

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – June 18, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

AMENDED
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M I N U T E S

All area newspapers, radio stations and television stations were informed of this meeting in compliance with guidelines set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act*.

PRESENT

Chairman Larry E. Greer – District #3, Presiding
G. Fred Tolly – District #1
Vice Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Clint Wright – District #4
Mike Holden – District #5
William C. Dees – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Gilstrap – Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy, Deputy Clerk to Council (left early)

(During times of discussion and presentations the minutes are condensed and paraphrased.)

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Bill Dees asked Mr. Michael Cunningham, Assistant Administrator to give the invocation. After the invocation, everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Clint Wright moved to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2001 meeting and Ms. Gracie S. Floyd seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Citizens Comments:

Agenda Matters: Ms. Diane Pressley stated that last year Anderson County Council gave \$50,000 for the employment of youth of low-income families. Forty-one youths were employed along with three adults for the summer of 2001. She asked Council to consider the program again this year. Mr. William Stevens, Building Codes Manager for Anderson County, said that he moved here from Lexington County and his taxes were much cheaper here than in Lexington County. He saved approximately \$300 on his taxes and he thanked Council for keeping taxes down in the County. He said that he was an ordained Baptist minister and when he first was employed with Anderson County he attended several meetings, but heard a lot of grumbling and false accusations and innuendoes so he became discouraged and didn't attend any further meetings unless something was being discussed relevant to his department. He said a few weeks ago, a member of Council mentioned that Jesus said that we are not to call our brothers fools. He reminded everyone that about 1700 years before that Jesus wrote on Mount Sinai twice that you should not bear false witness against your neighbor. He said that everyone present was his neighbor and he appreciates what is being done in Anderson County. Other Matters: Mr. Lester Brock said that at the last Council meeting one of the members made reference that they were not going to get into micro-managing but during the campaign Building and Codes left a notice on his door (camper) that he needed to talk with them. After talking with Mr. Stevens, he had to sign an affidavit stating that he wasn't living in the mobile home. He later found out that Mr. Holden called Building and Codes and told them that citizens could not use campers as a residence. Mr. Mike Holden stated that the statement was a lie and he and Mr. Brock had already had this discussion earlier. He asked Mr. Brock to tell

the truth. Mr. Holden asked Mr. Greer to stop these type comments. Mr. Brock said that there was a camper on 81 South that had permanent power was put on and he wondered why he had to sign an affidavit and then down on 81 South they are being allowed to get permanent power. Mr. Holden asked Mr. Brock what his real address was and he responded that it was 2017 Providence Church Road is his mailing address, which is next door. He did not see any reason to change his mailing address. Mr. Ed Jean of Crestview Road congratulated members of Council on their election. He also congratulated his councilperson Cindy Wilson and requested of her that she try to work to "build bridges", and try to have a more harmonious Council. He also talked about a "meet the candidate" meeting at the Cheddar Fire Department where he believed that certain candidates were set up. He also talked about being a poll worker. Ms. Wilson asked for a point of personal privilege. It was granted. She said that Mr. Jean has come meeting after meeting to attack her in many ways. She said that the lines for the redistricting were drawn between the middle of November and the first meeting in January. She reminded everyone that she stated many times that it was not a good thing to have so many split precincts. She also stated that Belton and Honea Path should be rejoined. She didn't want to lose White Plains, which was her main base of support. She said that District #7 was a seriously gerrymandered district. District #7 has 17 precincts in the district of which 7 are split precincts. Mr. Rodney Sanders of Hwy 187 South said he came a few weeks ago and talked to Council about a county tax increase from 248 mills to 264 mills. He said he went back and looked at some of the County Council minutes. He said Mr. Greer commented at the February 19 meeting that he would like to see a 5% reduction or a flat line budget. Mr. Holden said that he would not vote for a tax increase. As he has tried to learn and understand the process, the budget that was voted on will be given to the Auditor sometime in August or September when the auditor gets the figure from the Department of Revenue then we will know if we have a millage increase. He said that last millage increase we had, the County spent about \$10 million more than the previous year and it resulted in a 10 mill tax increase which on a \$100,000 house that would calculate to about \$30-40.00. He asked to go on record that he guesses that the budget that Council just adopted will result in at least another 10-mill increase or more. He asked Council to come out on record and say that there will not be a millage increase. Ms. Ginger Garrett of 1502 Mitchell Street said that government was instituted for the common good for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family or class of men. (John Adams). She said since she listened to the radio, watched the television, read local paper, read state statutes and local ordinances she had come to a few conclusions about government in Anderson County. Taxpayers in Anderson County have very little to say in how the county is run or how the tax money is spent. Any objections about spending are met with anger, hostility, and suspicion. The local paper contributes to the problem by name calling and demonizing the taxpayers instead of investigating the matter to determine if it is true. There is no free-flow of information in Anderson County. Under ordinance, the Administrator controls who gets what information and how much the requester pays for it, she said. County employees by ordinance are not allowed to give out information.

Council recognized the following Sheriff's deputies as Employees of the Month: Officer Vic Wooten, Capt John Skipper (absent), Sgt. Robert Appell, Deputy Mike Jones, Deputy Eddie Hamby, Deputy Mike Grant, Lt. Randy Creamer, and dispatcher Missy Standridge. For their actions on December 6, 2000 the day Trooper Eric Nicholson lost his life in the line of duty. On that day, several deputies were put at harms way and during their 7 mile chase the killer was apprehended. All the deputies and the Dispatcher acted calmly and bravely and for this reason Solicitor Druanne White recommended them as Employees of the Month and the Human Resources Committee voted to recognize these as Employees of the Month. All were presented plaques, and other "goodies" for

selected as Employee of the Month. Council commended these employees for their bravery and outstanding performance.

Mr. Greer presented first reading of Ordinance #2002-018 – an ordinance to provide for the creation of the Heritage at Cobbs Glenn special Tax District in Anderson County, to establish the nature of services to be performed therein; to designate the uniform service charge in the special tax district; to provide for the operation of the special tax district; and other matters related thereto. A public hearing was held; no comments were received. Mr. Tolly moved to approve on second reading and Mr. Dees and Ms. Wilson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The next item was withdrawn from the agenda because the intent of the Resolution #R2002-051 (a resolution recognizing the need for and supporting the Anderson Area Medical Center's Certificate of need application for the provision of positron emission tomography scanning services; and other matters related thereto). She also said that the resolution number belonged to a resolution that was approved at the last meeting. Mr. Martin stated that by withdrawing the resolution the mistake on the resolution number would take care of itself.

Mr. Bill Dees stated that on February 4, 2002, Council tabled a resolution (#R2002-008) for adoption of guidelines requiring all EMS providers in Anderson County to conduct criminal background investigations prior to employing EMS responders. On March 5, 2002, Council adopted the resolution as amended. By unanimous vote on March 19, 2002, Council reconsidered and again tabled the resolution. He then moved to remove Resolution R2002-008 from the table and Mr. Tolly seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Dees moved to offer an amendment in the form of a revised resolution, which would replace the original resolution with the new version. Mr. Tolly seconded the motion. Mr. Wright asked Mr. Dees to go through the resolution and point out the changes. Mr. Todd Davison said that the changes made were to take the resolution back to the original form submitted. Council discussed the revised document. Mr. Dees said that if the resolution passes, he would like to introduce an ordinance (by caption only - #2002-021) that deals with the resolution. Vote on substituting an amended version of R2002-008 was five in favor, one opposed (Wright), and one abstention (Floyd). Motion carried. Mr. Greer asked what would happen if this resolution causes a hardship on a squad and causes them to dismiss a number of employees, which causes them to have trouble remaining in compliance of the EMS contract. Mr. Greer offered an amendment that Council amend the resolution to grant these EMS providers that may run into difficulty meeting their compliance because of the resolution some type of consideration as Council moves through the process. He said he was open to a time limit. Council discussed the amended resolution #R2002-008. Mr. Wright seconded. Mr. Tolly asked Mr. Greer to spell out "consideration". Mr. Greer decided to rephrase his motion that the squads be given a 30-day grace period from the initiation of the resolution and Mr. Wright seconded. Vote was six in favor, one abstention (Floyd). Motion carried. Mr. Dees called for the question. Vote on the original resolution as amended was four in favor, one opposed (Wright), and two extensions (Wilson and Floyd). Motion carried.

Mr. Dees stated that he wanted to bring up an ordinance by title only for permanently adopting the EMS background checks. Chairman Greer asked for a two-thirds vote of Council to place the ordinance on the agenda in title only. Vote was six in favor and one abstention (Wilson). Motion carried. Mr. Bill Dees presented (title only) and then moved to adopt on first reading of Ordinance #2002-021 for permanently adopting guidelines that would require all EMS providers in Anderson County to conduct criminal background investigations on all EMS responders. Mr. Tolly seconded. Council discussed further. Chairman Greer asked if the Ordinance would include language that says that the ordinance will supersede and make the resolution null and void. He also asked if Council could have the version in hand at least one week prior to the meeting

for second reading to allow them ample time to study. Vote was six in favor and one abstention (Wilson). Motion carried.

Chairman Greer asked council for a two-thirds vote to place a resolution (#R2002-053 title only) for recognition of Ms. Marie Bowie. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Greer moved to approve Resolution #R2002-053 – a resolution recognizing and honoring long time Anderson County resident and benefactor Marie Thompson Bowie for receiving the 2002 Wil Lou Gray Award for service, exemplary educational programs, and leadership. Mr. Tolly seconded the motion and vote was six in favor. Ms. Floyd had left the room and absent during the vote.

Council recessed at 7:25 p.m. Chairman Greer called the meeting back to order.

Ms. Floyd moved to provide \$35,000 from District #2 paving account for the SHARE summer youth program and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote three in favor (Dees, Floyd, and Holden) and four abstentions. Motion carried.

Ms. Floyd moved to provide \$4,000 from District #2 Recreation Account for assistance to the Johnson-Broadview Estates Community Organization (JBECO) for roof repairs.

Ms. Floyd moved to provide \$350 from District #2 Recreation Account for the Anderson Lady Falcons Youth Basketball team. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Floyd moved to provide \$450 for help with the Cheddar Youth Association to purchase baseball uniforms from District #2 Recreation Account. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Holden moved to contribute \$450 for help with the Cheddar Youth Association's request. The money to come from District #5's Recreation Account. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to provide \$450 for the Cheddar Youth Association's request also. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous. The money will come from District #6's Recreation Account.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Letters of Appreciation:
 1. For: Capt. John Chambers and Lt. Tony Barnette (Environmental Enforcement Department) From: Mr. Rick T. Caldwell, II – DHEC
 2. For: County Council and Administration From: COL Ernie Bell, Ph.D. – S.C. Army National Guard
- b. Reports:
 1. District Paving Report
 2. KAB Litter Report (April)
 3. Detention Center's Litter Report of May 27-31, 2002
 4. Public Safety – Environmental Enforcement May Report
 5. Public Safety – Compliance May Report
 6. Building & Codes May Report
- c. Tri-County Technical College Tuition Increase
- d. Crisis Ministries – The Providence Center (Brochure and Statistical overview)
- e. Anderson County Transportation Committee - Approved Projects

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council