



# Richland County Council

## MINUTES

Special Called Meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – FY24 Budget  
May 25, 2023 – 6:00 PM  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Overture Walker, Chair; Jesica Mackey, Vice Chair, Jason Branham, Derrek Pugh, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio, Don Weaver, Gretchen Barron, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Onley, Lori Thomas, Tamar Black, Angela Weathersby, Ashiya Myers, Stacey Hamm, Michael Maloney, Dale Welch, Sandra Haynes, Michael Byrd, Kyle Holsclaw, Leonardo Brown, Allen Brown, Anette Kirylo, Aric Jensen, Abhijit Deshpande, Brittney Hoyle-Terry, Chelsea Bennett, Fielding Pringle, Susan O’Cain, Jasmine Crum, Hans Pauling, Judy Carter, Patrick Wright, Oscar Rosales, Darlene Gathers, and Ojetta O’Bryant

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman O. Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **SECOND READING**

- a. **An Ordinance to raise revenue, make appropriations, and adopt an Annual Budget (FY2024) for Richland County, South Carolina for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. So as to raise revenue, make appropriations and Amend the General Fund, Millage Agencies, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Debt Service Funds Budget for Richland County, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024** – Ms. English moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. **An Ordinance authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which, together with the prior year’s carryover and other State Levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2023, will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July**

**1, 2023, through June 30, 2024** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **SECOND READING MOTION LIST**

**a. MILLAGE AGENCIES**

1. ***Richland County Recreation Commission (Recommended: \$16,455,543)*** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve Administration’s recommendation of the no mill increase amount, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. ***Columbia Area Mental Health (Recommended: \$2,531,000)*** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase amount, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion to fund Columbia Area Mental Health at the mill cap (\$2,714,000), seconded by Ms. McBride.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Weaver, Barron, and Walker

The vote was in favor of the substitute motion.

3. ***Public Library (Recommended: \$31,030,229)*** – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the Richland Library at \$32,311,229, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham and Barron

The vote was in favor.

4. ***Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens (Recommended: \$2,706,000)*** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase amount, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

5. **Midlands Technical College – Operating (Recommended: \$7,228,763)** – Mr. Livingston moved to fund Midlands Technical College – Operating at \$7,503,630, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, and English

Opposed: Branham, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and Newton

The motion failed.

Ms. Terracio moved to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase amount for Midlands Technical College – Operating, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Mackey made a substitute motion to approve \$7,503,630 for Midlands Technical College – Operating utilizing ARPA funds, seconded by Mr. Walker.

Ms. Mackey withdrew the motion.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: McBride, Livingston, and Walker

The vote was in favor of the no-mill increase amount.

6. **Midlands Technical College – Capital (Recommended: \$3,926,731)** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase amount, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote was in favor.

7. **School District One (Recommended: \$254,990,675)** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, and Mackey

Opposed: McBride, Livingston, English, and Newton

The vote was in favor.

8. **School District Two (Recommended: \$181,576,392)** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the Administration’s recommendation of the no-mill increase, seconded by Ms. Newton

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**b. GRANTS**

9. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax revenue projections; \$600,000)*
10. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax use of fund balance; \$166,667)*
11. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax transfer out; \$25,000)*
12. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax committee recommendations; \$741,667)*
13. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax revenue projects; \$8,400,000)*
14. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax use of fund balance; \$1,098,713)*
15. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax transfer out; \$4,988,713)*
16. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax committee recommendations; \$500,000)*
17. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax reserve for contingency; \$150,000)*
18. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax Council discretionary; \$82,425 for each Council District; \$906,675)*
19. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Columbia Museum of Art at requested amount; Requested: \$850,000; Recommended: \$850,000)*
20. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Historic Columbia Foundation at the requested amount; Requested: \$622,500; Committee awarded: \$8,900; Recommended: \$613,000)*
21. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for EdVenture at the requested amount; Requested: \$575,000; Committee awarded: \$11,000; Recommended: \$564,000)*
22. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Township Auditorium Foundation; \$415,000)*
23. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding to Richland County Facilities and Ground Maintenance Division to provide Township Auditorium's ground maintenance; \$70,000)*

Ms. Newton moved to approve Administration's recommendation for Items 9-23, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

24. *Hospitality Tax – Special Promotions (Approve funding for Capital City Lake Murray Country; Requested: \$150,000; Committee awarded: \$25,400; Recommended: \$124,600) –*  
Mr. Branham moved to approve \$124,600 for Capital City Lake Murray Country, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 25. Hospitality Tax – Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; Requested: \$275,000; Committee awarded: \$33,000; Recommended: \$242,000)** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve \$242,000 for the Columbia Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; seconded by Ms. Barron.  
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 26. Hospitality Tax – Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia International Festival; Requested: \$235,000; Committee awarded: \$17,200; Recommended: \$217,800)** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve \$217,800 for the Columbia International Festival, seconded by Ms. Barron.  
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 27. Hospitality Tax – Tier 3 (Approve funding for South East Rural Community Outreach [SERCO]; Requested: \$90,000; Committee awarded: \$11,333; Recommended: \$78,667)** – Ms. Barron moved to approve \$78,667 for the South East Rural Community Outreach, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Livingston, Terracio, and Weaver

The vote was in favor.

- 28. Hospitality Tax – Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Gateway Pocket Park/Blight Removal Project to FY 2024 budget)**

- 29. Hospitality Tax - Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Historical Corridor to FY 2024 budget)** – Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 28-29, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 30. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding to the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival for their annual festival in FY 2024; Committee Awarded: \$15,800; Recommended: \$44,200)** – Ms. English moved to approve \$44,200 for the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

- 31. Hospitality Tax (Approve carrying over any unexpended hospitality funds from each Councilmember District to FY 2024 budget)** – Ms. Newton moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 32. Hospitality Tax (Adjust and approve H-Tax use of fund balance as necessary; this will override motion #14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Amount: \$1,365,255)**

- 33. Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve Neighborhood Improvement Grant Recommendations: \$79,140)**

- 34. Conservation Commission (Approve Conservation Commission Grant Recommendations: \$178,490)**

- 35. Various Grant Funded Depts. (Approve department requests that are applying for external grants in FY 2024, required matching of County funds, and grant-funded positions; \$61,550,774)** – Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 32-35, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **c. GENERAL FUND**

- 36. County-wide Departments (Approve Projected General Fund Revenue as presented in the FY2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$202,132,831)** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve Administration's recommendation of \$202,132,831, seconded by Mr. Walker.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 37. County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Transfers in from H-Tax and A-Tax Funds as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$3,525,000)** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve Administration's recommendation of \$3,525,000, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Terracio made a substitute motion to approve Items 37-54, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Weaver

The vote was in favor.

38. *County-wide Departments (Approve Projected Use of General Fund Balance to support overall General Fund expenditure as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$5,474,226)*
39. *County-wide Departments (Approve Use of ARPA funds to support General Fund expenditure; \$7,000,000)*
40. *Business Service Center (Approve refining and redesigning the Business License Fee schedule as presented by Richland County's Business License Center)*
41. *Building Inspections Department (Approve review and renew of Building Permit fees as presented by Richland County's Building Inspections Department)*
42. *County-wide Departments (Approve 4% pay raise for Richland County's full-time employees to be implemented in August 2023 [General Funded Positions]; \$4,405,808)*
43. *County-wide Departments (Approve 4% pay raise for Richland County's full-time employees to be implemented in August 2023 [Other Funded Positions]; \$1,152,155)*
44. *Countywide Departments (Approve funding for implementation of wage adjustment plan to be approved by the Council at a later date. This is the partial funding for FY24; \$5,594,192)*
45. *Administration (Approve and direct County Administrator to undertake a study to determine a cost overhead model to allocate certain shared general governmental functions costs to Enterprise Funds)*
46. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Overall Personnel, Operating and Capital Expenditures as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$194,203,021)*
47. *Transfer Out (Approve General Fund Operating Transfers Out as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book \$9,465,912)*
48. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding for affordable housing initiatives; \$4,000,000)*
49. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund New Positions as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$463,124)*
50. *County-wide Departments (Approve Other Fund New Positions as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$636,163)*
51. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding the Central Midlands COG for FY 2024; \$219,917)*
52. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding the City Center Partnership for FY 2024; \$50,000)*
53. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding LRADAC for FY 2024; \$600,000)*
54. *Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for the Community Impact Grant Committee recommendations; \$1,780,000)*
55. *Community Impact Grants (1. 60% of the total funding for Community Impact Grants be allocated for countywide community grants using current grant application process; 2. The remaining 40% of the funding be allocated and divided equally among all eleven districts using a process similar to District Hospitality Tax allocations; 3. Administration will review grant process to ensure guidelines are in compliance with all fiscal and legal requirements)*

**and make recommendations as appropriate)** – Ms. McBride moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, and Weaver

Opposed: Branham, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

**56. Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for St. John Foundation, Inc. [Career Development and Violence Prevention Program] for FY 2024; \$75,000)**

**57. Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for Wiley Kennedy Foundation, Inc. [Community Empowerment and Youth Fellowship Program] for FY 2024; \$75,000)** – Ms. McBride moved to approve Items 56-57, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, and Weaver

Opposed: Branham, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

**58. Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for Communities in Schools of SC; \$81,000)**

**59. Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for Midlands Area Food Bank; \$150,000)** – Ms. Barron withdrew Items 58-59 from consideration.

**60. Public Information Office (Eliminate the printing of annual calendars from the PIO Office by reducing the need to print wall calendars)** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated this motion was not properly before the body.

Mr. Weaver withdrew the motion from consideration.

**61. Sheriff Department (Approve funding to allow Sheriff's Department [1] to increase the minimum starting salary for a sheriff's deputy to \$50,000; [2] to ensure that any deputy with at least one year of experience with the department makes at least \$52,500; and [3] all employees of RCSD receives a 5% pay increase in FY 2024; \$5,277,351)** – Mr. Branham moved to approve \$464,000 for salary increases for the Deputy, Master Deputy, Corporal, and Sergeant positions at the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, and Barron

Opposed: Terracio, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote was in favor.

**62. County-wide Departments (Authorize increase in the General Fund Operating Levy by 3 millage points to raise sufficient FY 2024 General Fund Revenue)** – This item was withdrawn by staff.

**63. County-wide Departments (Adjust and approve Projected Use of General Fund Balance to support overall General Fund expenditure as necessary; This will override motion #38)** – Ms. Newton moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.



In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**d. SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

64. *Economic Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Economic Development; \$6,346,000)*
65. *Emergency Telephone System (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Emergency Telephone System; \$7,446,442)*
66. *Fire Services (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Fire Services; \$35,639,775)*
67. *Hospitality Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Hospitality Tax; \$9,498,713)*
68. *Accommodations Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Accommodations Tax; \$766,667)*
69. *Transportation Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Transportation Tax; \$88,000,000)*
70. *Mass Transit (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Mass Transit; \$24,754,400)*
71. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Neighborhood Redevelopment; \$946,000)*
72. *Public Defender (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Public Defender; \$6,411,756)*
73. *Title IVD- Sheriff's Fund (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IVD-Sheriff's Fund; \$62,671)*
74. *School Resource Officers (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of School Resource Officers; \$7,229,710)*
75. *Victim's Assistance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Victim's Assistance; \$1,334,426)*
76. *Tourism Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Tourism Development; \$1,280,500)*
77. *Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Temporary Alcohol Permits; \$167,817)*
78. *Stormwater Management (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Stormwater Management; \$3,894,800)*
79. *Conservation Commission (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Conservation Commission; \$3,908,930)*

**80. Road Maintenance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Road Maintenance ; \$11,345,478)**

**81. Child Fatality Review (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Child Fatality Review; \$70,000)**

Mr. Pugh moved to approve Items 64-81, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**82. Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve funding the River Alliance for FY 2024; \$55,000) – Mr. Livingston moved to approve \$55,000 for the River Alliance, seconded by Ms. Terracio.**

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Walker, English, and Newton

Opposed: McBride, Barron, and Mackey

The vote was in favor.

#### **e. DEBT SERVICE**

**83. General Obligation Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$20,124,222)**

**84. Fire Bond Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$550,150)**

**85. Hospitality Refund 2013A B/S [Special Assessment] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,488,713)**

**86. RC-IP Revenue Bond 2019 (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,602,917)**

**87. School District I Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$66,841,168)**

**88. School District II Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$66,194,904)**

**89. Recreation Commission (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$3,164,689)**

**90. Riverbanks Zoo & Garden (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$2,591,510)**

**91. East Richland Public Service Dist. [Sewer] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,438,561)**

**92. Transportation Bonds (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$14,434,750)**

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 83-92, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 93. County-wide Departments (Approve multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book [FY 2024 – FY 2027]; \$240,547,724]** – Ms. Terracio moved to approve \$240,541,724 for the multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 94. County-wide Departments (Approve funding to conduct an updated feasibility study in FY 2024 to construct a new Richland County Judicial Center; \$100,000)** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve up to \$100,000 for a feasibility study to construct a new Richland County Judicial Center, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Weaver, and Barron

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Terracio, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

#### f. ENTERPRISE FUNDS

- 95. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 5% increase in the Landfill's rate schedule for FY 2024 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$1,461,054)**
- 96. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve Mill Cap budget for Landfill: \$7,444,770)**
- 97. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 5% increase in the Curbside Collection's rate schedule for FY 2024 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$35,301,354)**
- 98. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Solid Waste's total budget; \$44,207,178)**
- 99. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Keep Midlands Beautiful; \$42,900)**
- 100. Richland County Utilities (Approve proposed water rate increase and fee schedule presented by Richland County Utilities in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$73,597)**
- 101. Richland County Utilities (Approve funding for Richland County Utilities total budget; \$14,661,266)**
- 102. Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve funding for Richland County Airport Budget; \$608,554)**

Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items 95-102, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 PM.