

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 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. Flowers, Mr. Robinson in attendance. Phillip Taylor, absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Michelle Knight, Dennis Averkin, Jim Meyer, Gary Brightwell, Pete Anderson, Denney Conley, Isreal Hodges, Sr. Eleanor Hodges, Karla Daddieco, Donna Lamb, Cris Soard, Sandra Gelzer, Matt Mardell, Roy Williams, James Rutledge, Richard Harvey, Jenice F. Massalon

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

Mr. Murdaugh said he would like to make a motion to amend the agenda to add Item "b" under the Public Hearing in section 8 of the agenda. The item is the Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium Annual Action Plan and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

First Choice Academy – Dr. Yvonne Commodore

Dr. Commodore was not in attendance for her presentation

Gary Brightwell - Up Date on Farmers Market & Commercial Kitchen Opening

Ms. Brightwell gave an overview of all of the activities planned for this Saturday: Farmers Market seasonal re-opening, Museum art exhibits, and Grand Opening of the Commercial Kitchen.

Dr. Ann Carmichael, USC Salk – The Promise Zone

Dr. Carmichael gave an overview of the opportunities the Promise Zone Designation will provide in getting support for our communities.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting April 7, 2015

Finance Committee Meeting April 14, 2015

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards & Recognitions

None

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said we successfully completed our Capital Project Sales Tax Bond sale last week. It came back with a very good rate of 1.82%. During that process we also maintained both our Moody's and Standard and Poor's bond rating. Moody's a "AAA" 3 and Standard & Poor's a "AA-", so we were excited with the current environment that we were able to maintain those as well. Plan to get that closed next week. Pre-Closing will be Tuesday morning and hopefully bonds released by Thursday.

Mr. Griffin said our first full Council Budget Workshop is scheduled for Friday at 1:00PM. Our county staff has been working very diligently. We are looking at cutting our operations budget. There are a couple of scenarios and that information got back to us Friday and are currently complying all of that and will have a good bit of information to share with you Friday as far as that is concerned.

Mr. Griffin said the Dogwood Hills golf course, they are finishing up some tree trimming this week, fertilizer has taken hold. May 20th they are going to go in and ...inaudible... and reseed and work all the greens, tee boxes and my understanding is that all of the greens and tee boxes should be ready to play by August 1st.

Mr. Griffin said one other thing we have been working on for quite some time, especially our County Engineer, Jared Fralix and Mr. Stieglitz out there and our Finance Director, Dennis Averkin, we have been working to get a Federal LPA Designation. That allows us to manage our own Federally Funded Projects. Many of the projects that we have, when Federal dollars flow in, specifically highway projects or State ...inaudible... projects that have been managed with Federal dollars, the State has to handle those. We are not allowed to administrate those grants and those funds ourselves because we do not have that designation, but we actually achieved it and were notified last week, so that will also help us with the Capital Project Sales Tax Process because any matching dollars that come from RIA, USDA any of those type, other Department of Transportation we will be able to manage those ourselves and as well as program them on our schedule, which I know has been an issue with council. I know Thunderbolt Road was a major one that was funded federally for about five years before we actually got it; the construction project. Congratulate staff for getting that achieved.

Public Hearing

Colleton County proposes to file an application for a grant with Rural Development Community Facilities. The purpose of this public meeting is to give an opportunity to become acquainted with a proposed Community Facilities Project, consisting generally of the purchase of HVAC, sound and lighting, and other various equipment related to the impending improvements at the Hampton Street Auditorium. Citizens will have the

opportunity to comment on such items as economic and environmental impacts, service area, and alternatives to the project. Projects funded by Rural Development are equal opportunity programs and discrimination in the program is prohibited by Federal Law.

No comments were made.

Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium 2015-2016 Annual Action Plan

We have a total of \$524,566 for next year's program. We are proposing that our HOME allocation of \$428,217 along with our local match of \$96,349 (25%) is spent to address the need for decent, safe and affordable housing through acquisition and rehab of 4 rental units and rehabilitation of 15 owner occupied units throughout our region. Owner occupied rehab has been the most sought after activity in our program.

We are proposing the following Projects:

	HOME	LOCAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT
4 Acquisition/Rehab rental units for Jasper County	\$96,349	\$24,088	\$120,437
5 Owner occupied rehab units Beaufort County	\$96,349	\$24,087	\$120,436
5 Owner occupied rehab units Colleton County	\$96,349	\$24,087	\$120,436
5 Owner occupied rehab units Hampton County	\$96,349	\$24,087	\$120,436

The Annual Action Plan has been available for review and comment since April 1st and will be available until it is submitted to HUD on or before May 15, 2015

No comments were made.

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 15-O-06, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Thereto.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-26, To adopt the County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan.

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

Dr. Flowers said he wanted to clarify that this is just the adoption of the plan and does not in any way indicated that we will fund this plan. I just wanted to make that clear.

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 15-O-07, Granting Easement No. 893051 to South Carolina Electric and Gas Across a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located along Robertson Boulevard between North Jefferies Boulevard and Colleton Loop in or near the City of Walterboro, County Colleton, SC; Such Easement is to be Used for the Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Electrical and Gas Facilities within Colleton County, SC; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 1st Reading was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-49, To Declare May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to Declare the Week of May 11th as Police Week.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-50, To Award the Contract for Engineering Services for Water and Sewer Infrastructure Design at the Lowcountry Regional Airport and Colleton County Venture Park.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-51, To Award the Contract for Construction Management-at-Risk Services for the Colleton County Law Enforcement Complex.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-52, To Authorize an Additional Five-Year Sole Source Purchase Arrangement Between Colleton County and Stryker EMS Equipment for a Period Not to Exceed Five Years.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 15-R-53, To Authorize the Transfer of \$33,189.23 from Council Contingency for the Purchase of Additional Equipment for the Coroner's Van by the Fleet Management Department.

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

Dr. Flowers said the vehicle cost \$26,000 and this is \$33,000, this sounds like a lot of money to me.

Mr. Murdaugh said he was not familiar with it, but Mr. McRoy is here and obviously he is familiar with equipment, I hate to put him on the spot because it is not his request, but Mr. McRoy if you could come forward and kinda explain

Mr. Griffin interrupted saying he would be glad to clarify the request and then if ya'll want some detail on the actual equipment from Mr. McRoy.

Council members agreed.

Mr. Griffin said as you know the Coroner's van was totaled in a bad accident. It had an existing Stryker Stretcher in it which we budgeted within the new Lease Purchase that was just issued at roughly \$26,000. The Coroner came forward this past week and asked that we upgrade that stretcher. The stretcher that he is proposing here within the resolution is a self loading stretcher. The previous stretcher was not a self loading stretcher. As far as the details on the specifics, these stretchers actually hook up from my understanding, ...inaudible... and load themselves into the coroner's van. ...inaudible... they would be to an ambulance. Obviously with an ambulance you are trying not to drop the patient and try to keep it as steady as possible and the coroner has requested that because of the wear and tear on his personnel, I guess and himself loading into the van. That is the detail. I notified him, he said he had a meeting at 5:00 and was not going to be able to be here at 6:00. If you want some additional technical specifications, Chief McRoy can provide you with those as far as that is concerned.

Mr. Whetsell said we are talking about the difference between \$26 and \$33?

Mr. Griffin said \$26 is the Stryker stretcher that was budgeted. I think the total was actually around \$50,000 for the Stryker self loading stretcher.

Mr. Murdaugh asked if that was correct Chief.

Chief McRoy said he hadn't seen the proposal.

Mr. Murdaugh said well based on the attachment it looks like, well it says traditional stretcher, I'm assuming that is a stretcher without the self loading mechanism was \$17,436 and then the self loading stretcher was \$49,312, the difference of about \$32,000.

Mr. Griffin said that is correct and that is what the additional funding is being requested.

Mr. Murdaugh said I understand the purpose of it; the coroner could be out there with one person. For me for example, if someone had to load me, that is what it is for to help them from injuring themselves. My question about the stretcher is, I'm assuming that Fire-Rescue has this similar stretcher in service now. Is that correct?

Mr. McRoy said yes sir.

Mr. Murdaugh asked what is the life. I don't want to spend \$49,000 on a stretcher that is only going to last two years.

Mr. McRoy said the ones they have in service now, the majority have been in service for about ten years. ...inaudible...The quotes we have on our stretchers include the maintenance for a period of seven years. ...inaudible... I don't know, I can't speak for the coroner.

Dr. Flowers said how many vehicles does he have?

Mr. Griffin said they only have one van. Currently they are using a transport service.

Dr. Flowers said if they had more than one van they would have to have more than one of these stretchers.

Mr. Griffin said that is correct, but they just have one.

Dr. Flowers said is this the van that will be used by the assistant coroner as well as the coroner?

Mr. Griffin said they use the same vehicle, whoever is on call is my understanding. This is the coroner's request. It is the only van that they have because we are currently contracting a transport service at this time until we get this van fully equipped and back on the road.

Dr. Flowers said well they are not going to come up next year and say we need a second vehicle for the assistant coroner at another \$50,000.

Mr. Griffin said there is not a request in at this time.

Mr. Murdaugh said my other question is are we trying to get this now because we are in the process of getting the van now or is this something we could do during the budget process?

Mr. Griffin said we budgeted it for the non-self loading stretcher and the Coroner came and requested last week that we put additional funds in, which he did not have and were not available on the lease purchase that is why this request came to council. He asked that we put it on the agenda for council for additional funding.

Mr. Murdaugh said, so the van is ready now.

Mr. Griffin said you know we had some trouble locating the van, but we have located that. We have all the other equipment ready to go, but we got to do this before we get it back on the road. One way or the other.

Mr. Robinson said how many personnel support the van after hours. One person?

Mr. Griffin said it is my understanding he has one person on call. Anything beyond that you may want to ask the Coroner to come back to you.

Mr. Robinson said he has always one person or was there two persons before.

Mr. Griffin said he has a number of deputy coroners that do respond. How they handle their own call is within his agency, I'm not sure.

Mr. Murdaugh said we had a motion on the floor, there is discussion here that maybe we should table.

Mr. Whetsell withdrew his original motion and Dr. Flowers withdrew his second to the original motion.

Mr. Murdaugh said we have some budget meeting coming up and we could ask him to be present.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to table the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Human Affairs Council in Colleton County.

Mr. Murdaugh said as council members are aware we have been advertising for vacancies to fill this position and I think there is a little bit of confusion made by some of the folks exactly what the commission will do and since we are not getting applicants, we need to come up with some other way to perhaps appoint this commission. Ms. Sandra Ligon is present this evening and I am going to ask her to come up and briefly

tell us what some of the other counties have done and council is going to have to make the decision on how they want to proceed with this.

Ms. Liggon said thank you for approving the ...inaudible... back in December, 2013. Since that time we have had the opportunity to establish councils in neighboring counties: Berkley, Hampton, McCormack, but specifically Community Relations Council is a form of organization consisting of member representatives from all major interest and organized on a permanent basis to work together for common purposes. We try to have people from different, diverse backgrounds. We want them to come together and form this organization, choose their own chairperson, vice-chair person, secretary, treasurer, and whatever. What we do is after we get the group together we ask them to identify at least two issues in their particular community that they feel needs to be addressed. The council works on those particular things. As far as getting members to join, in McCormack County each council member represents a certain part of the county, so each person gave me two names of people in their particular district. I called these people and asked if they were willing to serve. Yes, I was informed of it and will be glad to serve, no problem. We also would like to have a representation from the Law Enforcement community, Chamber of Commerce, Ministerial Alliance, and we would also like to have some young people also involved. That is what happened over in Hampton County. They had so much interest with the young people, they formed their own Community Relations Council. It is called the Jr. Council. They work on projects and items such as bullying in the schools and things of that nature that are relevant to teenagers and young people in school. There was a ...inaudible... in the paper and there was some concern about no one came forward. People didn't understand what it was all about, but it is like a, it is a group of people that get together to try to solve problems and make the county more diverse. It is talk of having the diversity of having council workshop down in Berkley and Dr. Rhodes was on, he is one of our past Commissioners at Human Affairs Commission, so what I am trying to say is we would love to get this started. It has already been approved, there is no money involved, we just need the people to come forward. We are anxious to get them on board and so they can meet with say the people in Hampton County and see what they are doing and get some ideas from them. Each county is different and if you would like for me to speak to the group prior ...inaudible...

Mr. Murdaugh said he thought what he would do it put this out to council. I am aware we did advertise for seven vacancies. You have heard their request, that these different agencies should be represented. I don't know if that is feasible, but do we want to try to do something different here. We could come up with some hybrid where we ask, we have six municipalities, you could get each to appoint a representative. We could expand it to eleven and each council member appoint one person and we would have each municipality and the five council member appointees or we could try to designate...inaudible... the floor is open.

Dr. Flowers said that would be a logical way to start and see if we can get a commission ...inaudible...since we have had no one come forward each municipality could appoint someone and we could each appoint someone and get eleven. ...inaudible...

Mr. Robinson said he would contact the Ministerial Alliance and see if we can get someone to represent that group.

Mr. Whetsell said can you name the counties that are already in this program.

Ms. Ligon said I am training Allendale on Monday, Beaufort will be trained next month, Berkley, Charleston was in the process, but have put us on hold, but Charleston is definitely on board, Florence had one and are about to be re-established, Laurens, Greenwood, Anderson, Spartanburg, Lancaster, Hampton, Jasper, Horry, Richland County, I think that is it.

Mr. Whetsell said so you got about half.

Ms. Ligon said yes sir. I'm the only one today doing this. I had a partner, but he went out sick.

Mr. Murdaugh said I think maybe what we will do is revise requirements to expand it to eleven and ask all the municipalities to make an appointment and then each one of us make an appointment. Amongst ourselves we need to make sure that all these agencies and folks are represented. It will take us probably 30 days to get that.

Ms. Ligon said would you like for me to contact the municipalities.

Mr. Murdaugh said you can contact them if you want, but what I am probably going to do is have the administrator send each one of them a letter and let them know we are forming the commission and ask them to participate. Of course we can't require them to do this, but we could certainly ask that they would make an appointment. If you would like to call them and express, explain in more detail the purpose of this.

Ms. Ligon said who would be my contact, the administrator.

Mr. Murdaugh said yes or you can call the clerk if you got more details, but appointments you would have to go through the administrator.

Ms. Ligon said and Mr. Robinson you are going to contact the Ministerial Alliance?

Mr. Robinson said yes.

Mr. Murdaugh said I think as far as each one of us, we can make appointments and if you want to appoint Ministerial wise.

Mr. Robinson said as I understand her, the Ministerial Alliance person from the Ministerial Alliance will cooperatively work with this group.

Ms. Ligon said yes sir.

Mr. Robinson said, so me knowing them I could do that, but I also would work toward appointing someone from my district.

Ms. Ligon said is there a Hispanic Coalition or group of Hispanic here in Colleton County.

Mr. Murdaugh said I know there are some outreach centers that work with the Hispanic Community. As far as what their actual legal organization is I don't know.

Ms. Ligon said we like to include other national origins/nationalities also.

Mr. Murdaugh said he had noticed the Coroner had come in and asked him if he could be present and the Budget Session on Friday at 1:00PM.

The Coroner said he could.

Mr. Murdaugh said we can discuss in more detail regarding the Stryker Stretcher then.

Public Comments

There were no comments.

Mr. Murdaugh said included in your packet you will notice there was an additional Resolution that is not listed on the agenda and I know we have already amended the agenda, but I am going to ask if we can get a motion again to amend to add Resolution 15-R-54, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 15-R-54 and was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Murdaugh said we will now take up this item up, which is Resolution 15-R-54, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time

Dr. Flowers said he was very glad to see that the county's bond rating is as high as it is. That has helped us a lot. I just wanted to commend the Administrator and all of the staff keeping us fiscally sound.

Mr. Murdaugh and Mr. Whetsell said they echoed the same

Executive Session

- a) Economic Development
 - a. Project C
 - b. Project Corn
 - c. Project Global
 - d. Project Candy

Regular Session

Mr. Murdaugh said all the items were discussed in executive session.

No further actions were taken.

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**