

# MINUTES OF



## RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2005 6:00 p.m.

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.*

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### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair	Anthony G. Mizzell
Vice Chair	L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Member	Joyce Dickerson
Member	Valerie Hutchinson
Member	Damon Jeter
Member	Paul Livingston
Member	Joseph McEachern
Member	Mike Montgomery
Member	Bernice G. Scott
Member	Kit Smith
Member	Doris M. Corley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michielle Cannon-Finch, T. Cary McSwain, Larry Smith, Milton Pope, Tony McDonald, Ashley Bloom, Michael Criss, Edith Caudle, Stephany Snowden, Marsheika Martin, Chief Harrell, Joe Cronin; Jennifer Bennett, Angie McInchok

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:08 p.m.

**INVOCATION** – The Invocation was given by the Honorable Joseph McEachern.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Mizzell requested to move the executive session items to the beginning of the agenda.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Corley, to move executive session items to the beginning of the agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Corley, to adopt the agenda as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Smith questioned if 2-b (University of South Carolina Memorandum of Understanding) need to be discussed in executive session.

After discussions, Ms. Smith made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to adopt the agenda, holding item 2-b in open session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**CITIZEN'S INPUT**

No one signed up to speak at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:16 p.m.  
and came out at approximately 6:21 p.m.**  
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Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to come out of executive session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Personnel Matter** – Mr. Mizzell stated this was received as information.

**University of South Carolina Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. McSwain stated Council was sent a draft of the MOU and a cover letter from Mr. Edward Menzie.

Mr. McSwain and Mr. Edward Menzie gave a brief overview of the MOU.

Discussions took place.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to approve the memorandum of understanding for this project.

(Mr. Mizzell passed the gavel to Mr. Pearce.)

Mr. Mizzell offered an amendment, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, that this document not be contingent until our bond counsel issues an opinion and include options for the County to amend this document before it becomes concrete and goes into law or becomes an official intergovernmental agreement, signed and adopted and the school district's approval would not be needed before it is finalized. Ms. Scott accepted the amendment.

The discussions continued regarding the language in the MOU.

Mr. Montgomery proposed an additional amendment to Ms. Scott's motion to:

- approve the resolution subject to the striking from Section 3.01 A-1 of the words "*and other blighted areas as deemed necessary and appropriate by the City*"
- and add the words in #2, "*after an appropriate period of time to allow for the construction of this project and financing of this project*"
- strike B where it says adopt a new redevelopment plan pursuant to the center and strike, "*and other blighted areas deemed necessary and appropriate by the city pursuant to the center*"
- add the word "*only*" where it says "the redevelopment project specific there would include *only* the construction of garage A, garage B and the plaza.

Ms. Smith expressed concern regarding the definition of park and revenue bonds where it states "*and as determined by the City*".

Ms. Scott stated she would accept all of the amendments if that would mean it would get the document to move forward and approved, but did not accept the amendment at this time.

Mr. Livingston made a point of clarification stating if changes are made in the documents now, it would have to go back to the City for approval. He questioned whether the document could be adopted contingent upon certain things without having to go back before the City.

The discussions continued.

Ms. Dickerson wanted to go on record stating that she approves the document as corrected.

Ms. Smith made a substitute motion to approve the memorandum of understanding as presented with the contingencies in Mr. Menzie's letter of getting a bond counsel review and opinion letter which would include such questions as the school district's approval, the blight test, conservation test and also contingent upon the City's approval of changes to Section 3.01 as discussed.

Ms. Scott stated she would go ahead and amend her motion to this motion. Mr. Jeter seconded.

Ms. Smith also added getting a full audit of the TIF.

The vote was in favor.

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**Council recessed at approximately 7:43 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 7:57 p.m.**  
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It was moved and seconded to reconvene the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**2005/2006 BUDGET ORDINANCE** (Pages 3-8 of the agenda)

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to adopt the ordinance distributed with the agenda as a base for motions. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**1. Amendments to the Budget Ordinance**

**School District One**

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to fund the school district at EIA plus ½ of that amount (\$478,435 plus EIA). The vote in favor unanimous

**School District Two**

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to leave Richland 2 at the requested funding level. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Recreation Commission**

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to recommend approval of \$8,627,478.

Ms. Smith made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to do a 5% increase over last year which is \$7,140,000.

After a voice vote, the vote for the substitute motion was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Montgomery	McEachern
Smith	Mizzell
Pearce	Livingston
Corley	Dickerson
Hutchinson	Scott
Jeter	

The motion passes.

Mr. Livingston stated he would come back with a recommendation at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

**Midlands Technical College - Capital**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to add a proviso on the Midlands Tech Capital that *providing however that this increase in funds shall be limited to projects located in Richland County if Lexington County fails to appropriate its requested share.*

Ms. Smith state the proviso is only attached to the increase and not to the existing millage.

The vote was in favor.

**Library**

Ms. Dickerson made a motion for full funding on the library. Ms. Scott seconded the motion.

Ms. Smith made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to approve \$14,427,696 (7.1% increase), the three new full time employees is not included.

Mr. Pearce offered an amendment to Ms. Smith's motion, seconded by Ms. Jeter, that if the library is not projected currently to have a carryover, but if in the event a carryover were to take place, the library be permitted to keep the carryover.

After discussion, Mr. Pearce withdrew his amendment.

After a voice vote, the vote for the substitute motion was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Montgomery	Corley
McEachern	Livingston
Smith	Dickerson
Pearce	Scott
Mizzell	
Hutchinson	
Jeter	

The motion passes.

**Mental Health**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to fund at a 5% increase over last year (\$60,000 increase). The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Accommodation's Tax**

Mr. Livingston passed out a list of amendments. (Please see Attachment-B.)

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the list.

Mr. Pearce offered an amendment regarding the **American Red Cross** to move the Columbia City Ballet from Discretionary Grants (\$4,000) over to Accommodations Tax and give them \$5,000 (deleting \$5,000 from Auntie Karen Foundation because they are funded twice) and give the \$4,000 left in Discretionary Grants to the American Red Cross.

A discussion took place.

Mr. Pearce amended the amendment to move the Columbia City Ballet over to Accommodations Tax for \$4,000 and leave everything alone, freeing up \$4,000 in Discretionary Grants for the American Red Cross. Mr. Livingston accepted the amendment.

The vote was in favor as amended.

### **Victim's Assistance**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve at a funding level of \$585,000.

A discussion took place.

Mr. McEachern offered an amendment to carry forward any School Resource Officer Program (SRO) money from FY 05 to next year if there is any to augment Victim's Assistance. The vote was in favor.

### **Hospitality Tax**

Mr. Livingston provided a list of County promotion recommendations. (Please see Attachment-A.)

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the recommendations. The vote in favor was unanimous.

A discussion took place.

Mr. Livingston recommended funding the following from non-promotional funds of the non-designated Hospitality Tax Fund:

- City Center Partnership - \$50,000
- Palmetto Capital City Classic - \$50,000
- Richland Public Library - \$100,000
- Township Auditorium/Foundation - \$50,000

The vote was in favor.

## **2. General Fund**

### **Coroner**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to allocate \$15,000 for the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDs) Campaign with a note that the recommendation also puts off the purchase of a car for a year.

A discussion took place.

Mr. Jeter made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Corley, to give the Coroner the car that he requested.

Mr. Mizzell stated the vote for the car will be taken up later. He stated the motion at this time is to fund SIDs.

The vote in favor of funding the SIDs Campaign was unanimous.

### **Implementation of Class & Compensation Study**

Ms. Smith moved to increase funding for implementation of the Class & Compensation Study for \$750,000. Mr. Pearce seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **Detention Center**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve four new positions, starting January 1, 2006 cutting the budget in half to \$71,578.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to fund two of the positions for the entire year.

Mr. McEachern/Ms. Scott withdrew their original motion.

The vote in favor of Mr. Livingston's motion was unanimous.

### **Planning & Development Services**

Ms. Hutchinson moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to recommend three new positions and two additional positions (one Administrative Assistant and one Residential Plan Reviewer) totaling \$235,970, paying for this by fee increases as recommended by Administration, \$68,810 could be put on taxes or lessened by staggering the hiring of these employees.

Mr. Mizzell questioned if this would have to be taken up with the revenue.

Ms. Smith noted that the motion could be made to adjust the revenue based on the fees and adopt the fee schedule as part of the motion. Ms. Hutchinson stated this was her intent.

A discussion took place regarding the \$68,800.

Mr. McSwain recommended not putting \$68,000 in the budget. He recommended staggering the hiring of the positions.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **Council Services**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to delete the \$39,600 from the Council Services.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Scott, to reduce the amount of gas for travel to \$200 per month; this would be a reduction in #48 by \$13,200.

Ms. Smith made a second substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to allocate \$10,000 for Council local travel and any council member can apply for it until it runs out and establish policies for documentation and accountability.

After a voice vote, the vote was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Montgomery	
McEachern	
Corley	
Smith	
Pearce	
Hutchinson	

The motion passed.

### **Coroner**

Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the Coroner's request for a vehicle.

Ms. Smith offered an amendment to move \$15,000 allocated to the SIDs Campaign and reduce that amount. The amendment was not accepted.

A discussion took place regarding a list of cars to be replaced.

Mr. Montgomery made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to take whatever the last car is on list and place the Coroner's car in that spot.

After a voice vote, the vote for the substitute motion was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Montgomery	McEachern
Pearce	Corley
Hutchinson	Mizzell
	Livingston
	Dickerson
	Scott
	Jeter

The motion failed.

After a voice vote, the vote for the main motion was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
McEachern	
Corley	
Hutchinson	
Dickerson	
Scott	
Jeter	

The motion passed.

### **CASA**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to add one supervisor position. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **Sheriff Department – add 1 investigator position for Gang Task Force**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Corley, to approve.

A discussion took place.

The vote was in favor.

### **Sheriff Department – add 2 investigators for Forensic Lab**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to add one investigator for the Forensic Lab. After a voice vote, the motion failed.

A discussion took place.

After a voice vote, the vote was as follows:

In Favor

McEachern  
Corley  
Mizzell  
Hutchinson  
Dickerson  
Scott  
Jeter

The motion passed.

**Sheriff Department – add one Evidence Technician**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve. The motion passed.

**Master in Equity**

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to add one position for the sum of \$29,804.

In Favor

Montgomery  
Corley  
Mizzell  
Hutchinson  
Jeter

Oppose

McEachern  
Smith  
Pearce  
Livingston  
Dickerson  
Scott

The motion failed.

**Probate Court**

Mr. Mizzell recognized Judge McCollough in the audience.

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve lines 64-67:

- Law Clerk in the Probate Court - \$36,847
- Increase part-time wages by the sum of \$17,000
- Increase copy service by the sum of \$500
- Increase software update by the sum of \$300

Ms. Smith offered an amendment to restore the base budget of \$7,196 and add because of special circumstances, retirement payout funds of \$9,147 raising the total to \$70,990. Mr. Montgomery accepted the amendment. The vote in favor was unanimous

**General Fund (Page 7)**

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to ask the Administration to propose some additional cuts in areas not affected by the increases made in the sum of \$250,000. The vote was in favor.

**Facilities & Grounds Marion Street**

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to reduce the general fund operating account for the facilities and grounds at Marion Street by the sum of \$201,001.

After discussion, Mr. Montgomery withdrew his motion and requested evidence regarding the County's obligation.

**Outside Agencies – Increase funding for Public Defender**

Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to increase the budget to the amount of \$250,000.

After discussion, the vote in favor was unanimous.

**Outside Agencies**

Mr. Livingston passed out recommendations. (Please see Attachment-C.)

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to fund the recommendations reference outside agencies. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Discretionary Grant**

Mr. Livingston passed out a list of recommendations. (Please see Attachment-D.)

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to add \$5000 to Odyssey Golf Foundation.

Mr. Pearce offered an amendment to replace the American Red Cross with Columbia City Ballet. Mr. Livingston accepted the amendment. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**General Fund- All Departments**

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve adding \$116,533. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**CASA – eliminate two attorney positions from the recommendation (line 93)**

Ms. Corley moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to eliminate. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Reduce revenue by same amount (line 93)**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Corley, to approve to reduce the revenue by the same amount. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**\$500,000 proposed Detention Center position funding**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to cut out \$250,000. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Local option software tax**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to add \$160,000 for software changes to come out of administrative fees, eliminating the \$160,000, contingent upon the County Auditor's clearance.

Mr. Livingston requested in the future to highlight what the one-time expenditures were for each department.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Workman's Compensation, Health Insurance, Cellphone and Pager Bills**

Mr. McEachern expressed concerns regarding the policy issues and requested recommendations.

**FY 05/06 - Budget Ordinance**

A discussion took place regarding pre-assessment and post-assessment numbers.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the budget ordinance as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Millage Ordinance**

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the millage ordinance as adjusted in tonight's actions. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Rescheduling of Council Meeting**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Corley, to hold Third Reading of the Budget on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:03 p.m.

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Anthony G. Mizzell, Chair

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L. Gregory Pearce, Jr. Vice-Chair

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Doris M. Corley

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Joyce Dickerson

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Valerie Hutchinson

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Damon Jeter

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Paul Livingston

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Joseph McEachern

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Mike Montgomery

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Bernice G. Scott

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Kit Smith

The minutes were transcribed by Marsheika G. Martin