

**MINUTES  
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019  
6:00 P.M.  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Art Williams, Phillip Taylor in attendance. Steven Murdaugh, Absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, Jeffrey Ament, Jeremiah B. Craven, Jr., Dawn Davis, Charles Davis, Eleanor Hodges, Isreal Hodges, Willie Henderson, Elizabeth ?, Susan Keith, J. Gooding, T. Aiken, Leroy Henderson (?), David Gar Linder, Louise Slater, Anderson Grant, Johnny Bartley, Roy Williams, James Rutledge

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting April 2, 2019

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Awards and Recognitions**

None

**Appearances & Public Presentations**

Tara Glover – Lowcountry Community Action Agency

Mr. Taylor said he would move that they delay this appearance on the table as well as Resolution 19-R-35 and move that to our budget meeting on Friday. Mr. Whetsell seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin said we do have two items that came in after the agenda went out last week. One was we were awarded two USDA Grants which were both right at \$50,000 a piece

for the up-fit of the Colleton Civic Center, which is also known as the Hampton Street Auditorium. These were grants we had actually applied for back in August of last year and evidently they came up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding and Ms. Toomes from USDA contacted us Friday and we had to get everything back to them by the 13<sup>th</sup> so I appreciate ya'll allowing that back on. The City of Walterboro requested, if you remember a few months back we passed a sister ordinance to theirs establishing a historic rehabilitation tax credit within the City of Walterboro. This is 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an ordinance to the Albert House Building, which is on the corner of Washington Street and Wichman Street, directly across the corner from the Colleton Museum and Farmers Market. They are looking at rehabbing I think there is some both residential and commercial downstairs on that. That property is on the National Register of Historic Places as well.

We did have the Regional Earth Day Cleanup with Beaufort County, Jasper, & Hampton Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and I have given you a sheet for information which shows you Colleton County pickup over 15,000 lbs. of trash and well over 750 bags as well. Besides Beaufort County we were the leaders in the category. We had about 78 county employees that participated as well as 165 overall within the effort. It was a real good day and a good time to get the cleanup done with the Rice Festival coming as well the following Friday.

Dr. Flowers said he would also like to emphasize that we were very proud of the cleanup of Colleton County and I want to thank everybody for their participation and Mr. Fishburne for his spearheading of that. I certainly hope we can keep it clean. This has been a real issue for us for a long time. We have to work together to keep the county clean.

### **Public Hearing**

Ordinance 19-O-01, Authorizing the Acceptance of the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections in the Town of Smoaks and the Town of Williams to the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission; to Define the Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Assumed by the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the Conduct of Municipal Elections in the Town of Smoaks and the Town of Williams; to Provide for Reimbursement of all Costs and Expenses Incurred by the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the Conduct of Such Municipal Elections; and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto.

No comments were made.

### **Old Business**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 19-O-02, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto

A motion to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

3<sup>rd</sup> Reading Ordinance 19-O-01, Authorizing the Acceptance of the Transfer of Authority for Conducting Municipal Elections in the Town of Smoaks and the Town of Williams to the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission; to Define the Powers, Duties and Responsibilities Assumed by the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission for the Conduct of Municipal Elections in the Town of Smoaks and the Town of Williams; to Provide for Reimbursement of all Costs and Expenses Incurred by the Colleton County Voter Registration and Election Commission in the Conduct of Such Municipal Elections; and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto

A motion to approve 3<sup>rd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

Resolution 19-R-34, To Declare May 15<sup>th</sup> as Peace Officers' Memorial Day and to Declare the Week of May 12<sup>th</sup> as Police Week

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-R-35, To Authorize a One-Time Appropriation from the General Fund (Fund 100) Fund Balance in the Amount of \$30,000 to Lowcountry Community Action Agency Direct Assistance for the Operation of the Homeless Shelter (Moved To Budget Session Mtg. On 5-10-19)

Resolution 19-R-36, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

A motion to approve Ceth Utsey & Ladson Fishburne to Keep Colleton Beautiful by Acclimation was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 19-R-37, To Approve Purchase of a used Caterpillar Bulldozer in Accordance with Section 3.08.215 of the County's Purchasing Ordinance for the Solid Waste Department as Included in the 2018-2019 Lease Purchase

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

The motion carried unanimously

Resolution 19-R-38, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for Various Grants for FY 2018-2019

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ordinance 19-O-03, Approving An Application For Preliminary Certification For Historic Rehabilitation; And Other Matters Related Thereto.

A motion to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Items for Information and Public Record**

None

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

Jessie Gooding – Resident of Eastside Acres. I received a letter from Mr. Griffin about the park and a timeline on all that was spent from 2014-2017. In the letter it said to get with Mr. Myers and I did. He came out. I was given an itemized list and the prices that was spent it was \$31,978.50 during that time span. There were some things I did not see in the park that was paid for and I brought that to Mr. Myers attention and he was going to look into it. In fact he just called me at 4:00 PM this afternoon and I had to return his call because I missed the call. There is some other things as far as swings for the children and he said he was working on that. What I am trying to get your attention is things were paid for that are not in the park and work that was supposed to be done was not done. It said that the park would have the shavings over the entire park. Well, there aren't any shavings. Mr. Myers said they were bringing some out, but the shavings were substandard. In other words Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Williams were there when they put it out. It was nasty, dirty, it was really substandard. So my question is if it's a county park, should it not have the same quality of material as a county park is supposed to have? That was my question. These things are paid for according to this \$31,000 was paid already, but they are not there. So, where are these items? Another item here from 2015, a box 16 ft. by 5 feet. ...inaudible... there is another item here for new, two basketball goals with the breakaway rims, yes, but in July it says it replaced basketball goals, so I am not understanding. I do know they didn't replaced the poles, they painted the poles, which was fine. If all this money was being paid to someone, why isn't anybody making sure it is getting done?

Mr. Griffin said Ms. Gooding I believe on the basketball goals, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing you were seeing was them purchasing the basketball goals and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the actual installation of the basketball goal.

Ms. Gooding said like I said this is, money is money and we don't want to see it thrown away. Then you have some donated items. I think the 1<sup>st</sup> one was in February. They already had monkey bars, swings, then there is a spring board. We don't have a spring board. And like I said that box. It is almost \$35,000, so what I am saying is where are these things? That is what I am saying. If it is supposed to be there, then you know. It is for the county, for the people. That is just my question. \$32,000 is a lot of money, but we need to see where this money is going, what we paid for. That is just my concerns right now and I did speak to Mr. Myers this evening before I came and he said that they are working on, oh, it said on here also, flowers around the county sign and mulch. There was no flowers around the sign and there was no mulch around the sign. Then it said the contract was supposed to cleanup, but when I asked them if they were going to clean it and they said they were told ...inaudible... they are supposed to pick up trash, that is what it says on the paper, but there is no trash cans. The ones out there and I brought that to Mr. Myers attention are the ones I brought from home. So, I am just saying that if money is being spent, then we need to see what it is being spent on. We are not saying it is poor management, but just saying they need to look a little closer at these things. Swings for the babies, we had swings out there for small children, but when they changed it they never put any back, so Mr. Myers said this evening that they were working on that.

Jeremiah Craven – 3644 Cannon Road, RoundO-for the past 8 years I have been plagued with dog barking. I have gone through the chain of command, which I learned in the service and I have bent over backwards and it has run me crazy more than once about this problem. I have been to the agencies within the county and they are making me the bad guy me and the dog are the victims. This guy that owns the dog, I thought he had four, but he's got six, but he is getting away with, it is like I am being stalked. He is doing it mulishly and I am not going to name any names, but we got some people in the county that's in a position to where I feel like they are creating mulish intent by the way they are doing their job. I am not going to say names and I have sent paperwork here to the council. I do not know if you are familiar with this or not. At that time I was going to come back and get into this, but my aunt had a heart attack and I couldn't get back. It has been one thing after the other and this thing has gotten me shot. I've had cardio by pass, I am not a speaker, and when the dog barks it doesn't bark just a little bit of time, like a dog would usually do, this has been like for hours and the neighbor is doing it on purpose just to aggravate me because he knows I have a problem. Now it has gotten to where it is affecting my health where I am getting panic attacks. I just can't take it anymore. I have gone through the chain of command and I can't get any help at all. All they are doing is making me the bad guy and I am begging this council to please do something about it because it is going to end up making me do something I don't want to do. I don't know any other way to go. If I have to and I am not threatening anybody, I just told him that I wasn't going to quit until this was taken care of. How far do I have to go to make this thing work because I am low income, if I could move I would move, but I can't afford to move and I don't want to move, I like where I live, but I don't know what else to say. I am begging, please do something about it and I have also heard there are other people in the county that are having this same problem. These two men the man that owns the dog and this other man ...inaudible... I really feel like they do have malicious intent because they have also said stuff about my family name, trying to discredit my family

name and that is not what a public servant should do I don't feel like. I don't do that to people. Thank you for your patience and time.

### **Council Time**

Mr. Williams said he had a couple of questions for the administrator. Is there any way you could ask the code enforcement folks to check to see whether or not it's legal for a lot of the restaurants be closed in public facilities that they also sell food. If you were to go up throughout the county I have gotten complaints from people that live in the county and people that live outside of the county that when they are in Colleton County it seems like all the restrooms are closed in the stores. If you could get

Mr. Griffin asked if this was within the City of Walterboro

Mr. Williams said it is in the City of Walterboro, but throughout the county. There are other places not just in Walterboro.

Mr. Griffin asked Mr. Williams if he had a specific list he could get from him.

Mr. Williams said he could provide him with a list if he needed a list.

Mr. Griffin said we can get together tomorrow. I will be glad to.

Mr. Williams said when you are saying the list are you saying we don't have any jurisdiction over what happens in the City of Walterboro?

Mr. Griffin said we do not.

Mr. Williams said okay, but the rural areas?

Mr. Griffin said the rural areas yes we do.

Mr. Williams said okay thank you.

Mr. Griffin said the only reason why I asked is because most of the restaurants and stores are within the City of Walterboro and not out in the County. That gets mixed up a good bit.

Mr. Williams said right, but people see it as Colleton County.

Mr. Griffin said yes sir, but we can certainly bring that to the City Staff's attention to be addressed there.

Mr. Taylor said he wanted to remind the council about the Johnsville May Fest coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> up there in Smoaks. They will have the parade and also the Gospel Fest and the other outings that will be down there on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> and the Colleton County Commission of Alcohol and Drug Abuse is having their Open House with the new

Director that is there. I think we will be seeing some of them maybe later in the week too, but their open house is on May 17<sup>th</sup>, so just making you aware of that. We wanted to say thanks again to all the people that supported and helped with the cleanup. We have several people who have adopted streets in communities that work in order to keep their communities healthy and clean. I spent pretty much the entire day out and my son and I witnessed the roads that we cleaned before we could walk back home, people had already thrown trash back out on the same street so we have the same frustration that many of the citizens have and people just come to your community and they want to trash it, but there is going to be a concerted effort throughout the State to put some teeth in the law where magistrates can really start fining some people and things like that and maybe they start feeling the pinch.

Dr. Flowers said he wanted to remind everybody Memorial Day Ceremony at the Water Fall Downtown on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

**Executive Session**

None

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Joseph F. Flowers, 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**