

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

Colleton County Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 6, 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, Evon Robinson, Phillip Taylor, in attendance.

Others present included: Kevin Griffin, Sean Thornton, Ruth Mayer, Susan Keith, Shelby Segura, Michele Carolyn Moultrie, Lachelle Lewis, Rainetta Simmons, Becky Hill, David Linder, Roy Williams, James Rutledge, Mark Pinckney

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

Mr. Taylor said he would like to make a motion to add two things to the agenda 1st under Awards & Recognitions that we receive Mr. Al Jenkins from Senator Tim Scott's office under the Awards & Recognitions and that resolution #17-R-49 be added to the agenda.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson.

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

Colleton County - Governmental Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Dr. Flowers recognized Jon Carpenter and Becky Hill for the very prestigious award that the county received for their hard work in our finance area and wanted them to know how much they appreciated the hard work of everyone in the departments working so diligently to help us get this award.

Al Jenkins – Regional Director for Senator Tim Scott's Office

Mr. Jenkins said I am the new Regional Director for the Senator covering Colleton County, Hampton County, Orangeburg County, Calhoun County, Bamberg County, and Barnwell County, so I am in this area on a regular basis and I am here to take any concerns that you feel the Senator needs to know. You call me and I will respond and that is my job. I am on the front line and I just come and get the concerns. The one thing I do not do, I do not do politics. I am an employee and do not talk politics, but I am here because I am

working for you. Anything that you need that the Senator needs to know, I am available to you at your call.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting May 2, 2017

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin said there is a number of items here I wanted to go with you real quickly. The 1st being Resolution 17-R-49, I was on my way to Columbia this morning working on some storm refunding from the State in the State budget when I got a call and I think ya'll know we have had some issues with the county courthouse especially the court room buildings HVAC it has now been diagnosed that it was struck by lightning about a week or so ago and we are going to have to go ahead and replace it. Unfortunately that is a 27 Ton unit, which is not something that is the run of the mill everyday HVAC unit, but we need to go ahead and get them back up and running. We are in a term of court now here, it is looking like taking 3-4 weeks to get that unit. We will have to bring some cranes in. When they did the restructuring/rebuilding of the courthouse that unit is actually placed on top, but we needed to go ahead with an emergency resolution because we will not have another planned meeting until the end of July, so that is what that item is. As far as our trip to Columbia, we still have a few House members that were a little uneasy. One of the things we pushed hard as a coalition of different counties especially administrators from Aiken, Jasper, Colleton, Allendale, Dorchester.

Clay Killian from Aiken has really been a ramrod, but we have been working on getting reimbursement for our government portion of our storm funding. As you know over the last four years, we have been through three federally declared disasters. For Colleton County that was an impact of over 2 ½ million dollars of which out of our pocket has come almost Seven hundred thousand dollars that we did not get reimbursed from FEMA. We had a few House members today, the Senate has been great. Senator Margie Bright-Matthews, Senator Tom Young from Aiken County has been the ramrod on this and as of this evening both the Senate and the House have voted to approve the State Budget and the funding for both 2014 ice storm was left in it for the county which they are going to pay 33% of our portion of what our local match was, the Federal portion as well as for Hurricane Matthew, so we're very happy. That is going to help us a lot to keep our fund balances where they need to be to stay in compliance with our government accounting standards. We were happy with that. They also did approve a 1% match on the employer pension increase this year. We thought it originally was going to be 2%, which was a rather large hit, so pulling that back has been a great help to us. The conference committee in the bill that was approved today also added another 10 million to the local government fund. Although it is not fully funded, we are getting there. We're still not quite there yet, but we are getting there. A couple other items I wanted to go through over the budget as we have final approval with it tonight. We do have a cost of living increased for all staff 2%, permanent hourly staff. We have also increased any permanent hourly

staff to a minimum of \$10.00 per hour wage wise. That was another item council was very concerned with throughout the budget. We also have a number of different facility needs. One of the big things was upgrading both our E-9-1-1 Center and our current county server system. As we grow more and more is located on that one county server and redundancy is a big thing as far as that is concerned meaning we have it siting at one place and we have worked really well with Palmetto Rural Telephone Coop.to have a redundant server, which will be up in Lodge, SC at a facility that they have. We have had a number of storms and different events and that will help us in that case if we have to step back and move somewhere else to triage any events that we have in that situation. Also, another item that we have had is we've got a number of mobile homes throughout the county that either need to be demolished or removed from different areas that have not been dealt with for a while. The county council funded an item to deal with that, so we can start moving forward. Those homes that are usable, we are going to take them and donate them to a viable non-profit that could take that housing and then replace that housing and place it on lots and different infrastructure that they have available to them to provide some low income housing as well. Couple of other items. We also funded a ambulance at Smoaks Fire Station, which has been an ongoing item. I know we have discussed for a number of years now that it is very well needed and with as much growth and the different things that are happening in the lower part of the county, we were getting really thin in the upper part of the county especially during the summer when we were having to send 2-3 ambulances down to Edisto Beach in the lower part of the county and I-95 and there is a lot going on. Very happy to be able to do that as well. The other thing, we have enhanced our animal shelter operations where we are adding a shelter manager that will actually handle the animals in the shelter themselves and we won't have law enforcement officers doing double duty handling the shelter and also trying to be on the streets and handling those problems and resolving those as well. With all of that we do have a balanced budget. We have been able to maintain both our Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit rating and the county revenues are finally starting to strengthen again from where we have been over the last 2-3 years, so we are very happy to see that.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 17-O-03, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

No comments were made.

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 17-O-03, To Provide for the Levy of Taxes in Colleton County, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018; to Provide for All Other Appropriations Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 17-R-42, Inducement Resolution Providing For A Fee In Lieu Of Tax Agreement Between Colleton County And Project Strickland.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-43, To Award the Contract for County Audit Services.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-44, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Funds for a Grant for FY 2016-2017.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-45, To Award the Contract in Accordance with Bid CPST-08 for the Demolition of the Voter Registration, Probation and Parole and Public Defender Building.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-46, To Authorize an Appropriation from the Victim Assistance Fund Balance (Fund 128) to Purchase Minor Equipment and Supplies for the Victim Advocate.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-47, To Approve a Transportation and Disposal Service Agreement Between Colleton County and Waste Management of Oakridge Landfill, Inc.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 17-R-48, To Appoint Members to Board Vacancies

Mr. Murdaugh made a motion to approve the following appointments by acclimation and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell. The motion carried unanimously.

Board of Adjustments & Appeals (Building Dept.: Terry Hoff

Land Use Zoning Board of Appeals: Douglas Mixson, Jr. & Lloyd E. Jones

Board of Assessment Appeals: Gary Stroble

Lowcountry Council of Governments: Esther S. Black

Colleton County Recreation Commission: Stephanie Brown-Taylor (Mr. Taylor recused himself on this board)

By Ballot

Colleton County Resource & Development Board: Cary H. "Chip" Upchurch

Resolution 17-R-49, To Authorize Emergency Procurement Procedures for Replacement of the HVAC Unit for the Courtroom at the Colleton County Courthouse.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Information and Public Record

None

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

Sue Keith said just information, David Smalls is now the director of the Delegation Office and I am the liaison and we are here to facilitate communication between our county, cities and the state. If you have anything you want the delegation to hear, just let me know.

Audrey Brown gave a summary of the Neyles Community Center and requested additional funding.

Council Time

No comments were made.

Executive Session

a) Contractual

1. Real Estate – Customer Service Center

Regular Session

The item was 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**