

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
BUDGET MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019  
5:30 PM  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 5:30 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Steven Murdaugh, Art Williams and Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, Satarah Hussain, Timothy Mabry, Sr., Tiffany Pearson, Sharon Witkin, Daryl Erwin, Kelly Pedigo, Anderson Grant, Mebane Connelly, Ryan Pearson, Cliff Warren, Sherman Mitchell, Sheri Stone

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

Dr. Flowers said he would like to have a motion to amend the agenda to have an executive session for our attorney to give us some information he has.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session for a legal briefing regarding conflict of interest and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-39, To Approve the Maintenance and Lease Agreement for the Lease of Vehicles between Colleton County and Enterprise Fleet Management, LLC

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

Mr. Williams said he didn't know if it was the way it was worded, it could be in my opinion misleading because it is somewhat of a purchase and it also states for one year. If we get rid of the vehicles that we have now, what are we going to do 1 year later if we are not satisfied? We are not going to be able to go back and get those same vehicles. I hope that council will dwell on that a little bit and make sure we are not biting off more than we can chew.

The motion carried 4-1 (Williams opposing)

**Executive Session**  
Legal Briefing

**Regular Session**  
Dr. Flowers said they received a legal briefing and no action was taken.

## **Outside Agency Funding Requests**

### **Budget Item 1: Father to Father Budget Request in the amount of \$35,000**

Mr. Taylor said in light of a potential conflict of interest as to basic understanding in the community that I am an employee of Father to Father in regards to it a copy of this notice has been given to the chair and I will recuse myself from the meeting.

Mr. Williams said as a current board member to Father to Father I also recuse myself and would like to leave the room and ask that you keep a copy of this written information for the records.

Both recusal forms were given to the chairman for the records.

Both council members left the room for the discussion on Father to Father Budget Request.

Mr. Murdaugh said do we want to go through these one by one or do we want to take the approach that we want to evaluate these in January when we see how the revenues are coming in and hold our decision on these items at that point and time or do we want to fund some of these this evening or how do we want to do that?

Dr. Flowers said a couple of things has come up I think and I have some questions relative to this Father to Father thing because it was funded by DSS and they jerked the funding this year all together, but we don't know why. They are funding other counties in this state even though they did reduce the funding they are still funding some. That is a question in my mind as to what happened there. Also, we don't have any audit relative to what the expenditures were last year and how they were spending it, who runs the organization, who they answer to etc. There's a lot of questions I have relative to this that have not been answered. The lady that talked to us at our last budget meeting told us that they would have an audit coming the next week, but she had not received and she also said there will be several of the counties involved in this area out of the Walterboro office. However, I asked the administrator to talk to the administrators of several counties including Hampton, Jasper, and Beaufort and they knew nothing about this and there was no provision in any of their budgets ...inaudible... there are a lot of questions that have not been answered and that is where I stand. As far as what you mentioned about holding off till the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year that certainly, I guess could be done.

Mr. Whetsell said I'm still looking for the audit. We were promised an audit from Father to Father at the last meeting we had. We have not seen that. I would like to see us decided something on all of these. We do not need to carry all this stuff over waiting to see what happens. Let's see if we can work something out on these things we have in front of us tonight.

Mr. Murdaugh said I think the Father to Father program does provide a good service. I think it does possibly help some from being incarcerated. Those other organizations

...inaudible... I understand we've got the political willingness here to do what we got to do. Does anyone have a recommendation that we fund on some level?

Dr. Flowers said his problem was how much money they are asking for. We only have a little bit more than this in our contingency fund. I don't like us to use our contingency to fund outside agencies because we don't know when a storm is going to hit or what may come up. That is why we have the contingency. This is a lot of money and also they are asking for this to be a recurring type thing and this is another issue I have.

Mr. Whetsell said this thing was funded entirely by the State and this year they put no money in it what so ever. Something is the matter with what we are looking at. We were wanting to get the audit on this thing. We were promised an audit. We still don't have it. I don't see where we can fund it right out of the county budget, when last year it was funded strictly by the State.

Mr. Murdaugh said the only reason he was suggesting that we hold on that is because of those items we had asked for. I understand they have not been provided. Just allow some time to get the audit and find out why the other counties were not asked to contribute to the program some explanation for that.

Mr. Whetsell made a motion they deny the request and was seconded by Dr. Flowers

Mr. Murdaugh said would he vote against the motion only because his choice was to wait until they got the information

The motion carried 2-1 (Murdaugh opposing)

**Budget Item 2:** Palmetto Breeze Budget Request in the amount of \$47,088 for Walterboro Works

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the budget request and was seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Item 3:** Palmetto Breeze Budget Request in the amount of \$27,632 for commuter service from Colleton County to Bluffton and Hilton Head

Mr. Taylor made a motion to deny the budget request and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Item 4:** Colleton County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Budget Request in the amount of \$15,876

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the budget request and was seconded by Mr. Williams

Mr. Murdaugh asked if they had funded that at some level last year.

Mr. Griffin said no this is a new request. We handle all of their payroll services and we also maintain the building, which is our building.

Mr. Murdaugh said didn't they come in last year and make some request at the end of the year?

Mr. Griffin said he didn't recall, but if we did, that was the roof they asked for special funding to replace the roof. There was a storm and it took off a portion of the roof. That was a capital request specifically for that.

Mr. Taylor said this request is for the basic items, with the copiers and other items in their operations. They are expanding their services.

Mr. Murdaugh said is there some willingness on the motion to meet in the middle?

Mr. Taylor said some would be better than none.

Mr. Taylor said he would amend his motion to make this in the amount of \$10,000 and leave off the annual commitment at this time.

Mr. Williams said one thing he saw they needed an additional vehicle. Do we have any old vehicles we could provide the use of, so they could fully extend their services and not be impacted by the \$10,000, then we could use that as an offset.

Mr. Griffin said they just have one now and they wanted to replace that current one.

Mr. Williams said I believe they want an additional one, I'm not sure.

Mr. Griffin said he think they just wanted to replace that one. It has broken down on a few trips. We can work that out with our regular fleet.

Mr. Williams amended his 2<sup>nd</sup> to Mr. Taylor's amended motion.

Dr. Flowers said the amended motion is to do \$10,000 with no annual cost funding. Is that right?

Mr. Taylor said yes.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Item 5:** Colleton County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs Budget Request in the amount of \$53,600

Mr. Taylor made a motion not to fund this budget request and was seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Colleton County School District Budget Update**

Dr. Foster said on behalf of the School Board he was there to express to council the board's desire to request a millage increase for the School District in the amount of 4.41 mills for consideration to maintain district operations, the Legislative Mandates, as well as some continuous improvement needs. Tonight Ms. Temple, who is our director of finance is going to present an overview of our current budget process. I think you will find it to be very detailed in outlining the concerns we have as a district regarding a lot of unfunded mandates that we continue to receive from the state and the needs for the district to ensure that our future leaders have every opportunity to combat some of the things that you talked about tonight with some of the other requests.

Ms. Temple gave a power point presentation.

No further actions were taken.

The meeting 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**