

**MINUTES
COLLETON COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Colleton County Council met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 PM, Virtually. Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Gene Whetsell, Dr. Joseph Flowers, Art Williams, Phillip Taylor in attendance (via zoom)

Others included: Kevin Griffin, Ruth Mayer, Sean Thornton, Jon Carpenter, Meagan Utsey

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

Mr. Murdaugh said before we move on there was an amendment to the agenda that was sent out and posted, but to make sure we have the record straight, let's see if can get a motion amending the agenda to ad public appearance by Mr. Ed Williams.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the amended agenda and was seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting October 6, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Awards & Recognitions

Birthday Proclamation for James W. Skardon

Mr. Murdaugh read the proclamation.

A motion to approve the proclamation was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Appearances & Public Presentations

Discussion Demolition of Buckner Building – Ed Williams

Mr. Williams – I come to you today because sometime the rumor mill gets out there and you don't know whether they are for real or not, but the rumor mill said that county council is getting ready to tear down the Floyd Buckner Building. Several people have approached me and said if they tear it down, are they going to take Mr. Buckner's legacy away. I said it appears to me that maybe the council will consider, if they are going to take his building down and they are going to build a new structure maybe they would go ahead and name that building after Mr. Buckner. I said I will see if I can get on the agenda and approach council and ask them if they were tearing the Buckner Building down would they consider placing Mr. Buckner's name on another building, especially since he was the 1st African American councilman in this county and served on that council until his death. That is why I came before you tonight, to ask that ya'll consider that. I am doing it as President of the Colleton County Branch of NAACP5507. I hope that when you move further into whatever you decide to do in terms of that building because I pass it every day and I see that something has to be done with it and I know something is being done with it because I see debris hanging around it, that whatever you do in the future you would consider the next building that comes up in this county is named the Floyd Buckner building. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Murdaugh – I know this is an item we had discussed previously. I am quite sure we will preserve his legacy.

Mr. Williams- I just wanted to thank Mr. Ed Williams and the NAACP for allowing him to come before us tonight and we appreciate anything, any time there is an issue you hear about and you want to come before us, I am sure we will welcome you to the agenda.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin – I have a few items to go over with you tonight. We sent out a full Administrative Report a little bit earlier in the day so that you can get some detail on the other items, but I will hit the highlights real quick. The Delinquent Tax Sale that was scheduled for December 10, 2020 right now is going to be postponed to roughly the early part of March 2021. This is due to a number of different issues most revolving around COVID-19. The tax venders that prepare the roles and put the Delinquent tax rolls out have been slowed down by COVID-19. Snowballing on that as you all know we changed over to a new QS1 Delinquent Taxation Software vender this past year, so we also had training on top of that that needed to happen. QS1 shut down for a number of months because of the COVID situation, so this was going to allow them to work out any additional kinks they have here with the Delinquent Tax and Technology Department as well as get that training done. This is an issue throughout the State. The Governor has extended deadlines for Auditor, Treasurer, and Tax Collectors under Section 12-260 to allow this to happen to move these forward. Some jurisdictions are not even going to have a tax sale because of these issues this year. On the finance side we have finalized our category "A" Debris removal from the April tornadoes with FEMA and the county will be receiving a 75% reimbursement of those total approved costs of just over \$530,000 dollars. Glad to see we finally got that taken care of. It was also slowed down by the COVID issues as well. We also received right about \$55,500 in voter registration grants to assist and offsetting the additional costs of the mail-in ballots and some of the non-

reimbursable costs that we had additionally this year again in regards to COVID. In Recreation, Chris Myers wanted me to mention that the youth pack basketball registration is moving forward. You can register on line ages 4-14 and registration will end November 22nd.

A couple of items on the agenda tonight. The Hwy.64 sidewalk will start at the tire shop next to H&D Supermarket, it will go to Widgeon Road and then turn and go down Widgeon Road to Foxfield Subdivision. Those bids are on the agenda tonight. Another question that we also had, Councilman Taylor requested, was the Multicounty Park that we have 1% donor with Charleston County the only changes there is they are adding Navy Hospital Partners LLC and this is the group that is re-developing the old Naval Hospital in North Charleston, there have been a good many articles about that in the paper the last 6-8 months.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 20-O-01, To Amend Chapter 13, Section 13.04.010 of the Colleton County Code of Laws to Provide for the Adoption of Certain Updated Codes as Mandated by State Law.

No comments were made/received.

Ordinance 20-O-08, To Approve Designation of the Colleton County Planning Commission as the Official Planning Commission for the Town of Lodge.

No comments were made/received.

Old Business

3rd Reading Ordinance 20-O-01, To Amend Chapter 13, Section 13.04.010 of the Colleton County Code of Laws to Provide for the Adoption of Certain Updated Codes as Mandated by State Law.

A motion to approve 3rd Reading was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Dr. Flowers.

The motion carried unanimously.

3rd Reading Ordinance 20-O-08, To Approve Designation of the Colleton County Planning Commission as the Official Planning Commission for the Town of Lodge.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading Ordinance 20-O-09, To Ratify FY20 Grant and Budget Resolutions and Related Appropriations For All Funds; To Ratify Transfer And Other Resolutions Previously Authorized By Council; And Other Matters Related thereto.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1st Reading Ordinance 20-O-10, To Establish, Pursuant To Section 4-1-170 Of The Code Of Laws Of South Carolina 1976, As Amended, A Multi-County Industrial/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.

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

Emergency Ordinance 20-O-11 Requiring That Face Coverings Or Masks Be Worn In Public In The City Of Walterboro And The Unincorporated Areas Of Colleton County During The Covid-19 Public Health Emergency And Recovery.

A motion to approve the Emergency Ordinance was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Williams.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-48, To Award the Contract for the 2020 SC 64 Pedestrian Enhancement Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-49, To Award the Contract for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services related to the SC 64 Pedestrian Enhancement Project.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-50, To Authorize the Renewal of the Commercial Lease Agreement between Colleton County and South Carolina Department of Corrections Young Offender Parole & Reentry Services for Office Space in the Bernard Warshaw Complex

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-51, To Authorize an Appropriation from E-911 (Fund 141) Fund Balance to Cover the Cost of 911 Dispatch Center Equipment and Training.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-52, To Reschedule December County Council Meeting.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Taylor. (Rescheduled to December 8, 2020)

Resolution 20-R-53, To Appoint Member to Board Vacancy.

A motion to approve L. David Martin, Jr. (the resolution) by acclamation was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Whetsell.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Time

Mr. Williams – Congratulated councilman Taylor and Dr. Flowers on their election. I would also like to thank the Administrator for the weekly info. he has been sending out. I thought it was really good and very informative. I certainly appreciate that.

Mr. Taylor – I would like to say thank you and echo councilman Williams on his congratulatory for councilman Flowers and myself. Thank you so much again to the Administrator too for the briefings. We appreciate that. I wanted to say Happy Birthday to my fellow Marines within Colleton County. Also Happy Veteran's Day tomorrow to all of the Veterans. According to the chairman of the Colleton County Veterans Council, Mr. Johnny Holmes they had a skeleton crew, a small committee that was going to meet and maybe lay a wreath tomorrow at the waterfall; however, with an 80% chance of rain and inclement weather they have suspended that activity, so there are no scheduled events being held, but they are asking that all citizens find a way to decorate and recognize Veterans this week from the 8th thru the 14th your homes, your community business or whatever to that end. That is something that is being encouraged by the veterans here and I want to say thank you to all of our veterans for serving.

Dr. Flowers – Dr. echo that about our veterans. Too many times we forget the sacrifices the Veterans have made and our forefathers that kept this country safe. We need to remind everybody of that. I also thank Mr. Griffin for the report he sent us. I think it is really a great report and certainly very informative and I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Murdaugh – I also would like to wish all the Veterans out there a Happy Veterans Day. I did have the opportunity to, they had a meeting over at the Veterans Affairs Office

and the new cabinet position at the State, which I guess it is going to be the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the State, Mr. Grimsley, who as it turns out is the son of Private Grimsley...inaudible... He has taken on that new position. I really think he is going to make a huge difference as far as Veterans Affairs is run in the State and even at the local levels. I think that position is going to be huge welcome to the local governments. He has been trying to get around to each county in the State and visit those offices. Ms. Smith, myself and a few members from our Delegation were there. Sorry they can't have their ceremony tomorrow because there is an 80% chance of rain and 90% chance of COVID it sounds like.

Mr. Williams – We have a citizen, Ms. ?? Ellison from the Greenpond area that has been going around distributing masks to veterans and we really do appreciate her for doing this.

No further actions were taken and the meeting was adjourned.

Date: _____

Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:

Ruth Mayer, Clerk to Council

******* NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

