

**RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 15, 2002
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph McEachern, Chair; Anthony Mizzell, Vice-Chair; Joan B. Brady; Susan Brill; Paul Livingston; J.D. "Buddy" Meetze; L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.; Bernice G. Scott; Kit Smith; Thelma M. Tillis; James Tuten

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Cary McSwain, Michielle Cannon-Finch, Milton Pope, Tony McDonald, Larry Smith Amelia Linder, Pam Davis, Ashley Jacobs, Stephany Snowden, Carrie Tolley, Daniel Driggers, Brenda Carter, Michael Criss, Marsheika Martin

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

INVOCATION – The Invocation was given by the Honorable Jim Tuten.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adopt the agenda as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.

CITIZEN'S INPUT – Mr. McEachern said there was one person signed up to speak; however, the issue the citizen signed up to speak to requires a public hearing. Mr. McEachern explained the rules of Council regarding Citizen's Input. The citizen was informed that they could speak at the end of the meeting to this item.

REPORT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Mr. Larry Smith, County Attorney, stated the Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant need to be discussed in Executive Session.

Council informed the attorney that the item was not on the agenda. A discussion took place.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to add this item to the agenda as item-2 for an executive session briefing with no action to be taken. The vote in favor was unanimous.

REPORT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Vista TIF Annual Report - Mr. McSwain stated that he and Mr. McEachern contacted members of the city regarding the report. They were informed the TIF report would be ready by the end of the week.

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Payment on the Township – Mr. McSwain stated that discussions are ongoing regarding the payment of the Township. He stated the City is pending the appointments of three members to the Board of Trustees. The City Manager delivered an executed copy of the Township Agreement to Mr. McSwain's office.

Mr. Pearce wanted the City to be clear that they would not be able to appoint their members to the board until payment is received. Council instructed the Administrator to make sure the City receive that message.

Ms. Scott requested for Mr. McSwain to find out when the last Township Board meeting was held.

Letter from Jim Gambrell – Mr. McSwain stated he received a letter from Mr. Gambrell from the City of Columbia which stated that the City has scheduled a Columbia Summit on the new economy this year in conjunction with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce's annual business expo. This will take place on Tuesday, February 5th at the South Carolina State Fair Grounds at Rosewood's. It will begin late morning and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Mr. McSwain reported they are asking if the County would consider a \$2,500.00 sponsorship. He stated he would obtain information regarding this and also the calendar of events for the summit.

Presentation of Independent Financial Audit – Mr. Tom McNeish from Elliott Davis commented on the new format that would make the financial report more useful in areas of accountability. He stated the Finance Department has begun to address some of the significant accounting issues that are required to convert the county's financial reporting capability to the new format. He stated that Elliott Davis looks forward to working with the Finance Department to make that transition happen smoothly.

Mr. McKneece went on to brief the Council on the financial audit. He limited his comments to the general fund, which is where most of the county's financial activities took place. He summarized what has occurred in the general fund during the fiscal year. Revenues were budgeted at approximately \$86,000,000.00 compared to actual revenues of approximately \$85,867,000.00. This resulted in a relatively slight budget shortfall of about \$369,000.00 or less than one-half percent. The expenditure side budgeted approximately \$96,581,000.00 compared with actual expenditures during the year of \$91,214,000.00 that resulted in a favorable budget variance of approximately 5.2 million or 5%.

He reported in accordance with last year's budget, approximately \$7,157,000.00 was appropriated from fund balance to fund

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expenditures and excessive revenues occurring during the fiscal year. In the budget itself, the county budgeted considerably more than that, but as far as expenditures were concerned, there was a very favorable budget variance, so that is the amount the county ended up with in terms of actual expenditures. As a result of that, the total fund balance stood at \$24,973,000.00 as of June 30, 2001.

OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS – No public hearings were scheduled at this time.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA - No consent items were on the agenda as this time.

1. SECOND READING ITEM

a. Reapportionment Ordinance

Ms. Smith stated a motion was made at first reading to defer into Executive Session to receive advice from Council.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Brady, to go into Executive Session.

After discussion, Ms. Smith withdrew her motion.

Mr. Livingston presented two additional versions of a map that was developed which was based on comments and feedbacks. These maps were called Map D and E. He stated the only changes in the maps are in the Northwest area.

Mr. Livingston stated the major change in Map-D is that it created a 54% African-American district and combined Districts One and Two. He stated the main change in Map-E is trying not to include the prison in District 2, as well as in Map-A. He stated those were big concerns. Mr. Livingston stated much of the prison population was moved from District 2 and moved into District 7 to resolve that major concern.

Mr. Livingston stated the discussions should be limited to only the maps that have come before Council and only consider changes to those particular maps as opposed to coming up with a new map on Third Reading.

He stated if he has any changes he would make sure Council is notified a week or so prior to the next meeting so everyone would have the opportunity to review the changes.

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Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to move forward with Second Reading by Title Only, hold a public hearing on January 29th, and then have Third Reading, making sure persons have enough time for input.

The vote was follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Pearce
Mizzell	Brady
McEachern	Brill
Smith	Tuten
Tillis	Meetze
Scott	

The motion passed.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM

a. Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to go into Executive Session to obtain a legal briefing on a pending litigation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:35 p.m. and came out at approximately 6:44 p.m.
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Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to come out of Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. McEachern stated the legal briefing regarding the Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plan was received as information.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Mr. McEachern requested for the Rules and Appointments Committee to review the rules for the second part of Citizen's Input. He stated there are some concerns that need to be cleared up.

- Kay McClanahan spoke of concerns regarding redistricting.
- Helen Taylor requested a meeting regarding the redistricting map.
- Hattie Fruster has requested a meeting regarding the redistricting map.

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MOTION PERIOD

- Mr. McEachern requested for Council members to turn in their committee requests.
- Mr. McEachern asked Mr. Pearce to work with him on dialogue with countywide elected officials.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:57 p.m.

Joseph McEachern, Chair

Tony Mizzell, Vice-Chair

Joan Brady

Susan Brill

Paul Livingston

J.D. "Buddy" Meetze

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.

Bernice G. Scott

Kit Smith

Thelma M. Tillis

James Tuten

Marsheika G. Martin transcribed the minutes.