

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING
109 BENSON STREET, WALTERBORO, SC**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Dr. Joseph Flowers, Phillip Taylor, Art Williams in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Antoinette Kinsey, Jeff Ament, Wendell McDonald, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal Hodges, James Rutledge, Vicki Brown, Theodore Reed, Johnny Bartley, William Smyly, Roy Williams

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

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting January 7, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

2019 Audit Report – David Irwin, CPA-- Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Mr. Irwin gave an over review of the county's audit. The county received a clean or unmodified opinion on this report. He commended the county for a job very well done.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said the State of Colleton meeting is next Wednesday, February 12th at 8:00AM this is an event that the Walterboro Chamber of Commerce puts on.

The following Wednesday is the SCAC Mid-Yr. Conference and Legislative Reception as well. We generally go up there in the morning. We get an update on all of the Legislative issues effecting counties in the morning and then we have the opportunity to go meet with our Legislative Delegation in the afternoon.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 20-O-01, To Amend Chapter 13, Section 13.04.010 of the Colleton County Code of Laws to Provide for the Adoption of Certain Updated Codes as Mandated by State Law.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-07, To Appoint Employees to the Colleton County Grievance Committee.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-08, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-09, To Declare Saturday, May 9th, as Stewardship Day 2020 for the Edisto River Basin.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-10, To Establish Priorities for the 2020 Annual CDBG County Needs Assessment.

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

Mr. Taylor requested the priorities be read aloud.

Mr. Williams requested the resolution be amended to add (under transportation sidewalks) a sidewalk for hwy. 303 from Jefferies Blvd. to the bypass.

Mr. Williams made a motion to amend the resolution adding the sidewalk on hwy. 303 and Mr. Murdaugh seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-11, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Grant for FY 2019-2020.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-12, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies.

Ballots were given to the council members and the results were as follows:
Keep Colleton Beautiful: Dawn Davis & Jonathan Burroughs

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

No Comments were made

Council Time

Mr. Taylor- the new emergency operations plan that the Fire-Rescue has put in place is right in step with a lot of things they have been doing over the last few years that make us have the state of the arch Fire-Rescue center and wanted to recognize that.

Mr. Murdaugh- I think there was a copy of a letter in the packet from Mr. Andrew Hugine from Alabama about his tax bill what we could do to address that, it is there for your reading and I think it is up to Ms. Hill actually.

Mr. Williams – My constituents will probably slam me if I don't find out and stop telling them I don't know when they ask me questions. When we talk about the property issue for Mr. Hugine and with the taxes and so forth, are there any way he can have his taxes appealed to the point where they go before the tax appeals court to see whether it has been levied correctly?

Mr. Murdaugh said there is a process. I think it is more of an issue of valuation than levy,

Mr. Whetsell interjected there is an appeal process that they can go through that will take it right on to the State Tax Commission, the final one.

Mr. Williams asked if there was a plan for the Old Building -School District Office from the county.

Mr. Murdaugh said you mean the Buckner Building?

Mr. Williams said yes.

Mr. Murdaugh said we had a long term plan, but that has not materialized and would have to defer that to the Administrator.

Mr. Griffin said I think that is something we will be talking about in the budget process and retreat coming up in the spring. No we have not made any other than the master planning we are doing for the whole block. There is no specific plan. There are some evaluations that need to be done on the building since they recently moved out, then we will take a look at it.

Mr. Williams said how many of the 90 new vehicles that we are supposed to be getting, what percentage or how many do we have operable at this point and the 2nd part to that question would be how many of those came from local vendors.

Mr. Griffin called upon Jon Carpenter, Finance Director to answer the question.

Mr. Carpenter said we had 90 coming, we have about 20 we have received so far and we have several that are police vehicles that are the after-market vendor being equipped.

Mr. Griffin said we can get you a breakdown on the local vendors.

Mr. Williams said the vehicle that was damaged allegedly damaged in the sheriff's incident, was it a county vehicle.

Mr. Griffin said yes.

Mr. Williams said there are some employees that have concerns about the usage of the Fitness Center at the Rec. Are there any plans to help them along with the process to help defray some of the costs involved since they are county employees and use it for health and wellness.

Mr. Griffin said we talked about that at our last meeting and will have an update for you shortly.

Executive Session

Economic Development

1. Project Concrete
2. Project Capital
3. J & L Wire

Contractual & Real Estate

1. City of Walterboro
2. Fishburne Land Company
3. SC Battlefield Trust

Items were discussed.

No further actions were taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Date: _____

Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

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