

MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council  
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building  
109 Benson Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Vice Chairman Phillip Taylor called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance. Chairman Steve Murdaugh was not present.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Kaela Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Mayor Carwford Moore, Jerome Kizer, Michelle Knight, James Rutledge, Delma Tyus, Anderson Grant, Felicia Johnson, Dr. John Creel, Jessie Gooding, Clarence Wiggins, and Brenda Perkins.

Councilman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Regular Meeting March 14, 2023— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 14, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe and the motion carried unanimously.
- B. Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting April 10, 2023— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Public Health and Safety Committee meeting held on April 10, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

**Awards and Recognitions**

- A. Proclamation for Colleton County Council's Support of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Indian Tribe in their efforts to Obtain Federal Recognition— Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record. Dr. Flowers moved to adopt the proclamation for Colleton County Council's Support of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Indian Tribe in their efforts to Obtain Federal Recognition. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to thank Dr. Creel from the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe for inviting us to the pow wow two weekends ago. I have been around the tribe my whole life, I know a lot of people in the tribe, but to go to one of the ceremonies and see the amount of cohesion. I got there and rain was coming down hard, some people were leaving, and there was still at least 300 people staying for the rest of the ceremony. I do not know how many people you had for the duration, but it was awesome and humbling to be a part of and to see a group in

today's world staying together is amazing. I commend you for doing that. Any funds that we can get into this county to help your tribe would be amazing, and I am glad to be apart of it.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, Dr. Creel, thank you for being here. You do excellent work down there, and I want to thank you for what you do.

Vice Councilman Taylor: Stated, I would like to echo those sentiments as well. I know the resources that are available to the Native American community across the nation, and I know what we are missing. There are other educational resources on top of science and math that we can attract with this recognition. So, we look forward to seeing the support from the county.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I know Dr. Creel quite well as he practiced with me at one time. I thank you for all you do.

\*\*\*County Council presented the Proclamation to Dr. Creel.

Dr. Creel: Stated, I would like to say to all of Council and the guests here today that we appreciate all of your support that you have given us in the past with the summer feeding program and another updated letter of support for Federal acknowledgment. We have sustained a letter of support from Lindsey Graham, Senator Scott, Representative Nancy Mace, Representative Clyburn, and Governor McMaster. We are in the process of getting Federal acknowledgement through the DOI. We are also working on a bill with Representative Mace to be introduced into the 118<sup>th</sup> congress. Again, we appreciate the support and the help. I look forward to working with the County Council in the different efforts. We are looking into an adult care center in the community. We will be reaching out to you in the future. Thank you.

### **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin: Stated, Item 10 "a" New Business, Business License and Registration under the Late Night Establishments Preclearance Ordinance. That is just the section in Title 5, "Business License and Registration", under our code of ordinances where this would fall. Ordinance 23-O-09 does not actually have anything to do with a business license. I will be glad to take any questions at this time.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, with the water incident we had this weekend, are the dates set for the swimming with the school district? Have they got that worked out yet?

Mr. Griffin: Stated, yes, both the school district and Dorchester County. I do not have the exact dates yet, that is still being worked out.

No further comments.

### **Public Hearing**

Dr. Flowers made a motion to move into Public Hearing. Councilman Trippe seconded that motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

**A. 2023 Community Development Block Grant - Regional Planning Grant Application**

Mrs. Knight: Stated, this is the application public hearing for our Regional Planning Grant, which is awarded yearly usually through Hampton County. Mr. Griffin, so graciously, agreed to be the lead county this year for us. Basically, this is a \$50,000 grant that is used for us to be able to come out to the communities and do our needs assessment public hearings and sit down with staff and have project meetings when you all have CDBG applications that you all are looking at pursuing for the year.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Colleton County Council Chambers, 109 Benson Street, Old Jail Building, Second Floor, Walterboro, SC and on [www.colletoncounty.org/live](http://www.colletoncounty.org/live), Colleton County will hold a public hearing concerning an application jointly with Hampton, Beaufort and Jasper Counties to be submitted to South Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Community Grant Programs on or about June 01, 2023, for a Community Block Development Block Grant. Hampton County is requesting \$50,000 to carry out the following activities:

The program is designed to develop the capacity of CDBG Administrators to effectively determine community needs, set long-term goals and short-term objectives and develop plans for carrying out effective strategies to address priority needs. The grant will be used to provide CDBG planning, capacity building, project development and technical assistance to local governments. The funds will only be used in the state CDBG program eligible (non-entitlement) communities. The type of services to be provided will address an array of housing, community development and economic development needs.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the County's Citizen Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of Colleton County in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds.

The Citizen Participation Plan is available for review at the Colleton County Administration Office, 109 Benson Street, Walterboro, SC, 29488 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Persons with questions or comments concerning the hearing, Citizens Participation Plan may contact Michelle Knight, Lowcountry Council of Governments, PO Box 98, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 473-3990.

Colleton County does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability in the admission of or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Deadgra Sadler, 31 Klein Street, Walterboro, SC, (843) 549-5221 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-

discrimination requirements contained in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations.

Note: Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of disabled or limited English proficient persons upon request.

Nota: Se proporcionará asistencia para satisfacer las necesidades especiales de las personas discapacitadas o de bajo dominio bajo petición.

No comments were made. Dr. Flowers made a motion to close Public Hearing. Councilman Trippe seconded that motion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

**A. 2nd Reading Ordinance 23-O-08, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Ordinance 23-O-08, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

**A. 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-09, By Title Only, An Ordinance to Adopt Title 5 – Business Licenses & Regulations, Chapter 5.04 – Late Night Establishments Preclearance, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Ordinance 23-O-09, By Title Only, An Ordinance to Adopt Title 5 – Business Licenses & Regulations, Chapter 5.04 – Late Night Establishments Preclearance, of the Colleton County Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution 23-R-29, To Award the Contract for the Harrelson Building Technology Department Improvements Project**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-29, To Award the Contract for the Harrelson Building Technology Department Improvements Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously. The contract was awarded to Mitchell Construction.

**C. Resolution 23-R-30, To Reschedule the July County Council Meeting and Cancel the August County Council Meeting**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-30, To Reschedule the July County Council Meeting and Cancel the August County Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, the meeting was moved to July 25<sup>th</sup>, correct?

Vice Chairman Taylor: Stated, yes, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**D. Resolution 23-R-31, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for the Summer 2023 Mission Serve Home Repair Program**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-30, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for the Summer 2023 Mission Serve Home Repair Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. Resolution 23-R-32, To Provide a One-Time Assistance for the Summer 2023 Mission Serve Home Repair Program**

Dr. Flowers moved to table Resolution 23-R-32, To Provide a One-Time Assistance for the Summer 2023 Mission Serve Home Repair Program.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I recommend that we table this Resolution at this time. We must carefully think about putting public funds into a private organization. This needs to be discussed during the budgetary session.

The motion to table was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Resolution 23-R-33, To Advertise Board Vacancies**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-33, To Advertise Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. Resolution 23-R-34, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-28, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

The following appointments were made by acclamation: – Colleton County Lowcountry Transportation Authority: Latosia Simmons, Colleton County Board of Assessment Appeals: John Barnes, and Colleton County Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail Committee: Peter “Austin” Mitchum.

**Public Comment**

Felicia Johnson: Stated, I thought I was not going to speak tonight about this club. Everybody thought they were hearing things on Saturday night. The neighbors behind me and beside me thought so too, so I put on my clothes, and I walked. I thought, "oh well they're open." This club is a nuisance to everybody in our neighborhood. Tonight, I am going to speak about these lights and flooding. When we get this bad rain, everything stops at my house. My house has been flooded out before, as well as my neighbor's house. Nobody here is going to pay me, and my insurance does not cover flooding. I am disabled and can not afford it right now. They started a project but have not finished it. They went around to everyone's house on Madison and put bricks around the ditches. All you see is brick decorations. This needs to be completed soon because nobody but God knows what the weather is going to do. I stopped the man that day and told him not to dig my ditches any deeper. The more you dig the more water it is going to hold. I have grandchildren and it is not safe for them. They love my ditch, and I must tell them all the time that they cannot go in the ditch filled with water. I am also afraid because I have had many snakes. It is dangerous with these ditches and these lights. If my next-door neighbor turns the light off, it is pitch black. If the club turns the light off, it is pitch black. We need help with these lights over here. My neighbor's house was so flooded she had to borrow a vac to suck the water out of hers. I hope you all help us soon, thank you.

Jessie Gooding: Stated, I am here on behalf of the East Side Acres Community Park. We have been talking about this for 15 years or better. I moved to East Side Acres in 1979 and the bleachers have been there since then. About 10-15 years ago we bought some paint from Habitat for Humanity, and we had the kids paint the bleachers. It is still there and falling apart. The issue has been brought before the board multiple times. There are issues with the swings. There are no swings for infants, and out of the ones that were there, there might be one left. The slide that is there needs to be refurbished. They closed a park somewhere and gave us the leftovers. The kids play on whatever they can play on, but this is a county park. I do not think any park in Colleton County looks like East Side Acres Park. So, we want to bring it back. People are using the park and bringing their children there to play. We don't have anything for the younger children to play on or swing on. It has been too long, and nothing is getting done. It is Colleton County Park. It does not belong to East Side Acres. There is one in Gadsden Loop that is really nice. We have a table and shelter out there. There is only the community taking care of it. When they come to clean it they don't pick up trash or empty trash. They do not do anything at all. It is a community park that is not being serviced properly. The people that are supposed to be cutting the grass are not doing their job. It is being neglected. We would like it very much if we could get some kind of consideration for this park. The kids are coming out to play. If it is being neglected and children get hurt then...I see that boards have been repaired on the bridge that was made, however water is still coming in and the kids are still playing in it. It needs to be addressed. Like I said, this does not belong to the community it belongs to the county, and it needs to be taken care of properly. Also, we ask for the Sheriff's Department to patrol the area periodically. The community has a lot of young couples coming in and we need help. We appreciate whatever can be done.

### **Council Time**

Councilman Biering: Stated, I was in a meeting last week. There are sad times in Colleton County right now with the little girl drowning. My heart breaks for them, and I cannot even begin to imagine. It was in my community on the Edisto River. That river takes so many people. With that being said, I was in a meeting last week and the summer swimming program was mentioned. We did a joint deal this year with Dorchester County because they had the means to help us get it up and going. There is supposed to be two weeks, but those have not been set yet. They will advertise those dates once they are determined, and transportation to the pool. My heart goes out to the family during this time.

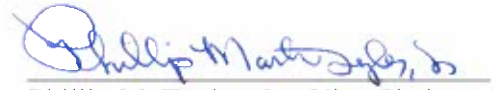
Councilman Trippe: Stated, We need that pool to help these kids swim.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, we will not have executive session tonight.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Flowers moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Biering seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

  
Phillip M. Taylor, Sr., Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council