

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

Colleton County Council met on Tuesday, September 1, 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 made a motion to amend the agenda to add a Legal Discussion regarding the Mox Facility and the proceeds from that and I would like to move that item be moved to the top of the agenda. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session**

- a) Legal Discussion- MOX Facilities

**Return to Regular Session**

No actions were taken after the Executive Session

**Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting September 1, 2020

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**Awards & Recognitions**

Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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**

Customer Service Center & Harrelson Building Improvements – Johnny Stieglitz

Mr. Stieglitz gave an update and synopsis of the projects that were going on.

## **Administrator's Briefing**

Mr. Griffin – We were awarded this month a CBDG Ready to Go Project Grant of roughly \$363,000 to demo the Floyd Buckner Building, which is certainly going to be a big advantage to us moving forward rather than having to incur that cost our self, especially concerning the COVID concerns we have in our budget in this current year.

There is a couple of items with the Budget continuing resolution. Finance & Budget Committee in the House has deferred the State Budget until January. The Senate passed an amendment to the appropriations bills that was very advantages to counties that would certainly help us considerably going into this year. There is roughly 1million dollars or more difference to Colleton County within ...inaudible... on the agenda tonight we have a continuing resolution to push that forward at last year's spending limits, so we can get into January and figure out exactly where the State is going to end up. In the Senate's version, the fully funding the Local Government Fund. They held tight on the Retirement increase contributions as well as Health Insurance. Those items would really help us going into this year and possibly get us close to breaking even. With that, tonight you will see that continuing resolution on the agenda and can speak about that further if needed.

We had some conversation at the last meeting regarding the census. Larry Lightsey, who has been heading up the census for the county has done a lot of investigation of that within the last week. We have been in contact with folks from Atlanta regarding the census. What we have learned is the statistics we are getting now are only regarding the self-reporting census reports. That means those folks that are reporting themselves back to the census that they are here and to be counted. The census takers that are out in the field that have been moving for a number of months now and will be moving until the end of October. Those numbers are not included in the numbers you all are seeing and we are seeing which is at roughly 52% right now. They reported regionally, we are not sure how that works exactly, but what we were told by the Atlanta office is that those numbers will be ...inaudible... once the census is over with. They did advise us that it would be significantly higher than what we are seeing as a self-reporting number.

In regards to Councilman William's comments in the last meeting, we did send out earlier today a full Administrative Briefing to council. This is regarding, I guess we haven't had the communication as normal because of the COVID situation and everything else that is going on, but we have roughly a 45 page report for you that has been sent out this evening to look over covering each department basically what is going on within that department and our plans are to update weekly and do major updates to it monthly. Any comments or suggestions on how we can improve it. This is our 1<sup>st</sup>, it's kinda a rough draft, but we will continue to improve it and gather more information for you moving forward.

**Old Business**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Williams.

The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **By Title Only** 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 1<sup>st</sup> reading was made by Mr. Whetsell and seconded by Mr. Taylor.

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-40, To Reschedule November County Council Meeting

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-41, to Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2020-2021

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-42, To Approve the Membership Agreement between Colleton County and the Southern Carolina Alliance

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

Resolution 20-R-43, To Award the Contract for the Expansion and Renovation of the Mable T. Willis Boulevard Fire Station

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-44, To Award the Contract for the Magistrates Building Renovation Project

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-45, To Authorize the Waiver of Various Fees for Colleton County Long Term Recovery Group Properties

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-46, To Adopt A Continuing Budget For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020, Due To The Covid-19 Pandemic, And To Authorize The Expenditure Of Funds

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 20-R-47, To Provide For The Issuance And Sale Of A Not To Exceed \$585,000 General Obligation Bond Of Colleton County, South Carolina; To Provide For The Sale And Terms Thereof In Regard To The Agreement With Palmetto Railways Regarding The H&B Railroad; And Other Matters Relating Thereto

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

The motion carried unanimously.

### **Council Time**

Murdaugh – Hopefully starting maybe next month we'll get back to maybe having a in person meeting. I know with COVID it is not real good idea right now, but we haven't had a council workshop in a while and I suppose it will be sometime into the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of next year realistically before we could do it. I would like for everyone to think of some topics that maybe they would like to discuss at a workshop and maybe we can come up with a time to have a workshop. Who knows what COVID is going to do and plus the Flu season, but hopefully by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter next year we can have a workshop to discuss some issues.

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**