

# **RICHLAND COUNTY**

## **DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA**



**Tuesday, MAY 22, 2018**

**5:00 PM**

**The Honorable Greg Pearce, Chair**

**County Council District 6**

**The Honorable Seth Rose**

**County Council District 5**

**The Honorable Gwen Kennedy**

**County Council District 7**

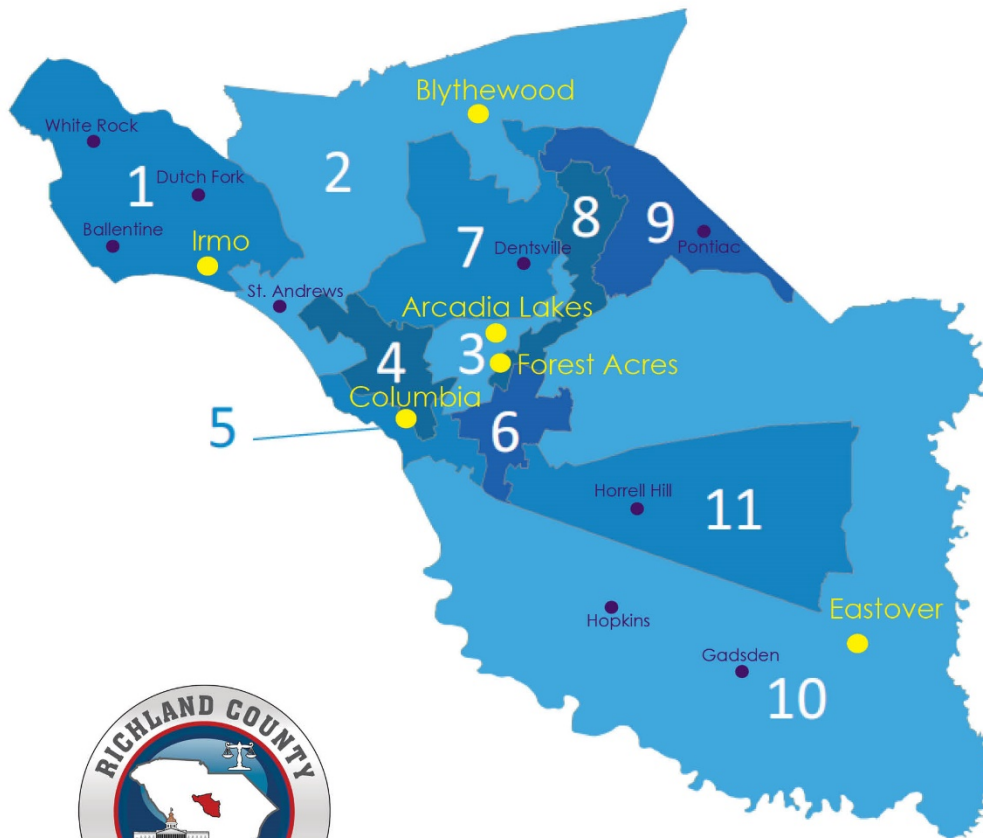
**The Honorable Jim Manning**

**County Council District 8**

**The Honorable Chip Jackson**

**County Council District 9**

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL 2017-2018



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Bill Malinowski  
District 1



**CHAIR**  
Joyce Dickerson  
District 2



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District 9



Dalhi Myers  
District 10



Norman Jackson  
District 11



Richland County Development & Services Committee

May 22, 2018 - 5:00 PM

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The Honorable Greg Pearce
  
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The Honorable Greg Pearce
  - a. Regular Session: April 24, 2018 [PAGES 7-9]
  
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** The Honorable Greg Pearce
  
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
  - a. Council Motion: Move forward with the feasibility of placing a hospital/emergency care facility in the Lower Richland Community. Note: It is mentioned in the Renaissance Plan but no solid documentation has been presented. This motion will start the process of working with the healthcare community of developing a plan and placing a facility in the Lower Richland community [N. JACKSON] [PAGE 10]
  
  - b. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Motor Vehicles In Traffic; Article Ii, General Traffic And Parking Regulations; Section 17-9, Through Truck Traffic Prohibited; So As To Include Hobart Rd. [PAGES 11-17]
  
  - c. Richland County Utility Systems – Sewer Rates [PAGES 18-23]
  
5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**
  - a. Review Section II(i)(2)(4) of County Ordinance 043-14HR, "If twenty-five (25%) percent or more of all such property owners decline said road paving, then the The Honorable Bill Malinowski

subject road shall not be paved". This seems to go against the way most items are done in our country, by majority, so why shouldn't a majority also decide if a road should be paved or not?

**6. ADJOURNMENT**



Special Accommodations and Interpreter Services Citizens may be present during any of the County's meetings. If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), as amended and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the Clerk of Council's office either in person at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC, by telephone at (803) 576-2061, or TDD at 803-576-2045 no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



## Richland County Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 24, 2018 – 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Pearce, Chair; Gwen Kennedy, Chip Jackson, Jim Manning and Seth Rose

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Madden, Michelle Onley, Kim Williams-Roberts, Brad Farrar, Trena Bowers, Quinton Epps, Tim Nielsen, Ismail Ozbek, Chris Eversmann, Sandra Yudice, Stacey Hamm, and Nancy Stone-Collum

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Pearce called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. March 27, 2018 – Mr. C. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Rose, to approve the minutes as distributed.  
  
In Favor: C. Jackson, Pearce, Kennedy, and Rose  
  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Pearce stated Item #4(k): “Little Jackson Creek (LJC) Mitigation Project Close Out” on the Administration and Finance Committee agenda was supposed to be on the Development and Services Committee agenda. This is a FAA Grant that was given to the Owens-Hamilton Airport and needs to be closed out.  
  
Mr. Pearce inquired since this was an error does a motion need to be made to officially transfer the item from the A&F agenda to the D&S agenda.  
  
Mr. Farrar stated he would add the item to the D&S agenda prior to adoption. Whatever the committee does with the item should also be reported at the A&F meeting, so that if anyone shows up for the later meeting will know what action was taken.  
  
Mr. Rose moved, seconded by Mr. C. Jackson, to amend the agenda to add the “Little Jackson Creek (LJC) Mitigation Project Close Out” that was erroneously placed on the A&F Committee agenda.  
  
In Favor: C. Jackson, Pearce, Kennedy, and Rose  
  
Opposed: Manning  
  
Mr. C. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Rose, to adopt the agenda as amended.  
  
In Favor: C. Jackson, Pearce, Kennedy, and Rose

Opposed: Manning

The vote was in favor.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

- a. Conservation Commission manage County-owned historic and conservation properties [N. JACKSON]  
– Mr. Rose moved, seconded by Mr. C. Jackson, to table this item.

In Favor: C. Jackson, Pearce, Kennedy, and Rose

Opposed: Manning

The vote was in favor.

- b. Little Jackson Creek (LJC) Mitigation Project Close Out – Mr. Eversmann stated this is an unusual project, in that, most of their projects are on airport property and are directly related to the airport and its operation. However, another project on airport property impacted wetlands and a stream, so we needed to mitigate those impacts. The project is in the Gills Creek Watershed. It is a portion of area between Two Notch Road and Spring Valley Subdivision. The project is nearing completion, and in order to close out the project, we need approval of 2 change orders. One change order is deductive and the other is additive with a net result of a \$24,440.00 increase in the cost of the project, which represents 2.7% of the original contract costs. The additional money will be 90% Federal, 5% State and 5% Local funded. Unlike other types of projects in which there is a 5 – 7% contingency built-in, the FAA does not permit contingencies in their grants. That is why we have to cut a purchase order and sign a contract for the exact amount even though it will probably vary because it is a unit priced contract.

Mr. Pearce stated the net costs to Richland County will be \$1,222.04, which would permit us to complete this project and close out the Federal grant.

Mr. Malinowski requested Mr. Eversmann have someone review the figures.

Mr. Rose moved, seconded by Mr. C. Jackson, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the final project quantities as reflected in the Change Orders and the subsequent additional payment of \$24,440.90 to Shamrock Environmental Corporation.

In Favor: C. Jackson, Pearce, and Rose

Opposed: Manning

The vote was in favor.

**ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- a. Council Motion: Move forward with the feasibility of placing a hospital/emergency care facility in the Lower Richland Community. NOTE: It is mentioned in the Renaissance Plan but no solid documentation has been presented. This motion will start the process of working with the healthcare community of developing a plan and placing a facility in the Lower Richland community [N. JACKSON] – No action was taken.

Development and Services

April 24, 2018

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5. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:09 PM.



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Administrator

## Development & Services Committee Meeting Briefing Document

### Agenda Item

Council Motion: Move forward with the feasibility of placing a hospital/emergency care facility in the Lower Richland Community.

### Background

During its March 20, 2018 Council meeting, Councilman N. Jackson brought forth the following motion:

“Move forward with the feasibility of placing a hospital/emergency care facility in the Lower Richland Community. Note: It is mentioned in the Renaissance Plan but no solid documentation has been presented. This motion will start the process of working with the healthcare community of developing a plan and placing a facility in the Lower Richland community”

### Issue:

None.

### Fiscal Impact:

None directly. However, any engagement with a contractor attendant to the motion may result in a financial impact to the County.

### Past Legislative Action:

Council motion brought forth by Councilman N. Jackson during the March 20, 2018 Council meeting.

### Alternatives

1. Consider the motion and proceed accordingly.
2. Do not consider the motion and proceed accordingly.

### Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that Council to provide direction to staff regarding the Council motion.



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Administrator

## May 22, 2018 Development & Services Committee Briefing Document – Through Truck Prohibited on Hobart Road and the Brookhaven Neighborhood

### Agenda Item

County Council is requested to approve an amendment to the ordinance, Article II. General Traffic and Parking Regulations, Section 17-9 prohibiting through truck traffic on the County portion of Hobart Road from its intersection with the State portion of Hobart Road to its intersection with Longtown Road West within Richland County.

The amendment will read as follows:

“(11) All through truck traffic is prohibited on the County portion of Hobart Road and within the Brookhaven neighborhood in Richland County.”

### Background

The County portion of Hobart Road serves as one of the main roads through the Brookhaven neighborhood. It is a two-lane residential road that, over the years, has become a major cut-through road for traffic traveling from Farrow Rd. to Longtown Road. This cut-through traffic includes a large volume of heavy truck traffic, such as semis, concrete trucks, and delivery trucks that has contributed to the deterioration of the road and has turned a quiet community road into a loud, busy connector that it was not designed or intended to be. There are other routes that these trucks can use to avoid Hobart Road.

Since mid-2017, Public Works has received service requests from citizens to have this road closed to this truck traffic because of the reasons mentioned above.

As shown on the attached map exhibit, there is a State (SCDOT) portion as well as a County portion of Hobart Road. A preliminary request to close of the State portion of Hobart Road to through truck traffic has been made to the SCDOT Richland Maintenance Staff. While this closure would be desirable, it should not hold up action by RC Council. Also attached is an image of a large truck traversing this residential neighborhood.

Because of its brevity, Section 17-9 in its entirety follows:

### **Sec. 17-9. Through truck traffic prohibited.**

- (a) All through truck traffic is prohibited on the following roads in Richland County, South Carolina:
- (1) Sparkleberry Lane;

- (2) Congress Road between Leesburg Road and Garners Ferry Road;
- (3) Bynum Road;
- (4) Summit Parkway;
- (5) Valhalla Drive;
- (6) Olympia Avenue between Heyward Street and Bluff Road;
- (7) Bakersfield Road between Dutch Square Boulevard and Morninghill Drive;
- (8) N. Donar Drive;
- (9) Prima Drive; and
- (10) Longreen Parkway.

(b) For the purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Truck means: a) every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles, and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and the load so drawn; b) every vehicle having more than two (2) axles, with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and so constructed that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle; and/or c) every vehicle having more than two (2) axles, with or without motive power, other than a pole trailer, designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, and so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle.

(2) Through truck traffic means truck traffic moving from the beginning point of the road to the ending point of the road without stopping.

(Ord. No. 016-96HR, § I, 1-2-96; Ord. No. 061-01HR, § I, 9-4-01; Ord. No. 002-02HR, § I, 1-8-02; Ord. No. 001-06HR, § I, 1-3-06; Ord. No. 031-07HR, § I, 4-3-07; Ord. No. 058-10HR, § I, 9-21-10; Ord. No. 058-14HR, § I, 11-18-14)

### Issues

There are several residential roads with a through truck traffic prohibition; emergency response vehicles on a mission are not considered through traffic and are not affected by this action.

### Fiscal Impact

The financial impact will be minimal and limited to the installation of appropriate signage which will be paid for from the Roads and Drainage Maintenance (RDM) Division operating budget. No additional funding will be required.

### Past Legislative Actions

None

### Alternatives

1. Approve an amendment to the ordinance, Article II. General Traffic and Parking Regulations, Section 17-9 prohibiting through truck traffic on Hobart Road and the Brookhaven neighborhood within Richland County.

Or,

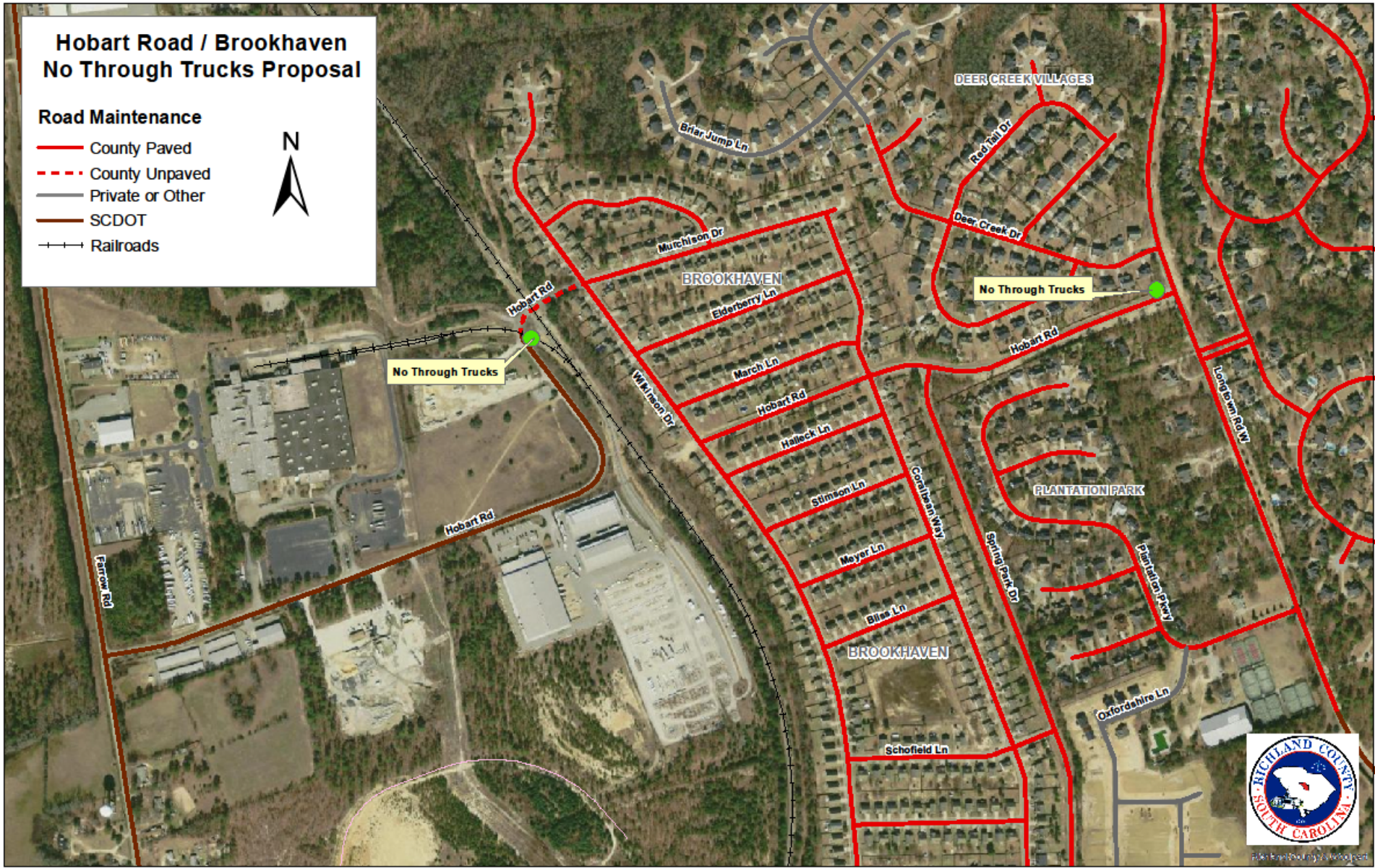
2. Do not approve the amendment to the ordinance and allow truck traffic to continue to use Hobart Road through the Brookhaven neighborhood.

**Staff Recommendation**

It is recommended that County Council approve an amendment to the ordinance, Article II. General Traffic and Parking Regulations, Section 17-9 prohibiting through truck traffic on Hobart Road and the Brookhaven within Richland County.

**Submitted by:** Department of Public Works

**Date:** May 7, 2018





STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_-18HR

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17, MOTOR VEHICLES IN TRAFFIC; ARTICLE II, GENERAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING REGULATIONS; SECTION 17-9, THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC PROHIBITED; SO AS TO INCLUDE HOBART ROAD.

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR RICHLAND COUNTY:

SECTION I. The Richland County Code of Ordinances; Chapter 17, Motor Vehicles and Traffic; Article II. General Traffic and Parking Regulations; Section 17-9, Through Truck Traffic Prohibited; Subsection (a); is hereby amended to read as follows:

**Section 17-9. Through truck traffic prohibited.**

(a) All through truck traffic is prohibited on the following roads in Richland County, South Carolina:

- (1) Sparkleberry Lane;
- (2) Congress Road between Leesburg Road and Garners Ferry Road;
- (3) Bynum Road;
- (4) Summit Parkway;
- (5) Valhalla Drive;
- (6) Olympia Avenue between Heyward Street and Bluff Road;
- (7) Bakersfield Road between Dutch Square Boulevard and Morninghill Drive;
- (8) N. Donar Drive;
- (9) Prima Drive; -
- (10) Longreen Parkway; and
- (11) **Hobart Road.**

SECTION II. Severability. If any section, subsection, or clause of this Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such finding shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, and clauses of this Ordinance.



SECTION III. Conflicting Ordinances Repealed. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be enforced from and after \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce Dickerson, Chair

ATTEST this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Williams – Roberts  
Clerk of Council

RICHLAND COUNTY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved As To LEGAL Form Only  
No Opinion Rendered As To Content

First Reading:  
Public Hearing:  
Second Reading:  
Third Reading:



# RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Administrator

## Development & Services Committee Meeting Briefing Document

### Agenda Item

Richland County Utility Systems – Sewer Rates

### Background

The County’s Utilities Department provides water and sanitary sewer services in the unincorporated areas of the County via the Broad River and the Lower Richland Utility Systems. These systems are comprised of several County-owned and operated water and waste water treatment facilities.

### Broad River Utility System

The Broad River system includes a County-owned waste water treatment facility (e.g., treatment plant, collection system) and Water distribution system.

- The Broad River Waste Water Treatment Plant was designed and constructed in 2007-08 and is permitted to treat 6 million gallons per day (MGD). The primary source of effluent to the plant is the residential neighborhoods in the northwestern area of the County. The system currently serves in excess of 12,000 customers. The waste water rate for the Broad River Wastewater system is \$44.54 monthly / \$133.62 quarterly per REU. (residential equivalent unit).
- The Broad River Water Distribution network, commonly referred to as the White Rock Water System, was designed and constructed in June 1988 and includes a full distribution system with a small number (20) of customers.
- The water service rate for the White Rock Water system, as detailed in the table below, is based off water usage.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1st 1,000 gallons<br>Minimum base charge standard meter | \$20.00              |
| Next 8,000 gallons                                      | \$4.67/1,000 gallons |

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Next 11,000 gallons | \$4.37/1,000 gallons |
| Next 10,000 gallons | \$4.12/1,000 gallons |
| Next 30,000 gallons | \$3.87/1,000 gallons |
| Next 60,000 gallons | \$3.87/1,000 gallons |

- Debt
  - The County issued \$19,300,000 Sewer System General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2011A, dated November 15, 2011 (the “2011A Bonds”), to refund a portion of the Broad River Sewer System General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003D. The un-refunded portion has since been retired.
  - The County issued \$15,235,000 Broad River Sewer System General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016C dated December 16, 2016 (the “2016C Bonds”), to refund the Board River Sewer System General Obligation Bonds, Series 2007B.
  - While the 2011A Bonds and the 2016C Bonds are general obligation bonds, the County anticipates the full debt service will be paid with revenues derived from the operation of the Broad River Sewer System. In the unanticipated event the debt funds do not have sufficient revenues, a County tax levy must be made to meet the payments of principal and interest.

**Lower Richland Utility System**

The Lower Richland system includes a County-owned waste water treatment facility (e.g., treatment plant, collection system) and two (2) water distribution systems.

- The Eastover Waste Water Treatment Plant was designed and constructed in March 2012 and re-rated February 2016 to treat 0.75 MGD. The primary source of effluent to the plant is the residential neighborhoods in the southeastern area of the County, inclusive of the Town of Eastover. The system currently serves the Town of Eastover, a whole- sale customer; and one commercial customer, Kemira. The waste water rate for the Lower Richland Wastewater system is \$37.60 monthly / \$112.80 quarterly per REU.
- The Lower Richland Water Distribution network includes the Hopkins Water distribution network and the Pond Drive Water distribution network.

- The Hopkins Water distribution network receivership agreement was entered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to assume operations of one wastewater treatment facility and two community water systems that were abandoned by a private utility in July 2005. An upgrade was designed and constructed in August 2012 and includes a full distribution system and serves 521 customers.
- The Pond Drive Water distribution network receivership agreement was entered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to assume operations of one wastewater treatment facility and two community water systems that were abandoned by a private utility in July 2005. An upgrade was designed and constructed in August 2012 and includes a full distribution system and serves 30 customers.
- The water service rates for the Hopkins Water and Pond Drive water systems as detailed in the table below, are based off water usage.

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1st 1,000 gallons<br>Minimum base charge standard meter | \$20.00              |
| Next 8,000 gallons                                      | \$4.67/1,000 gallons |
| Next 11,000 gallons                                     | \$4.37/1,000 gallons |
| Next 10,000 gallons                                     | \$4.12/1,000 gallons |
| Next 30,000 gallons                                     | \$3.87/1,000 gallons |
| Next 60,000 gallons                                     | \$3.87/1,000 gallons |

- Debt
  - The County issued its \$2,033,000 Waterworks System Improvement Revenue Bond (Hopkins Project), Series 2011 dated October 14, 2011, which was purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. The Bond is payable monthly as to principal and interest over 40 years beginning November 14, 2011.

**Issue(s):**

The waste water and water fees are determined periodically by rate studies and are set at levels to recoup the projected expenses of the operations, maintenance, and upgrades, in a similar manner as a private business. All activity necessary to provide water and sewer service are accounted for each system, including but not limited to customer service, engineering, operations and maintenance. Given that the systems are designed to operate as a private business enterprise, the revenues and expenditures are accounted for through the Broad River and the Lower Richland enterprise funds.

The County’s utility enterprise fund is designed to be self-supporting through user fees or charges for services. However, historically, the expenditures for the Lower Richland utility system have been higher than its revenues. As such, annually, the Broad River utility system and the County’s General Fund have subsidized the Lower Richland utility system. As illustrated in the table below, the amount subsidized has averaged a total of \$342,145 yearly over the past five (5) years, with subsidies for the Lower Richland Sewer and the Lower Richland Water averaging, \$172,802 and \$169,343, respectively.

Table 1 *Summary of Subsidies*

| <b>Lower Richland Sewer</b> |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Fiscal Year</b>          | <b>Subsidized Amount</b>           |
| 2013                        | \$133,943                          |
| 2013                        | \$96,065                           |
| 2015                        | \$184,000                          |
| 2016                        | \$225,000                          |
| 2017                        | \$225,000                          |
|                             | <b>\$864,008</b>                   |
|                             | <b>\$172,802</b>                   |
|                             | <b>Total Of Transfers In/Out</b>   |
|                             | <b>Annual Average Of Transfers</b> |

| <b>Lower Richland Water</b> |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Fiscal Year</b>          | <b>Subsidized Amount</b>           |
| 2013                        | \$23,895                           |
| 2013                        | \$121,621                          |
| 2014                        | \$20,133                           |
| 2014                        | \$112,790                          |
| 2014                        | \$223,275                          |
| 2015                        | \$145,000                          |
| 2016                        | \$100,000                          |
| 2017                        | \$100,000                          |
|                             | <b>\$846,714</b>                   |
|                             | <b>\$169,343</b>                   |
|                             | <b>Total Of Transfers In</b>       |
|                             | <b>Annual Average Of Transfers</b> |

These subsidies conflict with the framework of a government enterprise fund, the County’s financial policies, and GAAP as the utility systems should be self-sufficient and should not rely on the County’s General Fund to address revenue deficits. There are several mitigating factors contributing to the aforementioned conflicts:

- The rates are not uniform. There is a difference between the sewer and water rates for each system. As noted above, the waste water and water rates for the Broad River system is higher than those rates for the Lower Richland system.

- The Broad River system generates more revenue and is able to cover the expenditures associated with the operations of the system. Whereas, the Lower Richland system does not generate enough revenue to account for the expenditures associated with the operations of the system.
- The need for the implementation of a water and sewer rate study. The preliminary rate study started a year ago. According to policy, the County should conduct a rate study every 3-5 years. Review of the archives attendant to this matter revealed that the County did not perform rates studies in accordance with its policy.
- Inadequate funding of the capital improvement / maintenance needs for both systems. Historically, the County has not adequately funded the capital outlay for both utility systems. This has contributed to failing infrastructure and the constant need to make emergency repairs.
- The County has a number capital improvement related commitments that should proceed and will require funding mechanisms supported by its Utility System, including the Cedar Cove and Stoney Point Utility System Improvement Project and the Lower Richland Sewer project via the Satellite Sewer Service Agreement with the City of Columbia. As such, Council's pending policy decision attendant to having a combined utility system must be timely.

Given the recent completion of the preliminary countywide rate study, along with the preliminary projection of long-term needs of the County's utility system, Council is facing a number of critical policy decisions. While the timeliness of those decisions cannot be understated, Council needs to review all of the available information and begin deliberations to address the critical needs of both utility systems. Given the aforementioned issues, County staff recommends that Council approve proceeding with scheduling three Council work sessions in June 2018 to brief Council on its utility systems. Upon completion of the work sessions, staff will present this matter to Council through its normal Committee / Council vetting process to obtain direction with regard to the following policy initiatives:

1. **Proceeding or not proceeding with a combined utility system.** It is advantageous for the County to move towards a combined or regional utility system to provide equity and uniformity in its rates for all of its customers. Further, a combined utility system will set the foundation for the County to move toward a county-wide sewer and water system which can eliminate the many "pockets" of sewer service countywide.
2. **The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) schedule as it relates to the County utility infrastructure.** There are a number of utility system infrastructure related improvements and upgrades impacting both utility systems via the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan which includes expansion projects. Further, there are planned capital expenditures, including R&R (refurbishment & replacement) for the assets and components of the utility system. Council will need to approve the CIP during its upcoming Biennium Budget II process, including the plan's funding sources. The development of the County's ten year CIP is underway, with a tentative completion date in the Fall 2018.
3. **Implementation of utility rate adjustments vis-à-vis the Wildan Rate Study.** As noted, the County's utility systems are designed to be self-supporting through user fees or charges for

services to the customers of the utility systems. Completion of the countywide rate study will allow for the proper development of funding mechanisms for the Utility System CIP. Once the CIP is completed and funding mechanisms are in place, the County can implement rate adjustments upon approval from County Council in order for the utility systems to be self-supported. Further, if Council approves moving forward with a combined utility system, operating the utility system would allow for user rate / fee impact relief since excess revenues could support the smaller utility systems as opposed to transfers in or subsidies from the County's General Fund. Currently, without the subsidy from the General Fund, utility customers may face large rate / fee increases.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The fiscal impact will depend on (a) whether the County continues with separate utility systems or a combined one and (b) the final Council approved wastewater and water rates.

**Past Legislative Action:**

None.

**Alternatives**

1. Accept the briefing document for information and approve proceeding with scheduling three Council work sessions in July 2018 to discuss the County utility systems.
2. Do not accept the briefing document for information and approve proceeding with scheduling three Council work sessions in July 2018 to discuss the County utility systems.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends alternative 1.

**Proposed by:**

Richland County Administration

**Date Proposed:**

May 22, 2018