

MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Chairman Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Art Williams, Gene Whetsell and Phillip Taylor in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Meagan Utsey, and Jon Carpenter.

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

Chairman Murdaugh: Before we get started into the agenda I would like to make a motion to amend the agenda to delete item “D” under new business, which is Resolution 22-R-08, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies. We had a position on the Accommodations Tax Board, however the individual does not meet the requirements of the board and there are no other applicants. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- A. **Regular Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2022**— Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 4, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams and the motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

- A. **David Irwin, CPA – Mauldin & Jenkins: Mr. Irwin provided an overview of the audit, as well as congratulated Colleton County on a clean opinion letter.**

Councilman Taylor: Thanked Mr. Irwin for his presentation, and congratulated Colleton County on 7 straight years of excellence. Councilman Taylor asked, “When we look at the auditor’s discussion and analysis, beginning on page 12 with the Gatsby statements, there were quite a few statements in there, what is your opinions about when do we start looking at correlating these into our...or do we have to do all these immediately?”

Mr. Irwin: “No, they are all implemented in different fiscal years. This is just some FYI of what is coming down the pipe, our firm as free CPE for our clients and I know Jon participates in those. Well in advance of these Gastby standards, we will provide that CPE to ensure all of our clients understand what is going on so when these requirements are implemented we are in a proactive position not a reactive position. We have had discussion with management about these Gastby standards already. I will say that this is nothing major coming down or anything of significance

like what has happened in prior years. Again, that information is in there just to give you all a heads up for what is coming.”

Councilman Taylor: “Thank you.”

Councilman Williams: “Mr. Irwin, I know you said we have 70.5 million dollar in total liabilities, is that the norm for a budget our size?”

Mr. Irwin: “Yes, again that is at any wide level. There are other liabilities included in the 70.5, and 55.5 million are long term in nature. When I look at your annual wide balance sheet, total assets of 98 million dollars, liabilities at 70, you all are at a good liquid financial position.”

Councilman Williams: Thanks Mr. Irwin and all of the Colleton County staff.

Dr. Flowers: Expresses his thanks to all of Colleton County staff.

Councilman Whetsell: Echoes Dr. Flowers and expresses his gratitude for all the hard work of the county staff.

Chairman Murdaugh: Thanks Mr. Irwin and his firm for all their hard work generating this report for Colleton County, as well as the Colleton County staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Irwin: “We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Colleton County.”

B. South Carolina Artisans Center- David Smalls

Mr. Smalls: “First, I would like to thank Councilman Taylor for inviting me to speak. I just wanted to introduce myself and let everyone know that I am now at the Artisans Center as the executive director since November. I am really excited about the potential opportunities that are awaiting us at the center. The Artisans Center has been in the area since 1994, it is the official folk art and craft center of South Carolina. We have a little over 200 artist from 38 of the 46 counties in the state, we are very proud of that. We are looking into what vacancies we have from those counties that do not have art here and try to get them here. We have done well in reference to artists in Colleton County that are a part of the center which is great. Just to express how well we are doing, we are just finishing up the first 6 months of this fiscal year and have gross profits of \$274,000, and expenses of about \$90,000, with a net profit of \$180,000. We have definitely bounced back from the onset of the pandemic, and are looking to grow and expand our online presence. Also, we are partnering with the Clemson Extension Ag and Art Tour, there will be 10 counties that will be in that tour, which is showcasing farms and how art can interact in that regard. The first county will be May 14th and 15th and will go every weekend until the end of June. Again, we are really excited and thank you for the time to come on and explain the artisan’s center.”

Councilman Taylor: “Will there be a flyer available for May 14th -15th?”

Mr. Smalls: “We are working with Clemson on that, it will be coming out very soon.”

Councilman Taylor: "Thanks Mr. Smalls and congratulates him."

Chairman Murdaugh: "Thank you David for your presentation."

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin stated that the first item on new business is the project that we discussed at the last meeting, it is moving forward. They did get delayed due to some staff having Covid, but we will be finishing up negotiating next week on Wednesday and Thursday. They were however ready to go ahead and do first reading on the Fee-In-Lieu project.

The next item, line item b, will be some good news for all of Colleton County and everyone else in the region. In February, they are going to start repaving I-95 from Saint George down to Point South. The company that won the contract contacted us through DOT and some local help they had here about the use of our facilities on Maple Ridge Road. We have a good bit of acreage around the fire station and they asked if they could do a temporary leasing of that site, so that they can stage their equipment and personnel. This is roughly 12-18 months of construction up and down I-95. We will get the Ordinance started this month.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to move into public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

A. **3rd Reading Ordinance 21-O-16, To Reapportion Colleton County Council East and West Districts to Meet Federal and State Requirements Based on United States Census 2020 Population Data**

Councilman Williams made a motion to move out of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

A. **3rd Reading Ordinance 21-O-16, To Reapportion Colleton County Council East and West Districts to Meet Federal and State Requirements Based on United States Census 2020 Population Data**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 3rd reading of Ordinance 21-O-16, To Reapportion Colleton County Council East and West Districts to Meet Federal and State Requirements Based on United States Census 2020 Population Data. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion was carried unanimously.

New Business

A. **1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-01, By Title Only, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Colleton County**

And An Industry Currently Known To The County As “Project Ruby”, Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Project Ruby; Providing For Payment By Project Ruby Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing For Assignment Of Certain Existing Economic Development Incentives To Project Ruby; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Hampton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Project Ruby Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Councilman Taylor moved to approve the 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-01, By Title Only, An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution And Delivery Of A Fee-In-Lieu Of Tax Agreement By And Between Colleton County And An Industry Currently Known To The County As “Project Ruby”, Whereby Colleton County Will Enter Into A Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Arrangement With Project Ruby; Providing For Payment By Project Ruby Of Certain Fees In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes; Providing For Assignment Of Certain Existing Economic Development Incentives To Project Ruby; Providing For Certain Special Source Revenue Or Infrastructure Credits; To Further Amend The Multi-County Industrial/Business Park Agreement Between Colleton County, South Carolina And Hampton County, South Carolina, Providing For The Development Of A Jointly Owned And Operated Industrial/Business Park, So As To Include Additional Property In Colleton County As Part Of The Park; Providing For The Allocation Of Fee-In-Lieu Of Taxes Paid By Project Ruby Under The Agreement For Establishment Of Multi-County Industrial/Business Park; And Other Matters Relating Thereto. This motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-02, By Title Only, Authorizing the Execution of a Temporary Lease Agreement Between Colleton County and Causie Contracting, Inc. for the Staging of Personnel and Equipment related to the I-95 Construction and Repaving from St. George to Point South**

Councilman Williams moved to approve the 1st Reading Ordinance 22-O-02, By Title Only, Authorizing the Execution of a Temporary Lease Agreement Between Colleton County and Causie Contracting, Inc. for the Staging of Personnel and Equipment related to the I-95 Construction and Repaving from St. George to Point South. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. Resolution 22-R-07 To Officially Name the Cottageville Park and Playground, Located at 72 Salley Ackerman Drive in Cottageville, “Leroy Womble, Jr. Park”**

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 22-R-07, To Officially Name the Cottageville Park and Playground, Located at 72 Salley Ackerman Drive in Cottageville, “Leroy Womble, Jr. Park”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time

Councilman Taylor: “ spoke with Matt Mardell and Eartha Cunningham, the county has worked to put together a black history program later in the month, February 27th if I am not mistaken.”

Councilman Williams: “It is my understanding that Mr. Gar Linder is putting together program for the 20th, another black history program. Also, one of the things I would like us to take up in our budget session, I was approached by the news media this week, and they had concerns about the vacancies in our Sheriff’s Department and the pay structure. That is something I would like for us to look into and see how we can fix that. We don’t want to be the training ground for officers and when they get their certification they go and serve elsewhere. We have some great officers and we would like to retain those.”

Executive Session

Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Contractual- Magistrate Court, Real Estate- Easement Green Pond Railway, Personnel: Assessor and Clerk to Court. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Whetsell moved to exit executive session. Councilman Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

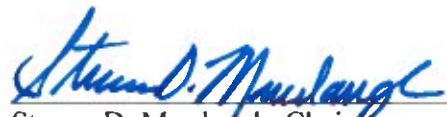
Chairman Murdaugh stated that we were back in open session, during Executive Session we discussed a contractual matter regarding the Magistrate Court, a real estate matter involving Green Pond railway, and a personnel matter involving the Assessor and the Clerk of Court.

Chairman Murdaugh made a motion to approve the request of the Clerk of Court. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Williams moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Taylor seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

This 1st day of March, 2022.


Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council

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