay. You cannot find anybody. We used to have Mr. Brant Crosby staying at Public Landing. He would stay there all night, sell fish bait and stuff and it eliminated break-ins. Until somebody is there all the time TAPE RAN OUT AT THIS TIME. The lights on all the time somebody is right there. All the other landings nobody is there and they will knock your window out before you can turn around. What the answer to that is, I wish I knew a little more about it.

Mr. Taylor said the staff is going to be looking at that a little more to see how we can manage that. We do need to look at that.

### **Executive Session**

a) Legal

### **Regular 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**