



Richland County Council
Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee
MINUTES
July 25, 2023 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Derrek Pugh, Chair, Overture Walker, and Cheryl English (arrived at 4:13pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: Anette Kirylo, Tamar Black, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Crayman Harvey, Kyle Holsclaw, Angela Weathersby, Ashiya Myers, Chelsea Bennett, Lori Thomas, Patrick Wright, Dale Welch, Jennifer Wladischkin, Wayne Thornley, Thomas Gilbert, Aric Jensen, and Venyke Harley

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Derrek Pugh called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. March 21, 2023 – Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and Walker

Not Present: English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA** – Mr. Walker moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and Walker

Not Present: English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – Status Update

1. *Director Hiring Process*

Mr. Brown stated in the State of South Carolina, if the Sheriff does not run the detention facility, the facility reports to the County Administrator (i.e., Facility Administrator). The Facility Administrator is tasked with hiring a Facility Manager. This has not always been the practice of the County. Previously, an Assistant County Administrator reported to the County Administrator, and that Assistant County Administrator had the Detention Center under their purview.

- Under limited supervision, the purpose of this position is to plan, coordinate and direct all detention center personnel programs, operations, and activities of the County Detention Center; to oversee daily jail administration and operations; to ensure the safety and security of detainees/inmates, staff, and the citizens of Richland County; and to ensure compliance with standards established by the South Carolina Department of Corrections and all governing regulations; and to perform related law enforcement as required. This position plans, organizes, and implements programs

within major organizational policies, reporting program progress to the County Administrator through reports and meetings. Prepares and oversees the departmental budget and provides accurate and clear records on facility incidents. This position reports directly to the County Administrator.

- Requires a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice, law enforcement, social science, or a closely related field from an accredited institution with a graduate degree preferred.
- Preferably 10 years of progressively responsible management experience in law enforcement. Experience serving as a Jail Administrator or Assistant Jail Administrator is highly desirable.
- Must also meet the following qualifications:
 - Minimum of 21 years of age;
 - Citizen of the United States or a legal resident of this country;
 - No convictions of crimes of moral turpitude, felonies, or any offense that carries a sentence of one year or more;
 - NO DUI, DWI, or DUS convictions within the last five years;
 - An acceptable psychological assessment;
 - A favorable background investigation that includes:
 - Criminal history check
 - Credit history check
 - Polygraph examination
 - Employment history
 - Driving history
 - Medical/Physical examination, including drug testing
- Must possess and maintain Jail Officer and Jail Management certification from the SC Criminal Justice Academy.
- Must possess a valid state driver's license.
- Must meet other requirements as set forth in applicable South Carolina statutes and regulations.

Mr. Brown indicated they have received a number of applicants for the Director's position, which led him to speak with a few individuals. Now that we are discussing the next steps, it becomes more personnel-specific.

Mr. Walker moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and Walker

Not Present: English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***The Committee went into Executive Session at approximately 4:07 PM
and came out at approximately 4:21 PM***

Mr. Walker moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Walker, English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. Infrastructure Updates

- Summit Food Service has been the food provider for 16 years, managing and operating the detention center kitchen.
- Most recently, Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center's food service operation was audited by DHEC on July 19, 2023, and received a satisfactory grade of "A."
- Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center has maintained an "A" rating from DHEC since February 2023.
- Another routine inspection will take place in six (6) months.
- Kitchen Renovations:
 - Before Renovations: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=HaTQ9VRHDVK>
 - After Renovations: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=8WVg9f7W6G4>

Mr. Pugh inquired as to what the County was doing to address the aesthetics of the facility grounds.

Mr. Brown indicated they are focused on taking care of everything on the inside and have not started to address the facility's exterior.

Mr. Pugh inquired if we are utilizing the detainees to assist with maintaining the facility grounds. He maintained that when you are talking about changing the Detention Center's culture and mindset, the aesthetics have a lot to do with it.

Mr. Brown expressed that the County has been properties and has not always kept up with the maintenance personnel necessary to have all of these properties. We have to get staff or funding for outside parties to address the maintenance of the properties.

Mr. Pugh indicated when you pull up to a facility and the grass is overgrown, and the property is not being maintained, you assume everything on the inside is in turmoil.

Mr. Crayman Harvey, Interim Director, asserted detainees are allowed to assist with maintaining the property. He expressed they are cautious about the type of detainee utilized because all of the detainees are pre-trial.

3. Security Updates

Mr. Brown briefly overviewed the dormitories' sink/toilet replacement. The combo insert requires some demolition before the insert can be installed. In addition, there are door flaps that will allow food distribution and for a detainee to be prepared to be removed from the cell without entering the cell. This will mitigate the potential for detainees to throw feces and urine on officers. The new toilet fixture can be programmed to minimize the number of flushes within a specific timeframe, reducing the chance of detainees flooding their cells. The provider must fabricate the inserts and ship them to us. We then have to replumb the cell to install the insert. This is a timely process due to breaking up brick and shifting detainees to make the changes.

Mr. Pugh inquired if we are behind or on schedule installing these inserts.

Mr. Harvey responded that we are on schedule. Yankee Unit will be online in August. He noted that the new combo insert would help prevent detainees from pulling the toilets out of the walls.

Mr. Pugh requested Mr. Harvey to detail how the unit broadcast on social media was offline at the time.

Mr. Harvey maintained that every cell that is unsafe for a detainee is taken offline, preventing a detainee from entering the cell or unit. The problem is that some detainees know how to bypass the system by comprising the locking system, which happened in the situation broadcast on social media.

Mr. Brown detailed that the Special Housing Unit (SHU) is being renovated. The flooring and interior, including lighting, are being upgraded. We expect all units to have a new look, feel, and design when completed.

For clarification, Mr. Pugh stated that the current renovations will be mirrored across the facility. As we complete one area, we will relocate the detainees from another area and begin renovations in that area.

Mr. Brown acknowledged there has been an update to the security within the courtrooms, where there is now a natural separation.

4. Other Updates

Mr. Brown gave a brief overview of the detainee count in June 2022 (643) and again in June 2023 (706).

It was noted there is contraband entering detention facilities statewide. Some contraband has been introduced through detention officers who made bad decisions and break the law. Mr. Brown asserted these detention officers will be arrested and detained. There are also individuals who invest in drones and attempt to drop contraband at the detention center.

Mr. Walker inquired if the County has officers who patrol the perimeter of the facility to try to stave off the attempts to introduce contraband into the facility.

Mr. Brown responded that staff tries to patrol, which is how the items in the agenda packet were intercepted. He expressed that the volume and frequency with which it happens is part of the issue. There are individuals who are constantly doing this, and we do not have the personnel to have 24/7 patrol around the perimeter. He stated it is surprising how adaptive these individuals are in finding ways to compromise what has been put into place.

RECAP

- The County Administrator & County Council have approved critical areas of the jail to receive upgrades to ensure staff and detainees are safe and are receiving the services required by law.
- The Kitchen was one of the first infrastructure projects that was approved for renovation. The kitchen project is substantially complete. The renovation of all the housing units was the second approved project, and most recently, the new cell door locking system project was approved.
- The housing unit renovations have started, and the locking system project is scheduled to start in August.

ALVIN S. GLENN DETENTION CENTER IS A LONG-TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The County has taken immediate and significant steps to address needed improvements:

Long-term problems and improvements require long-term strategies and solutions.

- We are still very early in our journey to reshape the culture within and surrounding the facility, as well as the physical structure of the facility itself.

There is no quick fix to the problems that are being addressed.

- It will take Commitment, Steadfastness, Resiliency, and the continued infusion of Resources to make Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center a facility we can be proud of.
- There is no such thing as a one-time fix when you operate a detention facility.

Ms. English and Mr. Walker thanked the staff for their efforts in taking on the onus of this task.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Walker.

In Favor: Pugh, Walker, English.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM.