

Aiken City Council Minutes

March 31, 2003

Work Session

City Council Present: Mayor Cavanaugh, Councilmembers, Clyburn, Cuning, Price, Smith, Sprawls and Vaughters.

County Delegation Present: Roland Smith, William Clyburn, Don Smith, and Jimmy Stewart.

Others Present: Roger LeDuc, Gary Smith and Sara Ridout

Mayor Cavanaugh called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss state legislature issues and for Council to express concern about some of the bills which might be coming up for the Delegation's action.

One bill discussed at length was H3555, Mega Hog Farm. Council expressed concern about the bill going against Home Rule and not allowing local governments to establish their own standards. It was felt that the legislation would limit a municipality's ability to make zoning and land use decisions on a local level.

Another bill discussed was S110, Millage Increase Restrictions, regarding a constitutional amendment to allow local governments to increase tax millage rates in even number years for emergency purposes only. Again, Council expressed concern about the bill violating the principle of home rule. Council felt the local government should be able to decide whether or not they will have a tax millage increase, as they know more the financial needs of their local government.


Bill S82/S302 Annexation Requirements, was also discussed. Again Council expressed concern to the Delegation members about the bill prohibiting municipalities from requiring annexation as a part of their condition for water or sewer service outside the city limits and again limiting Home Rule. It was pointed out municipalities make the capital investment to extend these utility services outside the city and should be able to have certain conditions for providing this service.

Council also discussed their concerns about the state budget cuts and especially the cuts for education. Council also discussed the cuts in automobile tax and the telecommunications fees. Council expressed concern about the state cutting revenues but making more requirements on municipalities. They expressed concern about the state giving unfunded mandates. Council also suggested one way for the state to increase revenue was through increased cigarette taxes.

Members of the Delegation stated they would always be glad to hear from City Council regarding their concerns and would appreciate phone calls, e-mails or some summary information of the concerns of Council about any legislation.

Mayor Cavanaugh thanked the Delegation for their time in meeting with Council and listening to Council's concerns.

The meeting adjourned at 9 A.M.


Sara B. Ridout
City Clerk