

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017
6:00 P.M.
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, OLD JAIL BUILDING**

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM, at the County Council Chambers, Old Jail Building. Dr. Flowers called the meeting to order with Council Members Steven Murdaugh, Gene Whetsell, Phillip Taylor, in attendance. Evon Robinson absent

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, J.B. Craven Jr., Nate Bristow, Sue Keith, Johnny Holmes, Janet Smith, Tom Whitacre, Roy Williams, James Rutledge, Natesha Williams

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

Awards and Recognitions

None

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting October 3, 2017

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

Kay Maxwell - Southern Carolina Alliance Quarterly Report

Ms. Maxwell gave a review of 4th quarter Regional Announcements, 2017 Regional Announcements, 2017 Project Activity-Regionwide, 2017 Project Activity-Colleton County, 2017 Project Activity-Colleton County, Product Development Highlights-Regionwide, Product Development Highlights-Regionwide, and Marketing Highlights-Regionwide.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve amending the agenda to add and executive session item for a Legal Brief regarding Manufactured Homes and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said Mr. Phillip Slayter, our Planning Director and Flood Plain Manager was scheduled to go through the updated Flood Plain Performance with you tonight, but he is under the weather, so he will do so at the 3rd reading. A couple of items he did want me to pass along to you is with the new FEMA maps the flood zone has actually shrunk somewhat in Colleton County. Also there is what is called a zone "A" within the ordinance, which has always been anytime you are in a zone "A" if the individual is building a home or structure it would have to be 3 feet above the elevation of the property and they have gotten more exact with that now on their scaling process they are going to be able to use, so they will actually be able to give the property owner a little better information.

One other thing I wanted to address, we have had a number of calls in the last few weeks. This has been a little bit confused with the DHEC/OCRM lines at Edisto Beach, which is addressed in item "d" regarding the actual beach front setback lines. Those are not part of the Flood Plain Management ordinance. Those are actually set by Department of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. This is very important to the folks at Edisto and we have a resolution that mirrors Edisto's as well as most all of the other coastal communities to try to delay that because they don't feel like there has been the study there. It came rather rapidly to all of us where those lines are going to be set December 31st. Push that back a year and let's get a little more study to see how that is going to affect each one of those properties.

The chair of our Fire Committee, Mr. Whetsell and Mr. LaVern Polk, chairman of the Fire Commission, myself and chief McRoy and a few others have met item "b" regarding the Fire Code Ordinance there are some things in there that have become somewhat obsolete from when the fire system was 1st combined and consolidated as well as there is a nationwide issue of volunteerism that has come down. We have a system setup where volunteers from a number of districts that come from a board and commission and we have continually had problems filling those positions from time to time and I think Councilman Murdaugh brought that up last time and so we are going back and taking a holistic look at what we are doing and what other counties have on a countywide district and we are going to bring back hopefully a 1st draft to you in December.

We got the bids back on the electronic ticketing system for the Sheriff's Office. There was State Code 56730, which was effective January 1st of this year required that all Public Safety Organizations are required to transmit tickets electronically by January 1st. It has left a number of us scrambling. We talked with you all about this in the budget. Richard Haley in the Sheriff's Office, Eric Avant, who is here tonight if you have any questions about the equipment itself worked real hard and I think our original budgeted number was well over \$200,000 that we talked about what we thought it was going to cost to equip each vehicle. They got all the information in Friday and I talked with Dr. Flowers our chairman and he thought it would be best for us to go ahead and get it on so that they could get to work getting them installed in the vehicles hopefully by January.

I did want to put on your calendar December 13th will be the date for the Christmas Luncheon at Dogwood Hills. Please put that on your calendar and join us. I'll give you more exact times and format at our next meeting.

Mr. Murdaugh said on the OCRM jurisdictional lines. I have not really had a chance to follow this. Is this something that gradually phases in or is it like as soon as that was implemented this would be the impact immediately?

Mr. Griffin said it was his understanding that it would be implemented December 31st and that will be the impact immediately.

Mr. Murdaugh said so particularly these 90 homes that would render them inhabitable?

Mr. Griffin said it would render them un-insurable or would not be able to be rebuilt if they were to be destroyed by a storm.

Mr. Whetsell said also vacant lots that might fall in that, that's not occupied at the time. Some of those lots that might be for sale would not be on the market, they would completely lose the value of those.

Ms. Sue Keith said it was in the Post & Courier that DHEC was holding off till the 1st of the year so there can be additional Public Hearings.

Dr. Flowers said he had seen that, but also if this is the case, then according to the law that has been passed in the Legislation, this would be the taking of property essentially. I talked to one of our Legislators the other night relative to that and he was of the same opinion. I think that this will probably go through the courts before it is all over with because of the fact that people own property and all of a sudden it is worth say "X" number of dollars and all of a sudden it is worth zero because of the law passed by the State that is essentially taking the property and I think the State is going to have to step up to the plate on that. I think that will really be ...inaudible... contention for the next several years.

Mr. Murdaugh said Doc you may know more about this than me, I've still got to educate myself on it, but ...inaudible...is something going on in other states?

Dr. Flowers said our Legislation said South Carolina passed this. This is not a Federal thing, it's a State Law that was passed. The State Law that passed said when they drew this line you could no longer build ...inaudible... of that line. They have several different ways to measure that as far as the line being drawn according to what I understand and read about it that is why the hearings have been taken place because none of us knew about that until now. None of us knew about this until all of a sudden it was put out there by DHEC. I think we as a county that has an involvement with this and we need to let our legislators know that they are going to have to step up to the plate and either make some amendments to this or if they are going to take peoples' property they are going to have to reimburse them for it.

Dr. Flowers said one thing about the Flood Plain, when people come into the office to say they are going to build a house, are they being told about the Flood Plain and where they are building and if it's in the Flood Plain and the requirements. Are they being told that?

Mr. Griffin said yes sir. They have to ...inaudible... prior to getting any building permit. They have to have a site plan.

Dr. Flowers said do our people there tell them when they come in and say I am going to build a house on such and such, do they tell them that's in the Flood Plain and what the elevations have to be?

Mr. Griffin said yes sir that is part of the process.

Dr. Flowers said we just need to make sure people have this information when they are looking to build in a certain area and not later ...inaudible... A lot of folks don't know when they are building a place.

Mr. Whetsell said when they apply for a permit there is a place on the application whether it is in the flood or whether or not. If it is they will give them an elevation of that particular point. It is known at that time.

Mr. Griffin said it is required with their site plan. You must submit a site plan prior to any construction.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 17-O-08, To Provide For The Amendment And Allocation Of Revenues Under The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park, By And Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Charleston County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park

No comments were made.

Old Business

2nd Reading Ordinance 17-O-09, To Amend Title 13 – Buildings and Construction of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.12 - Flood Damage Prevention, to Amend Floodplain Management Regulations and Adopt Newly Revised FEMA Maps.

A motion to approve 2nd reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 17-O-08, To Provide For The Amendment And Allocation Of Revenues Under The Agreement For Development Of A Joint County Industrial Park, By And Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Charleston County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park

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

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 17-O-10, To Authorize the Rezoning of a 2.5 Acre Parcel at Bennett's Point, Identified as T.M.S. No. 334-00-00-075, from Community Commercial (CC) to Rural Conservation-2 (RC-2)

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading **By Title Only** Ordinance 17-O-11, To Amend Title 2-Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.20 – Fire Protection System of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances

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

The motion carried unanimously.

1st Reading **By Title Only** Ordinance 17-O-12, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, Article 14.08-3 – Conditional Uses, Section 14.08-3.020 of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances related to Gun Clubs, Outdoor Shooting Ranges and Turkey Shoots

A motion to approve 1st reading by Title Only was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Murdaugh.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-71, To Oppose the Implementation of the New DHEC Beachfront Management Lines by December 31, 2017 and to Request that the Implementation be Delayed for One Year

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-72, To Reschedule the January 2018 County Council Meeting

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-73, To Authorize the Purchase of an Electronic Ticketing Solution for the Sheriff's Office

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

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

Janet Smith Veterans Affairs Office - Invited everyone to attend the Veterans Service Day, November 9th at the SC National Guard Armory from 9:00AM till 1:00PM.

Johnny Holmes- Invited everyone to attend the Veterans Day Parade, November 12th at 2:00PM

Council Time

Mr. Taylor said he wanted to say thank you to the Colleton County Council, the administration, everyone all over the county a heartfelt thank you for the condolences, prayers, and concerns, cards, gifts the people coming by and sharing our moments in the passing of my dad the late Bishop Lewis Taylor. I want to say thank you so very much. It really means a lot to us for so many to come and share those moments with us.

I want to mention also I met earlier this week with Ms. Natasha ...inaudible... of the Homeless Coalition. January 24th is a point and time count. One of the issues we face in the county is homelessness and getting a clear picture of what that looks like. The Homeless Coalition can help us get additional resources if we can get a more accurate count. They are going to be enlisting the support of the county and some other agencies to kinda help them locate volunteers that can help find some of these pockets of people that are homeless. Right now they said they looked at the HUD Report and saw dismal figures like 9 total in the county and we know that is not true. We want to make sure that we can do what we can. They want to do Colleton and Hampton. She will be addressing Lowcountry Community Action Agency at their regular board meeting next Thursday, but I will try to get her closer to January time for us to kinda see how we can be involved. I think she met with Kevin and Meagan as well in regard to that. Additionally, the thing that keeps touching us so much is this violence and killing that is going on. The only answer I can come up with is love. People need to say something. If they don't talk, they don't report, they maybe the next one in arms way. Any one of us could be in danger of stray bullets or things like this. So often I hear from the Sheriff and others, police chief, people just don't want to talk. I didn't see anything, I didn't hear anything, and it is a crowded place. Somebody needs to stand up and say something so justice can prevail. Maybe we can stop some of this vitriolic speech that we see appearing on our television and in our newspapers, people fussing and bickering and arguing and fighting so much and share some more love and forgiveness and we will see some more peace on our streets,

but justice needs to prevail, people need to speak up and we need to start loving each other.

Dr. Flowers said he certainly concord. That is a real big issue. Like you say there is just so much hostility out there right now. It just worries you and seems to be getting worse. I think a lot of it has to do with the immediate media that people have now with the internet and everything there that is a lot of negative stuff. I hope we can somehow get a handle on it, but I think it will be a long struggle I'm afraid.

Executive Session

Economic Development – Project Global
Legal Brief – Manufactured Homes (amended at meeting to add)

Regular Session

The items were discussed in executive session.

No further actions were taken.

The meeting was 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**