

MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Chairman Steven D. Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, George Welch, Chris Myers, Lynn Stroble, Mayor Crawford Moore, Mayor Donald Dulin, Clarence Wiggins, Johnny Frank, Scott Catterton, Wesley McDonald, and Nate Knox.

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

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I would like to make a motion to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 24-O-03 as item "G" under "New Business". This is an Ordinance to Provide for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

- A. Regular Meeting March 5, 2024— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 5, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

**Awards & Public Presentations**

- A. 30 Year Service Recognitions

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, tonight we have several employees that we are recognizing for their 30 years of service. We have Mr. Richard Harvey, Janet Laney, Deadgrea "Dea" Saddler, and Johnny Stieglitz. I would ask if any of them would like to say a few words, but I don't see any of them here. I am aware that Mrs. Dea has a family member that is sick, and Mr. Harvey is sick. Kevin, would you like to make any comments on the employees?

Mr. Griffin: Stated, when you have 30 years of service it shows how awfully exemplary employees they are. They have done an extremely good job since they have been with the county. Johnny and Dea have certainly been staples during their time here. I don't think anyone knows the number of hours that Dea works. There are days you can come by here at 7 p.m. and she is still here working. I really appreciate all of their service, Dea, Johnny, Janet, and the coroner.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I would like to congratulate each and every one of them for having the “sticktoitness” to stick with a career for 30 years. Their impact in this county has been great and is still great. I am truly grateful.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, I wanted to say that I am grateful for their service for such a long time. We appreciate all their hard work and dedication.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I would like to congratulate them also.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to say thank you too. If I have someone who sticks with me in my private business for 3 years, I think I’ve done something. So, 30 years is amazing.

B. SCAC Risk Management Awards- Robert Benfield

Mr. Benfield: Stated, it is a pleasure to be with you all tonight. So often we talk about government now a days and it is negative. It is my pleasure to be here tonight to talk about something positive. Your Risk Management program is one of the best in South Carolina. There are 41 counties in our programs, and I am here to announce 3 awards. Risk Management is simply what we do to keep bad stuff from happening. George Welch is your risk manager, and he cannot do this job alone. It is a team effort to be successful. Last year we had the pleasure of announcing you, the most improved county in South Carolina, and that trend continues. I would like to present to you all the 2023 Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (for the Splash into Safety Program). This is the first time in 26 years that I have had a joint county program. Dorchester and Colleton County joined together to create a program for youth who do not have any access to swimming. The program offered access to safety water training to reduce drownings. Colleton and Dorchester counties joined together and worked with Summerville Family YMCA, Summerville Medical Center, DCSD4, Colleton County School District, and Colleton Medical Center. The program was so successful that they had over 335 participants in this program. The goal of county business is to protect the county’s assets. The greatest assets that any county has are your people first, then your buildings and your properties second. This program helped your children, residents, and county employees.

Secondly, out of the 41 counties in our program we only had five counties qualify for the 2023 Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award. This means you not only met our standards, but you also exceeded them. You all have done this several times in the past. This is quite an accomplishment for you guys.

Thirdly, the Lag Time Award for prompt reporting of Workers Compensation Claims. This is the time between when someone gets hurt and you all letting us know about it. The quicker we know about it, the better we can assist the employees. Our requirement is from three days of the employee getting hurt. Out of 41 counties, you all got the second fastest reporting time of .34 days. This means when you have someone hurt in your county, we got the report in less than a third of the day. This is quite an accomplishment. The last thing I want to mention to you is called your experience modifier. In Worker’s Comp., every year we look at all your payroll and employees. There is a formula we use that says you should have this many injuries per year. If you have less than that number of injuries, you get rewarded for it. For eight years in a row, the modifier for your county has been less than one, which means you all got a discount off on your insurance. It is my

pleasure to tell you all, and the citizens of Colleton County, that you have saved the taxpayers \$86,000 off your premium. That is quite a savings. Thank you all for your support.

C. Proclamation- Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2024

\*\*\*Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, does Hopeful Horizons represent more than one county? I am not sure that those 1242 incidents of sexual violence showed up in Colleton County. I would like to be a little clearer on that, because it gives the presence that happened here.

Mr. Thornton: Stated, I believe they cover all the Lowcountry, and 14<sup>th</sup> Circuit. I know they cover more than just Colleton.

D. Band of Blue- Mardi Gras Parade

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, we would like to congratulate the Band of Blue for marching in the 2024 Mardi Gras Parade. Of course, the Band of Blue is no Stranger to the parade, having performed in it in 1990, 2010, 2013, 2017. This year they performed in the Krewe of Endymion Parade were 12 High School bands, 1 Drum and Bugle Corps (Cavaliers) and 3 College Bands (Talladega State, University of South Dakota and Alcorn State). After their performance in 2010, parade officials gave the Band of Blue a standing invitation to return any year after that. This parade is the biggest of all the Mardi Gras parades. The 7-mile parade ends in the New Orleans Convention Center. 115 band members performed and about 42 parents were there also. We would like to thank the Band of Blue Booster Club and President Randy Ballew and all the parents that chaperoned, to the bus drivers from Academy Bus Line and to Melissa Juttlestad and Florida and Beyond Tours. We would also like to thank Colleton County Sheriff's Office and Deputy James Brown and Deputy Stencil White. We would like to congratulate the band on their achievements. Let's give them a round of applause.

**Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I would like to comment on the Risk Management Awards the one person who did not get honored, is to my right. When George is not around, Meagan is the Risk Manager. She and George consult any time we have an issue or things need working through. One of her many responsibilities is that, and she does a great job. Secondly, I think I mentioned it at the last meeting, but Chris Myers would stand back up. As you know, Council, a number of years ago, has really got behind education of our employees and helping them move forward and move up. Chris has now received his doctorate in Sports Management. We are really proud of Chris and what he has done there, as well as with the Splash Program. We now have two individuals with doctorate degrees that we have educated, Dr. David Greene and Dr. Chris Myers.

We did add this bond anticipation note here at the end, because we have not gathered exactly what we are going to need with trying to get the jail upfitted along with the Coroner's Office and the others. What we want to do is enter into a bond anticipation note which is basically interim financing until we go into a GO Bond as we work through that. Construction pricing is just all over

the place. If you have any questions, Alan can answer them for you, regarding the bond anticipation note. If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer any other questions you might have.

Chairman Murdaugh: Asked, how long does this bond anticipation note last? I guess with this we do not anticipate any issues with getting the bonds written.

Mr. Alan Linkous: Stated, this is a common process, just not for everybody. You are familiar with the issuance of general obligation bonds; you are in and out. The Ordinance you have been given first reading will authorize the issuance of a general obligation bond for the various projects the county has on the drawing board. In conversation with Mr. Griffin, it became obvious that timing and cost are still in fluctuation. We have put together and presented an Ordinance that will allow you to issue up to "X" amount of GO bonds and in the interim you may issue what is called a bond anticipation note. Which is also secured with the general full faith and credit of the county, but it is a short-term obligation of 1 year max. Although, it can be issued on an annual basis or rolled over. What that would permit the county to do, if it so chooses, is to proceed with projects without knowing the full cost but knowing you don't need any more debt than "X". In the interim you might only borrow half of "X" to get the projects going to figure out if you are going to get grant money or to figure out the full financial schedule for providing the funding. Ultimately, you will get some of those questions answered and then it would proceed to permanent financing, issuing bonds at that point and time. For example, you might issue up to 5 million dollars in bonds but right now you're going to issue 2 million dollars in an anticipation bond to get things moving. When you decide to issue the bond, proceeds of the bonds will first pay off the anticipation note then the balance of proceeds will be used to fund the remainder of the project. It basically gives you construction financing in one-year increments while you are trying to figure out the full size of the bond issue.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, thank you, Mr. Linkous, for being here.

### **Old Business**

**A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-O-01, Authorizing Colleton County to Join with the Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission and the City of Walterboro in Conveying 10.07 Acres of a Portion of Real Property, Located at the Colleton County Recreation Center, Identified by T.M.S. No. 132-00-00-028.00 to Colleton County.**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-O-01, Authorizing Colleton County to Join with the Walterboro – Colleton County Airport Commission and the City of Walterboro in Conveying 10.07 Acres of a Portion of Real Property, Located at the Colleton County Recreation Center, Identified by T.M.S. No. 132-00-00-028.00 to Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-R-02, Granting an Easement to CDP Walterboro 2, LLC on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 113 Mable T. Willis Boulevard, County Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 178-00-00-205.00; Such Easement is to be Used for the Construction of a Dollar General Store; to Authorize**

**Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto**

Councilman Trippe moved to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-R-02, Granting an Easement to CDP Walterboro 2, LLC on a Portion of Property Owned by Colleton County Located at 113 Mable T. Willis Boulevard, County Colleton, SC, and Identified by TMS No. 178-00-00-205.00; Such Easement is to be Used for the Construction of a Dollar General Store; to Authorize Execution and Recording of the Easement Documents; and Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh: Asked, is this a temporary easement?

Mr. Griffin: Stated, we have an existing easement over that property now. If you recall, we discussed it during the process of putting the medians in the highway. Dollar General has asked for access to that easement in order to get out. Otherwise, you would not be able to turn left out of their property without that. We are working on the property next door for the EOC center so we will be on both sides of it.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-R-05, To Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi-County Business Park in Conjunction with Charleston County, South Carolina; To Provide for a Written Agreement with Charleston County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; To Provide for the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Among Taxing Entities Having Jurisdiction Over the Park; To Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Ordinance 24-R-05, To Establish, Pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, a Multi-County Business Park in Conjunction with Charleston County, South Carolina; To Provide for a Written Agreement with Charleston County as to the Sharing of the Revenues and Expenses of the Park; To Provide for the Distribution of Revenues from the Park Among Taxing Entities Having Jurisdiction Over the Park; To Provide for a Fee in Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxation; And Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

**A. 1st Reading, Ordinance 24-O-06, By Title Only, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 1st Reading, Ordinance 24-O-06, By Title Only, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1,

2024, through June 30, 2025 to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution 24-R-25, To Declare April as Fair Housing Month**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-25, To Declare April as Fair Housing Month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Resolution 24-R-26, To Approve a Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability Status and to Designate an ADA Coordinator**

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-26, To Approve a Policy of Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability Status and to Designate an ADA Coordinator. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Resolution 24-R-27, to Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid FM-60 for the Colleton County Memorial Library Roof Replacement.**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 24-R-17, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid FM-60 for the Colleton County Memorial Library Roof Replacement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, Roofco, Inc. received the bid award at \$105,000.

**E. Resolution 24-R-28, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies**

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 24-R-28, To Authorize the Council Clerk to Advertise for Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. Resolution 24-R-29, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies**

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 24-R-29, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion was carried unanimously with one recusal by Dr. Flowers abstaining from voting on Phillip Rizer's appointment.

**G. Ordinance 24-O-03, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$[\_\_\_] General Obligation Bonds And Not To Exceed \$[\_\_\_] General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes Of Colleton County, South Carolina For The Purposes Of Defraying The Costs Of Acquisition, Improvement, Construction, Installation, And Equipping Of [List Projects Here], And Other County Government Facilities; To Provide For The Payment Thereof; To Declare The County Council's Intent To Reimburse Expenditures For Some Or All Such Costs From The Proceeds Of Tax-Exempt Bonds Or Notes; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Ordinance 24-O-03, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$[ ] General Obligation Bonds And Not To Exceed \$[ ] General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes Of Colleton County, South Carolina For The Purposes Of Defraying The Costs Of Acquisition, Improvement, Construction, Installation, And Equipping Of [List Projects Here], And Other County Government Facilities; To Provide For The Payment Thereof; To Declare The County Council's Intent To Reimburse Expenditures For Some Or All Such Costs From The Proceeds Of Tax-Exempt Bonds Or Notes; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Mrs. Lynn Stroble: Stated, I wanted to come before you tonight to publicly invite you to our strategic planning session. It will be next Tuesday night from 6-8 p.m. We would like to partner with you if you could be there with us and provide input and feedback. I wanted to provide this to you, and it should be in your email as well. We also invite any of the public that would like to be there. We would like to invite your input as you collaborate with us to strengthen our shared vision and plans for the future for our district. Thank you for this opportunity. If you can put this on your calendar, if you cannot be there in person, give us your input over email or I would be happy to speak with you in person. As many of you know, I am the Vice Chair of our school board and a veteran teacher in our community. It has been my honor for the last 45 years to serve as a student and teacher here. My passion has always been to help children figure out what it is that they are good at, and what it is the Lord put inside of them like he did us to give back to our community. So, I am honored to represent this area of our county. I believe we have to get our kids ready for the work force that is in front of them, and that is why I came back to the call of coming back to the school board. Both of my sons were able to graduate from here as I did. One chose to go to vocational school/college to get an engineering degree and one chose vocational school and go straight to work. I believe our career center is for all kids. It doesn't have to be those who are going into college, and it doesn't have to be those going straight to work. It is for all kids because it helps them. So, I stand before you tonight and I wanted to share some of the partnerships that we have. You know that a partnership, like the school board working with the county, is when we agree to advance the mutual interest. The work force in this county is a mutual agreement, can we agree? So, we help get them ready. I would like to stand on Psalm 133, and I am sure Brother Taylor would agree. "It is good when we can dwell together in unity. How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity." I have found this to be true in the classroom and schools that I have been blessed to supervise. As you know, our career center has prepared nurses for the last three semesters. They are over at the high school, but our career center helps them. In the last three semesters, all of our CNA's have passed state boards and are certified nursing assistants. Some are serving locally, and some have chosen to go on to college. We have partnerships with Walterboro Ford, the animal shelter, Colleton Memorial Hospital, Colleton County Fire Rescue, and the bus maintenance. We want more of those partnerships. Last week, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders went on a tour to Boeing, and they invited board members to go also. So, I was honored to be back again. This time they were very hungry to have our 5<sup>th</sup> graders understand, get their diploma, live in Walterboro, and come here to work. They kept trying to

encourage them how important it is to get a good education. Mr. Ed Williams went along with us, as you know he handles robotics in our community. We have robotics at all levels, elementary, middle, and high school. Boeing is partnered with us in what's called Dream Learners. Helping our students see their future. That is what I feel like we can do as partners, help our students see the future in the workforce that is here for them. At Boeing they told them, as 5<sup>th</sup> graders, that when they are in 11<sup>th</sup> grade they can come back as interns for summer work at \$70/hr. If you come back with a high school diploma, we will pay for you to get an associate degree at Trident Tech or a degree at the Citadel. They start them off as engineers at \$100,000 a year. They were telling our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to get their education, because there are careers right beyond the borders of Colleton County. What I want to hear is that those jobs are right here in Colleton County, and that they can get those degrees that they need and the workplace experience that they need. So, I am here to ask for a partnership and how we might work together at our strategic planning meeting, and how we might continue to work together to get our work force ready. I know you want that to happen as much as I do, for our students to have good careers. I will leave you with a question from the Superintendent, how can we continue to partner with you to best prepare our students for their chosen career and/or college? Thank you for the opportunity to invite you and I hope you can be there to help us.

Chairman Murdaugh: Thank you, Mrs. Stroble, and thank you for your service. If anyone else would like to make a comment at this time, please come forward.

No further comments.

### **Council Time**

Councilman Trippe: Stated, we lost one of our good teachers last week, Debi Price. She was an inspiration to this county. I am sure a lot of you all know who she is. We will keep them in our prayers, and we will miss Debi greatly.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, everyone knows I lost my dad. A lot of people sent cards, letters, emails, and phone calls. I wanted to thank you all for that. I understand there were some nice comments made at the last meeting. Unfortunately, I was not here to hear all of them, but I was told about them, and I appreciate them very much. Again, I want to thank everyone for your condolences and concerns.

### **Executive Session**

Councilman Taylor moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Economic Development- Project Ironsides, Project Canady's, Project Sandridge, and Real Estate- Colleton Center. Councilman Biering seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.


Dr. Flowers moved to exit executive session. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.



**Adjournment**

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

This 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2024.

  
Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council