

RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Office of the County Administrator

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT OF COUNCIL ACTIONS REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING

March 20, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Washington

Invocation: Washington

Pledge of Allegiance: Washington

Presentation of Resolution: Resolution Honoring Frank Edison [Kennedy]

Approval of Minutes

- a. **Regular Session: March 6, 2012:** Approved as submitted.

Adoption of the Agenda: Adopted as amended.

Report of the County Attorney

- a. **Columbia Venture Litigation Update:** Council directed legal counsel to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. **ACTION: LEGAL**

Citizens' Input: No one spoke.

Report of the County Administrator

- a. **Fair Housing Month Proclamation Presentation:** A Proclamation was presented to HUD representatives.
- b. **Status Update of Community Development Department Stimulus Funds:** An update was provided by Mrs. Jackson.
- c. **Introduction of Staff:** Tracy Hegler, Planning Director, and Ashiya Myers, Executive Assistant to the County Administrator, were introduced.

- d. **Pawmetto Lifeline Grand Opening:** Mrs. Ancheta provided information to Council regarding the March 7, 2012 Grand Opening. Information will be brought to Council for review and approval regarding the contract-related programs that are to be implemented.
- e. **Appearance Counts Awards Presentation:** Ms. Snowden and Appearance Commission members presented awards.

Report of the Clerk of Council

- a. **Council Photograph, April 3rd, 6:00 pm:** The Clerk's Office is to reschedule. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- b. **Broadcast of Council Meetings:** Will begin April 3, 2012.

Report of the Chairman

- a. **Legislative Committee:** The Chairman appointed himself (or his designee), Mr. Pearce (or his designee), and Mr. Jeter.

Presentations

- a. **Navigating from Good to Great Foundation:** Ted Speth gave an update.
- b. **Dr. Harry Miley:** Dr. Miley presented information on TIFs.
- c. **Dan Johnson, Fifth Circuit Solicitor:** Mr. Johnson presented Council with a \$95,000 check from the Lending Tree settlement.

Public Hearings

- a. **An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 General Fund Annual Budget to appropriate \$775,000 of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to be transferred to the Mass Transit Fund:** One person spoke.
- b. **Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park by and between Richland County, South Carolina, and Fairfield County, South Carolina, to expand the boundaries of the park to include certain real property located in Richland County; and other related matters**

1. Consent Items

- a. **12-05 MA, Wyndham Enterprises/Rodney Wyndham, HI to GC (3.20 acres), TMS# 22804-04-10, North Springs Road & Woodley Way [Third Reading]:** Council gave third reading approval to the map amendment ordinance. **ACTION: PLANNING, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
- b. **12-06 MA, Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation, Inc./Stephen Minsky, M-1/HI/RM-HD to OI (45 acres), TMS# 17200-02-02/04/09/13/14/26, Powell Road [Third Reading]:** Council gave third reading approval to the map amendment ordinance. **ACTION: PLANNING, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
- c. [Removed from Consent] **An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Land Development; Article IV, Amendments and Procedures; Section 26-53, Land Development Permits; Subsection (B), Processes; so as to reduce the time to act on the application from sixty (60) days to thirty (30) days [Third Reading]:** Council deferred the item. **ACTION: PLANNING, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
- d. **Ordinance to authorize a sanitary sewer easement to the City of Columbia for County owned property along a portion of Rosewood Drive [Second Reading]:** Council gave second reading approval to the ordinance authorizing the granting of a sanitary sewer easement to the City of Columbia for the amount of \$1. **ACTION: PUBLIC WORKS, LEGAL, CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- e. [Removed from Consent] **An Ordinance Authorizing the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$35,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2012A, or such other appropriate series designation, of Richland County, South Carolina; fixing the form and details of the bonds; delegating to the County Administrator certain authority related to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto [Second Reading]:** Council deferred the item. **ACTION: ADMINISTRATION, LEGAL, FINANCE, CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- f. **An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 General Fund Annual Budget to appropriate \$85,800 of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance for expenses from the Republican Primary [Second Reading]:** Council gave second reading approval to a budget amendment for the Board of Elections and Voter Registration in the amount of \$85,799.14 to cover election and personnel expenses resulting from the Republican Primary held in January. **ACTION: BOARD OF**

**ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION, LEGAL, FINANCE,
CLERK OF COUNCIL**

- g. Finding that the Richland-Lexington Riverbanks Parks District may issue not exceeding \$32,000,000 General Obligation Bonds; to authorize the Richland-Lexington Riverbanks Parks District to issue such bonds and to provide for the publication of notice of the said finding and authorization [Second Reading]: Council gave second reading approval to the ordinance. ACTION: ADMINISTRATION, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
- h. Authorizing an Amendment to the Master Agreement Governing the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park by and between Richland County, South Carolina, and Fairfield County, South Carolina, to expand the boundaries of the park to include certain real property located in Richland County; and other related matters [Second Reading]: Council gave second reading approval to the ordinance. ACTION: ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL, AUDITOR, ASSESSOR, TREASURER, FINANCE**

2. Third Reading Item

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012 General Fund Annual Budget to appropriate \$775,000 of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to be transferred to the Mass Transit Fund: Council gave third reading approval to the budget amendment ordinance. The vote to reconsider failed. ACTION: ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**

3. Report of the Rules and Appointments Committee

- a. Notification of Vacancies: Advertise. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
 - i. Accommodations Tax Committee – 4 (1 – Wallace Cunningham, Cultural, March 2, 2012; 1 – Lodging, and 2 Hospitality)**
 - ii. Appearance Commission – 2 (1 Horticulturist, 1 Landscaper)**
 - iii. Board of Assessment Control – 1**
 - iv. Building Codes Board – 3 (1 Electrician, 2 from the Fire Protection Industry)**

- v. **Employee Grievance Committee – 1 (Betty Etheredge, March 3, 2012)**
 - vi. **Internal Audit Committee – 1 (K. Eve McCoy, CPA, April 19, 2012*)**
 - vii. **Township Auditorium Board – 2 (Chris Leevy Johnson, April 17, 2012; John Whitehead, April 17, 2012*)**
- b. Notification of Appointments**
- i. **Business Service Center Appeals Board - 2 (1 position for a CPA, one for a business person); two applications were received from the following: Vincent K. Bartley, V.K. Bartley Bookkeeping and Tax Service*; and Judy Carter, Director of the Ombudsman Office and Small Business Owner: Held in Committee. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
 - ii. **Music Festival Committee – 2; applications were received from the following: Shirley R. Belton, 34 years of State service; and Tony White, Promotions and Sales**
- c. Discussion From Rules And Appointments Committee**
- i. **Advertising with other publications: Held in Committee. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, LEGAL**
 - ii. **Reviewing Committee Qualifications: Held in Committee. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- 4. Amending the Resolution entitled, “A Resolution calling for a public hearing to be held upon the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$32,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds of Richland – Lexington Riverbanks Parks District, South Carolina and to provide for the publication of the notice of such hear” adopted on March 6, 2012, in order to alter the date on which such public hearing will be held: Council approved the amended Resolution. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION**
- 5. Report of the Regional Recreation Complex Work Session**
- a. **\$20M Option [ACTION]** The Consultants are to provide a scope of services containing revised Work Authorizations #3 and #4 based on the \$22M option, which includes the conference center / registration building. They are also to provide a scope of services regarding projected annual revenues and annual operational costs associated with the \$22M option. The Chairman is also to create a committee to include interested /

impacted / associated outside parties in order to provide a forum for their input. **ACTION: ADMINISTRATION**

6. Report of the Transportation Work Session

- a. **Direction to Staff [ACTION]** The following Council Members have been appointed by the Chairman to serve on the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee: Livingston (Chair); Dickerson; Manning; Hutchinson; Washington.

Council voted to include the aforementioned **(5) Richland County Council members**, along with **3 Transportation Study Commission** appointees (to be appointed by the Transportation Study Commission Chairperson), **2 City of Columbia** appointees, and **2 Chamber of Commerce** appointees to form a comprehensive Transportation Committee. [This Committee will be comprised of **12** individuals.]

This Committee is to meet within the next week or two to begin discussions on the proposed ballot initiative. There is an **accelerated timeframe** associated with this group to meet and forward recommendations to Council.

Agendas for these meetings will be forwarded to Council, and regular reports to Council regarding this group's activities will be presented as appropriate. **ACTION: ADMINISTRATION**

7. **Shop Road Extension:** Council approved the governmental affairs team pursue funding for Shop Road extension. The vote to reconsider failed. **ACTION: ADMINISTRATION**

8. **Citizens' Input:** No one spoke.

9. Motion Period

- a. **To have the following sent to the Rules & Appointments Committee for review and recommendation:**

County Council Expense Accounts

1. **Each Richland County Council Member will be annually allocated an expense account in the amount of \$7,000 to be used at his/her discretion according to the rules established by Council. Council members are encouraged to contain their expenses within the Council approved amount.**
2. **In the event that a Council member exceeds the \$7,000 expense account allocation, he/she must complete one of the following:**

- i. The amount overspent by the Council member must be repaid to the County prior to the end of the fiscal year in which the excess spending occurred. If the deficiency is not corrected within 30 days of the beginning of a new fiscal year, the deficiency will be repaid from the Council member's pay check.

OR

- ii. The Council member may solicit additional expense account funds from another Council member who has unspent funds in his/her account. The Rules and Appointments Committee will develop a form that includes a section for the Council member soliciting the forms to sign and a section for the granting Council member to sign approving the request for transfer of funds. Once completed, the form will be turned in to the Clerk of Council who will send the signed request to the Finance Department where the appropriate transfer of funds and accounting can take place. The Clerk of Council will also maintain a file copy of the form in the Council office.
- iii. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is simply a "suggestion" as to how we might deal with this mater. I am certainly open to any ideas any of you might have as to how this might be improved upon. [Pearce] Forwarded to the Rules & Appointments Committee.
ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL

- b. To have the following sent to the Rules & Appointments Committee for review and recommendation:

County Council Expense Accounts

1. Each Richland County Council Member will be annually allocated an expense account in the amount of \$7,000 to be used at his/her discretion according to the rules established by Council. Council members are encouraged to contain their expenses within the Council approved amount.
2. In the event that a Council member exceeds the \$7,000 expense account allocation, he/she must complete the following:
 - iii. The amount overspent by the Council member must be repaid to the County prior to the end of the fiscal year in which the excess spending occurred. If the deficiency is not corrected within 30 days of the beginning of a new fiscal year, the deficiency will be repaid from the Council member's pay check. [Rose] Forwarded to the Rules &

Appointments Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**

c. **Request unanimous consent to postpone the annual report by Palmetto Health scheduled for March of each year as required by the Memorandum of Understanding between Palmetto Health and Richland County dated April 22, 2003, Section 2.h. until such time as a more appropriate means of communicating the activities of Palmetto Health to the citizens of Richland County can be developed. [Pearce] Council approved the request. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**

d. **I request the legal department to determine the legality of implementing any of the following to be used as permanent funding for the CMRTA: (If state law changes are needed then the Legislative Delegation could be requested to do so.)**

1. **Can an admissions tax be added to every event ticket sold in Richland County (unincorporated & incorporated) that would be designated strictly for providing to the CMRTA? Something as small as 25 cents would bring in huge amounts and would not be taking money from a person's needs but from their excess since that is what is used to purchase such tickets. It would be collected at all sporting events, theatre and concert events, museums, zoo and any entity that charges an admission to their venue. Busses travel to all these locations now so it would seem logical to make this request.**
2. **With assistance from the Columbia chamber of commerce create an employee sponsored commuter program. The IRS used to allow a tax free benefit up to \$230 per month (\$2,760 per year) for transit expenses. This is a benefit to both employee and employer as the supplement was tax deductible by the employer and could be provided to the employee as a pre-tax benefit.**
3. **A deed recording fee could be a robust funding source. While it seems there is no logical connection with transportation it could be marketed based on the economic development potential of transit programs. [Malinowski] Forwarded to the Transportation Committee. ACTION: ADMINISTRATION**

e. **Motion to have the following sent to the Rules & Appointments Committee for review and possible action:**

County Council Expense Accounts

1. **Each Richland County Council member will be annually allocated an expense account in the amount of \$7,000.00 to be used at his/her**

discretion according to the rules established by Council. Council members are encouraged to contain their expenses within the Council approved amount.

2. Each member will be allowed to rollover up to \$700 (10%) unspent from the ending fiscal year into the new fiscal year by written request to Administration.

3. In the event that a Council member exceeds the \$7,000 expense account allocation, he/she would be allowed have up to \$700 (10%) deducted from the new year's \$7,000 allotment.

4. In the event that a Council member exceeds the allowable expense account allocation as noted in #3 above, he/she must do one of the following:

A. The Council member may solicit additional expense account funds from another Council member who has unspent funds in his/her account. (The Rules & Appointments Committee will create a form to document the request for transfer of funds and to authorize the Finance Department to make the appropriate transfer

OR

B. The amount overspent by the Council member must be repaid to the County by first day of September. If the overage amount is not paid by the first day of September, the monies will be garnished from the Council member's pay check. [Manning] Forwarded to the Rules & Appointments Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**

10. **Adjournment:** Council adjourned at 9:24 p.m.