MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Chairman Phillip M. Taylor, Sr. called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance. Chairman Steven D. Murdaugh was not in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Kaela Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Sue Keith, Wesley McDonald, Johnny Holmes, Felicia Johnson, Anderson Grant, Cindy Riley, Lynn Stroble, Christine Stroble, Craig Stivender, Mayor Crawford Moore, Jay Watts, Mayor Dulin, Tara Glover, Jordan Brown, Ellen Fitch, Edward Fitch, Eric Hamilton, and Clarence Wiggins.

Councilman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting February 6, 2024— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 6, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.

Appearances and Public Presentations

- A. Lowcountry Community Action Agency Annual Report– Tara Glover
- ***See attached presentation given by Tara Glover.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, thank you for all that you do, you do a great job. Is Safe Haven a shelter for only women and children?

Mrs. Glover: Stated, the shelter is for women, children, and families. We do have men that come through and we provide them with a meal and clothing. If they need to go into a hotel, we will provide that for them.

Councilman Trippe: Asked, how long can they stay?

Mrs. Glover: Stated, the max they can stay is 60 days. However, we know that it is hard to find affordable housing. We find that it is hard to place them in housing, because a lot of them have

evictions on their credit. So, we try to work with them and see if some of the landlords will work with us to try to get them into affordable housing. Otherwise, we allow them to stay until we are able to find suitable and affordable housing. We do not want to send them back out there and they become homeless again.

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, thank you Mrs. Glover.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I wanted to take a moment to remember Mr. Homer. When I first moved here, he was one of the first people to welcome me to the community. He was a wonderful man with a heart of gold, and we will all really miss him. They had a great memorial for him yesterday.

On the agenda we have several items to discuss. Recreation, Item "A", we have a grant that has come through from the Delegation office for a miracle field (Thank you Mrs. Sue). This was primarily led by Senator Margie Bright Matthews. However, as we were working on this, we determined that we did not own the property. Somehow in 2009 when all the recreation property was transferred, this piece did not. So, we are correcting that.

We have a "by title only" on the general obligation bond. That would be to cover the Voter Registration Office, Coroner's Office, and cleaning up a few other projects that we are working on now, as well as purchasing those properties.

Item "N", wastewater improvements, that is part of the mega site wastewater project. We have a roughly 10 million dollar grant to run wastewater in conjunction with the city to run wastewater out to exit 57, gravity sewer, then on to the mega site property on Bells Hwy. They are putting a quick trip facility in, and it will cost us about a third of the price to go ahead and put the pipe in, rather than tearing out their infrastructure to put it in later. We worked with Coastal Electric on some RDA funds that they gave to the county. We ended up getting a pretty good price. It is an emergency procurement, right at \$200,000, to put both the sewer and water pipe in prior to them laying down any pavement. We are going to go ahead with doing that now. They can cap each end and connect to it once we get out there.

There are a couple of items with Capital Projects:

Green Pond Fire Station: This has an architect in place, and had the project kick off meeting on February 28th.

Freedom Field (Miracle League): I spoke about it previously being in design. We had to just get the land issue taken care of.

ADA Entrance (Harrelson Building): This is about 90% complete. Along with completing the 3rd floor office and moving ROD to the second floor to expand IT and GIS. If you drive by the Harrelson Building you will see the new generators and such going up. This is to keep our IT systems up and running.

Green Pond Community Center: This is about 80% completed.

RMP Building (Summer Feeding): This is almost complete. We are waiting on a punch list from the contractor.

Voter Registration: The electrical rough in is about 90% done, and the building is expected to be completed by July 2024 and be moved in by the General Election working directly.

Courthouse Window Replacement: There is a contractor contract in place. We are working on scheduling a kick-off meeting with a notice to proceed here shortly.

Venture Park (Working on the Spec Buildings): Wayne Brothers Construction is very interested in working in a Public/Private partnership with the county out there on additional properties. We are in discussion to do that.

Mega Site (Wastewater/Wastewater Infrastructure): We are working with both Michelle Knight and the EDA. We found out about another grant process on Friday that may allow us to go ahead and install the primary road from Bells Hwy to Ruffin. This grant is only available to rural counties with populations less than \$100,000 with minimum project size of 25 million.

Animal Control (CPST Project): A contractor has been selected and a contract should be in place by March 15th.

Emergency Operations Center (CPST Project): We have already had the kickoff meeting, and they should be in full design in the next month or so.

Johnsville Community Center (CPST Project): We are in a holding pattern here deciding if we want to move forward with the current funding or wait to hear back from our Legislative Delegation to know if there will be additional funding, which they requested to enlarge the facility. Recreational Pool and Gym Project (CPST Project): We have located a site here in downtown Walterboro. This will include a pool and small gym.

Veterans Park (CPST Project): We have Mr. Wallace Milling finishing up the Council Park, and we plan to put together a meeting by the 15th of this month to go ahead and get that moving forward. My understanding, the Veterans Park has been moved over to the airport property possibly.

Cottageville Library: We are waiting for the earmarked request from Representative Robby Robbins. He feels good about the request, and I believe we have the rest of the Delegation behind us on this.

Coroner's Facility (CPST Project): We have the architects in place.

We also have put in a PAR Grant for the pickleball courts out at the recreation center. This has become a very popular sport. Mrs. Ann Carmichael is behind that 100%. We have an idea of three, possibly four pickleball courts out at the recreation center.

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, Dr. Flowers asked if there were any items that were canceled for executive session.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I have a written Economic Development update for you. Our director is meeting with a consultant and possible client tonight.

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, Thank you, Mr. Griffin.

New Business

A. 1st Reading Ordinance 24-O-01, By Title Only, Authorizing Colleton County to Join with the Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission and the City of Walterboro in Conveying 10.07 Acres of a Portion of Real Property, Located at the Colleton County Recreation Center, Identified by T.M.S. No. 132-00-00-028.00 to Colleton County.

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 24-O-01, By Title Only, Authorizing Colleton County to Join with the Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission and the City of Walterboro in Conveying 10.07 Acres of a Portion of Real Property, Located at the Colleton County Recreation Center, Identified by T.M.S. No. 132-00-00-028.00 to Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-02, By Title Only, Granting an Easement to CDP Walterboro 2, LLC on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 113 Mable T. Willis Boulevard, County Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 178-00-00-205.00; Such Easement is to be Used for the Construction of a Dollar General Store; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto

Councilman Trippe moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-02, By Title Only, Granting an Easement to CDP Walterboro 2, LLC on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 113 Mable T. Willis Boulevard, County Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 178-00-00-205.00; Such Easement is to be Used for the Construction of a Dollar General Store; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-03, By Title Only, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$9,000,000 General Obligation 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

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 24-O-03, By Title Only, To Provide for the Issuance and Sale of Not Exceeding \$9,000,000 General Obligation 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 Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

D. 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-04, By Title Only, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Equipment and Heavy Vehicles by Colleton County, South Carolina by Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of Not Exceeding \$3,000,000; The Execution and Delivery of Certain Instruments, Including a Lease-Purchase Agreement by Colleton County; And Other Matters Relating Thereto

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-04, By Title Only, Authorizing the Acquisition of Certain Equipment and Heavy Vehicles by Colleton County, South Carolina by

Lease-Purchase Financing in the Amount of Not Exceeding \$3,000,000; 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 Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

E. 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-05, To Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi-County Business Park in Conjunction with Charleston County, South Carolina; To Provide for a Written Agreement with Charleston County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; To Provide for the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Among Taxing Entities Having Jurisdiction Over the Park; To Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 24-R-05, To Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi-County-Business Park in Conjunction with Charleston County, South Carolina; To Provide for a Written Agreement with Charleston County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; To Provide for the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Among Taxing Entities Having Jurisdiction Over the Park; To Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution 24-R-14, To Authorize an Additional Five-Year Sole Source Purchase Arrangement Between Colleton County Fire-Rescue Commission and Stryker Sales Corp. for Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators, AEDs, Chest Compression Devices and Related Equipment for a Period Not to Exceed Five Years

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-14, To Authorize an Additional Five-Year Sole Source Purchase Arrangement Between Colleton County Fire-Rescue Commission and Stryker Sales Corp. for Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators, AEDs, Chest Compression Devices and Related Equipment for a Period Not to Exceed Five Years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution 24-R-15, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-15, To Declare Surplus Various Vehicles and Equipment and to Authorize Their Sale in Accordance with County Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Resolution 24-R-16, To Amend the Agreement for the Establishment of the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (The "Park") so as to Include Additional Property Located in Jasper County as Part of the Park and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 24-R-16, To Amend the Agreement for the Establishment of the Jasper Ocean Terminal Multi-County Industrial/Business Park (The "Park") so as to Include Additional Property Located in Jasper County as Part of the Park and Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Resolution 24-R-17, To Establish Priorities for the 2024 Annual CDBG County Needs Assessment

Councilman Beiring moved to approve Resolution 24-R-17, To Establish Priorities for the 2024 Annual CDBG County Needs Assessment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Resolution 24-R-18, Confirming the Intention of Colleton County, South Carolina to be Reimbursed for Certain Expenditures related to Capital Purchases/Projects to be Financed by the Issuance of Bonds

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-18, Confirming the Intention of Colleton County, South Carolina to be Reimbursed for Certain Expenditures related to Capital Purchases/Projects to be Financed by the Issuance of Bonds. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Resolution 24-R-19, To Request that the Colleton County State Legislative Delegation Recommend to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources that South Carolina Water Resource Recreation Funds Dedicated to Colleton County be Used to Improve Safety and Security at Colleton County Boat Landings.

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 24-R-19, To Request that the Colleton County State Legislative Delegation Recommend to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources that South Carolina Water Resource Recreation Funds Dedicated to Colleton County be Used to Improve Safety and Security at Colleton County Boat Landings. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Resolution 24-R-20, To Approve Amendment of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Charleston County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and to Update the Status of Certain Property in Charleston County with Respect to the Joint County Industrial Park.

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-20, To Approve Amendment of the Agreement for Development for Joint County Industrial Park, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Jointly Owned and Operated Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Charleston County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and to

Update the Status of Certain Property in Charleston County with Respect to the Joint County Industrial Park. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Resolution 24-R-21, To Approve Amendment of the Agreement for the Establishment of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park for Properties Located in a Redevelopment Project Area, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Charleston County as part of the Multi-County Industrial/Business Park

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-21, To Approve Amendment of the Agreement for the Establishment of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park for Properties Located in a Redevelopment Project Area, By and Between Charleston County, South Carolina and Colleton County, South Carolina, Providing for the Development of a Multi-County Industrial/Business Park, so as to Include Additional Property in Charleston County as part of the Multi-County Industrial/Business Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Resolution 24-R-22, To Authorize Emergency Procurement Procedures Related to Mega Site Wastewater Improvements

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-22, To Authorize Emergency Procurement Procedures Related to Mega Site Wastewater Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

O. Resolution 24-R-23, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 24-R-23, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Beiring. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Resolution 24-R-24, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-24, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Mrs. Felicia Johnson: Stated, I understand the lights will take a while over there but thank goodness we got a camera put over there and the club closed. I thought they were going to open, but you all shut it down. However, these ditches, everything stops at my residence on the corner

of Rivers and Madison Street. The trash is ridiculous, and I cannot get out in that ditch because it is still full. It is calling for a 90% chance of rain tomorrow, and I am praying my home, and my neighbors' homes don't get flooded out. My home insurance does not provide flood insurance. I fear for my grandson because he almost went into that ditch with his bicycle. Like I said, my exhusband did go into that ditch three times around Christmas and I told him I cannot help you. Last December, I was lying in my bed when I heard a noise, and a young lady went down into that ditch. Thank goodness there was no water in the ditch and my son, and her friend helped her get out. We truly don't need to dig this ditch any deeper. The ditch is almost as tall as I am. They need to cut open Rivers Street. The man that did the work on the ditch years ago told me they did not cross the water over Rivers. All they did was dig the ditches deeper and into the woods. We have got to tear up the street for water to flow and it is not flowing anywhere. Some peoples' ditch drains you can't even see because they are covered in dirt, but they keep digging ours deeper. You can ride Robertson Blvd and see what I am talking about. Like I said, we need help and I have grandchildren. I know that it is going to take some time on the lights, but I am going to keep pressing Dominion to go up Rivers Street. It is getting warmer, and I will be riding bicycles, and that is a drug zone. We need help with these ditches and lights, thank you very much.

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, thank you Mrs. Johnson.

Mrs. Sharon Witkin: Stated, good evening, Councilmen, staff, and Colleton County Residents. I am Sharon Witkin, Colleton County School District Board Member, and current chairman. I represent District 3 of Walterboro residence and have served as a school board trustee since 2018. I am grateful to stand before you in appreciation of the partnership we have with Colleton County to educate the youth in our community. I am also grateful that within this past week, Councilmen, I have shared conversation individually with all of you and spent time with you celebrating our community. I appreciate your representation of our county and its residents. I also want to acknowledge and publicly praise your work and support of the Colleton County School District. Recently, our school district posted several community meetings, focus groups, and informational sessions regarding the state of our school district. We have felt your support at these events and appreciate your time and dedication. Knowing what we face and what steps we are taking to improve, and our strong desire to hear from our community while providing to our community what our families need and deserve. As you know, we are led by interim Superintendent Jessica Williams, a lifelong Colletonian and educator. She is well trusted in our community. Behind her she has some new and longtime serving principles and educators who live, work, and are part of our community. Working in their jobs and in their lives for our children. We are proud to be the largest employer in this county. I would like to present to you tonight the educational dashboard created by the South Carolina Department of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. This link will be provided in a written copy of my comments this evening.

Link:

https://public.tableau.com/views/RFA_Education/Funding?%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no#1

The dashboard highlights the numbers and data we, as elected officials, strive to know and understand as we work towards the betterment of our community.

Colleton County School District's general fund of 55 million is 73% generated from revenue we rely on from the per pupil allocation from the State of South Carolina. We have not come before you, Council, for a requested increase in local revenue since 2019.

Thank you for reviewing this information. We hope soon you will consider the Colleton County School District's call for the County's full support moving forward as we improve, empower, and create the best we can for ALL of Colleton.

Finally, I look forward to our meeting to better understand the County's considerations for space intended for a charter school.

As our school district represents the largest group of school-age children in our county, we want to make sure Council knows the impact decisions will have on our district's state funding. We have the greatest influence in creating Colleton County's future and upcoming workforce! We welcome the opportunity to discuss the impact proposed partnerships will have on the equity balance of education here in Colleton County. I, thank you!

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, thank you, Mrs. Witkin.

No further comments were made.

Council Time

Councilman Beiring: Stated, we are praying for Steve Murdaugh and his family. I did attend the service and it was an honor. I am very humbled to have been a part of that. Losing a father is not easy. They are going through a hard time. Mr. Homer was such a good person. I also wanted to thank the school board and all the other elected officials for being here tonight.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I have known Mr. Homer Murdaugh all my life. He was a fine man and will be greatly missed. He was well thought of in this community. He worked at SCE&G for 43 years. I also would like to thank the school board and elected officials for coming.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I would also like to say a few words about Mr. Homer. I knew Mr. Homer just about all his life. I was raised right down the road from him. He was a real gentleman and very humble. He was a man who cared about his family. He made a huge impact, and his grandchildren will miss him greatly as he had a great relationship with them. I have never met a man who wanted to give back to the community any more than Mr. Homer. He was always available if you needed him, and he would always ask if there was anything he could do. He did so much that went unrecognized, for the people of this community. If we had more people like that in our community, how great would it be? People like that are few and far between. I know they will miss him, and I will miss him. I treated him for over 50 years, so I know him quite well. I want Steve and his family to know how much we appreciated his daddy and that we will all miss him. I know Steve and his family are missing him today. They have a lot to look back on that is very good. I wanted

you all to know that there are not many people like Mr. Homer. He will be greatly missed by all of us, thank you.

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, thank you Dr. Flowers. As a child, the late Mr. Floyd Buckner used to take me down to Vacation Bible School in Islandton. He introduced me to the people of the neighborhood and would take me around, and come to find out, Mr. Homer was one of those people. When I was a little boy, around eight years old and throughout the years, it has been delightful. He used to cook those big pots of rice, and I think he and Mr. Gene Whetsell used to compete. I saw a man who would give back to the community, because he didn't have to do these things as he was retired. I went to the wake and saw the great outpouring and was told that at the celebration of life there was equally a great presence of Colletonians. All races and age groups were there to recognize and say how much they appreciated him. I didn't know him really well, but the interactions that I did have were great. We will keep Steve and the entire family in our prayers.

Executive Session

Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Contractual and Economic Development Update. Councilman Biering seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Flowers moved to exit executive session. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Adjournment

ATTEST:

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

This 2nd day of April 2024.

Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

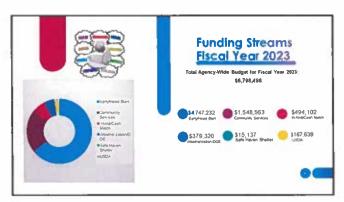
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Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council



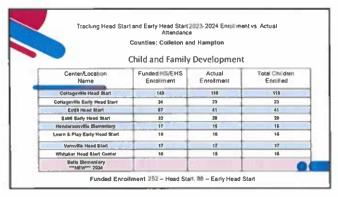


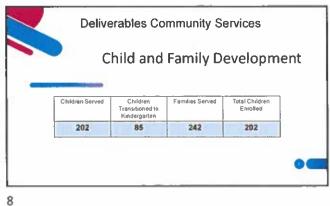






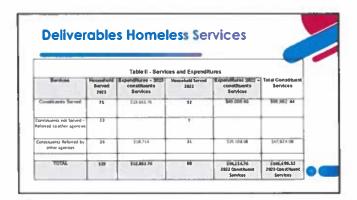




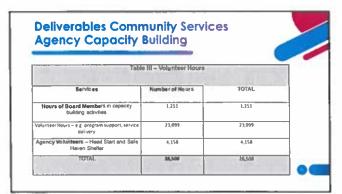


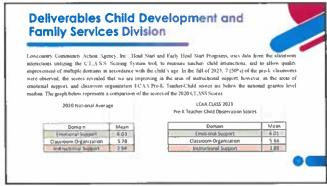
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Law Ferance Herrie Energy Associations Program (LINEAP)	\$,347	\$617,14679	\$817,04076	
Carr murviy Services Block Grant (CSBG)	36	\$10.346	\$105,505	
General Emergency Assistance Program (GEAP)	45	\$16,627.48	\$96,427.68	
UHWAP	143	§ 37,668 th	\$17,668.15	
Manh Settlement	100	549,426 76	\$49.425.70	
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