



Richland County Council
Special Called Meeting
MINUTES
September 12, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

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

NOT PRESENT: Allision Terracio

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Holsclaw, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Michelle Onley, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Jennifer Wladischkin, Tamar Black, Thomas Gilbert, Angela Weathersby, Geo Price, Venyke Harley, Michael Byrd, Ashiya Myers, Susan O’Cain, Andrew Haworth, Dale Welch, John Thompson, Bill Davis, Erica Wade, Pamela Green, Quinton Epps, Michael Maloney, and Zachary Cavanaugh

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

Mr. Walker noted that Councilwoman Terracio was traveling for business and would not attend tonight’s meeting.

2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by the Honorable Gretchen Barron.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Gretchen Barron.

4. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION**

a. **A Resolution Honoring Richland County Emergency Services Department and Honoring September as Emergency Preparedness Month**

Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the resolution honoring Richland County Emergency Services Department and honoring September as Emergency Preparedness Month, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey presented the resolution honoring Richland County Emergency Services Department and honoring September as Emergency Preparedness Month.

5. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

a. **A Proclamation Supporting the Effort of the Neighborhoods USA to Host the 2024 NUSA Conference in Richland County in Columbia, SC** – Ms. English presented a proclamation supporting the effort of the Neighborhoods USA in hosting the 2024 NUSA Conference in Columbia, SC.

b. **A Proclamation in Support of Obesity Prevention and Treatment in Richland County** – Chairman Walker presented a proclamation supporting obesity prevention and treatment in Richland County.

c. **A Proclamation Recognizing Miranda Gold Spivey’s Retirement** – Vice Chair Mackey presented a proclamation recognizing Miranda Gold Spivey on her retirement.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Special Called Meeting: August 29, 2023** – Mr. Livingston moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: McBride and Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

7. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – County Attorney, Patrick Wright, indicated an update on the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center needed to be added to the agenda under the Report of the County Attorney. In addition, the title of Items 14(b) and 17(a) needed to be modified to as follows: “An Ordinance of the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina revising the zoning map...” Lastly, Item 14(b) needs to be moved to the end of the agenda because the public hearing was advertised at 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

Ms. English moved to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

8. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70)** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated the following item qualifies for Executive Session under South Carolina Code section 30-4-70:

- a. Personnel Matter: County Attorney Contract
- b. Legal options regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects [Pursuant to SC Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]
- c. MPG Arden, LLC v. Richland County, et al. Road Closure Petition [Pursuant to SC Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2)]

Mr. Weaver moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the “Legal options regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects”, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:30 PM
and came out at approximately 7:11 PM***

Mr. Branham moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker indicated no action was taken in Executive Session.

9. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – No signed up to speak.

10. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. Must Pertain to Richland County Matters Not on the Agenda (Items for which a public hearing is required or a public hearing has been scheduled cannot be addressed at this time.)
 1. Billy Sanders, 1133 Ridge Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
 2. Majken Blackwell, 4600 Old Leesburg Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
 3. Jennifer Mancke, 320 Clearview Drive, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
 4. Richard Noble, 1391 Ridge Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
 5. John Logue, 108 San Carlos Court, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve
 6. Jennifer Sanders, 1133 Ridge Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 – Cedar Creek Nature Preserve

11. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

a. Updates for Consideration:

1. *Columbia Convention Center Tourism Development Fee Request* – The County Administrator, Mr. Leonardo Brown, stated the Columbia Convention Center CEO, Bill Ellen, reached out to him to request funds from the Tourism Development Fee. A formal request will be forthcoming.

Ms. Barron inquired if Mr. Ellen is requesting funds that are presently set aside.

Ms. Newton requested additional information regarding the Tourism Development Fee, as that is something she has not dealt with.

Ms. Barron asked for clarification purposes, are the funds being set aside specifically for the Convention Center?

Mr. Brown responded the funds are Accommodations Tax funds collected in unincorporated Richland County.

2. *Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS # R11406-16-17* – Mr. Brown indicated he had received an inquiry about purchasing the property at 1221 Gregg Street. This is the former Probation, Pardon, and Parole facility. More details will be provided at the September 19th Council meeting.

Mr. Walker inquired if the inquiry was from a private entity.

Mr. Brown responded that he believed it was from a private entity, which could potentially allow the property to be put on the tax rolls. He noted that as a part of the process, he requests the interested parties to speak with the representative from that area.

Ms. Barron inquired if this property was on a list of surplus property.

Mr. Brown indicated we discussed developing a surplus property list relative to Council members' districts, but the list has not been created to date. This property has not been deemed "surplus," but it is an unused property.

3. *South Carolina Jail Administrators Association Conference: October 1-4, 2023* – Mr. Brown noted he will be attending the SC Jail Administrators Association Conference October 1-4. He will be participating in the October 3rd Council meeting via Zoom.

Ms. Mackey inquired if any other staff members would be attending the conference.

Mr. Brown replied the Detention Center Director, Crayman Harvey, would be attending, and potentially the Compliance Director.

4. *Capital Projects Work Session* – Mr. Brown noted the Capital Project work session was held earlier today. He recommends moving forward with the projects, as presented in the work session.

Mr. Walker moved to authorize the Administrator to proceed with the funding necessary to complete the construction of Voter Registration & Elections, the Family Service Center, and the maintenance and upkeep of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, seconded by Ms. McBride.

Ms. Newton inquired if that is all that is needed from Council in order to approve the funding mechanism.

Mr. Brown responded this motion would allow us to start the process and bring the necessary ordinances to Council. He indicated two things would happen. First, we will solicit a design-build for the Family Services Center and continue the maintenance and upkeep at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. We will also begin to secure the funding mechanism with three readings and a public hearing.

Ms. Mackey inquired if we would include local artist participation in the aesthetics of the design.

Mr. Brown expressed it is his understanding that the aesthetics work would be coming to Council for input.

Mr. Weaver asked, are we going to vote on the projects we discussed in the work session tonight?

Mr. Walker responded we are voting to authorize Administration to proceed with beginning the process of obtaining the funding. The County will initially borrow the funds through bonds; however, it will be paid back through the debt millage. For us to pay it back through the debt millage, it will require three readings and a public hearing of an ordinance.

Mr. Weaver inquired if we vote on an amount tonight could we change the amount in the future.

Mr. Brown replied the amount will not be voted on at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Walker inquired if the motion needs to include the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Walker amended his original motion to include the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. *Prisma Health Medical Scholars Program* – Mr. Brown reported he will be participating in the Prisma Health Medical Scholars Program on October 6th, 13th, and 20th. The Health Medical Scholar’s Program is designed to educate community leaders about the innovative work to transform healthcare and how it impacts you and/or the business industry, as well as offer the opportunity to learn more about local and national healthcare strategy. The program offers leaders the opportunity to get to know the Prisma Health executive leadership team and network with other community leaders.

b. Administrator’s Nomination: Items in this section require action that may prejudice the County’s interest in a discernible way (i.e., time-sensitive, exigent, or of immediate importance)

1. *Utilities Department – McEntire Air National Guard Base Wastewater Treatment Plant Closure Project* – Mr. Brown stated staff recommends awarding the McEntire Wastewater Treatment Plant Closure Project to AAA Utility and Construction, LLC.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. *Voter Registration & Elections: Proposed Retention Schedule Modification* – Mr. Brown stated Voter Registration & Elections is requesting to modify their retention schedule, which would allow them to change their retention schedule from 24 months to 22 months. The proposed modification is in accordance with the recommendation of the State Election Commission.

Mr. Walker inquired as to why Council needs to vote on this matter.

Mr. Wright responded the State did not modify the retention schedule statewide. Therefore, each County has to modify the retention schedule.

Ms. Barron noted the County does not govern the Election Commission, however, sometimes the waters get muddied, so she asked to please clarify it.

Ms. McBride moved to accept the proposed retention schedule, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. Mackey inquired if the modified retention schedule is in writing.

The Voter Registration & Election Director, Mr. Travis Alexander, responded the SC Department of Archives maintains the retention schedule.

Ms. Barron inquired if this retention schedule is specific to Voter Registration & Elections or if it will impact how the County keeps its records.

Mr. Alexander replied it only affects Richland County Voter Registration & Elections.

Mr. Walker inquired what the significance of going from 24 months to 22 months is.

Mr. Alexander indicated that 22 months would allow them to remove their files two months before the next election(s).

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 11(a) and (b), seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

12. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL** – No report was given.
13. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – No report was given.
14. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances; Chapter 16, Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations; by amending the Business License Class Schedule Table and the Business License Schedule Rates Table so as to make conforming changes – No signed up to speak.

15. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances; Chapter 16, Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations; by amending the Business License Class Schedule Table and the Business License Schedule Rates Table so as to make conforming changes [THIRD READING]
- b. Case #23-012MA
Michael Arnold
RM-HD to GC (.25 Acres)
1559 Daulton Drive
TMS # R17102-03-10 [THIRD READING]
- c. Case #23-014MA
David Cook
RU to RS-LD (5.63 Acres)
2271 Hollingshed Road
TMS # R05204-01-05 & R05200-01-38 [THIRD READING]
- d. Case #23-019MA
Keisha Garrick
RU to NC (.73 Acres)
7730 Bluff Road
TMS # R32403-02-07 [THIRD READING]
- e. Case #23-020MA
Scott R. Armstrong
RU to RS-MD
113 Beaver Dam (.58 Acres)
TMS # R22707-03-02 [THIRD READING]

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 15(a) – 15(e), seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 15(a) – 15(e), seconded by Ms. English

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

16. **SECOND READING ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Libraries, by amending Section 15-2 so as to authorize the County Library Board to recommend one employee of the library system to the County Council to serve as a member of the County's First Steps Partnership, and Chapter 2, Administration, by amending Section 2-332 so as to recognize the Richland County First Steps Partnership Board – Ms. Mackey moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. McBride.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

17. **FIRST READING ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance of the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina, revising the zoning map of unincorporated Richland County, South Carolina, to change the zoning designation for all real property located in the unincorporated areas of Richland County, as described herein; and providing for severability and an effective date

Mr. Branham stated, for clarification, that the effective date of the revised map would not be until after we have an opportunity to vote on the text amendment(s) proposed by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Wright indicated that is the plan. Currently, there is no effective date in the ordinance.

Mr. Branham moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Ms. Newton stated the process of amending the maps allows us to complete the first pass of the Land Development Code so that we can make the text amendments.

Mr. Wright acknowledged first reading of the text amendment(s) will take place the same night as third reading of the maps.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Weaver, and Barron

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

- b. An Ordinance affirming the provisions of Ordinance No. 58-16HR, related to the Office of Small Business Opportunity – Mr. Branham moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Mr. Walker inquired about the logic of having the Office of Small Business Opportunity report directly to the County Administrator and the advantage(s).

Mr. Brown indicated the ad hoc committee made it clear this was the action they wanted to take. In terms of what this provides access to, he maintained he will give the office his direct attention.

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

Not Present; Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

18. **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. A Resolution certifying property located at 2450 Shop Road as abandoned building sites pursuant to the South Carolina Abandoned Buildings Revitalization Act, Title 12, Chapter 67 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina of 1976, as amended – Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended approval of this item.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

19. **COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS COMMITTEE**

- a. Community Partners Requests – Ms. Mackey stated the committee recommended approval of the Community Partners' request in the amount of \$913,500.

Ms. McBride inquired about the specific criteria used to identify the Community Partners.

Ms. Mackey replied Council member motions established the Community Partners. These organizations were considered long-term staples in the community and provided overall services.

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

Opposed: Branham and McBride

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: McBride

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

20. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. A Resolution consenting to the annexation of certain property owned by Richland County by the Town of Blythewood; and other matters related thereto
- b. FY24 – District 4 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Columbia World Affairs Council - \$10,000; Big Red Barn Retreat – Fall Jam - \$7,000; Cottontown/Bellevue Neighborhood Association - \$3,000)
- c. FY24 – District 6 Hospitality Tax Allocations (A. C. Flora High School – Forest Acres Classic - \$12,000)
- d. FY24 – District 9 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Communities in Schools of SC - \$5,0000)
- e. FY24 – District 11 Hospitality Tax Allocations (CMDC AG+Art Tour - \$2,900)

Mr. Pugh moved to approve Items 20(a) – 20(e), seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Opposed: Newton

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Livingston moved to reconsider Items 20(a) – 20(e), seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

The motion for reconsideration failed.

OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS

21.

- a. An Ordinance of the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina, revising the zoning map of unincorporated Richland County, South Carolina, to change the zoning designation for all real property located in the unincorporated areas of Richland County, as described herein; and providing for severability and an effective date
 1. Kim Murphy, 154 Old Laurel Lane, Chapin, SC 29036
 2. Henry Martin, 124 Winding Road, Irmo, SC 29063
 3. Mark Hershberger, 15 Sweet Bay Drive, Columbia, SC 29209
 4. Lisa Borden, 116 Rideoutte Point Road, Irmo, SC 29063
 5. Ben Wilconski, 187 Garden Brooke Drive, Irmo, SC 29063

22. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Mackey moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 8:21 PM
and came out at approximately 9:50 PM***

Mr. Livingston move to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Mackey.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker indicated no action was taken in Executive Session.

- a. Personnel Matter: County Attorney Contract – No action was taken.
- b. MPG Arden, LLC v. Richland County, et al. Road Closure Petition [Pursuant to S.C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2)] – Mr. Branham moved to direct the County Attorney to inform the Court that Richland County does not object to the portion of Old Dutch Fork Road being closed, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Mr. Wright recommended the motion be “to move that County Council does not oppose the road closure.”

Mr. Walker inquired if the motion should be “to move that Council support the road closure petition.”

Mr. Branham noted he wanted to voice that the closure was for a portion of Old Dutch Fork Road, not the entire road.

Mr. Walker inquired if an appropriate motion would be “to move Council’s support for the closure of Old Dutch Fork Road, as cited in the petition by MPG Arden, LLC.”

Mr. Branham amended his original motion to move Council’s support for the closure of Old Dutch Fork Road, as cited in the petition by MPG Arden, LLC.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – No action was taken.

23. **MOTION PERIOD** – There were no motions submitted.

24. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Mackey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:54 p.m.