

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – January 8, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

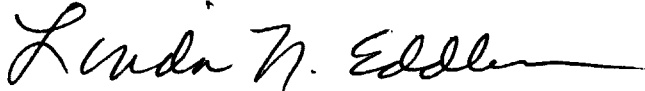
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson - District #5, Presiding
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Please stand. Folks,
2 we're at the beginning of a brand new year. A clean
3 slate, a new page. I'm going to ask you to please go
4 to your higher power. And would you please, would
5 you remember and think and pray for this county, this
6 council and for the people who live in our county.
7 Let's do so at this time. Amen. Amen.

8 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

9 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Now is that better?
10 I want to thank everyone for coming tonight. This is
11 the beginning of a new year as Ms. Floyd has
12 indicated. A clean slate. I hope the slate will
13 remain extremely clean and that we will do everything
14 that we can to give you a good year of county
15 administration, hopefully the right kind of
16 government which you're entitled to. I have a leave
17 at this particular time to make a few remarks before
18 I sort of go into the sunset as Chairman. And a few
19 observations and hopes I would like to express and a
20 few concerns as well. As you know, our council is
21 not exactly unified on its philosophy of government
22 and how things should be done. That's fine. And I
23 want everyone to know that my position as far as
24 government philosophy is concerned really doesn't
25 have a whole lot to do with personalities or ...
26 Because we can all disagree. But it has a great deal
27 to do with process. I'm a great believer is free,
28 open government and having access to all records for
29 the public and especially public officials that try
30 to access public information. Some of you may be
31 aware of the fact that we've been going through quite
32 a process up here in trying to obtain information.
33 There's an ongoing suit in Columbia and that'll be an
34 interesting thing on the 23rd. I think many of you
35 might want to join us down in Columbia to just find
36 out what we are entitled to as far as government is
37 concerned. And the question is going to be can
38 government keep from us information that we think
39 we're entitled to. And these are kind of legal
40 questions of course that'll be coming up. I
41 personally have been very interested in the finances
42 of the county. And I think the budget process coming
43 up is going to be also an interesting one because I
44 found out during this year whenever I would try to
45 determine how some particular matter was handled
46 through administration, it would revert to as, it's
47 in the budget. I guess maybe it was my oversight. I
48 didn't quite catch all that. I'm a great believer in
49 that this county has the responsibility to pass on
50 all matters and it cannot delegate, it cannot

1 abdicate those responsibilities. There's an example
2 that I use of the megahertz system where I was
3 unsuccessful in bringing about a motion that would
4 give back to council some of the responsibilities of
5 looking at a multi-million dollar contract. And lo
6 and behold this particular legislation passed, this
7 council, abdicating in my view, the complete
8 responsibility of that to the administration. And we
9 have no hand in it. I think you'll note that there
10 are other issues that are kind of like that. But
11 maybe it's just a matter of philosophy. Maybe it's
12 just a way -- a manner of looking at it. But I just
13 believe that this council needs to be fully informed
14 of every aspect, particularly things such as land
15 leases. We should need to know about land
16 transactions. We need to know about things such as
17 closing statements and real estate commissions and
18 all of those things. I think that they're relevant
19 to our job and what our responsibilities are of
20 representing the council. But that's just my view of
21 things. And of course we differ on these things.
22 We're not trying to get out of joint necessarily.
23 Some people believe what I believe and some people do
24 not. But I will tell you that I feel reasonably
25 supported in my position by the people I talk to in
26 my district, the letters I receive in my district and
27 the encouragement that I get in this particular
28 direction. Having said that, let me thank my
29 colleagues for the opportunity to be their chairman
30 for this past year. It's been an exciting time.
31 It's been fun-filled at times. Sometimes I wish I
32 had probably been a little bit quicker. But again, I
33 want you to know my philosophy has always been
34 whenever any council member wishes to discuss
35 something, that they have an opportunity to be heard.
36 And I feel sure that the new chairman, whoever that
37 might be, will follow that line of belief so that no
38 one on council, regardless of their favor or
39 regardless of their majority or minority status, feel
40 free to represent the people of Anderson County. And
41 I would remind, once again chairman, and I hope I'm
42 not being too intrusive, that whenever an individual
43 who represents a particular district is treated
44 differently than other members, that you are in
45 effect punishing thousands of people out there. And
46 that's very important to me that we all be treated as
47 well as we can in a very difficult situation from
48 time to time. Having said that, let me express my
49 affection for all of you. Members of Anderson
50 County, it's been my privilege. This is the second

1 time I served as chairman of county council. I
2 served back in 1991 and 1992. It was an interesting
3 time then too. And I look forward to this next year
4 and being with you again. And again as for the voice
5 from district one, please feel free to contact me at
6 any time if I may ever be of service to you. Having
7 said that, I will now move on to the election of a
8 chairman. And I feel sure that some people have paid
9 some attention to this particular -- and that would
10 be item four. Everyone with me? Are there any
11 nominations for Chairman.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I nominate
13 the council person from district five, Michael
14 Thompson.

15 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Thompson has been
16 nominated. Is there a second?

17 BILL MCABEE: Second.

18 BOB WALDREP: Second by Mr. McAbee. Are
19 there any other nominations? I nominate Mr. Larry
20 Greer.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second.

22 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Greer.

23 LARRY GREER: I respectfully request
24 that my name be removed from consideration.

25 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, let that be
26 noted that Mr. Greer ... Are there any other
27 nominations? Mr. Martin, you look like -- somewhat
28 puzzled as to whether or not we have to withdraw our
29 nomination. I would withdraw my nomination and I
30 guess Ms. Wilson would withdraw her nomination.
31 Okay. All right. Any other nominations? If there
32 are no other nominations, all in favor of Mr. Michael
33 Thompson would you raise your right hand please. Mr.
34 Michael Thompson, Mr. Greer, Ms. Floyd, Mr. McAbee,
35 and Mr. Wilson. All opposed, like sign. Okay. So
36 there are two abstentions and five votes for Mr.
37 Thompson. I guess at this time it would be
38 appropriate to strike Mr. Thompson with the gavel.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. At this time Mr.
40 Waldrep, would you please join me down at the front
41 please?

42 BOB WALDREP: Is this karaoke?

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, the citizens
44 of Anderson County, county council and the
45 administration gratefully acknowledges the service of
46 Robert L. Waldrep, Chairman of Anderson County
47 Council 2007. Your recognition of service as
48 chairman of the Anderson County council, your
49 influence and achievements are reflected in the
50 progress of the county during your term of office.

1 Your continued service as a valued and contributing
2 member of county council is anticipated to bring
3 additional rewards and recognition to Anderson
4 County. Michael Thompson, Vice Chairman, Gracie
5 Floyd, Larry Greer, Bill McAbee, Ron Wilson, M. Cindy
6 Wilson, Joey R. Preston, administrator, January 2008.
7 And it's also customary to give the chairman, past
8 chairman, the gavel that he used in his term. Thank
9 you, Mr. Waldrep.

10 BOB WALDREP: All right. I've given my
11 concluding remarks. I didn't really expect another
12 plaque. But again I thank you so much and I do
13 appreciate the experience that I've had with members
14 of this council. It's been truly unique and
15 invigorating and I look forward to more chemistry in
16 Anderson County this year. So thank you.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I've got to get my glasses
18 on. Before I begin, I want to welcome everyone to
19 the county council tonight. Thank you for taking
20 time out of your busy day to come and watch your
21 county government in action. I did want to say that
22 meetings of the county council are legislative
23 meetings and are based upon the representative form
24 of government and are regulated by parliamentary
25 procedures and are not town meetings. The same
26 behavior you would use in the halls of congress and
27 in the galleries of the state capital are -- is
28 expected here tonight. Thank you. That being said,
29 the next item on the agenda is the election of the
30 Vice Chairman. At this time I open the floor for
31 nominations.

32 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

34 RON WILSON: I'd like to place a
35 nomination of councilman Bill McAbee as Vice
36 Chairman.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

38 GRACIE FLOYD: I second it.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
40 second. Anyone else? Seeing no nomination, all in
41 -- the nominations for Vice Chairman is now closed.
42 We will now vote. All in favor of Bill McAbee for
43 Vice Chairman, please raise your hand. Six. Any
44 abstentions? Okay. Six, zero and one abstention.
45 Ms. Wilson abstaining. Okay. Congratulations, Mr.
46 McAbee, you are the Vice Chairman.

47 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are now at the
49 citizens comments. I have more instructions.
50 Citizens agenda. Meetings of the county council are

1 based upon the representative form of government and
2 are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
3 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens agenda is
4 for the receipt of citizens opinions, comments and
5 inputs. And it's not a time for debate, question and
6 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed to
7 not more than three minutes to address county
8 council. You are asked to please refrain from
9 addressing members of the audience by name. Please
10 direct your comments to the council chair. Also I
11 ask when you come forward, please give your name,
12 your address and which council district you live in.
13 Mr. Martin.

14 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 There are four citizens under agenda matters. Lib
16 Peace.

17 LIB PEACE: Mr. Chairman, members of
18 council, Mr. Preston, Mr. Martin and members of
19 Anderson County citizenry. I am Elizabeth M. Peace,
20 2410 North Highway 81, Hopewell Precinct, council
21 district four. I come before you tonight with
22 something that has concerned me and I'm going to
23 express my feelings. It is my understand that
24 Anderson County council has adopted to concur with
25 Robert's Rules of Order at all meetings of county
26 council. I think this goes back to many years, even
27 during the supervisor form of government. So I
28 respectfully request that our newly elected chairman,
29 Mr. Michael Thompson, concur with that and follow
30 these rules exactly so that we will be able to
31 establish decorum, courtesy and a renewed pride in
32 Anderson County government. Anderson County citizens
33 seem to be tired of the theatrics that we have
34 witnessed of the past. The false accusations, the
35 misinformation and the constant repetition of
36 requests that have already been submitted. This is a
37 very important consideration as Anderson County is
38 hoping for more economic development. We do have
39 news coverage and news media which has caused us to
40 have people that have called me from other
41 surrounding towns asking what has happened to my
42 county. And therefore I want this administration now
43 this year to focus on a positive county, a positive
44 county government, for you are my adopted county.
45 And I have been a resident here for sixty years. I
46 thank you for the freedom of many men who have
47 sacrificed to give me this opportunity to speak.

48 TOM MARTIN: Ed Jean.

49 ED JEAN: Good evening. Michael
50 Thompson, Mr. Chairman, and council members. I would

1 like to just talk a little bit about agenda item
2 fifteen. And what I'd like to start out by saying is
3 that I hope that as we start this new year with a new
4 council, each year I've tried to say something and
5 I've requested and I've hoped that the new council or
6 the changes whatever y'all -- or you've been there
7 last year, but that we do work together better.
8 Because all of this negative and all of this going
9 back and forth bickering and things, I don't think is
10 advantageous to Anderson County as a whole. Now the
11 item number fifteen, the credit card use of
12 expenditure. Over the years I have had the
13 opportunity to work in the private sector. And ever
14 since I started working, it seemed I was filling out
15 an expense report. And then after a period of time I
16 started reviewing expense reports, but I still had to
17 fill out expense reports. And you know I went back
18 into my archives there and pulled out an expense
19 report going way back for personal expenses during
20 the course of the week. And now I pulled out one
21 with regard to my auto and that type. Now personally
22 we had to submit these reports on a regular basis,
23 which I assume is being done at Anderson County. And
24 I would think that the documentation is pretty much
25 provided as backup to these when they've gone from an
26 employee to a department head to a division head and
27 then probably up to the finance department and then
28 however else it goes from that point. My -- what I'd
29 like to suggest is, one of the council people that's
30 continually asking and suggesting comments, making
31 comments that things are being abused, that there's
32 no documentation. What I would like to suggest,
33 because I do believe there is documentation in a
34 vault somewhere here in this great building. But I
35 would like to suggest that anybody who is interested
36 in trying to find out and trying to delve into
37 certain expenses, pick two or three dozen. Not say I
38 want this in a ledger report for all of this time and
39 all of that. But pick two or three dozen and then
40 say okay, let's -- I want to have, I want to have the
41 documentation. I'd like to check those items. And
42 then if there are some for economic development, say
43 that is private, we can't. But I would assume that
44 seventy-five, eighty percent of the expense reports
45 would be not for economic development. I think we
46 have to stop on this witch hunt or whatever, personal
47 vendetta type looking for information and try to do
48 it in a way that makes sense and we can handle it.
49 And I'll bet you if I had a chance to visit -- thank
50 you.

1 TOM MARTIN: G. Bequette.
2 GARY BEQUETTE: Mr. Chairman, county
3 council members and county officials, I'm Gary
4 Bequette. That's hard to say. 109 North Point Drive
5 in Anderson. I'm addressing item number nine. I'm a
6 Broadway Lake full-time resident. When the lake is
7 let down it impacts everyone's use of the lake,
8 increased debris is seen when the lake is brought
9 back up. This reduces the season and makes the use
10 of the lake as we use it to almost eight months
11 instead of twelve. The other lakes within the county
12 are experiencing drought condition. This impacts
13 Broadway Lake when citizens turn to Broadway for
14 water use, be it emergency use or personal use. To
15 let the lake down when others are stressed seems
16 unadvisable. While we can agree that a lake reversal
17 of letting the lake down created hardships for some
18 residents perhaps drop conditions should prevail.
19 Thank you.
20 TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.
21 DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, and members
22 of council, on behalf of the real, the original
23 Anderson County Taxpayer's Association ---
24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Harvell, I have to
25 stop ---
26 DAN HARVELL: I would like to -- yes,
27 Mr. Chairman.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is your group registered
29 with the state?
30 DAN HARVELL: No, we're not. But we are
31 a bonafide group.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Have you submitted
33 a list to the county council, a list of your members?
34 DAN HARVELL: That is not necessary.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I disagree, Mr. Harvell.
36 This council passed legislation last year under
37 lobbying to require anyone coming before this council
38 representing a group must present a list of members.
39 You have not done that. Also the state requires you
40 to register with the Secretary of State.
41 DAN HARVELL: Do not.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Harvell, I'm not going
43 to argue with you. This is not a debate.
44 BOB WALDREP: Point of order. Point of
45 order, Mr. Chairman.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, what is your
47 point of order?
48 BOB WALDREP: My point of order is that
49 the chairman's ruling is not only unlawful and
50 unfriendly but inappropriate. And that I would ask

1 that council would overrule the chair on this
2 particular matter because Mr. Harvell does simply
3 represent a group of citizens. I don't think that
4 there's any legal necessity that he come forward with
5 anything from the Secretary of State. And any
6 conclusions or assumptions that the county would make
7 or this council would make are totally irrelevant.
8 And I would ask that the chair be overridden on this
9 point.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep,
11 for your input. But this council did pass last year
12 lobbying legislation for anyone coming before this
13 council representing a group must present a list of
14 members to this council. Mr. Harvell has not done
15 that. He has not followed the ordinances of this
16 county. Therefore I rule him out of order.

17 DAN HARVELL: Then I ask that I might
18 speak on behalf of myself.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep has challenged
20 the ruling of the chair. We will now take a vote.
21 All those in favor of supporting the chair, please
22 raise your hand. All those supporting Mr. Waldrep.
23 Okay. All abstain. Okay. So it was three, two and
24 one. The chair was upheld. Is that right, Mr. ...

25 CINDY WILSON: No.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Three, three, one. The
27 chair wins on the tie. Please be seated, Mr.
28 Harvell.

29 DAN HARVELL: This is not Germany 1936.

30 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
31 recognize the one thing he did ask to be -- present
32 himself as an individual. Can he do that or is
33 council now saying that individuals cannot speak?

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. Mr. Harvell can
35 speak, as I said, at a later date.

36 CINDY WILSON: Point of order, please,
37 Mr. Chairman. How did this individual sign up on the
38 register?

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. Harvell
40 said -- represented himself as a representative of a
41 group.

42 CINDY WILSON: How did he sign up?

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I don't know.

44 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Martin, how did the
45 last signature appear? Was it an individual's name
46 or an individual's name as representing a group?

47 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

49 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harvell signed up as Dan Harvell.

1 CINDY WILSON: Well, then why can't he
2 speak? He's already ---
3 TOM MARTIN: Ms. Wilson, the chair has
4 already ruled that Mr. Harvell cannot represent a
5 group.
6 CINDY WILSON: But he signed up as an
7 individual, sir.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
9 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, it's my
10 opinion that we're erring here tonight. Mr. Harvell
11 did indeed sign his name. He has a right the same as
12 any other citizen, although I sometimes and
13 oftentimes disagree with him, but I will defend Mr.
14 Harvell, as I told you at the previous meeting, I
15 will defend your right to speak. And I believe that
16 it's appropriate that this council allow him to speak
17 tonight. And I move that we do so because he signed
18 up as Dan Harvell and not as a representative of the
19 Taxpayer's Association.
20 CINDY WILSON: Second.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
22 second. All in favor of Mr. Greer's motion, please
23 raise your hand. Yes, ma'am. Oh. I'm sorry. I
24 have made a mistake. We have a motion on the floor
25 and a second. Is there any discussion?
26 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Mr. Chairman.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
28 GRACIE FLOYD: Ah, it's not easy, is it?
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, it's not.
30 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I want to
31 just clear up something here now. Mr. Harvell signed
32 his name, but maybe I'm mistaken but did I not hear
33 him say that he's representing -- what did he say
34 when he first stood up? Did he mention that ---
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The new and improved
36 Taxpayer's Association.
37 GRACIE FLOYD: He said he was speaking
38 for them. Did he say that?
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.
40 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. So he
41 signed up under one name and he's speaking for a
42 group under the speaking part. So that kind of like
43 -- that contradicts each other; doesn't it? He
44 signed up under his name, but he didn't speak for
45 himself. He was speaking for a group. So where do
46 we go from there?
47 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
49 LARRY GREER: I call for the question.
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The question has been

1 called for. No discussion. All in favor of calling
2 for the question please raise your hand. The vote is
3 unanimous, call for the question. But now back to
4 the motion. Mr. Greer's moved and it was properly
5 seconded that Mr. Harvell be allowed to speak. All
6 those in favor of Mr. Harvell speaking please raise
7 your hand. All opposed? Abstentions. Mr. Harvell,
8 please speak.

9 DAN HARVELL: Well, I hope the clock
10 hasn't been running because I'm at minus nine minutes
11 if it has been. But anyway what I want to say
12 tonight to council is I want to direct my first
13 thoughts to past Chairman Waldrep. I want to thank
14 you for the exemplary job that you have done as
15 Chairman of this council. In my opinion, and I know
16 opinions of others that I know well, you were truly
17 one of the statesmen in the history of Anderson
18 County. And we not only appreciate what you did
19 during your service as chairman last year, but we
20 appreciate all those years that you put in. And it
21 caused me and many other people, I think, to
22 appreciate some of the stances that you took, the
23 dogmatic views that you reported while you were up
24 there. And it was a proud time for Anderson County
25 to have you as chairman and we truly think that and
26 we appreciate that. While you were there, we had a
27 glimpse of what open and honest government could be
28 in Anderson County because you came to the aid of Ms.
29 Wilson in some of her efforts that she's been making
30 all these years. And it was just a bright light to
31 be able to see her finally get some help so that we
32 might finally shine some light on what we see -- what
33 I see is one of the most secretive county governments
34 of the forty-six in the state of South Carolina. But
35 we do have hope. The hope we have is that any slight
36 improvement would be a great improvement over what we
37 have been used to in the past. As far as the credit
38 card issue goes, if there's not backup documentation
39 for those then a full scale investigation needs to be
40 launched, SLED needs to be brought in and we need to
41 see them do here what they have done in other
42 counties. We need to see here what's just happened
43 down in the low country. And if they don't come I
44 really question why they're not here. If things
45 don't improve between now and the primary season, I
46 hope the voters will pay incredible attention to what
47 the new chairman, to what the current members of
48 council are doing, because I don't think in my
49 opinion we as the taxpaying citizens of Anderson
50 County can afford the type of administration and the

1 type governance that we've had in past years here.
2 And I look forward to the voters of Anderson County
3 waking up and realizing their responsibility as
4 taxpayers to guard their own tax dollars and vote
5 wisely in the upcoming election in 2008. Again,
6 thank you for your service Mr. Chairman. We
7 appreciate you. Thank you.

8 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
9 citizens under agenda matters, Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. We
11 are now under approval of minutes. The chair moves
12 to consider the minutes for November the 20th, 2007.
13 Is there a second?

14 CINDY WILSON: Second.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
16 second. We are now in discussion. Hearing no
17 discussion the chair calls for the question. All in
18 favor of approving the minutes for November 20, 2007
19 please raise your hand. The vote is seven and oh.
20 Unanimous. The chair moves to approve the minutes
21 for November -- I'm sorry for December 4, 2007. Is
22 there a second? Is there a second to approve?

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
25 now in discussion. Any discussion?

26 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

28 CINDY WILSON: May I please? Okay. On
29 page forty-four on lines fifteen and sixteen, there
30 was evidently a little blip in the tape or something,
31 but at the end of line fifteen, one is for First
32 Citizens which we've used for several years. That's
33 referring to a credit card bank account. And I would
34 like to make sure that that typo is correct.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman, did you get
36 that?

37 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, could we
38 have that repeated please?

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Ms. Wilson,
40 will you please restate your change?

41 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. On page forty-
42 four, lines fifteen and sixteen. It says one is for
43 Citizens and it's c with a small cap. And it's --
44 one is for First Citizens which refers to the bank
45 that we have, I think, ten credit cards with.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Did you get that? She got
47 it.

48 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any other discussion?
50 Then chair calls for the ... I want to do this

1 correct. Ms. Wilson has technically made an
2 amendment so do we have a second to Ms. Wilson's ---

3 RON WILSON: Second.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
5 favor of Ms. Wilson's amendment to the minutes -- say
6 that real fast -- please raise your hand. Oppose.
7 Abstain. Six, zero and one. The amendment passes.
8 All in favor of the minutes of December 4, 2007 as
9 amended, please raise your hand. Oppose. Abstain.
10 Six, zero and one with Ms. Floyd abstaining. Item
11 eight, introduction of the new executive director of
12 Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home. Let me
13 back up for a second, please. I have some
14 instructions that I want to do. I am referencing
15 county ordinance 2-37, subsection seven. In no event
16 shall discussion of any topic exceed that time so
17 allotted of forty-five minutes, whichever is less,
18 unless approved by every member of county council in
19 attendance. And I have conferred with Mr. Martin.
20 Approval by every member of county council in
21 attendance is in a unanimous vote. So unless we have
22 a unanimous vote, the time will not be extended.
23 That being said, Ms. Floyd.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Every now and then we have people who move into our
26 community who were placed here to help us. They help
27 us with existing agencies or offices that are already
28 in place or they help us start new ones. All of you
29 are familiar with the Richard Campbell Veterans
30 Nursing Home. We've had several people come and go
31 as we have watched the growth of this entity. We
32 have a new person at the helm now. His name is
33 Rupert Austin. Mr. Austin, would you please come
34 forward? I asked him to come tonight because I want
35 you to be introduced to the man who is helping us
36 lead the Campbell Nursing Home to greater heights.
37 Mr. Rupert, I mean Mr. Austin, is the executive
38 director of Richard M. Campbell. He's married for
39 twenty-two years to Ginger Austin and they have three
40 children. He's a graduate of the University of
41 Kansas. He has a Masters in Human Development and
42 Family Life. Mr. Austin comes to us as the former
43 executive director of Brookside Living Center. He is
44 a former chairperson of McCormick County First Steps
45 program. He's the former chairperson of McCormick
46 County Senior Citizens and he's a member of the
47 Covenant Baptist Church here in Anderson, South
48 Carolina. It's important that we know the people who
49 are working with us, working for us and leading us
50 into the future. Mr. Campbell, thank you for coming

1 to Anderson. Thank you for choosing Anderson as your
2 place to work and live. Would you like to say
3 something?

4 RUPERT AUSTIN: Thank you very much.
5 First of all I want to thank you, Ms. Floyd, and the
6 council for the opportunity to be recognized this
7 evening. I appreciate that. And I also want to
8 thank you for all the support you provide to our
9 facility. It's my goal to provide further service
10 like you said to continue to grow the services at
11 Richard M. Campbell for our veterans here not only in
12 Anderson County but for the State of South Carolina.
13 I look forward to working with all of you and if
14 there's anything I can do to help you, please let me
15 know. And I look forward to serving our citizens
16 here in this county. And if there's anything I can
17 do for any of you, I hope that you'll contact me
18 also. Thank you very much.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman.

21 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

23 LARRY GREER: If I could have the floor
24 briefly, please?

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, I really want
26 to stick to the agenda.

27 LARRY GREER: Well, at this time I am
28 going to make a motion that we suspend the rule that
29 we have to have a unanimous vote to extend
30 discussion. We have customarily extended discussion
31 based on the majority rule and I will ask the county
32 attorney to draft an ordinance to amend that and have
33 it on the agenda for the next meeting so the
34 discussion can be extended by majority rule. And I
35 move that we suspend that rule tonight.

36 CINDY WILSON: Second.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
38 floor to suspend the rule that I read earlier. We
39 have a second. We are now in discussion. Any more
40 discussion to suspend the rule?

41 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

43 BOB WALDREP: I was just trying to
44 understand the process here. First of all we had a
45 rule that we had to have forty-five minutes. And
46 that was a limitation and it requires unanimous. So
47 we're moving from -- was that ever a rule, Mr. Greer?
48 Was that ever a rule?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

50 LARRY GREER: I believe the procedure's

1 ordinance says that to extend time on an agenda item
2 it requires a unanimous vote. But it also says that
3 no agenda item can exceed a total of forty-five
4 minutes. I believe that's correct. Isn't it, Mr.
5 Martin? My motion to suspend the rule is simply to
6 suspend the rule requiring a unanimous vote to extend
7 the time.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any more
9 discussion?

10 BOB WALDREP: Regardless of whether it's
11 forty-five minutes or more than that?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Or less.

13 BOB WALDREP: Or less?

14 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

16 CINDY WILSON: The reason that was set up
17 was in setting up the council agenda schedule for
18 each meeting. No item on the agenda was to exceed
19 forty-five minutes. That was the initial reason for
20 that. I don't think it really went to discussion.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I have a copy
22 of the ordinance here in front of me. I read it word
23 for word. Unless approved by every member of council
24 in attendance. Now I'm just trying to enforce the
25 rules here and I'm not making this up.

26 BOB WALDREP: Could you restate Mr.
27 Greer's motion?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, will you please
29 restate your motion?

30 LARRY GREER: My motion was to suspend
31 the rule requiring a unanimous vote to extend the
32 time for discussion.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor to suspend
34 the rule.

35 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Mr ...

37 TOM MARTIN: May I have some
38 clarification? It is my understanding that there are
39 two parts to the rule. One is to suspend a set time
40 for discussion. The other is for the total time
41 allotted. I'm interpreting Mr. Greer's motion and
42 his request to me for a new ordinance as dealing with
43 only the first part. That is extension of the time
44 allotted for discussion, not the forty-five minute
45 total.

46 LARRY GREER: You're understanding me
47 correctly.

48 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, sir. Thank
49 you, Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're welcome.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, clarification.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd. I'm sorry.
3 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. To extend the
4 time allotted for discussion, Mr. Martin?
5 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.
7 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. That is my
8 understand, Ms. Floyd.
9 GRACIE FLOYD: To extend the time
10 allotted for -- I thought he was saying he wanted us
11 to not have, not have to have a full majority in
12 order to extend the time. That's what I thought he
13 was ---
14 TOM MARTIN: The current rule is that
15 you have to have ---
16 GRACIE FLOYD: Have a majority.
17 TOM MARTIN: Have to have a unanimous
18 vote to extend the time for discussion.
19 GRACIE FLOYD: Unanimous.
20 TOM MARTIN: And the motion is to
21 change that to a majority vote by suspending the
22 rules tonight, but also to draft an ordinance to make
23 that the law of the county in the future. The rule
24 as to the forty-five minute total for any matter
25 would remain unaffected.
26 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. So, so
27 ... Let me get this straight. So what we're doing
28 now is fixing the Robert's Rules to suit ---
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: County ordinance.
30 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. No. We're doing it
31 to suit the county ordinance, but we go back and
32 change and say we don't want to do it that way that's
33 in the county ordinance so we want to change it ...
34 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
36 LARRY GREER: I call for the question.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
38 question. No discussion. All in favor for the call
39 for the question, please raise your hand. The vote
40 to call for the question is unanimous. We're now to
41 suspending of the rule for tonight. All in favor to
42 suspend the rule for a simple majority for extending
43 the time, please raise your hand. Oppose. The vote
44 is four, three and zero. So we will extend time by
45 simple majority to suspend the rules.
46 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
48 LARRY GREER: A motion to suspend the
49 rule requires a two-thirds majority, so it failed.
50 We'll play by the rules.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer, for
2 that.

3 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, as a point
4 of order, you have two minutes remaining on this
5 discussion matter.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can we put that in the
7 bank and use it later? Lord have mercy. We are now
8 -- sometimes you've just got to laugh. We are now
9 under item ten, ordinance's third reading. Number
10 nine. Why did I -- I made another mistake. Broadway
11 Lake, Ms. Floyd, fifteen minutes. And I do
12 apologize.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Apology is accepted. And
14 I'm going to talk fast because I need to get all this
15 in. We have an issue on Broadway Lake that we want
16 settled. We need help getting this thing settled.
17 First of all, how many members of the Broadway Lake
18 Committee do we have present tonight? Please stand
19 up. I want you to stand up. If you are on that
20 Broadway Lake Committee -- no, no, no. Not Friends
21 of Broadway Lake. Broadway Lake Committee.

22 JOEY PRESTON: Appointed by council.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Appointed. Yeah.
24 Appointed by council. Stand up. One. One person.
25 Two. Maybe two. Maybe two. Okay. That didn't help
26 me but ... Let me lay out the concern here. Okay.
27 Broadway Lake has been beautifully worked with by the
28 Friends of Broadway Lake. This is a group of
29 homeowners out there who have done an excellent job
30 in bringing -- in helping me bring it to the
31 forefront and putting on, putting on different kinds
32 of activities out there and helping to clean up the
33 area and helping me to shine the diamond. I've told
34 you for years it's a diamond in the rough. And they
35 are doing a good job of helping me shine it up. But
36 we ran into a little road block here. There is a law
37 that says or something written somewhere that says
38 that the lake can be lowered every other year. Well,
39 the lake was lowered last year. People at the lake
40 are saying that they wanted it lowered again this
41 year so that they can work on their boat docks and
42 they can work on their boat houses which is something
43 that needs to be reckoned with. We have to work with
44 that. But when the letter went out that it -- the
45 lake would be lowered on the 27th, I started
46 receiving phone calls from other people who felt like
47 the lake should not be lowered this year because it
48 has become a matter of conservation. Everybody knows
49 we're in a drought. We have water issues all around
50 us. Anderson County has not yet looked into the

1 water issue. I think we're gonna do that tonight.
2 But all around us they are complaining about water.
3 I did my homework. I called the fire chief who told
4 me that that water in that lake can be used to help
5 put out fires if we ever got into a drought situation
6 where we needed extra water. But if the lake was
7 lowered that we can't do it. I understand that they
8 use the water now to put out fires around the lake.
9 Also, it's a other issue of the fact that we don't
10 know where this drought is going. I talked with the
11 national weather service in Greenville and I was told
12 that we are in something called a, called a -- if you
13 know what it is just yell it out -- La Nino or
14 something. And this thing is supposed to go all the
15 way through the summer. I have been told by people
16 who know that there are no significant rain falls in
17 sight. I'm not a meteorologist. I have to go on
18 what they're telling me. They say there is no
19 significant rainfall in sight which would get that
20 lake back up. Now these people were told that this
21 lake was gonna be lowered and they went out, they
22 said, and spent all this money to work on the docks
23 and da, da, da. I made a decision that the lake
24 would not be lowered until we could get it here to
25 council. That decision is supposed to be made by
26 law, by the Broadway Lake Committee/Commission.
27 Cause we're trying to figure out which one it is.
28 But that decision to lower the lake, to groom the
29 lake, to keep the lake, to dredge the lake, to
30 beautify the lake, to build on the lake should be
31 approved by the Broadway Lake Committee. These
32 people didn't have a chance to do that. I was told
33 that it was done by a vote by the people of Broadway
34 Lake. All right. Then I had some people -- I had e-
35 mails and letters from people saying they never got a
36 chance to vote. Here I am. What do we do council
37 members? The Broadway Lake folks are -- is an
38 advisory committee and they're supposed to make a
39 ruling and they're supposed to bring that back to
40 county council. Okay? County council members, no
41 one person can make that decision. I cannot make
42 that decision. It's in my area, but the decision has
43 to be made by us. How do you want to handle this,
44 county council members?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You opening the floor for
46 discussion?

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, sir. I am.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Does anyone want to reply
49 to Ms. Wilson's -- I'm sorry. I'm sorry. This is
50 not easy.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: You owe it to me.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd's request. Mr.
3 Waldrep.
4 BOB WALDREP: Ms. Floyd, I appreciate
5 your dilemma. I got a call today from some folks
6 down there in, I think, it's Friends of Broadway Lake
7 and I think some of them are here tonight. It just
8 seems to me that you would -- have you identified
9 that commission yet as to who is on it? Or does this
10 council appoint that committee?
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
12 BOB WALDREP: Do we have their names?
13 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. And I have been
14 asking that that committee be convened. I have been
15 asking that we get that committee together, get them
16 to working on the things that they're supposed to be
17 doing.
18 BOB WALDREP: Well, I would suggest that
19 we get their names and give them an opportunity to
20 convene, get them notice and if they fail to convene
21 that we dissolve the committee and that we act in
22 their behalf.
23 GRACIE FLOYD: Anyone else? Any other?
24 BOB WALDREP: Or one other thing, you
25 might want to make Friends of Broadway Lake your
26 committee.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, that would be
28 perfect. But the only thing about that would be that
29 your district would not be represented. And it is a
30 county lake. The lake is taken care of, paid for by
31 the county, by the people of Anderson County. By the
32 taxpayers. Now if Friends of Broadway Lake is deemed
33 to be the one who's going to do it, that's all in my
34 district, but it's not in your district and it's not
35 in your district, even though your people will be
36 asked to pay for it. That's representation -- I mean
37 taxation without representation. You had something?
38 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
40 LARRY GREER: I'm going to agree with
41 Mr. Waldrep somewhat. And I'm going to disagree with
42 Mr. Waldrep somewhat. I think in my opinion the
43 appropriate thing is to refer this matter to the
44 Broadway Lake Committee, give them an opportunity to
45 meet and address this issue. And if they fail to
46 convene and meet, we dissolve the existing committee
47 and create -- and appoint a new committee. That's
48 what the purpose of this committee is. So if the one
49 we have is not working then we dissolve it and create
50 another one. And then we refer this matter back to

1 that committee.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that in the form of a
3 motion?
4 LARRY GREER: That's in the form of a
5 motion.
6 BILL MCABEE: Second.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
8 floor to refer this issue to the Broadway Lake ---
9 BOB WALDREP: I call for the question.
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- Commission. We have a
11 second and now we have a call for the question. All
12 in favor for the call for the question ---
13 BILL MCABEE: Wait a minute. There was
14 no second for the call for the question.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second for the
16 call for the question?
17 CINDY WILSON: Second.
18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All
19 those in favor for the call for the question please
20 raise your hand. One, two, three in favor. All
21 opposed for calling for the question. Four and zero.
22 Opposing are Thompson, Floyd, McAbee and R. Wilson.
23 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee. We need to
25 get name tags.
26 BILL MCABEE: While I think that this is
27 a -- this is probably the course of action to refer
28 it back to Broadway Lake Committee or Commission as
29 they are deemed, one of the things that we should
30 keep in mind in dealing with this, while we are
31 entitled to make representation and most of us make
32 appointments from our district, there is not a
33 statutory or a ordinance requiring us to make the
34 appointment to that commission from our district. If
35 it's difficult perhaps because of the part of the
36 county you're in, finding someone that's interested
37 in Broadway Lake, you could make appointments out of
38 other districts.
39 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
41 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. McAbee, the
42 ordinance 99-018 says that the chair of that -- it
43 mandates how people are appointed, by district.
44 BILL MCABEE: Is it ---
45 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I have a copy of the
46 new ordinance here. It's mandated how people are
47 appointed, by district.
48 BILL MCABEE: District.
49 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (Affirmative). So
50 we have to do it district by district. First of all,

1 I want to speak on behalf of the committee. It is
2 not the committee's fault that they have not met. It
3 is not because -- they have been trying to meet every
4 since this summer, every since this summer. When I
5 appointed my person, he has been trying to meet. And
6 I kept telling them, well, we're going to get you
7 together, but it was never done. So I don't think we
8 need to vote on it, Mr. Chairman, unless the
9 committee just feels like it. But I think that the
10 suggestion is correct. I think it's a good one. We
11 will call for the committee to meet. I will give
12 them information that they need to make these
13 decisions. And from there they will be reporting
14 back to the council.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, Mr. Greer has
16 made a motion to refer it to the committee and it was
17 second so we do need to vote on that. So we are
18 currently in discussion on Mr. Greer's motion. There
19 are no more discussions. Mr. ---

20 RON WILSON: Yeah. Let me ask a
21 question. Exactly what -- we had two motions. I
22 know Mr. Waldrep had one or had a suggestion and then
23 you made a motion. The difference in y'all's two
24 suggestions was that Mr. Waldrep basically said if
25 they couldn't meet and couldn't get them together
26 then it was our responsibility to vote on this
27 matter. And yours says that if they don't come
28 together we abolish it and appoint another group.
29 I'm much more -- I think I'm much more in favor of
30 what Mr. Waldrep said. If we've got a committee that
31 won't meet then we ought to take the action here and
32 that should get them to meet. And so I'm much more
33 in favor of that approach, I think, than having
34 another committee that's not going to meet.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are -- is there
36 any more discussion? Mr. Greer, will you please
37 restate your motion so that we know what we're voting
38 on?

39 LARRY GREER: The motion was to refer
40 this matter to the Broadway Lake Advisory Committee,
41 I believe is the correct term, for their
42 consideration. If they fail to meet, we abolish the
43 committee and appoint a new committee.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of Mr.
45 Greer's amendment he just stated, please raise your
46 hand. Oppose. Okay. That is Waldrep and Wilson,
47 Mr. Wilson opposing, and five in favor. Mr. Greer's
48 motion has passed. It's now just after seven.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Wait a minute. Hold it.
50 Hold it. Have I used up all my time? Am I through

1 then?

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin?

3 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are
4 three and a half minutes left.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you wish to have your
6 three minutes?

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, sir. I do.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you. I
10 want to commend the Friends of Broadway Lake for
11 helping me solve this dilemma. I heard from both
12 sides from the people from that issue. Everybody who
13 called me was not a member of FBL. But most of the
14 people did, but I received more phone calls of people
15 not wanting to lower their lake than I did from the
16 people who wanted it lowered. But my thing is this.
17 Friends of Broadway Lake, thank you. Thank you.
18 When we first organized this assembly, we wanted to
19 have things done that was going to improve the lake,
20 improve the recreational system of Anderson County
21 and improve the overall quality of living for the
22 people of Anderson County. Through your work,
23 through your tireless work in Friends of Broadway
24 Lake, you have done this. You have had more hours
25 clocked for volunteers than any other organization of
26 your kind. I'm proud of you. I stand by you. I
27 will continue supporting you as I have in the past,
28 and I just want you to please, please continue your
29 work. Thank you.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You can get back to
31 balancing your time?

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Do I have more time? I'm
33 finished.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. At this time we'll
35 take a fifteen minute break.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Fifteen minutes break?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

38 BREAK

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Could the chamber please
40 come back to order? We go to item number ten,
41 ordinance's third reading. Number 2007-37, an
42 ordinance authorizing the financing and construction
43 of sewer facilities to serve the new Flatrock School
44 in Anderson County council district three and other
45 matters thereto. Is there a motion to consider?

46 LARRY GREER: So moved.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
48 consider. Is there a second?

49 BILL MCABEE: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are

1 now in discussion. Mr. Greer, it's customary for the
2 sponsor to take the lead with the floor.

3 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

5 LARRY GREER: Thank you. This is third
6 reading. I believe that we've thoroughly hashed this
7 out and explained how the funding and so forth is set
8 for the construction of this project. So I urge
9 council to vote approval on third reading.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The Chair
11 calls for the question. All in favor of ordinance
12 2007-037, please raise your hand. The vote is seven
13 and oh. It passes unanimous. We have number eleven,
14 presentation on outside burning. Myself. I have
15 invited Ms. Keri Terry from DHEC to give this
16 presentation. And Ms. Terry, I looked for you
17 during the break and could not find you. I do need
18 to speak with you. Okay. Ms. Terry is -- you have
19 the floor.

20 KERI TERRY: Mr. Chairman and members
21 of council, I appreciate the opportunity to speak
22 here tonight. My name is Keri Terry. I work with
23 the South Carolina Department of Health and
24 Environmental Control. I am Regional Air Section
25 Manager for Anderson and Oconee County. I'm here
26 tonight to speak about a topic that has probably
27 affected every citizen in Anderson County. And the
28 topic I'm speaking about is open burning,
29 specifically open burning of garbage, leaves, tires,
30 that type of material. You really can't, you really
31 can't go into open burning in my opinion without
32 talking about the health effects associated with open
33 burning and the smoke. Smoke from burning garbage,
34 leaves, trees, construction debris, etcetera, is
35 especially harmful to small children, elderly people
36 susceptible to respiratory ailments such as
37 emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, etcetera. Some of the
38 harmful pollutants that are emitted during these
39 types of burn include particulate matter, volatile
40 organic compounds, dioxins, carbon monoxide and ash.
41 What I want to concentrate on, although all of the
42 pollutants are harmful to anyone within close
43 proximity to this type of burn, I want to concentrate
44 on the first two which is particulate matter and
45 volatile organic compounds. If you -- let's go back
46 to a county council meeting that happened, I think,
47 on November 6th, 2007 when we had Mr. Burris Nelson
48 and Mr. Phil Connors speak on clean air initiative
49 and the economic impact of Anderson County being in
50 compliance with clean air. They spoke of that

1 importance because that clean air meeting federal
2 standards is going to be extremely important to the
3 economic growth of Anderson County. And it just so
4 happens that open burning, the types that we're
5 talking about, garbage, leaves, actually produces the
6 pollutant that causes us to exceed these standards.
7 So that -- not only is it a health concern, it is
8 also an economic concern for Anderson County. And if
9 you really focus on the first two, particulate
10 matter, and you may have heard the term PM 2.5 and
11 volatile organic compounds which are precursors to
12 brown level ozone. And those are the two pollutants
13 that we are struggling with now in the Upstate. To
14 go briefly into what is being done currently in South
15 Carolina, we have, DHEC, has open burning
16 regulations. 61-62.2, South Carolina Forestry
17 Commission and that's a state regulation, of course,
18 South Carolina Forestry Commission has guidelines and
19 regulations that also address certain types of burns.
20 And then there are local counties and cities and
21 governments that have their own ordinances that place
22 restrictions on certain types of burns. Our
23 regulations, South Carolina DHEC regulations,
24 regulations that we actually enforce, prohibit
25 certain types of open burn and actually place
26 restrictions on other types. I mean there are
27 certain things that we can actually prohibit and then
28 there are other types of burning that if they meet
29 the standards or the restrictions placed in the
30 regulation, they can actually burn that material.
31 Some of the limitations that we're faced with, DHEC,
32 in Anderson and Oconee County is that we have two
33 inspectors that cover both Anderson and Oconee
34 County. Now this is in conjunction with other job
35 duties which include inspection of solid and
36 hazardous waste facilities, air -- permitted air
37 facilities, air sampling emergency response. When we
38 do address open burn violations that -- our process
39 is a lengthy administrative process, meaning that
40 when we site a violation, we have to send it to our
41 enforcement group in Columbia, they review it. It
42 takes a length of time. It's not something that can
43 be resolved immediately. And I'll explain -- this
44 will all kind of tie in to why I am and DHEC is
45 encouraging Anderson County to look at a local
46 burning ordinance. South Carolina Forestry
47 Commission also has regulations and guidelines. I'm
48 not really going to go into a lot of detail because
49 we have two great guys here tonight from the forestry
50 commission that can answer any questions that you

1 have. Most of their, most of their -- I think their
2 guidelines and their issues basically are geared more
3 towards prescribed burning, wildlife maintenance,
4 controlled burns. But if you have any questions
5 regarding, you know, the South Carolina Forestry
6 Commission -- and the entire state, so it applies to
7 the entire, you know, the entire state of South
8 Carolina. You know, if you have any questions at the
9 end of this presentation or now, I have two gentlemen
10 here that would be more than happy to answer these
11 questions.

12 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

14 BOB WALDREP: May I ask a question?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

16 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to ask a
17 question if I may about the enforcement angle. Would
18 that be the forestry people would be the enforcers of
19 this burning ordinance?

20 KERI TERRY: Their regulations -- it's
21 a separate entity than South Carolina DHEC.

22 BOB WALDREP: I mean if we pass this
23 particular ordinance, though, is it designed ---

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. The ordinance that's
25 on the agenda tonight, if it was to pass, would
26 authorize environmental code county enforcement
27 people to enforce. So basically you are authorizing
28 county employees to enforce the state law.

29 BOB WALDREP: Well, do we have a branch
30 of government in the county?

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Captain
32 Bowman's department would basically be the one
33 responsible. Captain Bowman.

34 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

35 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a
36 question in relation to what you're talking about?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 There was a situation in my neighborhood with a lot
40 of about an acre and a half and they got a forestry
41 commission motion to burn, but they were actually
42 burning building debris without any building
43 activity. And who sorts that out?

44 KERI TERRY: Well, that's an
45 interesting question because they actually -- the
46 forestry commission -- when someone does burning in a
47 county, they have -- they are first to call the South
48 Carolina Forestry Commission to notify them of the
49 burn. That does not excuse them from complying with
50 South Carolina DHEC regulations. So it may have been

1 this case that, I'm not sure what they were burning,
2 but it could have been that they were in violation of
3 our regulation. So we work closely with South
4 Carolina Forestry Commission in having -- you have
5 really two agencies here kind of walking together
6 trying to figure out some of these. Our guidelines
7 are a little bit different, but we're aware of each
8 other's regulations, so, you know, we try to do that.
9 So it could have been that they were in compliance of
10 getting that notification, but they were in violation
11 of our regulations because they were not supposed to
12 burn the material that was on site.

13 CINDY WILSON: They were burning building
14 materials that they had brought in, pallets and
15 plastic.

16 KERI TERRY: Oh yeah. That's
17 definitely a violation of South Carolina DHEC.

18 CINDY WILSON: And who would, who would

19 ---

20 KERI TERRY: That would be South
21 Carolina DHEC regulations at this current time?

22 CINDY WILSON: Would you police that or
23 the Forestry Commission?

24 KERI TERRY: We do.

25 CINDY WILSON: So you would be the agency
26 that ---

27 KERI TERRY: We would be the agency
28 currently that would be -- that would handle that.
29 We would get that call and respond.

30 CINDY WILSON: And if we pass this
31 tonight, who would do that?

32 KERI TERRY: If we pass this tonight,
33 it pretty much gives -- and please, Mr. Chairman,
34 correct me if I'm wrong. It would give commissioned
35 law enforcement officers the ability ---

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Captain Bowman and his
37 people.

38 KERI TERRY: -- to also assist and be
39 able to immediately respond and write a ticket.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It would be -- I'm sorry.
41 It would be an additional layer of enforcement.

42 KERI TERRY: Yeah. Which is a benefit
43 because their response time can be much quicker than
44 ours. And their enforcement -- they can write a
45 ticket on site and address the problem immediately,
46 whereas ours takes a little bit longer. And that's
47 why we might ---

48 CINDY WILSON: (Inaudible).

49 KERI TERRY: Yeah. Yeah. We still
50 investigate that. That doesn't stop us from going

1 out ---

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I'm sorry. I have
3 to interrupt. We have five minutes left and I'm sure
4 you have more than five minutes in material. So. ...

5 KERI TERRY: Not really.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. I didn't hear
7 you.

8 KERI TERRY: Go ahead?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, please.

10 KERI TERRY: Okay. What I'm getting to
11 is local community government ordinances can apply
12 more restrictive requirements to address specific
13 problems local to a specific area. And I like to use
14 the phrase local solutions to local problems. A lot
15 of times you see this in cities and counties,
16 subdivisions and homeowners associations. Lexington
17 County open burning ordinance has just recently
18 passed. So we've got a model out there, Lexington
19 County. I've been in contact with people that have
20 been involved with that process, and they are very
21 willing to share their experiences with members of
22 this council in an effort to help answer questions or
23 encourage this to move forward. And of course, how
24 can Anderson County help? Pass an ordinance to
25 restrict open burning in the county. And I think the
26 ordinance 2008-001 is basically a good option at this
27 point. What would this mean? And I'll go through
28 this very quickly. It would mean, and this is where
29 we get to the crux of why this would be good to have
30 local county involvement, county involvement, in this
31 issue. To have swift response and enforcement to
32 open burning restrictions, meaning that cleaner air
33 -- meaning cleaner air for residents more susceptible
34 to smoke from neighbors and businesses burning trash
35 and debris.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Terry, you have two
37 minutes.

38 KERI TERRY: Another important point.
39 Promote regional efforts to comply with federal air
40 quality standards for future economic growth
41 opportunity in Anderson County. Let's go back again
42 to the November 6th, 2007 presentation by Burris
43 Nelson and Phil Connors. And basically that's it.
44 That's what I have. I don't know if that leaves me
45 much time for questions.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin,
47 remains?

48 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two minutes and twenty
50 second. Mr. Greer.

1 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Ms. Terry, I noticed during your discussion you
3 talked about the open burning of yard debris, leaves
4 and so forth, but you also talked about the open
5 burning of garbage and tires and Ms. Wilson brought
6 up the fact of open burning of basically building
7 materials. All of those are currently illegal to
8 burn. Is that not correct?

9 KERI TERRY: That's state regulations.

10 LARRY GREER: And DHEC ---

11 KERI TERRY: Well, excuse me. I'm
12 sorry. I misspoke. Leaves, our regulations do not
13 ---

14 LARRY GREER: They do not address leaves
15 and yard debris. I understand that. But garbage,
16 tires and building materials are both enforced and
17 regulated by DHEC. Is that not correct?

18 KERI TERRY: Garbage, tires are
19 prohibited. Construction debris is -- can be burned
20 under certain conditions. Not during ozone season,
21 and you have to be at least a certain distance away.
22 And it has to be a certain type of material.

23 LARRY GREER: Okay. One interesting
24 point that I picked up on as you made your
25 presentation was that there's two inspectors covering
26 Anderson and Oconee County and we just -- we're going
27 to tonight consider a plan on storm water management
28 that was forced on us by DHEC and the state of South
29 Carolina and federal government. And what I'm seeing
30 here tonight is local government assuming or planning
31 to assume a responsibility that exists with DHEC.
32 DHEC is the one charged with the enforcement of
33 burning of garbage and tires, so maybe the general
34 assembly needs to fully fund the DHEC operation so
35 that you can have sufficient inspectors out there to
36 do this and it not become the function of local
37 government.

38 KERI TERRY: Yes, sir. And I can
39 understand that. I understand your point on that. I
40 think as we move into non-attainment in areas with
41 particulate matter, PM 2.5 and ozone, however,
42 federal and state governments are looking more
43 towards counties to assist in efforts to promote
44 clean air initiatives.

45 LARRY GREER: One quick follow-up
46 question. Are they going to send us money to help
47 fund it?

48 KERI TERRY: That's a good question.

49 LARRY GREER: That's a very good
50 question. Thank you.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin is calling
2 time. Thank you, Ms. Terry, for your information.

3 KERI TERRY: Thank you.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance's first reading
5 2008-01, this is the ordinance that Ms. Terry was
6 talking about. And since I'm the sponsor of that,
7 I'm just going to remove that from the agenda at this
8 time and I will talk with Ms. Terry and Captain
9 Bowman at a later date as to what I need, what I need
10 from them. So item 12A is removed from the agenda.
11 So we're at -- now on 12B, an ordinance amending
12 chapter 58 of Anderson County Code of Ordinance
13 pertaining to solid waste and other matters thereto.
14 That's myself. And first of all, we need a motion to
15 consider. The Chair moves to consider ordinance
16 2008-02. Is there a second?

17 RON WILSON: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion. We have
19 a second. We are now in discussion. The chair
20 wishes to -- the floor. Back when we did the solid
21 waste fee we specified homestead exemption. There is
22 another exemption that is separate and different from
23 the disabled veterans, disabled firefighters and
24 police officer. All that this ordinance does is to
25 add that group so that they can get their discount
26 without having to apply for double application.
27 Okay. That's all we're doing. I want the disabled
28 veterans, disabled firefighters and disabled police
29 officer to get the break on the solid waste fee.

30 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

32 BOB WALDREP: With regard to the storm
33 water matter, a couple of things. I had some calls
34 about it and ...

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, we was
36 talking about solid waste.

37 BOB WALDREP: Oh. I'm sorry. I thought
38 we were on storm water. Well, on -- let me get back
39 to solid waste then. Okay. I was jumping over that.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Solid waste fee. Fee.

41 BOB WALDREP: Do I understand that this
42 solid waste fee has a kind of an automatic clause in
43 it which is tied to the consumer price index?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. Mr. Martin.

45 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Mr. Waldrep, that is correct. The solid waste fee is
47 to be indexed by the consumer price index for urban
48 areas each time that the fee is set.

49 BOB WALDREP: How did that get in there?
50 Why was that included? We didn't have that before;

1 did we?

2 TOM MARTIN: It was inserted by county
3 council.

4 BOB WALDREP: At the last ...

5 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

6 BOB WALDREP: I just want to question
7 that in the sense that this seems like just kind of
8 an automatic tax increase. And that troubles me on
9 this solid waste thing. You know, for several years
10 we complained about the fact that there had been no
11 increase at all and the council had not, you know,
12 been taking a look at the solid waste fee. And then
13 now, not only do we have a rather large increase for
14 the solid waste fee, but we've got an automatic
15 kicker in there that just follows his consumer price
16 index. That -- I just have some problems with that,
17 and I just wonder if any other council members have
18 any problems with it.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me please address the
20 council. Please know that these ordinances are only
21 allotted five minutes, so we're not -- we can't get
22 into a lot of discussion. So if you would just keep
23 your comments brief and to the point, it would
24 greatly help the time.

25 CINDY WILSON: May I?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

27 CINDY WILSON: I would be inclined to
28 vote for this, but I would like to make an amendment
29 to this that the fees addressed in the section that
30 states, may be set or changed by simple vote of
31 county council. And then it goes on to say, and will
32 be adjusted by the county administrator and the
33 environmental services director, so on and so forth.
34 I'd like to say, and that the county administrator
35 and environmental services may recommend to council
36 and council would do the final approval, instead of
37 it just automatically kicking into a higher fee
38 without our really addressing it.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And that's in the form of
40 a motion?

41 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have an amendment to
43 the ordinance that the administrator make a
44 recommendation to the council.

45 CINDY WILSON: And the council make the
46 final decision.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And the council make the
48 final decision. And it was seconded by Mr. Waldrep.
49 Any discussion? No discussion. I call for the
50 question on the amendment. All those in favor of Ms.

1 Wilson's amendment that the administrator make a
2 recommendation to the council and that the council
3 make the final decision, please raise your hand. All
4 opposed. Okay. The vote is three, four with R.
5 Wilson, McAbee, Floyd and Thompson in the dissension.
6 The amendment does not pass. Mr. Martin, how much
7 time do we have?

8 TOM MARTIN: Ten seconds.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ten seconds. The Chair
10 calls for the question on ordinance 2008-02. All in
11 favor please raise your hand. Oppose. Abstain. The
12 vote is five, one and one with Waldrep dissenting and
13 C. Wilson abstaining. Twelve C, an ordinance
14 authorizing the transfer of an easement for an
15 ingress, egress and utilities across certain real
16 property and other matters thereto. Is there a
17 motion to consider? Is there a motion to consider?

18 LARRY GREER: So moved.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So moved. Is there a
20 second?

21 RON WILSON: Second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
23 second. We are now in discussion. Mr. Preston.

24 JOEY PRESTON: I was going to call on Mr.
25 Tom Martin to ---

26 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
27 and members of council. I will take the first shot
28 at this, but if there are specific questions, Todd
29 Davidson, who is an attorney with McNair Law Firm is
30 here specifically for this issue. This pertains to
31 the new Powdersville library and government building.
32 We obtained property from Powdersville Water Company,
33 I think, donated to the county for that purpose.
34 They desire to reserve rights of way across that
35 property for their use, for the use of their existing
36 facility which is adjacent to it. This is an
37 ordinance which in fact grants them the easements and
38 right of way that they have requested. Todd Davidson
39 has reviewed it for the county and in fact has
40 negotiated it for the county. The terms are such
41 that we provide the Powdersville Water Company the
42 easements and rights of way which they desire. But
43 doing so at no risk to Anderson County and its use of
44 the property. So it is recommended for your
45 consideration by staff, but Mr. Davidson is here to
46 answer any specific questions about the terms.

47 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

49 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Davidson. This

50 easement, I assume, is this for travel, vehicular

1 travel or is this easement for utilities?

2 TODD DAVIDSON: It's for vehicular travel.

3 Also pedestrian access, ingress, and also utilities.

4 BOB WALDREP: How wide is it?

5 TODD DAVIDSON: It's non-specific as to
6 how wide it is. The way it's drafted, there is an
7 area of the site that is designated with arrows on
8 the exhibit that showed the general area of access
9 and where utilities are going to go. When actual
10 construction of any type, like permanent roadway or
11 utility installations come about, there's requirement
12 of pre-approval from the county for how that is done.

13 BOB WALDREP: So you are going to be
14 more specific about where the lines would be, where
15 this easement would extend to?

16 TODD DAVIDSON: If they do any permanent
17 improvements, they'll have to be more specific as to
18 where they are now and go through an approval process
19 through the county.

20 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, I just --
21 it's troublesome to me when I just see, quote, an
22 easement and we don't know willy nilly where it is.
23 You know, and usually every document I've ever seen
24 and every easement I've ever seen recorded is quite
25 specific about where that -- you know, how wide it is
26 and that sort of thing. So that was just a little
27 troublesome to me. But I'm sure you're trying to
28 please everybody on this. But I guess -- this is the
29 library you say?

30 TODD DAVIDSON: Yeah. Mr. Waldrep,
31 according to the agreement, it actually is the
32 county's responsibility to pay for a survey to define
33 the easements. Powdersville Water District was okay
34 with having an area specified by arrows at this
35 point. And if permanent construction is done then I
36 think we can tie that down with a survey of that
37 area.

38 BOB WALDREP: Well, I think it should be
39 subject to a definite survey, but go ahead.

40 LARRY GREER: Excuse me. Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

42 LARRY GREER: I have one question, Mr.
43 Davidson. If this is approved, is there a
44 possibility that the water company could put this
45 easement or right of way anywhere on the property
46 that they choose or does this particular ordinance
47 and the accompanying material limit it to a certain
48 area?

49 TODD DAVIDSON: It specifies a corner of
50 the property by -- I believe it's the southwestern

1 corner of the property and it's designated as the
2 area shown with the arrows across it on the exhibit.
3 I think that they would have to be at or within that
4 area. And it's kind of obvious because it's behind
5 the building where the pavement ends. It's kind of a
6 natural area that they have been using throughout the
7 construction process of the Powdersville library.

8 LARRY GREER: Is there a map that shows
9 that?

10 TODD DAVIDSON: Yeah. There's an exhibit
11 attached. It doesn't have metes and bounds of the
12 exact easement which would be much preferred, as Mr.
13 Waldrep mentioned. But at this point it's designated
14 by that arrow at the request of Powdersville Water
15 District.

16 LARRY GREER: I'm sorry, but I don't see
17 a map in my agenda book.

18 TODD DAVIDSON: There should be a site
19 plan attached to the easement agreement that's
20 exhibit 1 to the ordinance.

21 LARRY GREER: No, sir. It's not here.

22 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer has the floor.

24 LARRY GREER: I just would like -- just
25 about -- I would just like to see the drawing and so
26 forth.

27 TODD DAVIDSON: Mr. Greer, I have one copy
28 here.

29 LARRY GREER: I understand that. For
30 some reason it was left out. I understand. And I'll
31 yield the floor to Mr. Wilson.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

33 RON WILSON: Is this the area that's
34 already being used?

35 TODD DAVIDSON: Yes, Mr. Wilson. It's
36 currently being used.

37 RON WILSON: It's already paved and
38 everything.

39 TODD DAVIDSON: I don't know if they've
40 actually paved that section ---

41 RON WILSON: Is it the area behind the
42 Powdersville Water?

43 TODD DAVIDSON: It's located -- I can show
44 you on this drawing, but I can't tell you where
45 exactly Powdersville Water is located.

46 RON WILSON: Okay.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Davis, before second
48 reading you'll give us a map.

49 TODD DAVIDSON: Yeah. Certainly. You
50 should have the map. It's an exhibit to the

1 ordinance and I apologize for it being left out.
2 It's designated by some arrows. It's a little hard
3 to see on that copy.

4 RON WILSON: It's the area they're
5 already using?

6 TODD DAVIDSON: Correct.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done, Mr. Wilson?

8 RON WILSON: Pardon me?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You yield the floor?

10 RON WILSON: Yes, I do.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? How much
12 time, Mr. Martin?

13 TOM MARTIN: Forty seconds.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Forty seconds. The Chair
15 calls for the question on ordinance 2008-03. All in
16 favor please raise your hand. Oppose. The vote is
17 four and three with Greer, Waldrep and C. Wilson
18 dissenting. The motion passed. Resolutions.

19 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, may I just
20 make one quick comment on that to explain ...

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ---

22 BOB WALDREP: Waldrep. Bob. Just call
23 me Bob.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, time is up on
25 that issue. We need to stick to the agenda.

26 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 13-A, a resolution,
28 2008-01, a resolution encouraging the residents and
29 businesses of Anderson County to make every effort to
30 conserve water due to the drought conditions in
31 Anderson County and other matters thereto. Is there
32 a motion to -- the chair moves to consider. Is there
33 a second?

34 BILL MCABEE: Second.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
36 now in discussion.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
40 as I have read this, it seems that this is just a,
41 this is just a resolution asking the citizens and
42 businesses of Anderson County to make every effort,
43 this is not a mandate, that we conserve water. It
44 appears that other areas around us are doing it a
45 little different. We don't know if we're going to
46 ever have to come to that point where we're going to
47 have to mandate. But I want to give each of you a
48 copy of the drought control ordinance. We do have
49 one on the books. It dictates how, why, when and
50 where this drought control thing can be done in

1 Anderson County. I passed each one of you a copy of
2 this, excuse me, a copy of this so it can be studied
3 so that we will know what needs to be done in our
4 county in case this becomes so severe, so severe that
5 we don't have the water that we need in order to
6 exist. I hope it never comes to that. But just in
7 case it does, I just thought it would be good
8 information to have. I'm finished.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

10 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, just very
11 quickly.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: There is currently a bill
14 that will be going before the general assembly
15 regarding a water board that will be established, I
16 think, in the state, appointments made by the
17 Governor, the Senate and the House for the membership
18 of that particular board. But it is an effort to
19 address a lot of these matters also, Ms. Floyd,
20 having to do with water conservation. It's being
21 introduced by Senator Kevin Bryant and Representative
22 Don Bowen down there. So I will be glad to try to
23 share that information with the council as we see how
24 it's going. We plan to have some meetings down in
25 Columbia on that issue. But one thing I did want to
26 say to the council is I spend a fair amount of time
27 working on these water issues in the state. And we
28 always try to address them whenever there's a crisis.
29 But then when it starts to rain, the problem seems to
30 just start to go away. Of course, that's wonderful,
31 you know, when it does rain. But we really do need
32 to pay attention to this at this particular time and
33 try to resolve some rules and regulations and some
34 coordination throughout the state of South Carolina
35 with all the entities that have to do with the use of
36 water. Thank you.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin?
38 Two minutes. Anyone else?

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

40 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

42 CINDY WILSON: Just very briefly. I
43 agree with Ms. Floyd, in being outdoors and farming,
44 we have a serious drought. It's predicted that it's
45 going to be the worse this coming year than it's ever
46 been. The problem that we have now as opposed to the
47 1830s is that it was an agricultural phenomenon at
48 that time. Now we have a huge population to water in
49 addition to the agricultural phenomenon. So I'm
50 definitely in support of trying to take measures now

1 to mitigate any problems later. Thank you.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else. Chair
3 calls for the question. Ordinance -- I'm sorry,
4 resolution 2008-02 -- 002. Those in favor please
5 raise your -- I'm sorry. Mr. -- thank you, Mr.
6 Martin. We're voting on resolution 2008-01. All in
7 favor please raise your hand. The vote is seven, oh.
8 It passes unanimous. Resolution 2008-02, a
9 resolution requesting the cooperative efforts of
10 Anderson County economic development resources for
11 the promotion of equine related tourism and
12 development throughout Anderson County and other
13 matters thereto. Is there a motion to consider?

14 RON WILSON: Make a motion.

15 CINDY WILSON: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
17 second. We are in discussion.

18 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's customary to let the
20 sponsor go first. So Mr. Wilson.

21 RON WILSON: Thank you. This really
22 started with me last in our -- as far as the equine
23 promotion started when we had our retreat at the
24 museum last year. I believe Chairman Waldrep said
25 something about it. And I've talked recently with
26 several trainers that are considering relocating to
27 Anderson County. Also, just as a sort of interesting
28 fact, University of South Carolina's equestrian team
29 won, I think, a national championship this past year.
30 And the economic impact of the equine industry on
31 this state is enormous. And so this is just a
32 resolution to sort of give our economic development
33 team a little more push and commitment to do more of
34 this in our county. So I sincerely hope that this
35 passes.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

37 CINDY WILSON: Two quick questions and
38 then an amendment, please. What type of economic
39 incentives are we discussing and does this involve a
40 tax per animal?

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson, do you have a
42 ---

43 RON WILSON: Well, I mean, I think the
44 incentives and things would happen when there's an
45 offer made to somebody. You can't do that before you
46 get something already there.

47 CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make a motion
48 please for an amendment and if you want to pencil it
49 in please. I would like to recommend that we, in the
50 second paragraph down, after the economic advisory

1 board, collectively known as the economic development
2 group, add to it, the Anderson County Convention and
3 Visitor's Bureau and a board of appointed horsemen.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry, Ms. Wilson.
5 What paragraph are we at?

6 CINDY WILSON: Second paragraph down
7 below the heading.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The second whereas?

9 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Please continue.

11 CINDY WILSON: And at the number one at
12 the bottom of the page that -- and we'd also add that
13 wherever it says economic development group, we add
14 that in addition to the economic development group.
15 And then on number one, on the second line it says
16 work together to develop and implement, I would say,
17 and recommend to county council one or more plans for
18 attracting and promoting equine activities that will
19 use and expand so on and so forth. And we also add,
20 in addition to the economic development group, a
21 notation there, Anderson County Convention and
22 Tourism Board and a board of appointed horsemen. The
23 reason I'm saying this is that I've backed off my
24 horse activities with my child's health and so forth.
25 But our family farm produced the top field bred race
26 mare of the state at one point. We produced the top
27 confirmation three year-old in the country, numerous
28 winners on the track up and down the eastern seaboard
29 and in the show ring. And I'm here to say as a real
30 estate broker having worked with the top New York
31 breeding farms ---

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, please keep
33 your comments brief. We have five minutes.

34 CINDY WILSON: All right. Very quickly.
35 They're looking for taxes and they're looking at the
36 tax structure of the county, the quality of life,
37 very similar to what an industrial developer would
38 look for. They're not looking for special
39 incentives. They're looking for a good environment
40 and good stewardship of the tax money.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

42 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin?
44 One minute.

45 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

47 CINDY WILSON: I made the motion. We
48 haven't voted on my motion. I'm sorry.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're correct, Ms.

50 Wilson. We have a motion and was it seconded? Mr.

1 Waldrep seconds it. We're in discussion for the
2 amendment. Mr. Greer has called for the floor. You
3 have forty-five seconds.

4 LARRY GREER: I will be as brief as
5 possible. Ms. Floyd, when she was speaking about
6 Broadway Lake, talked about a diamond in the rough.
7 We have a diamond that's already polished at the
8 Anderson County museum, and that's the McGee harness
9 shop there. It's a vital part or could be a very
10 important part of incorporating this emphasis on the
11 equine industry in Anderson County. And I find it
12 interesting that tonight we hear the word quality of
13 life as we're trying to attract agricultural
14 communities. That's what the progress in Anderson
15 County have been all about. And that's improving the
16 quality of life in Anderson County. That's why we
17 have the civic center, the sports arena, all the new
18 libraries and everything, so that we can have the
19 quality of life to attract these type of things to
20 Anderson County. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time has been called. The
23 Chair calls for the question. We have an amendment
24 on the floor by Ms. Wilson to amend resolution 2008-
25 02. It was second by Mr. Waldrep. We're voting on
26 Ms. Wilson's amendment. All in favor of Ms. Wilson's
27 amendment, please raise your hand.

28 CINDY WILSON: Do we need to restate it?

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. All in favor of Ms.
30 Wilson's amendment, please raise your hand. Oppose.
31 The amendment fails. R. Wilson, McAbee, Floyd and
32 Thompson in the dissension. We're back to the
33 original resolution. All in favor of resolution
34 2008-002, please raise your hand. The vote is seven
35 and oh. 13-C, R2008-04, a resolution receiving,
36 accepting, approving and adopting the Anderson County
37 storm water manual pursuant to ordinance 2007-029 and
38 other matters thereto. The chair moves to consider.
39 Is there a second?

40 LARRY GREER: Second.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
42 now in discussion. Mr. Preston or Mr. Martin,
43 whichever.

44 JOEY PRESTON: I'd like to call on Mr.
45 Todd Davidson and Greg Smith to come forward. They
46 can answer any question concerning -- this is brought
47 back to council because you all asked it to be done.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Smith, you have the
49 floor.

50 GREG SMITH: Good evening, Mr. Chair

1 and members of council. Basically what we're
2 bringing to you tonight was --is our design manual
3 that we discussed at the -- in the readings of the
4 ordinance of the storm water ordinance and it was to
5 be made a resolution to govern what we have to do in
6 inspection and give our contractors, engineering
7 firms and all that guidance in what they're doing.
8 And basically the design manual is for -- the
9 technicalities of it are minimum requirements that
10 DHEC already had and we just basically went with
11 that.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I understand. So
13 we basically regurgitated state law. And a lot of
14 the information we already have was in the ordinance
15 when we passed it originally. Am I correct?

16 GREG SMITH: The technical side was not
17 in the ordinance.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But that comes from DHEC?

19 GREG SMITH: Yes, sir.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So there's nothing
21 new here? Is there anything new, Mr. Smith? No.

22 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

24 LARRY GREER: This is nothing that I
25 found fault with this plan. I called Mr. Smith this
26 afternoon and talked to him. On page twenty-four and
27 twenty-five there's some redundancy in a statement
28 that's made there that needs to be reworded. I guess
29 my question to Mr. Martin is, do we need an amendment
30 to change that language since we're approving this
31 resolution on a one time basis?

32 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

34 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Greer.

35 That would be appropriate. This will be a one-
36 reading resolution so any amendments would need to be
37 made at this time.

38 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, at this time
39 -- and Mr. Smith, you and Mr. Davidson can correct me
40 if I'm wrong. I move to amend the last sentence
41 which begins on page twenty-four and completes on
42 page twenty-five to read as follows. The
43 notification form in appendix B may be faxed to the
44 storm water manager at -- and that concludes the rest
45 of that sentence. That's in the form of a motion to
46 amend.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Twenty-four.
48 What paragraph?

49 LARRY GREER: The last paragraph, the
50 beginning of the last sentence.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The form of appendix B?
2 LARRY GREER: Uh-huh (affirmative).
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I see what's going
4 on.
5 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer has made a
7 motion to amend. Is there a second?
8 RON WILSON: Second.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to amend
10 and then a second. We are now in discussion
11 concerning the amendment.
12 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
14 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Are we amending or
15 correcting?
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Basically correcting.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. It's basically a
18 correction -- yeah, it's a correction more than an
19 amendment. That's the correction where it was
20 repeated twice and not completed so that's more of a
21 correction than it is an amendment.
22 LARRY GREER: Yes.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else. Is that
24 it? You yield?
25 GRACIE FLOYD: I yield.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You yield. How much time,
27 Mr. Martin?
28 TOM MARTIN: One minute.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?
30 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
32 LARRY GREER: I call for the question.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer called for the
34 question. We have a second by Mr. McAbee. All in
35 favor for the call for the question please raise your
36 hand. Oppose.
37 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Hold up. I'm
39 going to redo that vote. All in favor for the call
40 for the question, please raise your hand. Oppose.
41 Three. Okay. C. Wilson, Waldrep, and Floyd dissent.
42 The vote is four to three. So we do call for the
43 question. All in favor of ordinance -- amendment --
44 all in favor of the amendment that Mr. Greer
45 presented, please raise your hand. We're voting on
46 the amendment that Mr. Greer -- the vote is
47 unanimous. Okay. We're back to the original
48 resolution as amended by Mr. Greer. All in favor ---
49 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are voting.

1 CINDY WILSON: No, no, no.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of the
3 resolution ---
4 CINDY WILSON: No.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: As amended.
6 CINDY WILSON: Point of order.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you're out of
8 order.
9 CINDY WILSON: Had a call for the
10 question on the amendment. We're still in
11 discussion, aren't we?
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair is calling for
13 the question as amended.
14 CINDY WILSON: I asked for the floor
15 because there's ---
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair is calling for
17 the question. We are out of time. All in favor of
18 the resolution as amended by Mr. Greer, please raise
19 your hand. Oppose. Abstain. The vote is six, zero,
20 one with C. Wilson abstaining.
21 CINDY WILSON: May I have a point of
22 order, please?
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am. Item fourteen,
24 acceptance of Silverleaf Subdivision and Brookstone
25 Acres, phase two into the county road system. I have
26 provided for each member at your seat a list of roads
27 to be accepted. So at this time the chair moves to
28 accept into the county road system for the Brook
29 Acres Phase Two, Shoreline Drive. And I'm going to
30 do this in lump sum. In Silverleaf the roads are
31 Britten Street, Elizabeth Street, Laurens Court,
32 Laurens Drive, Leatherman Court, Meadow Creek,
33 Savannah Court, Savannah Drive, Wetland Way. Those
34 are the roads the chair moves to accept into the
35 county system. Is there a second?
36 RON WILSON: Second.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion -- we
38 have a second. We are now in discussion.
39 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
41 LARRY GREER: I'm just going to very
42 quickly ask Mr. Hopkins if these roads met all county
43 specs for draining and paving and so forth? Thank
44 you.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls
46 for the question. All in favor of accepting the
47 roads that I read off on the list into the county
48 system, please raise your hand. The vote is seven
49 and oh. Okay. Item 15, discussion of credit card
50 use and expenditures, Ms. Wilson. Fifteen minutes.

1 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 There's been a great deal of concern about this
3 throughout the county. It appears that we now have
4 ten First Citizens' credit cards, and this is derived
5 from the GLR110, eight Carolina First credit cards
6 and five Palmetto Bank credit cards. I have
7 requested the opportunity to come look at the credit
8 card expenditures and the backup starting on
9 September 25th going for the date -- for the time
10 period of May through that date. I've continued to
11 request the opportunity to simply come look at it for
12 many months. I want to point out to you what was
13 finally provided to me on November 20th, was twenty-
14 seven pages of only some of the credit card billing
15 statements. Do you all have your package in front of
16 you? There was a mistake in what's in the actual
17 agenda packet. So I'd like to call your attention to
18 what's been put in front of you. If anyone in the
19 audience does not have one and would like a set of
20 this, all they need to do is let us know at the end
21 of the meeting and we'll make sure you get one. But
22 of the twenty-seven pages, there were some anomalies,
23 so to speak. For example, there were many different
24 credit card limits ranging from twenty-five hundred
25 to five thousand dollars to seventy-five hundred to
26 twelve thousand five hundred to twenty thousand
27 dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars under First
28 Citizens. There were many redactions beyond what the
29 credit account numbers were, which apparently deleted
30 the employee's name, maybe the county department
31 number. There was absolutely no backup. Some of the
32 pages, the top of the page with the balance did not
33 match the total at the end of the page. There were a
34 number of credit cards in the twenty-seven pages
35 where there would be a second page noted at the end
36 of the first page, it would say page one of two, and
37 there would be no page two. During further review of
38 this, there appeared to be some duplications and the
39 duplications appeared to be -- it just didn't look
40 like a regular credit card billing statement. And
41 that's why I would like to look at the originals.
42 And I think that there have been a number of FOIs
43 from maybe media and certainly other council members
44 and citizens of the county requesting to come look.
45 It has been thrown back to me by our administrator
46 that he can't allow us to come look at these credit
47 cards because of the fear that these credit card
48 numbers will be made public. Well, that is a very
49 strange situation because this is the same
50 administrator who released all of our social security

1 numbers in error of the law in 2001-2002. When I
2 visited the credit card billing statements in January
3 of '06, there was no backup for department 5013,
4 which is our administrator's department, yet there
5 are frequently two and three thousand dollar bills
6 just to Sullivan's Grill, no backup, no receipts.
7 There is absolutely no business that I can think of
8 in this county, probably not in the nation, where you
9 have an employee given a credit card without a
10 procedure. And the usual procedure is that the
11 receipts are required after there's clearance of
12 perhaps, if it's a trip, and then there's backup with
13 the receipt of an explanation. If there's a meal,
14 then it would explain who was treated and for what
15 purpose. There would be an employee's name and a
16 department number because the credit card expenses
17 have to go to each department. For example, in the
18 administrator's department and a lot of the
19 departments across the county, there are separate
20 categories. There are categories for food,
21 categories for meals, categories for catering,
22 categories for travel, lodging, fuel and oil, so on
23 and so forth. And each of these would be put into
24 that category in a way -- I think there's an account
25 labeled credit card expenditures at the airport. So
26 these would be more properly kept into that one
27 particular category. This county also has a per diem
28 requirement. The first year I was on council, I took
29 the requisite trips of going to Washington, DC and
30 going to Hilton Head to make sure I was familiar with
31 my job and put names to the faces of who was who in
32 state and federal government. The per diem then and
33 now is twenty-eight dollars a day. Obviously when
34 you travel to those expensive locations you're going
35 to take a lot of money out of your pocket. Either
36 the state and the county needs to change the per diem
37 or we need to address how we can spend hundreds and
38 thousands of dollars on credit cards for meals in
39 this county in violation of per diem. But the
40 twenty-eight dollar meal allowance, that really
41 doesn't quite match the credit card expenditures.
42 The allowance is five dollars for breakfast, eight
43 dollars for lunch, fifteen dollars for dinner. And
44 lodging, there's specific language, we're expected to
45 stay at the standard medium priced hotels and motels
46 whenever possible. And of course if it's a
47 conference or seminar sometimes we would pay more if
48 our employees took part in a conference at a hotel
49 facility. In general, it says all travel must be
50 authorized by the department division head and be

1 within the budgeted dollars of that department or
2 that division. And it goes on, accordingly all
3 expenses must be supported by an expense report.
4 Travel expense report forms will be furnished by the
5 finance department. These forms must be used for all
6 travel reimbursements and filled out completely as
7 possible. I would invite you to look at the actual
8 expenses and see if we're following this. There's no
9 backup in the credit card files that we saw in 2006
10 except for a few in the economic development
11 division. I think the most troubling element was
12 that the director at the civic center was billing
13 lunches to Hooter's. And the concern there ---

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, do you have
15 any proof of that?

16 CINDY WILSON: Yes. It's in the file.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- I'm sorry --
18 Preston, can you respond to that?

19 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I believe the
20 civic center manager had a meeting with ...

21 PORTION OF VIDEOTAPE IS MISSING

22 JOEY PRESTON: ... They have pretty good
23 chicken there. I don't have any idea why. I think
24 you need to be more specific as to what, what -- your
25 charges and then we can provide that information to
26 you.

27 CINDY WILSON: I have been very specific
28 and you have yet to provide any backup. And this --
29 multiple times you've told me to provide you a list
30 of question.

31 JOEY PRESTON: You're soon going to have
32 that opportunity.

33 CINDY WILSON: I've provided you those
34 questions and I very rarely even get a response, much
35 less an answer.

36 JOEY PRESTON: I have a letter here, Mr.
37 Chairman, I'm going to pass out when Ms. Wilson
38 finishes. It goes -- it explains our policy. It
39 goes into great detail. I'll pass it out in just a
40 few minutes when she finishes.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, will you
42 please continue?

43 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. The files that
44 I was able to review in January of 2006 were
45 incomplete. As I said, the economic development
46 department 5031, did have some receipts for hotels
47 and some of the other meals that there were no backup
48 except for a few receipts here and there for some of
49 the other departments. And none whatsoever except
50 for the credit card billing statements in the

1 administrator's department. The extravagance that
2 you will note does not quite match. If you cross-
3 reference First Citizens to the GLR110 it appears
4 that we have ten credit cards and yet we've been told
5 we only have fourteen credit cards across the board.
6 There are, as I said, ten First Citizens in cross-
7 referencing with the GLR110, eight Carolina First and
8 five Palmetto Bank. There were no expenditures
9 listed for Palmetto Bank and yet a fair number of
10 them involving thousands of dollars which the
11 Palmetto Bank credit card is basically used by the
12 sheriff's department and the detention center. After
13 multiple requests we still have very little to look
14 at. I think my greatest fear in that we went -- Mr.
15 Waldrep and another couple of members of the media
16 and I walked into the finance department I believe
17 December 14th. We were not allowed to look at these
18 files. This is all public information. Even a
19 person off the street should be able to go look at
20 it.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Mr. Preston,
22 do you have a procedure for looking at files?

23 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. You would need
24 to, first of all, file an FOI if you're a citizen.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: If you're a county council
26 member?

27 JOEY PRESTON: You would need to follow
28 county protocol. You just can't walk up to a file
29 cabinet, open it up and start looking at it.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And protocol is?

31 JOEY PRESTON: County Council would need
32 to ---

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To go through you
34 basically?

35 JOEY PRESTON: And/or go before the
36 county council.

37 CINDY WILSON: I have been asking
38 multiple times in writing and verbally for the
39 opportunity to go look at it. I've even tried to
40 make an appointment multiple times with the
41 administrator. He continues to stonewall and say
42 that he's not available. And his presence is really
43 not necessary for me to go look at it. I'm sorry.
44 Were you wanting to say something, sir?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wait, wait, wait, wait.
46 Ms. Wilson, are you yielding to Mr. ---

47 CINDY WILSON: Temporarily.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

49 BOB WALDREP: Just one question. Mr.
50 Preston, what is the protocol, and is that a printed

1 protocol with regard to a sitting, elected member of
2 this council to see public records? You've conferred
3 with Mr. Martin now. Could you tell me what that is?

4 JOEY PRESTON: I believe that Mr. Martin
5 referred to the procedure for county council.

6 BOB WALDREP: And what does it say, Mr.
7 Martin? What is that protocol?

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

9 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Mr. Waldrep, the actual question Mr. Preston posed to
11 me is that state law and frugal rule that is state
12 law, members of county council may only talk to or
13 question members of the staff through the county
14 administrator. So the protocol is that all requests
15 to deal with county staff except in investigations
16 authorized by council, have to go through the
17 administrator. It's not county policy. It's state
18 law.

19 BOB WALDREP: You've interpreted it
20 state law, Mr. Martin. You are pronouncing that from
21 on high as a member of the count, I would imagine,
22 that's your interpretation of what state law is, that
23 a sitting council member cannot go in and have access
24 to the public records? Is that what you're saying?
25 I want to get you on record on this. Okay?

26 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

28 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, I've made no
29 assertion that I'm pronouncing from on high or that
30 I'm any kind of court. You asked me what my
31 interpretation was. There is a South Carolina
32 Supreme Court case directly on point that members of
33 county council deal with the staff of the county only
34 through the administrator. It's not my rule.

35 BOB WALDREP: What's the name of that
36 case?

37 TOM MARTIN: I don't happen to have
38 that written on my hand, but I'll be happy to provide
39 it to you. It's in the South Carolina Code
40 annotated. You may look it up.

41 BOB WALDREP: Well, thank you, as county
42 attorney, I appreciate that opportunity. But I'm
43 just really disturbed that we now have created a
44 situation where it takes virtually a majority of the
45 council in order for someone to be able to look at
46 public records. If that is the protocol, then that
47 protocol needs to be reexamined in some way, because
48 that keeps a minority of this council from looking at
49 public records and that's very distressing.

50 CINDY WILSON: May I have my floor back,

1 please, Mr. Chairman?

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time? Time has
3 expired. We are now in appointments. Members of
4 council, Mr. Waldrep, when he was chairman, made
5 several appointments and formed several committees.
6 If you served as a chairman on one of those
7 committees, please provide me a list of the committee
8 that you chaired and the members of that committee,
9 because I have like until next week to decide if I
10 want these committees. Is that right? If I want to
11 continue with these committees?

12 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to
13 research that. I don't know the answer.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Please provide me
15 with a list so I'll know what we have to work with.
16 Also, at this time, as the chairman of the -- as the
17 new chairman of the county council, I am appointing
18 myself to be the representative to the Chamber of
19 Commerce. And now I want to start at this end with
20 Mr. Wilson. Do you have any appointments?

21 RON WILSON: No, sir, I don't.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee?

23 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have no appointments
25 myself. Mr. Greer. Mr. Waldrep.

26 BOB WALDREP: (Inaudible).

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson, any
28 appointments?

29 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman? Mr.
30 Chairman?

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

32 BILL MCABEE: I believe you missed one
33 member of our council.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I did it again. I do
35 apologize, Ms. Floyd. Ms. Floyd.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: You picking on me?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am, I would never
38 pick on you. And I do apologize.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: I accept your apology.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Seriously, it's okay. Mr.
42 Chairman, I don't have an appointment, but I do have
43 something I'd like to say about appointments, and I
44 think it would fit right in this thing here, if I may
45 do so.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two minutes or less?

47 GRACIE FLOYD: One minute.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thirty seconds. We
50 need to have a printout of all the committees and all

1 of our appointments on it. And we need to have it
2 fixed so we will know when the time expires for each
3 person. We need to go ahead and make our
4 appointments to committees that we have not done so,
5 because this has gone on for a while now.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I believe ---

7 GRACIE FLOYD: And I thank you.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I believe, Ms. Eddleman,
9 don't you keep a notebook of the committees and who
10 we appointed? Will you make copies of that for each
11 council member to update us as to who we have and
12 when they expire?

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I would
14 further request that Mrs. Eddleman be given help to
15 do this. She is overloaded. And this information
16 should be given to us as soon as we possibly can, so
17 if we can have a volunteer -- not a volunteer -- an
18 intern to help her with this, we can get it quicker.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, can you
20 supply an intern?

21 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have an intern.
23 Thank you. Now we are at requests by council. Mr.
24 Waldrep, any requests?

25 BOB WALDREP: No.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, any requests?

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I received a letter
28 yesterday from the Free Clinic. The Free Clinic is
29 in dire need of funds to continue the work that they
30 do for the constituents, for our constituents in each
31 of our districts. Okay. So at this time from
32 District Two's account, because I know a lot of my
33 people utilize the services at this clinic, and I'm
34 so glad it is there for them, District Two will
35 appropriate one thousand dollars for the Free Clinic.
36 And I'm challenging each of you to do the same.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Out of which fund?

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Out of our rec fund.

39 BILL MCABEE: Second.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a motion and a
41 second. Any discussion? All in favor, please raise
42 your hand. The vote is unanimous. Any more, Ms.
43 Floyd?

44 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm through. Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 I have two requests tonight. One is to appropriate
48 five hundred dollars to the Free Clinic from the
49 district three recreation account and seven hundred
50 and fifty dollars to the Sons of the Confederate

1 Veterans camp through the appropriate agency for the
2 Battle of Anderson.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?
4 RON WILSON: Second.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
6 favor, please vote. Mr. Waldrep, are you voting?
7 BOB WALDREP: Yes.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The vote is
9 unanimous. Any more, Mr. Greer?
10 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee?
12 BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr.
13 Chairman.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair has none. Mr.
15 Ron Wilson?
16 RON WILSON: No, sir, Mr. Chairman.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Ms. Cindy
18 Wilson.
19 CINDY WILSON: None.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're at
21 administrative report. Mr. -- I have a comment. I
22 want to say congratulations to Mr. Derrick Singleton
23 who was named Waste Water Collection System Operator
24 of the Year. This award was given -- this award of
25 excellence he received on November the 14th, 2007, by
26 the South Carolina Rural Water Association at their
27 annual technical conference and show.
28 Congratulations, Mr. Singleton, we are glad and proud
29 that you are an employee of Anderson County. And
30 please pass on to Mr. Singleton my regards on that,
31 Mr. Preston. Do you have anything else?
32 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir, I want to
33 announce the dedication of Fire Station Bridge, Fire
34 Station Bridge Road, that's going to be at eleven
35 a.m. on January the 9th. The public works division
36 has just completed the construction of that bridge
37 and I would like to invite everyone to come out for
38 that. That's all I have, sir.
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Citizens comments,
40 other matters. We have people signed up, Mr. Martin?
41 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please.
43 Citizen agenda, meetings of county council are based
44 upon the representative form of government and are
45 regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
46 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizen agenda is
47 for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and
48 inputs and is not a time for debate, questions and
49 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
50 more than three minutes to address the county

1 council. You are asked to please refrain from
2 addressing members of the audience by name and also
3 members of the county staff. Please direct your
4 comments to the council chair. And also, according
5 to Robert's Rules, decorum of speech also applies.
6 That being said, Mr. Martin.

7 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

8 BROOKS BROWN: Good evening, Mr.
9 Chairman. Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake in District
10 One. As we start the new year, I read in the paper
11 that the paving accounts are insufficient to keep up
12 with the paving budget. I have said for several
13 years now, and I'll renew my call, that the council
14 should give up their individual paving accounts, put
15 it in one lump sum under the paving director, and
16 instruct him to institute a three year plan. It
17 doesn't make sense, especially with the skyrocketing
18 cost of petroleum, that we would only book enough tar
19 and oil for one year. Next year is going up, the
20 year after it's going up. Book it for three years,
21 lock it in. Is this going to be a permanent fix?
22 No. We're still gonna need help. But you don't need
23 to be concerning yourselves with paving. Let the
24 transportation director handle that. Keep your other
25 little slush fund if you like, but get rid of the
26 paving account, put it into one forum, and let's save
27 the county some money and keep my taxes low. Thank
28 you.

29 TOM MARTIN: Ed Jean.

30 ED JEAN: Again, good evening,
31 Chairman Thompson, council. Ed Jean from Crestview
32 Road, in the council district seven. It's obvious to
33 me that what I had said earlier about agenda item
34 number 15 and the situation that we're starting right
35 off our new year like last year ended. I certainly
36 would like to see county council really work together
37 in our forthcoming year. I'd also like to make a
38 suggestion while you're talking about boards and
39 everything and appointments. I would like to just
40 make a recommendation that we establish a citizens
41 financial advisory committee. I know last year there
42 was an attempt made by council to establish a council
43 financial team. And I did attend a meeting or two
44 and I think as we go into this new year, and I don't
45 think it's where I in particular or anyone else would
46 be looking forward to just getting a first hand look,
47 but I think there are people, citizens, just like
48 they perform a role in the airport committee, other
49 committees, citizens advisory group, ad hoc
50 committees, planning commission committees, I think

1 there could be a role for the proper selection of
2 people who are qualified to understand finances, have
3 not necessarily been CPAs but certainly have been
4 accountants for large corporations, etcetera, and
5 those who have been involved in business, to help try
6 to resolve this thing. It seems like we're starting
7 off again, and we seem to be spinning our wheels.
8 Somebody says this and somebody says that. We're
9 getting -- as we go in we'll be getting ready for the
10 presentation of the forthcoming budget. I really
11 feel that there are enough citizens out there, and
12 I'm not talking about a dozen, but I'm talking about
13 a half dozen or so, just kind of like you have set up
14 for the advisory group for the capital projects
15 commission, I think there are people who could do a
16 real good task that have the time, are willing to
17 make the effort to look into this, to try to help the
18 council. And so again, my suggestion would be, as we
19 approach the new year, for consideration be given to
20 forming a citizens advisory financial committee.
21 Thank you.

22 TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

23 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr.
24 Chairman. For my benefit, could you please reread
25 your little law up there about citizens comments?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Freemantle, as I said
27 earlier, decorum of speech does apply. Do not engage
28 in personalities. Please continue.

29 RICK FREEMANTLE: I did not engage in a
30 personality, sir. I asked you to please reread the
31 law so I didn't step outside the bounds of the law,
32 sir.

33 MIKE THOMPSON: (No verbal response).

34 RICK FREEMANTLE: Did you not hear me, sir,
35 Mr. Chairman?

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Freemantle, please sit
37 down.

38 RICK FREEMANTLE: No, Mr. Chairman, I have a
39 right to speak. I have three minutes. I'm a private
40 citizen. I asked you to please say the law one more
41 time so I don't step out of bounds of the law.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Freemantle, as I just
43 read before we began this section, this is not a
44 question and answer session. It's not for dialogue.
45 It is not a time for debate. It is for citizens
46 opinions, comments and input.

47 RICK FREEMANTLE: Thank you, sir.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please continue.

49 RICK FREEMANTLE: Thank you, sir. First of
50 all, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the previous

1 chairman for his service to our county. He tried his
2 best to bring civility back to our county. He acted
3 with honor and dignity. He showed us everything that
4 you aren't. I had a bet, sir, with someone who
5 thought that it would be April before we saw some
6 more infantile behavior out of this council.
7 Obviously they gave way too much credit. It's
8 obvious to me that you're still hunting terrorists.
9 The way Mr. Harvell was treated tonight will not
10 bring back a positive environment to Anderson. We
11 ask for an audit. That's what we want, is an audit.
12 We pay taxes in this county. We want to know where
13 our money goes. Plain and simple.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Remarks from
15 council. Ms. Wilson.

16 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you. I want
17 to point out that we have been way, way over budget
18 in meals, travel and lodging and economic
19 development, fuel and oil in the planning department,
20 lodging and meals in the transportation, roads and
21 bridges, multiple other departments. And this came
22 from the August general ledger report 65, which
23 brings up another issue. State law requires council
24 members to be given a monthly financial statement.
25 When was the last time that we had a monthly
26 financial statement? I think we were given one in
27 July and August, and I think that was the last one we
28 got. We're now at least four months behind in being
29 given a monthly financial statement. Could it be
30 because we were not given answers to the questions
31 that were raised concerning the last one in August
32 concerning serious price -- budget overruns. We have
33 in our agenda packet tonight, the total of a hundred
34 and thirty-nine thousand dollars in budget overruns
35 there. We were -- I've requested most recently,
36 December the 11th, the opportunity to come look, in
37 writing, at the credit cards. Our administrator
38 requested specific lists, and on page seventy-four of
39 our November 20th minutes he states that, if I give
40 him the specific lists then he will go to the
41 employees for the backup. You clearly heard the
42 policy, the personnel policy tonight, regarding what
43 our policies are regarding credit card use,
44 reimbursement and so forth, on those type of
45 expenditures. On the storm water issue, I've got a
46 big concern about that. Not because I'm not the main
47 one up here railing about a lot of storm water runoff
48 problems in the county. But because we've created a
49 manual that may not have been reviewed by all the
50 appropriate people in the county like our

1 homebuilders association, different contractor, to
2 make sure that they know what's in that manual. I
3 would highly recommend that since this now becomes
4 the law of the land that our county do a seminar for
5 all interested parties so that they will be familiar
6 with that particular document. I would like to also
7 point out that there has been, I think a SLED
8 investigation down in Dorchester County concerning
9 credit card usage in that county. When we can't look
10 at routine information -- this is not legal expenses,
11 y'all, this is credit cards. That in addition to the
12 legal expenses, this is really astonishing, that we
13 can't find what we're spending this money on. And I
14 totally agree with Mr. Jean about a citizens advisory
15 financial group. I think I made a motion concerning
16 that several years ago, and I think it was actually
17 approved, but I could never get our council to
18 implement that. Now would be an excellent time to do
19 that. We have so many wonderful expert people,
20 retired CPAs and tax attorneys and so forth in the
21 county that are very astute in this subject area that
22 would offer us a world of help and might make it a
23 lot easier for us to understand and participate in
24 the budget process ourselves. If we don't know how
25 we're spending, how in the world are we going to be
26 able to budget for spending? Thank you.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

28 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 I think I'm on. Okay. Just a couple of things. And
30 this is just food for thought for council, whoever
31 becomes chairman and whoever is chairman. I realize
32 that I ran probably a pretty lenient ship and there
33 are all different philosophies between a tight ship
34 and a lenient ship. But sometimes in running a ship
35 that's very tight, sometimes you may cut off debate
36 or an opportunity for someone that sincerely has
37 something that they would like to contribute, some
38 concern that they really have. So I just want to
39 suggest that you think about those matters. And I
40 know it's not easy sitting in that chair. Mr. Greer
41 told me one time, sitting in that chair is not all
42 that comfortable sometimes. So I just want you to
43 consider that, because we don't want to get into a
44 situation where we appear that we're punishing each
45 other in some way. And I don't think that's the
46 intent. But when you think about efficiency -- and I
47 know we're going to get out of here earlier and
48 that's great. But the most important thing to me is
49 the decisions that we make and the discussions that
50 we have and not necessarily the time that we leave.

1 We have to make -- put priorities on these things.
2 So I just suggest that as food for thought. And I
3 want to thank everyone for their kind words.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

5 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 I'll try to be brief tonight. Which is difficult
7 sometimes. I want to go back to the burn ordinance,
8 if I may. I understand the reasoning behind why this
9 ordinance is put forward, and I understand the
10 concern and the impact that it has on people in some
11 of the communities. But I'm going to ask all of my
12 fellow council members to look very carefully at what
13 we're doing. We're developing a trend of assuming
14 the responsibility of our state government, without
15 them sending the funds to help us pay for
16 implementing their laws. If the House of
17 Representatives and the South Carolina State Senate
18 wants to sit down there and pass these laws and
19 regulations and then they only want to fund two
20 enforcement people for two entire counties, maybe we
21 need to send them a very loud and clear message that
22 if you're going to pass these regulations step up to
23 the plate and provide the money to pay for it. We
24 hear our citizens talk about us having to raise taxes
25 and do these things. That's why it's being done in a
26 lot of cases, because the state, to use one of Mr.
27 Waldrep's words, is abdicating their responsibility
28 to fully fund the functions of government that
29 they're responsible for. And here we were tonight
30 about to take on another role and ask our county
31 citizens through their property taxes, which is the
32 only real source of revenue the county government has
33 to pay the cost of implementing this. Now I'm not
34 saying that it's good or bad. I'm saying the state
35 needs to step up to the plate and do its job. And
36 the county shouldn't be stepping in and trying to do
37 their job for them. I want to end my comments
38 tonight with this. I hope everybody in this room and
39 everybody listening in the newspaper and all the
40 people of the county, will ask yourself one question,
41 why are we doing what we're doing? I've been asking
42 myself that question. And I found an answer. And
43 that answer is, when I pick up my little
44 grandchildren and I get a hug around the neck, that's
45 why I'm doing it, folks. I'm not doing it to build
46 me up or build my ego or for that little dab of
47 money that goes with it. It has nothing to do with
48 money. But I have three sons and three daughter-in-
49 laws. Half of them work outside this county
50 everyday, on a daily basis, half of them. If we

1 don't, as a people, and I'm talking to everybody, if
2 we don't as a people stop this divisiveness that
3 exists in this county, if we don't stop it, my
4 grandchildren are going to have to move to Charlotte
5 or Atlanta, Columbia, Charleston, or somewhere like
6 that in order to get a good viable job that supports
7 a standard of living because the jobs will not be
8 here. It's time we quit focusing on the negative and
9 start focusing on the positive. The newspaper has
10 got to take a responsibility for this. They've got
11 to quit putting all the negative news on the front
12 page and burying the good news under the funny paper.
13 There's a lot of good things happening in this county
14 and it's time it was brought to the forefront. We've
15 got to dwell on the positive and not the negative.
16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I have several things. I want to tell you that this
20 month we will -- the gang task force will be hosting
21 a gang summit at the library to acquaint you with
22 what's going on here in Anderson County. I invite
23 all of you to be there. I invite you to come with
24 your questions. And come for an understanding of
25 what's happening right here in our county before it's
26 too late. We had an agricultural summit last week
27 and it was one of the best things that's ever
28 happened to Anderson County. And it's going to
29 afford us opportunities to do more for our
30 agricultural businesses and for our farmers. I
31 really want to thank Mr. Wilson who was instrumental
32 in getting this meeting done right here. I was proud
33 to be there. I wish that we all had been there. But
34 it wasn't a priority to some of us. Okay. But just
35 know that the majority of us were there. And we
36 believe -- we do believe in the efforts that Mr.
37 Wilson is trying to get done for our county. Number
38 three, I understand we have a new museum director.
39 Mr. Preston, I'm asking you, please have her to come
40 to the next meeting so that we can be introduced to
41 her. I know that we're going to see her on the 14th
42 or something like that, but the county, the county
43 needs to see her. And I hope we can get this done at
44 the next meeting. Congratulations goes to Brandon
45 Grace. Brandon is now the Upstate chairman of the
46 Carolina Farms Stewardship Association. Brandon, I'm
47 very, very proud of you. I always like it when
48 Anderson County shows up in front as a leader,
49 because I do believe that we are a town, a community,
50 a county of leaders. Poor leaders some, good leaders

1 some. But I do believe -- and when we do that I just
2 enjoy -- I really do like it. Brandon, I'm going to
3 ask you, please, this summer I would like to see a
4 voucher program for farmers. We didn't have it last
5 -- I mean, not farmers. I would like to see a
6 voucher program for agriculture. We did not have it
7 last summer, which was a shame. But I just want you
8 to do everything in your power this year to do it
9 because I will not take it lightly this summer
10 because there are too many people needing that.
11 Okay. And I just appreciate your help on that. Mr.
12 Preston, who will call the Broadway Lake Committee
13 meeting together? You're not ---

14 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am, I can do that
15 for you.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good. And the last
17 thing is, Mrs. Wilson made a comment that we are
18 grossly over budgeted for something another. I don't
19 want these comments to go unchallenged. If she's
20 telling the truth, I want it to be said she's telling
21 the truth. If she's not telling the truth, I want it
22 to be said, she is not telling the truth. That type
23 of misinformation, if it is, should not be allowed to
24 go over our airways unchallenged. It should not.
25 People are sitting at home and they're listening to
26 us. And they say, well, nobody says anything.
27 Silence means it's right. Silence means consent. So
28 from this time on forward, Mr. Preston, Ms. Gina,
29 Holt Hopkins, Greg Smith, everybody in here who works
30 for this council, works for this county under the
31 direction of Mr. Greer ---

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's not easy, is it?

33 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm sorry, Mr. Greer and
34 Mr. Preston. But all of y'all, if it's not right I
35 want you to stand up and say it's not right.

36 JOEY PRESTON: Can I answer the ---

37 GRACIE FLOYD: If it is right, I want you
38 to stand up and say, she's right. But we've got to
39 stop this misinformation. Yes, Mr. Preston. May I
40 do that, Mr. Chairman?

41 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Greer, may I talk?

42 GRACIE FLOYD: You may talk.

43 JOEY PRESTON: Just to answer your
44 question, I had the finance staff run some numbers
45 for last year for the budget period July 1 through
46 June 30, 2007, for funding that was budget, approved
47 by council, and all in the general fund for meals,
48 travel and lodging. All totals we were only seventy-
49 one -- seventy-two percent of our overall budget.
50 This year we are at -- it's January, we are at forty

1 point eighty-seven percent. And during the course of
2 the year we may have a line item that may go over,
3 but that's -- it's adjusted as you go along through
4 the year. And we're not over budget.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't hear you.

6 JOEY PRESTON: We are not over budget.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: One more time for the

8 people.

9 JOEY PRESTON: We are not over budget.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: We are not over budget.

11 And I just thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you,
12 Mr. Preston and Mr. Greer.

13 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, those

14 figures came from the ---

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you do not
16 have the floor. Mr. McAbee.

17 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
18 and I appreciate Ms. Floyd for asking those questions
19 about the overages alleged in the economic
20 development office. We've been sitting here for some
21 time listening to a council member read from a credit
22 card ledger and ask questions and allege that our
23 economic development office is over budget on meals
24 or travel or entertainment or whatever, lodging. And
25 one of the things I was thinking about is what do we
26 get for our economic development money? And the
27 Anderson County Workforce Center paid twelve million
28 five hundred thousand dollars in calendar year 2004
29 in unemployment benefits. That's an average cost of
30 two thousand ninety-seven dollars for every
31 unemployed person in 1994. I mean, excuse me, 2004.
32 In 2004 Anderson County had an average of fifty-nine
33 hundred and sixty unemployed people on record. The
34 unemployment rate was over seven percent. By 2007 we
35 had an average of forty-nine hundred and sixty
36 unemployed people on the records. And based on the
37 amount of two thousand ninety-seven dollars of direct
38 unemployment benefits, Anderson County has saved more
39 than two million and ninety-seven thousand dollars
40 for the taxpayers of this state by the efforts of our
41 economic development office, in addition to bringing
42 the average hourly industrial wage up to thirteen
43 dollars and twelve cents. We've had a growing
44 workforce. Average monthly employment in 2004 was
45 seventy-seven thousand people. It's now eighty-one
46 thousand people. That means Anderson County has
47 added four thousand jobs in that period of time.
48 What's the explanation? We've had partners. The
49 Center for Accelerated Technology Training, CAT, the
50 Employment Security Commission and their WorkLink,

1 Anderson County Economic Development office staff and
2 their board, the administrator and this council.
3 This represents a significant return on investment.
4 The cumulative effect over time of a dollar invested
5 in the Economic Development Office returns twenty
6 dollars and forty-three cents to this county based
7 upon the savings in unemployment, additional people
8 on payroll, and additional property on the tax base.
9 It takes teamwork. It takes teams to bring jobs to
10 Anderson County, creating unemployment for the
11 previous -- creating employment for the previously
12 unemployed. Anderson County Economic Development and
13 Anderson County Council work together to bring high
14 wage jobs to citizens of this county. South Carolina
15 Employment Security Commission assists us. When I
16 was first elected I campaigned on a platform of
17 economic development and support for public safety.
18 It's something I've believed in and something I've
19 spent a lot of time with this county. I spent ten
20 years on the County Economic Development Board and
21 I've spent my own money in pursuit of industry for
22 this county. It is disappointing to have a shadow of
23 suspicion thrown over the good work of this council,
24 the administration and the economic development
25 office. When industry comes to Anderson County, in
26 most cases, confidentiality is required because of
27 the very sensitive nature of the information shared
28 by these industries. It is not, it is not a secret
29 that Anderson County has had shots at companies like
30 BMW and Rolls Royce and the lack of confidentiality
31 has hurt us in both cases. Mr. Chairman, in closing
32 I would just like to say that there's little that
33 this county does, little that this council does that
34 is as important, and it is also one of those things
35 that we must seek to earn and keep the trust of those
36 industries that look at us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

38 RON WILSON: I completely concur with
39 the comments made by my two colleagues. We must not
40 allow these accusations to go unchallenged at any
41 level. And they've already enumerated all these
42 things. But I do want to say that all too often
43 we've seen county employees berated and attacked from
44 this council last year. And I want to say -- it's
45 already been said once tonight, but Brandon Grace did
46 a fabulous job with the Ag seminar this weekend. And
47 he put a lot of work into it. And it was only --
48 somebody mentioned my name. I had very little to do
49 with it. He spent hours putting this together, and
50 it was an amazing success to watch people come to our

1 county in the area of sustainable agriculture. And I
2 want to say, Mr. Chairman, I'm glad you're here. For
3 the first time we're gonna get out of here in around
4 three hours, and I don't think we did that last year
5 at any time. So I welcome this new era, and I look
6 forward to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. In my closing
8 remarks, as I said at the beginning of this session,
9 this is a legislative meeting. This council is an
10 elected body. We are governed by ordinance and
11 parliamentary procedures and we will follow those.
12 And this is my first meeting. There's some learning
13 here. But we survived. Just hang in there.
14 Regarding the open burning ordinance that I took off
15 the agenda, this is the culmination of over a year's
16 work that I have done with my task force, the open
17 burning task force. This task force was formed over
18 a year ago because one of my constituents called me.
19 I could hear her wheezing over the phone. She told
20 me within the last month she has been in the hospital
21 twice because of her neighbors burning leaves,
22 whatever. Add that to the fact that we are in non-
23 compliance with DHEC and EPA and -- not DHEC -- the
24 EPA lowers the hammer on us because of air quality,
25 economic development will go away. That is the
26 concern of mine. So that is what brought that about.
27 I thank everyone for coming. This meeting is
28 adjourned.

29
30 Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – January 15, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson - District #5, Presiding
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Will the January 15, 2008
2 county council meeting please come to order? Okay.
3 First of all, under the call to order, I need to
4 amend the agenda. An electronic communication was
5 sent to Ms. Eddleman, and it arrived today. So Mr.
6 McAbee was inadvertently left off the agenda. So at
7 this time, the chair moves to amend the agenda to
8 allow Mr. McAbee to speak for ten minutes as item
9 number ten on economic development. Is there a
10 second?

11 BILL MCABEE: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
13 discussion. All in favor, please vote. The vote is
14 seven and oh. Mr. McAbee, you will be item number
15 ten on the agenda. Also, I requested that all
16 council members bring their calendars tonight. We
17 will have a workshop to discuss our external audit on
18 February the 28th which is on a Thursday, beginning
19 at nine a.m. Location to be determined. That is
20 open to the public. The public is invited to attend.
21 Media will be invited and all the necessary FOI stuff
22 will be taken care of. Ms. Floyd.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: I'd like to -- February
24 the 28th, is that engraved in stone? Are we going to
25 have to do it on this date?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am. It's not
27 engraved in stone. Is there a problem with the 28th?

28 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Yes, ma'am.

30 CINDY WILSON: No problems that I can
31 tell on my end, but I request that I have a copy of
32 the audit at least a week in advance of this meeting.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Well, I ---

34 CINDY WILSON: We should be able to have
35 them now.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. That is my
37 plan. We will have a copy, hard copy, in advance. I
38 will ask the members of council to review the audit.
39 You'll have a little over a week from my
40 anticipation. Come to the meeting prepared to ask
41 questions.

42 CINDY WILSON: You know, come to think of
43 it we should be able to get it now. So could we get
44 it right away and then ---

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I don't think it's ready
46 now. It's not ready now. But you would -- you will
47 have a copy in advance prior to this meeting.

48 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. February 28th.
50 Nine a.m. Location to be determined. But it's not

1 etched in stone. So... But I need to know quickly
2 so that we can go ahead and make a ---

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, if I'm the only one
4 that have a conflict on that day then I will work
5 with the council and make other arrangements with my
6 conflict.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Where's it going to be
9 held? Did you tell us?

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Where's it going to be
12 held?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To be determined.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh. Excuse me.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To be determined. Okay.
16 We are ready for invocation and pledge. Mr. Larry
17 Greer.

18 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I've already offered a prayer to the God that I
20 worship in my office. Would you join me at this time
21 in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag?

22 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Martin,
24 citizens comments. How many and ...

25 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 There are two citizens under agenda matters. Leroy
27 Walls.

28 LEROY WALLS: Mr. Chairman, county
29 council, I appreciate you letting me speak. Tonight
30 I'd just like to try to get y'all to get along a
31 little better. Last week with all the back and forth
32 about extending time, I think you're going to vote on
33 it tonight, and when you go to vote for it remember
34 the time that needs to be extended may be yours next
35 time. So you need to try to work with who needs time
36 extended this time where you'll have the same
37 courtesy next time. And I appreciate that. We sat
38 out here in the audience last meeting and Mr. Preston
39 answered, there's a certain form, you come to his
40 office, fill out the form, put in our request, sign
41 it, he would get the information to you. So instead
42 of letters and calls and everything, that should
43 work. If you'd just go and get the form from him, I
44 believe he would assist you. I've had an extensive
45 conversation with him and I believe he can get the
46 information you want. And I appreciate that. And on
47 the thing about the impact fee, I'm glad to see I
48 think you're doing away with it. That's pretty stout
49 in trying to get business in Anderson County such as
50 Volkswagon looking at the Upstate right now. That

1 would be the main thing that runs 'em, other than BMW
2 went. I appreciate your time and thank you for all
3 you do.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Walls,
5 what district are you in? County council district?

6 LEROY WALLS: My name is Leroy Walls. I
7 live on Piedmont Road, Piedmont. I'm in Ron Wilson's
8 district.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

10 TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

11 STEVE POPE: Steve Pope. Bellview
12 Estates, county council district one. Mr. Chairman,
13 members of council, I'm here to address ordinance
14 2008-009. And I would like you -- I think it's a
15 good ordinance, but I would like you to make the
16 following changes. In the sentence that begins in no
17 event shall discussion of any topic exceed that time
18 so allotted unless approved by a majority vote of
19 those present or voting or forty-five minutes unless
20 approved by every member of county council in
21 attendance, whichever is less, be replaced with the
22 following, in no event shall discussion exceed the
23 time so allotted unless approved by a majority vote
24 of those present and voting. Period. New sentence.
25 The maximum time for any discussion on any topic
26 shall be forty-five minutes. Period. New sentence.
27 Should circumstances warrant an extension beyond
28 forty-five minutes, it should require a unanimous
29 vote by the Anderson County council. The proposed
30 change reflects the change in the language for
31 clarification purposes and avoids confusion from the
32 current wording of the proposal under consideration
33 by striking out, unless approved by every member of
34 council in attendance, whichever is less. This
35 language should be removed because it is confusing
36 and irrelevant to the proposal under consideration.
37 Also on the resolution 2008-006, one question that we
38 do need to ask is, I do remember at one time district
39 two was quite vibrant. But for some reason, a lot of
40 businesses were closed. And we need to find out why
41 so many businesses have left that area. I remember
42 one time, Crossroads Plaza was a very busy place.
43 Now it's practically all closed. Why are all the
44 businesses leaving? What's the cause? Thank you.

45 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46 Those are the only citizens under agenda matters.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

48 Item four, economic development announcement.

49 Resolution R2008-003. I'm going to make a motion to
50 consider so we can get it on the floor for discussion

1 and Ms. Jones and Mr. Preston can make their
2 announcement under discussion. So at this time the
3 chair moves to consider resolution R2008-003. I need
4 a second.

5 CINDY WILSON: Second.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
7 now in discussion. Mr. Preston and Ms. Jones, please
8 come forward.

9 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to
10 ask Mr. Burris Nelson who is our commercial
11 development specialist to come forward to make a
12 presentation.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Nelson. Please turn
14 off all electronic devices, phones, cell phones,
15 anything like that. Mr. Nelson.

16 BURRIS NELSON: Thank you, Chairman
17 Thompson. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to
18 be here. And members of council as well, thank you
19 for allowing us the opportunity. We bring before you
20 today for your consideration and we bring as that --
21 we bring this as a recommendation from the office of
22 economic development, a wonderful commercial
23 opportunity for Anderson County. It's a twenty-eight
24 million dollar project, approximately four hundred
25 and fifty jobs, a hundred and seventy-one thousand
26 cubic square feet of floor space and commercial floor
27 space and retail, bringing four high-end retailers.
28 We've had a number of phone calls especially about
29 one of these retail shopping opportunities. The
30 second great and wonderful thing that I think is
31 important about this project is that our economic
32 development opportunity for this was brought to us by
33 the city. This is a joint venture with the City of
34 Anderson. The developer was coming to a location
35 inside the city limits and the City of Anderson came
36 to Anderson County and worked with our economic
37 development office and as a joint venture, we pulled
38 this project together and brought the project to
39 fruition and brought it to its completion. Well, to
40 the point that it is at this time. But we think it's
41 great. We think it's a worthy project. Our
42 recommendation to council for your approval is a
43 multi-county industrial park with a SSRC and an
44 incentive to generate funds from their own tax
45 dollars, not new tax dollars.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Burris, you say that
47 this project would create five hundred and three
48 thousand dollars and one hundred and thirty-three --
49 five hundred and three thousand one hundred and
50 thirty-three dollars tax revenue. It's in a multi-

1 county industrial park. The county would get thirty
2 percent of that. Is that correct?

3 BURRIS NELSON: That would be correct.
4 That's an annual amount, that's an approximation.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's roughly a hundred
6 and fifty-one thousand dollars for the county.

7 BURRIS NELSON: That's correct.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But on the other hand,
9 we're giving twenty percent SSRC, one hundred
10 thousand six hundred and twenty-six dollars. The
11 county pays thirty percent of that. Is that correct?

12 BURRIS NELSON: That's correct.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So that's thirty thousand
14 one hundred and eighty-seven dollars. So the net to
15 the county is one hundred and twenty thousand
16 dollars, thereabout.

17 BURRIS NELSON: That's correct. That's
18 for a ten year period.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

20 CINDY WILSON: Yes.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

22 CINDY WILSON: What portion of that goes
23 to the school district number five?

24 BURRIS NELSON: Approximately seventy
25 percent of that five hundred thousand goes to schools
26 and that would leave about three hundred and fifty
27 thousand and a portion of that would come out just
28 like the portion from the county.

29 CINDY WILSON: And what would the taxes
30 have been, the collections have been without this
31 multi-county park designation?

32 BURRIS NELSON: The same amount.

33 CINDY WILSON: So that's what it is
34 regardless.

35 BURRIS NELSON: That's right. Under the
36 multi-county park law, state law, the millage rate
37 doesn't change. It's whatever it is set each year.
38 And it's based on that millage rate each year that
39 passes, however that's set, whatever that amount is.

40 CINDY WILSON: Were any of these
41 incentives offered to our existing stores like Target
42 and Lowe's and the Simon shopping center?

43 BURRIS NELSON: They came to the city with
44 their requests for incentives at that particular
45 time. They were looking for a number of things, but
46 the city did offer them an infrastructure credit
47 incentive.

48 CINDY WILSON: And I found the wording on
49 this kind of interesting. Anything I'm asking, I
50 want to preface that these folks and their

1 development are most welcome. I'm sure my daughter
2 and I will be among the first to go there.

3 BURRIS NELSON: I hope so.

4 CINDY WILSON: But there was wording on
5 one of the whereases, and it says that this project
6 will benefit the general public welfare of the county
7 and the city by providing services and shopping
8 opportunities, creation and retention of substantial
9 employment, recreation tax base, public
10 infrastructure or other public benefits not otherwise
11 provided locally. What benefits would not be
12 provided locally?

13 BURRIS NELSON: Those particular shopping
14 opportunities. These are all new shopping venues for
15 Anderson County. There's not a repetition of a
16 particular -- for example, there are Walgreen's
17 pharmacies scattered around the county which we
18 certainly appreciate that opportunity for them to be
19 here. But these are all new to Anderson County.

20 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

22 LARRY GREER: Thank you. Mr. Nelson,
23 you said this would have a hundred and seventy-one
24 thousand square feet of floor space. Is that
25 correct?

26 BURRIS NELSON: Yes, sir. And actually
27 there's some anticipation that they may increase by
28 an additional amount. There's a new wrinkle that's
29 come about and it looks like it's going to grow a
30 little bit.

31 LARRY GREER: Okay. My question is if
32 we're offer this commercial -- prepared to offer this
33 commercial development some type of incentive
34 package, how would we deal with the cost of the
35 impact fees on an establishment of this size? Doing
36 some quick calculations if my memory serve me
37 correct, the impact fee on this building would be in
38 excess of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars on
39 that one building. So how would we deal with that if
40 we had the impact fee ordinance in place at this
41 time?

42 BURRIS NELSON: This particular project
43 asked for impact fee relief from the city. And they
44 received a portion of that. And it would impact this
45 project substantially in their development and the
46 cost of it. They had the actual infrastructure needs
47 that exceeded, far exceeded their first proposed
48 thoughts. And that's why they came to us about the
49 incentives, the city and the county.

50 LARRY GREER: Okay. My question is if

1 we had a mom and pop grocery store that wanted to
2 open somewhere and they asked for the relief from the
3 impact fees, how would we approach that?

4 BURRIS NELSON: Our incentives and
5 guidelines are based, and we've given council some
6 idea about guideline, but that whole thought for
7 guideline and incentive is based on our looking for
8 economic development as well as for planning to bring
9 good, clean high-end development with some planned
10 thought instead of helter skelter development. So
11 we're incentivising those who will bring substantial
12 capital investment, create substantial numbers of
13 jobs and bring to our community a clean, planned,
14 well-organized kind of development.

15 LARRY GREER: So what you're telling me
16 then is if we had a development of this size and the
17 impact fee was in place that there would be a move to
18 give them some relief from the impact fees?

19 BURRIS NELSON: Yes, sir. There is a
20 substantial cost to that kind of project. I mean
21 you're talking a half a million dollars. That would
22 substantially impact the profit opportunity for them
23 and it may actually send them to another location.

24 LARRY GREER: But at the same time we
25 would be charging everyone else.

26 BURRIS NELSON: I understand that.

27 LARRY GREER: Yes, sir. Thank you.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, how much time?

30 TOM MARTIN: Six and a half minutes.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'm having
33 some sincere concerns about this entire thing. It
34 sounds like a good project.

35 BURRIS NELSON: It is a good project.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: It sounds like a good
37 project. We don't know if it is or not right now.
38 But it sounds as if it's a good project and one that
39 could benefit Anderson County as well as benefit the
40 city. But I have some major concerns, and if I had
41 to vote on this at this time, I don't think I could
42 vote the way ... I didn't want to have to go into
43 this, into the whole thing, but I think I'm going to
44 have to. We have over five thousand citizens in
45 Anderson County who are paying the city double water
46 fee in the county. They pay twice what city people
47 have to pay. These people have been here. They are
48 Anderson citizens. They worked here. They have been
49 here for a long time, and yet they're having to pay
50 this fee without any representation on the city.

1 Shopping centers come and shopping centers go. We
2 are prepared -- the city is prepared to give these
3 people a break in their water, tap-on fees, while
4 five thousand people aren't getting that break. We
5 have -- this entity is going to provide four hundred
6 and fifty jobs which is a good thing, but we're
7 talking five thousand plus people in Anderson County
8 who are paying double water rates. I can't see how
9 that's going to even out. I don't see how that's
10 going to even out. So what I'm going to ask is let's
11 talk about this a little more. We have a meeting
12 coming up soon with the city. We have a city/county
13 meeting every so often and I feel like -- I think we
14 have one coming up. I want to take this back to the
15 table. I want to take it back to the table, to the
16 city and I want to say what can we do about this?
17 We've been to the table with them before and we got
18 nowhere. And now they're asking me to vote for
19 district -- they're asking me to vote on behalf of
20 district two to give these other people a fifty
21 percent discount -- I don't know if I'm saying that
22 correctly or not -- on tapping fee. And the little
23 lady who called me and said that she's an old lady,
24 she's a widow woman, she's paying eight dollars a
25 month for water. One person. Before I can do this,
26 I've got to do -- I have to get my conscience and my
27 heart straight. And right now it's not straight.
28 Fellow council members, I'm voting that we table this
29 until we can have a meeting to sort these things out.
30 That's in the form of a motion. Thank you.

31 BILL MCABEE: Second.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
33 floor to table. We have a second. All in favor of
34 tabling resolution 2008-003, please raise your hand.
35 The vote is seven to oh. Unanimous. Thank you, Mr.
36 Nelson.

37 BURRIS NELSON: Thank you.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number five, Keep
39 America Beautiful awards. Ms. Michelle Strange.
40 Five minutes. I didn't do it.

41 MICHELLE STRANGE: The second award -- ooh.
42 It's on now. Sorry about that. The second award,
43 best beautification and community improvement award,
44 second place in the nation. This award was
45 recognized -- we were recognized with this award for
46 beautification efforts at exit fourteen, exit
47 nineteen and the beautification of the median on Mall
48 Road. The third award was the 2007 Presidential
49 Circle Award. Only about half of the nearly six
50 hundred affiliates in the U.S., Canada and Puerto

1 Rico earned the standing of the Presidential Circle
2 so we're proud of that. The fourth award was the
3 2007 Honda Road to a Cleaner America. This award was
4 a little special because it came with a big fat
5 check. We're very excited. We won a four thousand
6 dollar prize from Honda. This happened because our
7 volunteers reported their progress and we had the
8 highest of any affiliate in the nation between March
9 and May when the great American Clean-Up is
10 occurring. We had the highest number of streets,
11 roads and highways cleaned in the nation. And that
12 was ten thousand and seven hundred miles cleaned
13 during those three months. So we're very excited
14 about the community really taking responsibility,
15 keeping things clean and reporting those numbers to
16 us. The final award was a state award, but we're
17 still proud of it. It also came with a check. We
18 received the 2007 grant from the South Carolina
19 Forestry Commission for thirty-nine hundred dollars.
20 And you will very, very soon be seeing the fruits of
21 that check. We will be pruning -- we're taking all
22 of the lights out of the trees in the courthouse
23 square. All of those trees are going to be limbed up
24 and properly pruned by certified arborists. We'll be
25 offering a tree pruning class to the public and to
26 municipal employees. We've done some Arbor Day tree
27 plantings. We're also going to be using that to do a
28 green space and park assessment tool in training
29 volunteers that will be both in the City of Anderson
30 as well as Anderson County. So all of those things
31 are, I guess, fruit of the work by the volunteers and
32 the board members during 2007, and we're happy to
33 present these to you today.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Strange.
35 And on behalf of the county council, we thank you.
36 We thank the Keep America Beautiful for all they do
37 for Anderson County. I appreciate all you do for
38 Anderson County. And I try my best to support you
39 and attend your luncheons and ... Yes. It is
40 already on my calendar, but sincerely, thank you for
41 all you do. And I'm glad to hear that you're
42 planting trees. Thank you.

43 APPLAUSE

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, do we have any
45 more time left?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have any more time
47 left? You have two minutes.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: I'll just use thirty,
49 thirty seconds of that.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. But we need to
2 commend Michelle Strange for the work that she does
3 on that Keep America Beautiful project. I am one of
4 the beginning negative persons. At the beginning I
5 just couldn't understand it. I just couldn't see it.
6 But now I don't see how we could ever live without
7 it. And she has done an excellent job. And I would
8 like to commend her from district two.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Moving on to item
10 6A, ordinance's second reading. Ordinance is 2008-
11 002, an ordinance amending chapter fifty-eight of
12 Anderson County Code of Ordinance pertaining to solid
13 waste and other matters thereto. The chair moves to
14 consider ordinance 2008-002. Is there a second?

15 BILL MCABEE: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It was second. We are now
17 in discussion. It's customary to let the sponsor go
18 first, and that's me. What I'm doing here is adding
19 the disabled veterans, firefighters and police
20 officers to the solid waste ordinance so that they
21 can get the discount without having to file double
22 application for that. And that's the motive behind
23 that. Mr. Waldrep.

24 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I just wanted to make sure that in this ordinance
26 that we had put to rest the exceptions for the
27 veterans as it -- I think it's -- what is it, a
28 twenty dollar increase that we have here? How much
29 ---

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're giving them a twenty
31 dollar decrease.

32 BOB WALDREP: Decrease.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Decrease.

34 BOB WALDREP: Decrease. Okay. And so
35 that's -- my question is has that been coordinated.
36 Is everybody happy, Mr. Martin, with that being
37 coordinated with the auditor's office and the
38 treasurer's office so that they -- I guess what my
39 question is the mechanics of how this is working out
40 because we kept getting questions about that over the
41 last couple of terms. Mr. Martin, can you answer
42 that question?

43 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. I think. Mr.
44 Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

46 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep,
47 to the best of our ability, it has been worked out.
48 We were unaware that -- there are two separate
49 exemptions for payment of property taxes in South
50 Carolina. There's the homestead exemption, and then

1 there's a completely separate one that allows the
2 three classes we're talking about now to get a total
3 exemption from taxes. When we first did this we
4 worked with the county elected officials to find out
5 how can we implement this. And it was suggested that
6 we use the homestead exemption which made sense. But
7 we found out later that some -- that the people who
8 qualified for the second exemption, which is much
9 better, frequently don't apply for the homestead
10 exemption. And so when that was brought to our
11 attention, we went back to the elected officials and
12 said, is there any problem, do we already have that
13 on the computer records? And the answer is yes. And
14 so what we've done is simply take state law, and the
15 only two exemptions which are allowed under state
16 law, one is partial for homestead, and the other is
17 complete for these three classes of people. And
18 those are already a part of the computer records of
19 the county. So it really is just a matter of
20 tripping the computer. If you qualify for the state
21 exemption, then you're going to qualify for the
22 reduced fee. So at that point it's just a matter of
23 programming the computers.

24 BOB WALDREP: Do I understand that when
25 you say these people, are we talking about
26 individuals or are we talking about entities,
27 firefighting entities?

28 TOM MARTIN: It is individuals.

29 BOB WALDREP: Individual firemen?

30 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

31 BOB WALDREP: So if you're a fireman you
32 don't pay?

33 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. And the
34 qualification for this second one, the new one that
35 we're talking about is, you have to be one hundred
36 percent permanently disabled. And so if they fill
37 out the paperwork for that, then they don't have to
38 fill out the paperwork for homestead exemption. You
39 would get it under either qualification.

40 BOB WALDREP: All right. Well, I just
41 hope you can stay in touch with the people who have
42 to implement this. Those are the questions that I
43 hopefully worked through on this. Thank you. That's
44 all.

45 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

47 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. The part of
48 this dealing with the fees, I have no problem with,
49 except for the statement after it says the fees in
50 this -- the fees addressed in this section may be set

1 or changed by simple vote of county council. And
2 then it says, and will be adjusted by the county
3 administrator and the environmental services director
4 of the county to reflect but not exceed cumulative
5 changes in the consumer price index for urban areas.
6 And it goes on. So that kind of contradicts a little
7 bit in my mind, it says that while we're in charge of
8 setting the fee or changing it, the administrator and
9 environmental services director may change reflecting
10 the CPI. And I think that it would be -- the
11 citizens would be better served if the administrator
12 and the environmental services director made
13 recommendations reflecting the CPI to county but that
14 the county council should make the adjustments, to
15 vote on the adjustments. Am I the only one who sees
16 that as our proper job in this?

17 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, if that were
18 in the form of a motion ---

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, are you
20 yielding to Mr. Waldrep?

21 CINDY WILSON: Temporarily please.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

23 BOB WALDREP: She asked a question, and
24 if she had that in the form of a motion, I would say
25 I would second it.

26 CINDY WILSON: Well, may we consider this
27 in the form of a motion?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion on
29 the floor. Mr. Waldrep is seconding. Please restate
30 your motion, Ms. Wilson. I'm sorry. Motion to
31 amend.

32 CINDY WILSON: Okay. On page two after
33 the sentence stating that the fees addressed in this
34 section may be set or changed by simple vote of
35 county council, I move that we state that
36 recommendations to reflect but not exceed cumulative
37 changes in the consumer price index for urban areas
38 may be made by the county administrator and the
39 environmental services director to county council for
40 their approval.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. That is Ms.
42 Wilson's motion to amend.

43 LARRY GREER: Can she repeat it?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Mr. Greer is
45 asking that you repeat that one more time. On page
46 two, second paragraph.

47 CINDY WILSON: Right. Put a period after
48 simple vote of county council. And the next sentence
49 should state -- and if y'all think it's clumsy we'll
50 certainly be able to adjust, but recommendations for

1 adjustments to reflect but not exceed cumulative
2 changes in the consumer price index for urban areas
3 may be made by the county administrator -- will be
4 made, excuse me, by the county Administrator and the
5 environmental services director to county council for
6 their approval.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you're wanting
8 the administrator and the director to make
9 recommendations instead of going ahead and making the
10 adjustment.

11 CINDY WILSON: The meaning of this would
12 mean that if the CPI goes up or down, they will
13 notify us and then we will vote to make the changes
14 if necessary.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of Ms.
16 Wilson's motion to amend. Please vote. We have
17 three. All oppose. We have R. Wilson, we have
18 McAbee, Floyd and Thompson. So the motion to amend
19 fails. We are back at the original ordinance. How
20 much time, Mr. Martin? We have six minutes. Hearing
21 and seeing -- hearing no one, I call for the
22 question. All in favor of ordinance 2008-002, please
23 vote. Oppose. One. Ms. Wilson opposes. So the
24 vote is six to one with Ms. Wilson opposing. Okay.
25 Ordinance 2008-003, an ordinance authorizing the
26 transfer of an easement for ingress, egress and
27 utilities across certain real property and other
28 matters thereto. The chair moves to consider. Is
29 there a second? We have a second. We are now in
30 discussion. Mr. Martin and Mr. Preston. Any
31 comments?

32 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. We recommend
33 approval tonight and I believe there's a map included
34 in your packet tonight. Mr. Davidson is here to
35 answer any questions you have.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. On page eight there
37 is a map. Any discussion?

38 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

40 BOB WALDREP: I'm trying to find a map
41 here.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's under section 6B, the
43 map is page eight.

44 LARRY GREER: Last page in there.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Very last page.

46 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I just want to ask
47 Mr. Davidson, what's this about? What's the overall
48 purpose of all this?

49 MR. DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Waldrep,
50 the Powdersville Water District offered to provide a

1 portion of the property where the Powdersville
2 library now stands without cost to the county in
3 exchange for cooperation in the development of their
4 governmental and business park that they're doing in
5 the neighboring premises. Part of the consideration
6 for the transfer was that the county would work with
7 the Powdersville Water District to provide easements
8 for ingress and egress and for utility access. Two
9 of their lots that adjoined are in that park that
10 they're developing. There's also design
11 opportunities where they were coordinating design to
12 make an attractive grouping. And this document is
13 honoring the county's commitment to provide those
14 easements for ingress and egress and for utility
15 access to the Powdersville Water District in exchange
16 for that property.

17 BOB WALDREP: Is this done without
18 objection of anyone? Has anyone objected to the
19 changing of this abandonment, I guess, of sections of
20 the road? Has anyone objected to it?

21 MR. DAVIDSON: Oh. This isn't part of
22 abandoning roads. This is just providing the
23 easements for their traffic to certain buildings they
24 have.

25 BOB WALDREP: I thought that there was
26 some closure issue here.

27 MR. DAVIDSON: Not in this ordinance.

28 BOB WALDREP: Not in this one? Oh.
29 Okay. I guess I just misunderstood. I thought that
30 there was some closure involved. That's really all I
31 had, Mr. Davidson. I just wanted to know where they
32 were from, I guess, last week and if anyone was
33 adversely affected by what we're doing. That was the
34 thrust of my question.

35 MR. DAVIDSON: Yes. I apologize for last
36 week, the map not being in your agenda package. But
37 it is today. The route of access is actually going
38 to be where -- if you look at the map where it says
39 Old Highway 81 on the left side of the map, there's
40 an arrow, dotted arrow drawn. That's the access
41 point that they have been using and have asked for
42 the location easement to be in approximate location
43 of that arrow. And that was at the request of the
44 Powdersville Water District that we do it this way.

45 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So everybody's on
46 board with it. No problem?

47 MR. DAVIDSON: I haven't heard any
48 complaints.

49 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? The

1 chair calls for the question. All in favor of
2 ordinance 2008-003, please vote. Seven and oh.
3 Unanimous. Thank you. Item number seven, ordinance
4 first reading. Ordinance 2008-009, an ordinance
5 amending section 2-37 of the Anderson County code of
6 ordinance pertaining to meetings of the Anderson
7 County council and other matters thereto. Is there a
8 motion to consider?

9 LARRY GREER: So moved.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Okay.
11 We are in discussion. Mr. Greer.

12 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Mr. Chairman, at the last meeting you very thoroughly
14 pointed out that county procedures ordinance require
15 unanimous vote to extend discussion beyond the
16 allotted time on the agenda. It's my belief that a
17 majority vote should be sufficient to extend the
18 discussion time up to the forty-five minute maximum.
19 And that's what this amended ordinance proposes to
20 do, is to allow discussion to be extended up to the
21 forty-five minute maximum by a majority vote of
22 council instead of a unanimous vote. And I urge
23 council to pass this.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any other discussion?

25 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

27 BILL MCABEE: Absent a given ordinance
28 for our procedures, it's customary that this council
29 follows Robert's Rules of Order. And if we could --
30 perhaps we should just simply repeal this section of
31 ordinance and follow whatever Robert's Rules of Order
32 provides for. What does -- in fact, I'm not sure
33 what the provision is in that instance for extending
34 time.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: My understanding of
36 Robert's Rules, they require two thirds majority to
37 extend time. Are you done with the floor?

38 BILL MCABEE: I yield the floor.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Continuing on with
40 what Mr. McAbee just said, Robert's Rule does say two
41 thirds. Now I agree that a unanimous vote to extend
42 is too stringent. However, I think a simple majority
43 is too lenient. I believe if we do our homework, ask
44 our questions prior to coming to meeting, to the
45 council meeting, a meeting with the staff or whoever
46 we need to meet with and get our questions answered
47 prior, then we have some idea of how we want to vote
48 before we come here. Then there's not a great need
49 to do a lot of discussion. So at this time the chair
50 moves to amend ordinance 2008-008 -- I'm sorry, 2008-

1 009 so that we would have a two thirds majority to
2 extend time. Is that clear enough, Mr. Martin?

3 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I understand the motion of the chair to be to amend
5 the ordinance as it is written, to extend the
6 allotted time by two thirds vote as opposed to a
7 simple majority. And everything else remains the
8 same.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Correct. Is there a
10 second?

11 RON WILSON: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to amend
13 and a second.

14 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

16 CINDY WILSON: Would you clarify for us
17 the difference between the simple majority and
18 numbers out of a seven member council.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A simple majority we would
20 need four. A two thirds majority we would need five.
21 Any more discussion? No discussion. The chair calls
22 for the question on the amendment to two thirds
23 majority. All in favor please raise your hand.
24 Four. Oppose. The amendment passes with Greer,
25 Waldrep and C. Wilson dissenting. So the motion -- I
26 mean the ordinance has been amended. All in favor of
27 the ordinance as amended. Right? Well, he gave me
28 that look. All in favor of the ordinance as amended,
29 please raise your hand. Seven and oh. Unanimous.
30 Thank you. Resolutions. A resolution requesting
31 that the cooperative efforts of Anderson County's
32 economic development resources for the promotion of
33 certain quality of life development in Anderson
34 County council district two and other matters
35 thereto. I need a motion to consider.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: So moved.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

38 BILL MCABEE: Second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion. Ms.
40 Floyd.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Council
42 members, I would like for you to please look at the
43 ordinance with me. With the assembly's permission, I
44 would like to read parts of the resolution, Mr.
45 Chair.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm ready.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Whereas the county
48 recognizes that Anderson County council district two
49 contains one of the largest and most diverse
50 population centers in the county and houses a rich

1 variety of locations and other resources ...

2 End of Tape 1, Side 1

3 GRACIE FLOYD: ... And whereas the county
4 further recognizes that when an area of the county
5 has not met its full development potential, the
6 entire county and its citizens suffer. And thus, the
7 county wishes to create success in district two by
8 exploring and promoting any alternatives and
9 incentives that will attract further development and
10 revitalization to district two for the benefit of the
11 entire county. And now, therefore Anderson County
12 acting by and through its county council hereby
13 request that the economic development group work
14 together to develop, present, and implement one or
15 more plans for attracting and promoting quality of
16 life services for district two, including, without
17 limitations, hotels and retails businesses and
18 facilities, new and accessible gas stations,
19 convenience stores, grocery stores and pharmacies.
20 This is why district two is asking for the support of
21 this resolution. We are not having anything going on
22 in this district. In fact, we're losing businesses
23 at an alarming rate. There is news going out on the
24 street now that the Bi-Lo on Shockley Ferry Road may
25 be in danger of closing. We've already lost one on,
26 I call it Pearman Dairy Road. We already lost one
27 shop up there. And that's going to not help those of
28 us who are not as fortunate to be able to get around
29 and to have cars. And as you know, there is no
30 transportation in the county, no public
31 transportation in the county. So this is why I'm
32 asking you council members to please support this
33 resolution that we cannot only build other areas of
34 our county, which we should be doing but we need to
35 revitalize and create possibilities in all seven
36 districts. And I thank you.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin?
38 Anymore discussion?

39 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

41 BOB WALDREP: I guess what I wanted to
42 know is the kind of resolution that we're passing
43 here would be applicable, I would hope, to all
44 districts rather than just simply one particular
45 district. Ms. Floyd have any response?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, you care to
47 respond?

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I would. Okay.
49 You're right. You're right. It should be for all
50 seven districts. But if you would look into my

1 district, you will see that there have been no
2 action, for lack of a better way to put it, in
3 district two as far as rebuilding, as far as bring in
4 stores and businesses. A lot of our attention and a
5 lot of our work has been going up in your district,
6 which is district one and on up. And it borders Mr.
7 McAbee's district. Mr. Greer. Mr. Greer, since he
8 has been on council has been very, very successful in
9 bring industries and things down to his district in
10 the Starr-Iva area. But I'm very concerned about my
11 district. My people of district two are very
12 concerned. Another thing, if I may continue, Mr.
13 Chair, I have a lot of elderly people. I think I
14 have more in my district than anyone else. And these
15 elderly people, they're just like the rest of us.
16 They're just elderly people who have worked all of
17 their lives, and they don't have -- sometimes they
18 don't have the means to drive all the way over to the
19 lake to go to that Bi-Lo or to go to those beautiful
20 shopping centers. So where else can they go? But I
21 hope I answered your question.

22 BOB WALDREP: Well, you did. I guess I
23 just think about as economics evolve and things move
24 around, which we don't really have any hand in
25 sometimes, but if this would be helpful, I just want
26 the council to consider that it should apply across
27 the board.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I ---

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Oh. I'm
30 sorry. Ms. Floyd.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: That's okay. That's all
32 right. I've been there. Yeah. I hope it will apply
33 across the board. I don't want any more for myself
34 than I'm willing to give to the other districts. I
35 don't want anymore for my district that I would keep
36 anyone else from having in their district. But I
37 just want my fair share.

38 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

40 CINDY WILSON: I would think that there
41 would be common threads for the needs across all
42 seven districts. I know that, I think it's on 28
43 Bypass, there are a lot of big box store closings,
44 boarded up. That may be very similar to what's going
45 on in district two. But it also seems like we ought
46 to ask our law enforcement to beef up with some of
47 the law enforcement in some of these areas. Because
48 some of these areas have rampant lawlessness. People
49 holding up stores and so forth and I think that's
50 very alarming. I wonder if that has a role in some

1 of what's going on in our districts?

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, are you done?

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me.

5 CINDY WILSON: Well, I was going to

6 continue, but I'll yield to Ms. Floyd.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. She yields to Ms.

8 Floyd.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: I thank you for yielding,
10 but I don't want to stop you from ... But anyway,
11 Ms. Wilson, it has been proven, it has been proven,
12 and I can only speak for district two, but it has
13 been proven that district two, there's more
14 lawlessness in some areas outside of district two
15 than there is in district two. I remember when we
16 had the big thing over the Kroger store. And the
17 lawlessness was one of the things that kept coming
18 out. But it was proven by the city police department
19 that they had more arrests, more crime and everything
20 else going on on Concord rather than in that area.
21 So I can't put a blanket statement and say, oh that
22 is the problem. My district has got a lot of crime
23 in it. I don't have any more crime in my district
24 than you have in yours or than Mr. McAbee has in his
25 or Mr. Greer has in his.

26 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. You still
28 have the floor.

29 CINDY WILSON: I hope this was not being
30 misconstrued, but we have pockets of this across the
31 county. And I do believe that we need to ramp up law
32 enforcement in all these areas. I began my statement
33 by saying there are common threads of needs across
34 all the districts. And lawlessness is one of them in
35 certain areas. And I certainly have a few of those
36 areas in district seven. I by no means meant to
37 confine the lawlessness to district two. And I
38 surely hope you didn't interpret it that way.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, if that's an
40 apology, I will accept it.

41 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

43 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44 I'm listening to this discussion attentively, and I
45 want to brag on our economic development folks. It
46 seems like we may be -- it kind of sounds like we may
47 be throwing rocks at them, and I don't believe that's
48 the case. I really don't think that's Ms. Floyd's
49 intent. I think what she's asking them to do is
50 more. They've done a very good job of economic

1 development for this county up to this point, and we
2 just want them to work more hours, longer days, and
3 eight days a week. Bring in all that Volvos and
4 Volkswagons and Mercedes and BMWs and all that that
5 they can to Anderson County. So we thank you for the
6 job that you do. We just want more. Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? How much
9 time, Mr. Martin? Anyone else? Mr. Wilson.

10 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to
11 invite the council up to Powdersville where we don't
12 have any closed stores, and we're doing very well up
13 there. So I'd like for y'all to come and see how
14 it's done up there.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, may I wrap it
16 up?

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: I can wrap it up?

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wrap it up.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It's not my
21 intentions to keep anybody else from doing this if
22 they want to do it. I represent district two and I'm
23 fighting for district two. If you need to do it for
24 your district, then do it. Speaking for myself, I
25 have been fighting this battle since I have been on
26 council, now going on nine long years. I have been
27 fighting this. This has nothing to do with economic
28 development. I can say that for myself. But I am
29 asking for help. I am asking for help. And that's
30 all I have.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. The
32 chair calls for the question on resolution R2008-006.
33 All in favor please vote. Seven and oh. Thank you.
34 Resolution R2008-007, a resolution expressing the
35 intent to seize county maintenance on and to
36 authorize county consent to judicial abandonment and
37 closure of a portion of a certain road in Anderson
38 County and other matters thereto. Is there a motion
39 to -- well, the chair moves to consider. Is there a
40 second?

41 BILL MCABEE: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? Mr.
43 Hopkins and Mr. Preston. Mr. Hopkins.

44 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, this road is
45 up in district six. It's right beside the interstate
46 at Highway 86 across from the McDonald's up there.
47 This lot had a couple of road right of ways on it
48 before 85 was built. In the process, they shifted
49 some road over to get these roads away from the
50 interstate. They're basically not usable roads

1 because of the close proximity of the interstate.
2 However, the DOT has never properly disposed of them.
3 Their procedure is if they abandon it, they can only
4 abandon it back to Anderson County. If you approve
5 this resolution this will make it automatic that we
6 have done our part to agree to a judicial
7 abandonment. If the DOT commission abandons their
8 responsibility back to us, it would become an
9 automatic thing. The developer has asked that the
10 DOT go ahead and start the process. It should be
11 sometime in February being abandoned by the DOT. We
12 just ask that you go ahead and make it an automatic
13 abandonment on our part if that occurs.

14 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

16 LARRY GREER: Thank you. Mr. Hopkins, I
17 don't have a problem with where we're going on this,
18 but I have a related question. Can DOT abandon a
19 road to the county without consent?

20 HOLT HOPKINS: Absolutely.

21 LARRY GREER: So am I to understand that
22 some of the rumors that I've been hearing about them
23 abandoning all of their secondary state roads to the
24 county may have some validity to it?

25 HOLT HOPKINS: Absolutely. They could.

26 LARRY GREER: They could?

27 HOLT HOPKINS: Politically I don't know
28 if they would do it that way, but we have prepared a
29 report -- had it done for us -- to look at what kind
30 of extra money we would need if that -- in that
31 occurrence.

32 LARRY GREER: And some of the rumors --
33 and I'm going to call them rumors because I haven't
34 seen or heard -- I know about that. The question
35 I've got is has there been any discussion as this is
36 being brought up that there may be some money
37 accompanying this to the local governments if indeed
38 they were to pursue this course of action.

39 HOLT HOPKINS: There has been some
40 discussion about possibly sharing some of the state
41 gasoline tax with the local governments across the
42 state depending on how much and what they would give
43 over to the counties to maintain.

44 LARRY GREER: But there's a -- and I'm
45 fishing a little bit. But there's a very real
46 possibility that this could take place and it could
47 be another storm water scenario where they would say
48 okay, here it is, you do this.

49 HOLT HOPKINS: The legislators can do
50 anything they like. If they'd like to give us the

1 roads, they could.

2 LARRY GREER: Okay. I'm going to take
3 it a step further. Based on Act 388, I believe is
4 the number, 380 something. It says that the local
5 governing body can't increase taxes beyond the CPI
6 and the population growth. If they were to do this
7 and not send the funds to do it, we would be in a
8 position we would have a job to do and no way to fund
9 it.

10 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

11 LARRY GREER: Thank you.

12 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: To that question may I
16 please add that the South Carolina Association of
17 Counties and its policy committees have voted to not
18 support this thing of the state turning these roads
19 over. And also our council, I'm sorry, our
20 administrator, Mr. Preston, has written a letter to
21 Chairman Dan Cooper telling him that in order for us
22 to do this we're going to have to transfer some state
23 funds for this thing. Now, council members, I think
24 that we need to do a resolution to send down to the
25 state to let them know that we are not supporting
26 this. And this thing is going to hurt us even more
27 and hurt our citizens even more. And Mr. Chairman, I
28 think we're off the subject.

29 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment please. Ms.
31 Floyd, I did make myself a note to make that
32 recommendation to Mr. Preston. Mr. Preston, will you
33 please ... I'm sorry, Mr. Martin, will you please
34 draft up a resolution expressing the concerns of the
35 county council if we get another unfunded mandate.
36 And I'm sure Mr. Preston can help with that. Mr.
37 Waldrep.

38 BOB WALDREP: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
39 I just want to make sure, Mr. Hopkins, that I
40 understand the abandonment process. We're actually
41 going through a judicial process here aren't we to do
42 this. Aren't we -- have given public notice and all
43 that to take care of this situation?

44 HOLT HOPKINS: The procedures that's set
45 forth by council is kind of the first step in
46 preparing for the judicial side of it. We are
47 required by county ordinance to post notice at the
48 road thirty days prior to bringing it to your
49 consideration. Those signs have been put in place
50 and we have not received any objections whatsoever.

1 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, fine. I'm
2 just wondering about the abandonment process. We're
3 abandoning an area that was originally owned by the
4 South Carolina Department of Transportation. Mr.
5 Martin, can you help?

6 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

8 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep,
9 your understanding is absolutely correct. The areas
10 in question are still currently owned by the state as
11 right of way. And so there really are two separate
12 processes here. Looking just at the county process
13 alone, forgetting this particular situation. I'm
14 sorry and I apologize. I have bronchitis. Looking
15 just at this particular situation, what you're doing
16 tonight or what you're considering tonight would be a
17 resolution that would cease county maintenance on the
18 road. Well, it's never begun in the first place.
19 But also would give consent to the judicial
20 abandonment so that whoever brings the judicial
21 abandonment, once the county is served, I would then
22 be allowed to answer with a consent because the
23 council has approved it. What makes this situation a
24 little bit differently is this starts out first with
25 the state, if I could use the term, dumping the roads
26 on the county because the state has that legal
27 authority. When they take roads out of their
28 secondary system, they literally dump them on the
29 county. If they do that, what you're consenting to
30 here is then following the normal procedure that we
31 would normally use once it's a county road and just
32 say, we're not going to maintain it and we consent to
33 the abandonment if someone brings that judicial
34 proceeding. So, the answer to your question is yes.
35 It will require a judicial proceeding. But first it
36 would require the state to transfer it to us before
37 that even begins.

38 BOB WALDREP: So they give it to us, and
39 we give it away. We abandon it back to the original
40 property owners, it looks like in here, to those
41 people who owned it.

42 TOM MARTIN: To the abutting property
43 owners.

44 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Do they want it?

45 TOM MARTIN: I think they have
46 requested ---

47 HOLT HOPKINS: The request is coming from
48 a developer that has all the property involved.

49 BOB WALDREP: All the property. So
50 there's no fuss about or dissension about people that

1 adjoined or abut it? Okay. Well, fine. That's what
2 I ---

3 HOLT HOPKINS: It's just dividing several
4 lots up, and he'd like to combine them together.

5 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. That's
6 all I have.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr. Martin?
8 Anymore discussion?

9 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

11 CINDY WILSON: While we have Mr. Holt
12 Hopkins at the mic, just for our comprehension, could
13 you give us the number of road miles on this state
14 proposal of giving us back all the secondary roads
15 that are state roads right now? Do we have any ---

16 HOLT HOPKINS: There is not a written
17 bill that I'm aware of yet. There's just talk at
18 this stage. But just to give you an example, there
19 are about eight hundred and fifty, eight hundred and
20 seventy miles of secondary road in Anderson County.
21 In that group, there's four hundred and sixty-nine
22 miles, I believe, that do not qualify for federal aid
23 money. Our study that we asked to be done looked at
24 just that four hundred and sixty-nine miles because
25 that's the most likely roads that would be dumped on
26 the county. Those are neighborhood streets, little
27 dead-end roads, those kind of things that are still
28 in the state system.

29 CINDY WILSON: I can give you an example
30 of a road in district seven that the state had agreed
31 to resurface in 2006 and suddenly we had it jerked.
32 It was going to cost more than a million dollars and
33 that's the Big Creek Road leading to the landfill
34 between Belton and Williamston. So if we had -- and
35 I don't think it's more than maybe two or three
36 miles. Am I wrong? It's not a very long road. But
37 if we had too many of those type roads, it would
38 break our county. Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair calls for the
40 question on R2008-007. All in favor, please vote.
41 Are you voting, Ms. Wilson?

42 CINDY WILSON: Yes.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Seven and oh.
44 Thank you. R2008-008, a resolution amending the
45 emergency medical services zone map as recommended by
46 the Anderson County emergency medical services
47 commission and other matters thereto. Chair moves to
48 consider. Is there a second?

49 RON WILSON: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion. Mr.

1 Preston.

2 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask
3 Mr. Ike Brissey who is going to come down and
4 introduce representatives from the EMS commission to
5 make a presentation. Or Taylor Jones ---

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Jones.

7 TAYLOR JONES: Yes, sir. I'd like to
8 bring up Bill Brock, the Chief of our -- Chairman of
9 our Chief Advisory Board. Mr. Chairman. Also, I'd
10 like to bring up Stewart Barnes. Dr. Barnes is the
11 Chairman of the EMS commission. They have voted,
12 starting with the advisory board at EMS chiefs, to
13 adjust the EMS boundaries to more adequately
14 represent the area they cover for quicker response
15 times. And I've got those folks here tonight to
16 answer any questions, along with our EMS coordinator
17 which is Scott Stoller.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions from the
19 council?

20 BOB WALDREP: Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

22 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Jones, I don't know if
23 you can answer this question or not, but something
24 that has concerned me for sometime is this concept
25 of, quote, enhanced services. What you're doing, is
26 that related in some way to the administration's
27 explanation of double taxation in that area as,
28 quote, enhanced services?

29 TAYLOR JONES: I'm not familiar with the
30 term enhanced. I am familiar with the term of
31 performance based contracts with EMS, but not an
32 enhanced version. We have an enhanced 911 system
33 that answers 911 calls.

34 BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess I'd have to
35 defer to the administration to that term enhanced
36 services. I'd never heard that before either, but
37 there's an issue that has been brought to my
38 attention over the last year about the taxation of, I
39 think it's 15.2 or something in one area and another
40 two mils or so that is on top of each other, a kind
41 of a double taxation. I just wondered if there was
42 any further tax consequences with regard to this
43 changing this area. Are we going to be enveloping
44 more people that will be taxed at the city rate and
45 then the county tax stuff?

46 TAYLOR JONES: Basically what this does
47 is it realigns the response areas for the EMS squads,
48 the way they provide their mutual aid and back each
49 other up. And more efficiently provide a quicker
50 response time. You know in some of the older areas,

1 the boundaries were adjusted out. They had long
2 response times to meet the criteria. And with this
3 the chiefs got together and adjusted the boundaries
4 so that they could provide ... It makes no changes
5 in the EMS contracts. It allows for no tax
6 increases, no subsidy increase for the squad. It's
7 based into our current contracts.

8 BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess my question,
9 you might not be able to answer this question, but
10 whether or not by changing this boundary we are
11 increasing a tax consequence on the people that are
12 included in the increase in this boundary. That was
13 just my question, and I didn't know whether or not
14 Mr. Martin or Mr. Preston could answer that question.
15 But basically the question would be, having said all
16 that I've said, is there a tax impact and consequence
17 of this boundary change?

18 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. It would not
19 cause any taxes to go up.

20 BOB WALDREP: That's an affirmative from
21 the administration ---

22 JOEY PRESTON: Yes.

23 BOB WALDREP: -- that it would not?

24 Okay.

25 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, also, if I
26 might?

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

28 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, I will admit
29 candidly that I don't know because I don't attend the
30 commission meetings, but I think your question -- I
31 don't mean to mis-word it or misstate it, but I think
32 you're asking if the -- what's the metropolitan area?
33 Is it district nine? I think the question is whether
34 district nine would be increased to take in more
35 people? I don't think that this proposal has any
36 potential to raise taxes per se. So the only issue
37 would be whether district nine's service area is
38 enlarged at all, I guess. Is that ---

39 BOB WALDREP: That's kind of where I'm
40 getting at. This looks like to me that if you have
41 double taxation right outside or say in district
42 nine, and then you expand that area to another area
43 that already has taxation, then that would have a tax
44 consequence on those folks that were included in that
45 new parameter. So that was where I was coming from.

46 TOM MARTIN: And I don't know the
47 factual answer to your question. I wanted to sort of
48 restate it to make sure. There is no -- there's
49 nothing written in here that says taxes will go up.
50 The only issue is what service area is involved. And

1 I'll have to defer on that.

2 BOB WALDREP: Okay. If you change the
3 service area and it's a double service area which
4 has, quote, enhanced services in it, it seems to me
5 that you are having a tax impact on additional
6 people. And that's what I want to know.

7 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. And I can
8 answer at least this part of it. That particular
9 district was created by referendum. I believe it can
10 only be changed -- I think that this -- now I'm
11 really deferring to them in saying this, but I think
12 that this is really only addressing those areas that
13 are not the district nine area. I think that area
14 can only be changed by referendum. And so this based
15 on that would not have any impact on the size of
16 district nine to increase or decrease.

17 BOB WALDREP: Well, I'm relatively
18 satisfied with your response here as long as it works
19 out the way in which you say it will. Thank you.

20 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

22 LARRY GREER: I want to elaborate a
23 little bit on what Mr. Waldrep's talking about.
24 Those of you who have the map in front of you see the
25 nine, I believe it's a total of nine, EMS service
26 areas. I want you to look at the first eight. Those
27 first eight have a contract with Anderson County that
28 requires the EMS provider in that service area to
29 provide one ALS unit per that zone, per the contract.
30 The contract with MedShore that covers zone nine
31 requires them to provide three and a half ALS units
32 for that zone. So zone nine actually has three and a
33 half times the EMS coverage that the other areas
34 have. In my mind that's a justification. And I for
35 one pay that double tax where I live. I live on the
36 wrong side of the road. If I was on the other side
37 of the road, I wouldn't pay it. But that's the
38 justification for the additional EMS taxes for that
39 area because they do in reality contractually have
40 three and a half time the EMS service provided by the
41 contract. Taylor, would you like to elaborate on
42 that a little bit?

43 TAYLOR JONES: Mr. Greer, not only do
44 they provide the three and half additional
45 ambulances, but they also provide another additional
46 ambulance that they've worked into the deal. But
47 also they require ninety percent of the time, and I
48 think that's where Mr. Waldrep comes up with enhanced
49 performance, ninety percent of the time they have to
50 meet contractual requirements of answering calls

1 within eight minutes and fifty-nine seconds which
2 they meet and exceed which requires -- that's not a
3 standard that the squads are held to. But a lot of
4 times the squads do double staff during weekends and
5 high peak response needs to meet the low call. You
6 know, we have some of the best response times in the
7 state of South Carolina. It's based on this EMS
8 system works like that. This just gives us another
9 dispatch tool. It's what I -- Chief Brock was back
10 here discussing. This is not a move for additional
11 taxes. This is a move to allow dispatch to be a
12 little more effective in dispatching EMS units.

13 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 TAYLOR JONES: Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any more discussion? The
16 chair calls for the question R2008-008. All in favor
17 please vote. Seven and oh. Thank you. At this time
18 we'll take a fifteen minute break.

19 BREAK

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item number nine,
21 discussion of some over budgeted items and categories
22 on the GL65 and on the GLR153. Ms. Wilson, you have
23 ten minutes.

24 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 I'm going to request that any questions or any
26 interruptions, if we could just hold it until I'm
27 finished and then that way everybody can get the
28 information and then we can proceed. Anderson County
29 council is a council administrator form of government
30 under South Carolina Home Rule. Our administrator is
31 in charge of day to day operations of Anderson
32 County. The county council has only two employees,
33 the administrator and our clerk to council. Anderson
34 County council has the responsibility of representing
35 its citizens, I'm sorry, and providing basic services
36 which the citizens cannot themselves provide,
37 including such services as police, roads, emergency
38 and fire services. The county council is responsible
39 for the spending and accounting of the public's
40 money. Under Home Rule our administrator is required
41 to provide council with a monthly financial statement
42 and other such reports as requested. Please be
43 advised that since 2001 council has not been provided
44 the monthly financial statement until July, August
45 and September of this year, this fiscal year.
46 There's not been -- last year county council was not
47 advised of one point six million dollars of transfers
48 even though the ordinance required the administrator
49 to notify county council within thirty days of a
50 transfer. These transfers took place mostly at the

1 end of the fiscal year and start of the new year.
2 Fiscal year in Anderson County starts 1 July. There
3 were transfers involving hundreds of thousands of
4 dollars through the end of October but logged as if
5 June 30th. The following presentation can only
6 provide a brief snapshot as of September and our
7 current fiscal year beginning July 1. There have
8 been no monthly financial statements again since
9 September. I've personally requested that these
10 reports be weekly payments, payables pulled for
11 payments which are the GLR110s, the GLR153 for a few
12 departments, and of course the request to see the
13 credit card billing statements and backup from May
14 through November. My requests have mostly been
15 denied. Please notice in much of what you will hear
16 tonight that there is little relevance of a budget in
17 Anderson County. Expenditures are made where there
18 are no budgets. Budgets vary from what was voted on
19 in June to what was given to us in the form of a
20 bound budget and the various ledger reports. Here's
21 a brief, incomplete compilation of some of the
22 rounded numbers for your listening ease. Department
23 5011 in Anderson County council. In September,
24 County council appeared to be at or within budget in
25 most categories. However, we find that in spite of
26 each district having a six thousand dollar
27 reimbursable expense account, district four's billing
28 expenses to the economic development department which
29 is seriously over budget in several of its own
30 categories. The reimbursable's category indicates a
31 higher percentage of expenditure in July than in
32 August. No professional services category in either
33 of the budgets that we voted on or in the bound
34 budget was found. But it showed up in the ledger
35 report, 65. On researching this matter, it seems
36 that we were paying for our court reporter to
37 transcribe our minutes. And we'd voted on this
38 approach prior to this budget year. So I'm really
39 wondering why we didn't have it budgeted correctly in
40 our department. In 5013 which is the administrator,
41 the ledger number sixty-five figure for temporary
42 part-time is lower in September than in August. The
43 figure of twenty-eight thousand two hundred and
44 twenty-one dollars was spent on a five thousand
45 dollar budget. The one fifty-three ledger indicates
46 a transfer of six hundred and fifty-four dollars, a
47 reverse payroll of twenty-five hundred plus, a
48 correction of sixteen hundred dollars in -- plus and
49 a reclassification of fifteen hundred and forty-five
50 dollars, all on a budget of five thousand dollars.

1 The budget voted on in the bound budget on the August
2 GL65 indicate meals at seventeen hundred and fifty
3 dollars. But the GL65 now states twenty-seven
4 hundred and fifty dollars. Last year the
5 administrator's department spent almost eleven
6 thousand dollars for the meals category on a
7 seventeen hundred and fifty dollar budget. In
8 September, the administrator's department
9 acknowledged spending a little over four thousand
10 dollars. Where were the transfer notices to county
11 council? Travel and lodging are almost double what
12 their budget it. And another question, where is the
13 Denali's operating lease rolling? The prior budget
14 was twenty-two thousand eight hundred. Maybe it's
15 paid off. We seek clarification. Memorials and
16 miscellaneous categories are over budget. The legal
17 budget for this department is three hundred and fifty
18 thousand dollars and legal settlements of almost
19 forty thousand dollars. The -- and then of course
20 there are many legal categories spread across the
21 county's budget. This particular department
22 generally runs over its annual budget by one hundred
23 to three hundred thousand dollars. Personnel which
24 is 5014, catering last year was twenty-six thousand
25 five hundred dollars spent on a twelve thousand seven
26 hundred dollar budget. This year's budget is ten
27 thousand sixty dollars. In economic development, the
28 temporary part-time budget last year was ten thousand
29 dollars, but a figure of about thirty thousand was
30 spent. This year the budget is now at twenty-nine
31 thousand plus. The credit card account budget for
32 this department is fifty dollars. After cross
33 referencing the GLR110, thousands of dollars were
34 spent across other categories. Overspending in food,
35 fuel and oil, meals, postage, travel and lodging.
36 For example, the travel budget for this department
37 was three thousand dollars, but by September, over
38 eighty-two hundred was spent. Lodging, the budget
39 was three thousand and about fifty-five hundred
40 spent. You'll notice that payments for county
41 council members and a public information director
42 were made out of economic development. Perhaps, we
43 should put those figures back into the respective
44 departments to ease up the pressure on economic
45 development. In economic development, there was no
46 budget for rolling stock lease, however, sixty-four
47 hundred dollars was spent. And many numerous
48 payments to the Chamber of Commerce. The budget for
49 meals is a hundred and ten percent over budget.
50 Travel is a hundred and four point five percent over

1 budget. Lodging, a hundred seventy-four point three
2 percent over budget. The planning department,
3 advertising is at a hundred percent of its budget,
4 and food. Fuel and oil at two hundred and eighty
5 percent of the budget. The museum, ninety-three
6 point eight percent of its budget under, I think it's
7 under special department, was spent in August. But
8 in September it was seventy percent. In engineering,
9 it's already a hundred percent of its advertising,
10 computer software, printing, small hand tools,
11 building supplies, etcetera. Public safety and
12 compliance office meals are at a hundred and thirty-
13 three percent of its budget as of August.
14 Transportation, roads and bridges, repairs to
15 building, a hundred and eighty-two percent of its
16 budget in August. And it was not in the bound
17 budget. That particular budget was not the same from
18 the GL65 to the bound budget. We continue to pay for
19 restaurant meals in this department out of safety
20 supplies. Lodging is at a hundred and fifteen
21 percent of its budget. The meals are at a hundred
22 and seventy-four point four percent of its budget.
23 Employee benefits, health insurance, we're at two
24 hundred and ninety-six point nine percent of its
25 budget. Under special appropriations, there's a very
26 interesting phenomenon. I requested an answer to
27 this back in August, I believe. What does it mean to
28 have budgeted twenty-eight thousand two hundred and
29 twenty-five dollars with a negative symbol and the
30 remaining budget to be the same. This was not an
31 item in the budget we voted on, however, it is in the
32 bound version. The Civic Center marketing, travel is
33 at almost a hundred sixty-six percent of budget. The
34 ASEC legal is at two hundred and twenty-four percent
35 of budget. Books and publications ---

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, time.

37 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

39 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

40 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41 You know, much has been made about the economic
42 development and particularly expenditures in that
43 area. The economic development division will work to
44 recruit, create and support new industries and
45 commercial opportunities within Anderson County and
46 will provide support for our existing industries and
47 commercial retail base. We will work with these
48 industries and businesses in order to create jobs,
49 wealth and expand the tax base in Anderson County.
50 Measures of actual investment. In 2006 Anderson

1 County, according to our budget book, had twenty-two
2 new industries locating in the community. The goal
3 for 2007 and also for 2008 is only five. In 2006 the
4 actual dollar value of new capital investment totaled
5 just one million dollars. The goals for the economic
6 development department include but are not limited to
7 industrial recruitment, existing industries, economic
8 development and research, commercial and retail
9 development. With only one million dollars of actual
10 new capital investment in 2006, it became apparent
11 that more attention needed to be paid to the economic
12 development office in order to keep down the downward
13 trend of decreasing unemployment in Anderson County.
14 Unemployment rates in Anderson County fell from seven
15 point five percent in 2005 to five point seven
16 percent in 2007. Unemployment insurance benefits
17 paid in 2004. The Anderson Workforce Center paid
18 twelve million five hundred and three thousand six
19 hundred and sixty-seven dollars in unemployment
20 benefits during the calendar year 2004. That's an
21 average cost of two million -- I mean, of two
22 thousand ninety-seven dollars and ninety-three cents
23 per unemployed person during 2004. In 2004 Anderson
24 County had an average of five thousand nine hundred
25 and sixty unemployed people on record. In 2007 we
26 had an average of forty-nine hundred and sixty
27 unemployed people on record. Savings. Based on the
28 amount of two thousand and ninety-seven dollars per
29 person of direct unemployment benefits paid from
30 2004, Anderson County has saved more than two million
31 ninety-seven thousand dollars, in addition to
32 bringing the average industrial wage up to thirteen
33 dollars and twelve cents, which I was corrected that
34 it's now thirteen dollars and forty cents. Growing
35 workforce. As you can see, the number of employed
36 people in Anderson County has steadily increased
37 since 2004. Average monthly employment in 2004 was
38 seventy-seven thousand seven hundred and fifty-six,
39 compared to eighty-one thousand seven hundred and
40 ninety in 2007. This means Anderson County has added
41 four thousand and thirty-four jobs since 2004. How
42 do you explain this? Center for Accelerated
43 Technology training, the CAT program operated at Tri-
44 County Tech by Bobby Brothers, South Carolina
45 Employment Commission WorkLink and the Employment
46 Security Commission, Anderson County Economic
47 Development office, Heather Jones, Director, the
48 county administrator and county employees and also
49 the Anderson County council. Return on investment.
50 The direct benefits to Anderson County for the one

1 dollar spent in economic development is twenty-four
2 -- twenty dollars and forty-three cents. This is
3 based upon the budget of six hundred and twelve
4 thousand dollars for economic development in 2006.
5 We're using conservative numbers. Direct benefit.
6 The return on our investment is the direct benefit of
7 the activities of the economic development office.
8 Anderson County council, the CAT program and Tri-
9 County Tech and South Carolina Employment Security
10 Commission. It takes team work. It takes a team to
11 bring jobs to Anderson County creating employment for
12 the previously unemployed now working, paying taxes,
13 and contributing to the local economy. Anderson
14 County Economic Development and Anderson County
15 council work together to bring high wage jobs to the
16 citizens of Anderson County. South Carolina
17 Employment Commission and One-Stop work tirelessly to
18 place qualified Anderson County citizens in those
19 high wage jobs. The CAT program and Tri-County Tech
20 work efficiently to offer new training for existing
21 and new industries and the South Carolina Employment
22 Security Commission works to place those employees in
23 jobs through Anderson County. It is a team effort by
24 Anderson County, by the Economic Development Office,
25 the county administrator and the county council. It
26 takes a team to make it happen. All members
27 contribute economically and endless hours to make
28 Anderson County a better place to work, live and
29 raise our families. When I was first elected, I
30 spent my own money on economic development. And I
31 did during my ten years on the County Economic
32 Development Board. As the years progress I still
33 spend some of my own money on economic development. I
34 have traveled on county business for the purpose of
35 economic development. My constituents elected me to
36 this seat based on my support for public safety. And
37 at this point I'd like to say I'm glad that there
38 were four other members of county council up here who
39 support safety to the point where we passed the 800
40 megahertz system. But I was -- also campaigned on a
41 promise to seek economic development opportunities
42 for Anderson County to bring jobs for them and their
43 families. I will not apologize for doing my best to
44 bring jobs to my community. As you can see, we have
45 all worked together for the change and for the
46 progress. It is disappointing to have a shadow of
47 suspicion thrown over the good work of this council,
48 the administrator and the Economic Development
49 office. When an industry chooses to come to Anderson
50 County, in most cases confidentiality is required.

1 Because of the very sensitive nature of the
2 information shared by these industries, it is
3 required that people involved, the companies
4 involved, the real estate professionals involved, the
5 economic development professionals involved and the
6 industrial research involved remain confidential. It
7 is for this reason that in many cases information on
8 finances, credit card receipts, are redacted. As
9 many as you know, because of sensitive information
10 being released, such names as BMW and Rolls Royce,
11 have decided to locate elsewhere. It is that --
12 exactly this scenario we are trying to avoid. As you
13 can see by the actions of a council member tonight,
14 anything released is dissiminated over the radio to
15 private individuals and the press. No member of
16 council has full access, but no member of council is
17 singled out. There is not an attempt on anyone's
18 part to hide information that the public is entitled
19 to. But the cloud of suspicion is merely an overused
20 tactic of a worn out and ineffective group trying to
21 keep their names in the press. I for one am proud of
22 the work of our Economic Development office and
23 Anderson County council. Look at the overwhelming
24 savings we have achieved because of the teamwork
25 efforts involved. Thank you, Heather Jones, Joey
26 Preston, the Economic Development Office and Board,
27 and thank you, Anderson County council, for doing
28 your best to bring jobs to the deserving citizens of
29 Anderson County. I yield back the balance of my
30 time, Mr. Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McAbee.
32 Lights. Next item is appointments. Thank you.
33 County ordinance stipulates that by the second
34 meeting of the new year I have to appoint certain --
35 thank you, Mr. Preston -- certain committees. By
36 ordinance the Economic Development Committee
37 consisting of all members of county council.
38 Functions are to review oversight and advisory body
39 on economic development and matters related thereto.
40 This committee shall be chaired each year by the vice
41 chairman of county council. And also I have to take
42 a vote because it says subject to approval by
43 council. So is there any objection to this?

44 CINDY WILSON: Would you repeat that,
45 please, sir?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Economic
47 Development Committee consisting of all members of
48 council. Functions are a review, oversight and
49 advisory body on economic development and matters
50 related thereto. The committee shall be chaired each

1 year by the vice chairman of county council. So, Mr.
2 McAbee, you would chair this and all members of
3 council would be members. Do we have any objection?
4 There are no objections ---

5 CINDY WILSON: Is this a standing
6 committee or an ad hoc?

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This is a standing
8 committee, yes, ma'am. This is by ordinance. Any
9 objections? There are no objections. Unanimous
10 consent. Okay. Also, there was a land use committee
11 ---

12 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

14 BOB WALDREP: With regard to the
15 Economic Development Committee and we would all be
16 members of it, I would assume that that would give
17 all members access to public records, would it not,
18 having to do with economic development?

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, do you have
20 any -- I mean, Mr. Preston, do you have an answer for
21 that?

22 JOEY PRESTON: I think this committee is
23 an advisory committee, I believe is ---

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. It says review,
25 oversight and advisory body on economic development.

26 BOB WALDREP: Well, that still doesn't
27 answer the question. Do we have access to the
28 records of -- if we're going to be active in our
29 capacity as committee members, are we going to have
30 access to public records or is it just going to be
31 certain people that will have access to credit cards
32 and records and things of that nature? The reason I
33 mentioned that is I got a request for public
34 information with regard to some of this economic
35 development and credit cards, and I was sent a bill
36 for over five thousand dollars. So I would like to
37 publicly state at this point, Mr. Preston, I can't
38 quite afford that, but I think we'll have an
39 opportunity, maybe we can get together and give me an
40 opportunity to go in and check out some of these
41 records. I just would like to be privy to this
42 information. I would say that I have no intent of
43 revealing any confidential information to anyone that
44 would impede any kind of economic development, but
45 I'm very concerned that all members are not privy to
46 this information. I do not think that economic
47 development is like the Manhattan Project. I think
48 that it's something that the very members that are
49 supposed to deal with these issues should certainly
50 have access to the information. And I just want to

1 assure the members of council here that I have no
2 intent on doing anything that would be injurious to
3 economic development. It's my full intent to make
4 sure that we have progress in this county. Thank
5 you.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
7 Also we have a Land Use Committee. Mr. Waldrep, can
8 you chair this committee?

9 BOB WALDREP: I would defer to Mr.
10 Wilson.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson has asked to be
12 taken off of this committee.

13 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir, I'll be glad to.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But instead of being the
15 Land Use Committee, it fits very well with the
16 Planning Public Works Committee consisting of three
17 council members. Mr. Waldrep will chair, Ms. Wilson,
18 Cindy Wilson, and myself will continue to serve on
19 this committee. And it functions as a review
20 oversight and advisory body on subdivision
21 regulations, building and other regulatory codes, the
22 zoning ordinances, transportation, rights of way,
23 building and grounds, license and business
24 regulations, community development and housing
25 authority programs, public works department and other
26 matters related thereto. Those are the two standing
27 committees. There was an incentive committee. I'm
28 going to disband that altogether. And these are ad
29 hoc committees I'm referring to. The incentive
30 committee I'm going to disband. Give that
31 responsibility to the personnel committee that was
32 formed. Ron Wilson will continue to chair. Larry
33 Greer and Bill McAbee. Any objections to that.
34 Hearing no objections, unanimous consent. And also
35 I'm going back to the planning public works
36 committee, Mr. Waldrep to chair, Ms. Wilson and
37 myself. Any objections to that? Hearing none,
38 unanimous consent. And also we have a water
39 committee not only dealing -- time? Okay. Very
40 good. I will live by my own rules.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Point of order.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I caught it. I caught it.
43 The chair moves to extend the time on appointments.
44 We need unanimous vote in order to extend. Is there
45 any objection to extending time? Mr. Greer objects.

46 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

48 BILL MCABEE: I move that we suspend the
49 rules and allow time to be extended by two-thirds
50 vote.

1 LARRY GREER: Second.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
3 suspend the rules. We have a second. All in favor
4 of suspending the rules please raise your hand.
5 Unanimous, seven and oh, to suspend the rules. The
6 chair moves to extend the time by five minutes.
7 BILL MCABEE: Second.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. All in favor of
9 extending the time by five minutes, please raise your
10 hand. Six. Oppose? Mr. Waldrep oppose. The vote
11 is six to one with Mr. Waldrep opposing. Okay.
12 Final appointment. The water committee, Mr. Larry
13 Greer, chair, myself and Ms. Floyd. Any objection?
14 No objection. Unanimous consent.
15 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. We're
17 doing appointments. Mr. Waldrep.
18 BOB WALDREP: I was just trying to get
19 the scope of the water committee.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I believe the scope is
21 addressing the issue with the double payment for
22 those of us that live in the, quote, doughnut area,
23 unquote, and addressing dry wells and various other
24 ---
25 BOB WALDREP: That might be enhanced
26 water.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: May be. Okay. Thank you,
28 Mr. Waldrep. Mr. Wilson, any appointments?
29 RON WILSON: No, sir, not at this time.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
31 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
33 GRACIE FLOYD: None at this time. But
34 you closed the last one so abruptly. Are we into a
35 new one now?
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are doing appointments
37 for your respective districts.
38 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. But you
39 just went from one to the other without any fanfare
40 or anything. But listen, are you through with your
41 appointments?
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.
43 GRACIE FLOYD: We're going to have three
44 committees this year, land use, personnel and water;
45 right?
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have personnel, water
47 ---
48 GRACIE FLOYD: Land use and economic
49 development.
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- land use and economic

1 development.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Any
4 appointments?

5 GRACIE FLOYD: No, uh-uh (negative).

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for district five.

7 Mr. Greer.

8 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Mr. David Jones has resigned from the Anderson Sports
10 and Entertainment Center Advisory Committee. Tonight
11 I move to appoint Matt Lusk to the Anderson Sports
12 and Entertainment Center Advisory Committee.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
14 second. All in favor, please vote. Seven and oh.

15 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I would ask
16 that the clerk get a letter out to Mr. Lusk as early
17 as possible date.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Waldrep.

19 BOB WALDREP: There's no appointments.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson?

21 CINDY WILSON: I have none. But I have a
22 question. Don't we have a finance or audit committee
23 that's a standing committee also?

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. I am not
25 required to appoint all committees, just those that I
26 think will be necessary.

27 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. That's all
29 for appointments. Requests by council members. Mr.
30 Waldrep, any requests?

31 BOB WALDREP: None at this time. Thank
32 you.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I do. I would
35 like to appropriate five hundred dollars of district
36 two's paving account money to the Cancer Association.
37 Cancer Association has also asked each council member
38 to consider donating five hundred dollars to the
39 Smiling Slug Walk. What is a Smiling Slug? It's a
40 race for the elderly and the slow. I fit in two
41 categories in that. I'm elderly and I'm slow. It's
42 a walk for people like me and some of you out there.
43 It's not a race. We just take our time and we just
44 walk. Last year we raised eight thousand dollars for
45 the Cancer Association. Statistics that they send
46 said that a lot of these people from the Starr, Iva,
47 Honea Path area, as well as from the other outlying
48 areas and my district, are coming to that agency for
49 help. So they need about -- they need some money to
50 get it started. And for that I am asking you to

1 please join in with me to support the Smiling Slug
2 content. And I expect to see some of you sitting up
3 here, out there with me, okay, walking. Trying to
4 anyway. And that's in the form of a motion.
5 CINDY WILSON: Second.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
7 second. All in favor ---
8 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ---
10 GRACIE FLOYD: Greer.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- Greer.
12 LARRY GREER: I believe, Mrs. Floyd, if
13 I heard correctly, made the motion to appropriate
14 this from the paving account.
15 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't say paving. I
16 said recreation.
17 LARRY GREER: I thought I heard paving
18 instead of recreation.
19 GRACIE FLOYD: Did I say recreation? I
20 said paving? Y'all are not telling the truth. I
21 stand corrected. I stand corrected. I could have
22 promised you I said recreation. But no, this is not
23 the paving account. This is recreation. Mr. Greer,
24 I thank you.
25 LARRY GREER: Thank you.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor please vote.
27 Seven and oh. Any more, Ms. Floyd?
28 GRACIE FLOYD: No, that was it. Thank
29 you.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
31 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 At this time I'm going to just -- I have three
33 appropriations that I would like to make tonight and
34 I'll make them all at one time. One is for seven
35 hundred and fifty dollars to the American Legion Post
36 44 to help them conduct the activities that they do.
37 The second one is for seven hundred and fifty dollars
38 to the American Legion Post 51 for the same purpose.
39 And the other is five hundred dollars to the Anderson
40 Free Clinic. And all of those -- that's in the form
41 of a motion and all of those are from the district
42 three recreation account.
43 CINDY WILSON: Second.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
45 discussion? All in favor, vote. Seven and oh.
46 Thank you. Ms. Floyd has forgotten one. Any
47 objection for Ms. Floyd to pick up that one? Okay.
48 Ms. Floyd.
49 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. The
50 audience upset me. This one is for a soccer team

1 that I think has really worked hard in trying to
2 reach their goals this year. And every now and then
3 district two will assist a little sports group with a
4 small amount. So I want to donate -- I want to
5 appropriate two hundred and fifty dollars out of
6 district two's recreational account to the soccer
7 group that Mr. Thompson is going to give some money
8 to in a few minutes.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That group would be the
10 Westside High School Girls Junior Varsity soccer
11 team.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: I have some students in
13 that -- have some constituents in that area. And I
14 just thank y'all so much.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? We have a
16 motion. Do we have a second?

17 BILL MCABEE: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any discussion?
19 All in favor, please vote. Seven and oh. Are you
20 finished, Ms. Floyd?

21 GRACIE FLOYD: I promise you, I am.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

23 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I have one at this time. I move that three thousand
25 seven hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated from
26 the district four recreation account for the Double
27 Springs Community Club for the Double Springs Park
28 and picnic shelter for picnic tables.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can you repeat that?

30 BILL MCABEE: Let's just say that it's
31 thirty-seven fifty, thirty-seven hundred and fifty
32 dollars for the Double Springs Community Club for the
33 Double Springs picnic park shelters.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Out of the recreation
35 account?

36 BILL MCABEE: Out of the recreation
37 account.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second. We
39 have a second. Any discussion? All in favor, please
40 vote. Seven and oh. Anything else, Mr. McAbee?

41 BILL MCABEE: No. That's all at this
42 time, Mr. Chairman.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: District five, I move to
44 appropriate two hundred and fifty dollars from the
45 district five rec account to the Westside High School
46 Girls Junior Varsity soccer team for the purchase of
47 new jerseys.

48 BILL MCABEE: Second.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussions? Please
50 vote in favor of -- seven and oh. Thank you. And

1 that is all for district five. Mr. Wilson.
2 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
3 I'd like to appropriate thirty-two hundred dollars
4 out of the district six recreational account for the
5 Piedmont Public Service District where they're
6 working on the Thomas C. Pack Park to finish the work
7 that was begun under Councilman Bill Dees. So that's
8 my request.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?
10 CINDY WILSON: Second.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
12 favor, please vote. Seven and oh. Anything else,
13 Mr. Wilson?
14 RON WILSON: No, sir, Mr. Chairman.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
16 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 District seven moves to appropriate twenty-five
18 hundred dollars out of its paving account to the Town
19 of West Pelzer to purchase signs to conduct ditching
20 repairs and resurfacing.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?
22 LARRY GREER: Second.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
24 No discussion. All in favor, please vote. Seven and
25 oh. Anything else, Ms. Wilson? Thank you. That is
26 all for that. The administrator's report. Any
27 comments, Mr. Preston?
28 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. Ms. Floyd asked
29 me to bring the new museum director to the council
30 meeting tonight. I'm going to ask Michelle Strange
31 to introduce her tonight.
32 MICHELLE STRANGE: Good evening, council. It
33 is my pleasure to introduce to you Beverly Childs.
34 She comes to us with twenty-five years of non-profit
35 fund-raising and marketing experience. I think she's
36 going to do a great job for our museum. We are the
37 largest museum of local history in the State of South
38 Carolina. And I think she has a couple of reminders
39 for you.
40 BEVERLY CHILDS: It's a pleasure to be with
41 you tonight. Thank you. We have exciting things
42 happening at the museum all year, but I'm going to
43 speak for a few seconds about January and February.
44 I hope if you don't have your tickets for the winter
45 gala that is coming this Friday, it's happening this
46 Friday at seven o'clock, please call the museum. We
47 still have tickets available. Also, our Tuesday teas
48 are starting this coming Tuesday. That begins at one
49 o'clock. You can drop by the museum, have tea, and
50 we also have some educational programs happening on

1 Tuesday afternoon. And the other thing is the Celtic
2 Exhibit does open on February the 1st and we will
3 have a reception on February the 1st at the opening
4 of that exhibit and everyone is invited. So the only
5 thing it really costs you is if you want to come to
6 the Friday night gala. Everything else is free. So
7 please come. Thank you.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Preston, I thank you
12 for getting her. Your name was what again?
13 C-h-i-l-d-s? Okay. Ms. Childs, thank you for
14 choosing to come to work with us. I know that you're
15 going to do a wonderful job. And we stand behind you
16 in what you're going to do for us. Okay. Question
17 number one, are you going to have iced tea for Mr.
18 Wilson and me? No? When you have your teas? Well,
19 we want iced tea, sweet iced tea, don't we, Mr.
20 Wilson?

21 RON WILSON: Yes, we do.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. We want sweet iced
23 tea. Okay. I'll come if Mr. Wilson comes.

24 RON WILSON: Be glad to.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: And you don't have any
26 free tickets for Friday night? Uh-huh (affirmative).
27 Thank you.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else, Mr.
29 Preston? Very good. Citizens comments. Mr. Martin.

30 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 There are four citizens under other matters. Leroy
32 Walls.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. One moment before
34 we start. I forgot it at the beginning, so let me
35 correct myself here. Citizens -- let's see here.
36 Meetings of the county council are based upon the
37 representative form of government and are regulated
38 by parliamentary procedures and are not town
39 meetings. Accordingly, citizens comments is for the
40 receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input and
41 is not a time for debate, questions and answer or
42 dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than
43 three minutes to address county council. You are
44 asked to please refrain from addressing members of
45 the audience by name. Please direct your comments to
46 the council chair. Mr. Walls. Thank you.

47 LEROY WALLS: Mr. Chairman, county
48 council, I mostly put the name on it in case I didn't
49 finish at the beginning of the meeting. It does seem
50 like it's went a whole lot better tonight. We do

1 appreciate it.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

3 TOM MARTIN: Betty Casey.

4 BETTY CASEY: Mr. Chairman and elected
5 officials of Anderson county council, I came to tell
6 Cindy Wilson what a good job she has done for her
7 district and for her county. My family has always
8 lived in Anderson County. I have paid taxes in
9 Anderson County all my adult life. I feel like
10 citizens have a right to know where their money is
11 spent. I don't think that people have to argue and
12 carry on. I also think I made a bad mistake tonight.
13 I brought my granddaughter. I wanted to see --
14 wanted her to see government in action. People who
15 run for office should do the things they promise.
16 When you hire people to do a job, then you shouldn't
17 have to ask permission or beg for the information
18 that you need. They work for the people of Anderson
19 County. That was what they went in for. I haven't
20 seen Mr. Preston's election reports because I don't
21 think he was elected. He's not answerable to me.
22 But you county council people are. Then I will go
23 back and say my mistake in bringing my granddaughter
24 tonight, she is a survivor from leukemia. I am a
25 survivor from lung cancer. I resent taxpayers' money
26 being spent for all these good causes, but this is
27 what the general public does. The people are only
28 entitled to my tax dollar for things that they cannot
29 provide for themselves. Let them raise the money for
30 cancer for the things. I have run. I have walked.
31 My daughter has gone all the way to California to
32 run. Money can be raised because the American people
33 are generous. The next thing that I would say in
34 bringing my granddaughter to see government in
35 action, she saw a princess in a classroom with the
36 little clown jester, if that's what you want to say,
37 bowing to the little princess in the classroom. It's
38 almost like a kangaroo pouch. You've sided, went in
39 down here to this end over here, when you should be -
40 - you talk, Mr. McAbee, about teamwork. Where is it?
41 The council doesn't have it. Thank you for your
42 time.

43 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

44 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, ladies and
45 gentlemen, 700 Woodlake Road, district one. Again,
46 I'm going to warn you about your paving funds. Mr.
47 Greer mentioned tonight that there's a possibility
48 that the state is going to dump all these secondary
49 road onto the county. You don't have the money to
50 take care of it. I know you've got seven little

1 fiefdoms. They all want the same money spent in your
2 district, but roads are not used at the same rate.
3 You need one man in charge. Put it under Mr. Hopkins
4 and be done with it. Second thing about over-
5 budgeted items. A budget is like a river, full of
6 trout and you want to cast your line out to where the
7 trout are. So you set your line out there. But that
8 river is constantly moving and you're going to
9 constantly have to pull out of the river, recast.
10 Same thing applies with the budget. It's fluid. You
11 can't say in the middle of a budget that you're over
12 budget. Because all you've got to do is shift funds
13 from one to another. It's called a transfer. It's
14 accounted for under the state constitution. It's
15 given to Mr. Preston to do, provided he lets you
16 folks know thirty days after he gets it on his desk.
17 Not thirty days from the transfer. When you see a
18 line item that's over budget, go back in and see if
19 you can find one that's under budget, maybe the two
20 match up. I've been looking at the budget now for
21 the better part of six years. At times I've seen
22 over budget items, at times I've seen under budget
23 items, but the proof of the pudding is Mr. Preston
24 consistently comes in a million dollars under budget.
25 How can you be a thousand percent over, five hundred
26 percent over, three hundred percent over when you've
27 coming in a million dollars under budget. That means
28 the budget works. And I thank you.

29 TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

30 STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview
31 Estates, district one. Last week's meeting gave some
32 thought for concern, but all I can do right now is
33 watch and see how things develop. In regard to the
34 meeting tonight, there was one question I had, one
35 with the solid waste and the mention of disabled.
36 Now, I just need to make -- a little bit more
37 clarification I wish the council would give, is this
38 disabled only going to apply toward the police, the
39 fire and veterans, or are we going to cover all
40 disabled people, from the people who worked in the
41 textile mills who were injured and can no longer
42 work. A little clarification. Also, when we're
43 talking about some of the areas of what we call crime
44 around areas, it is generally known that in the city
45 itself in the area most people call no man's land,
46 which extends from city hall down, after dark is not
47 one place you want to be on foot. One other
48 consideration is, while council wants to abide by
49 Robert's Rules of Order, Robert's Rules of Order give
50 us the rules for proper decorum and order, but don't

1 become a prisoner to the rules. I remember a time
2 when I drove through a spider web one time and the
3 spider got trapped in its own web and rode the whole
4 distance from where I ran into it back to my house.
5 Be a little bit cautious and careful, though, that
6 you don't trap yourself by the rules, because
7 sometimes also as I've looked through many of our
8 ordinances, they're rather lengthy and they're wordy,
9 but you need to have everything mostly to end up
10 being wordy so you can end up without any confusion,
11 so everybody knows exactly what the ordinance means.
12 Just some thoughts to consider. Thank you.

13 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 That's all.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
16 Remarks from council members. Ms. Wilson.

17 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 First of all I want it known that I did request
19 twenty minutes to go over budgetary issues. I was
20 given ten minutes. I only touched on approximately a
21 third of what I had found, and that was only a small
22 fragment of what's there. If anyone wants, I'll be
23 glad to make copies of what I found. The bottom line
24 is that there are many categories way over budget and
25 many items that are not even budgeted that we're
26 spending money on. I think this should be cause for
27 concern. I think we're all interested in clarity and
28 transparency of the county spending of the money.
29 The real proof is in not having to raise taxes as was
30 done this year. And I think that's all the more
31 reason to have more accountability. I want it very
32 much know, I was in support of 800 megahertz.
33 However, I cannot support or approve a contract that
34 we were given that was very disadvantageous to this
35 county. The next issue is that as we move into storm
36 water runoff and all the other issues, I've written
37 our administrator a letter regarding the handling of
38 the sewer right of way down Beaverdam Creek. And I
39 received a letter that really did not address the
40 issues. I want the people of our good county to know
41 that with the millions and millions of dollars spent
42 on that sewer line which will probably never be used
43 to its full advantage, there are many lingering
44 problems. First of all, the BMPs were violated, the
45 banks were denuded, trees cut along the creek. There
46 are many banks along the creek that have been left
47 unstabilized. The right of way, at least along our
48 family's area and neighbors, none of that has been
49 replanted. With the moisture that we have in the
50 ground, that could have been done by now. In fact,

1 there's a lot of trash in the creek that we never had
2 before, including a big spool of silt fence. It's
3 about this big around and it's blocking the creek in
4 one area. The elevations were left higher than most
5 of the right of way along the creek, which backs up
6 and floods certain areas, and it's also in violation
7 of the permit condition. There are many other issues
8 that have yet to be resolved. And I've written a
9 letter. I requested a meeting with Mr. Singleton.
10 He agreed to meet with me, but he is yet to set a
11 time. I wanted to have the opportunity to meet with
12 county and landowners, county personnel and
13 landowners, to resolve these issues before we get
14 into further flooding and more erosion. I also want
15 it pointed out that there are frequently
16 announcements made or meetings held that involve
17 county business. This district seven representative
18 is not always included. And I'm very concerned about
19 that. I think my citizens will be very concerned
20 about it too. Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

22 BOB WALDREP: I have a couple of things
23 I wanted to say about the 800 megahertz system.
24 Somehow another I keep hearing that a couple of
25 members did not support the 800 megahertz system, and
26 I think that's absolutely wrong and a distortion of
27 actually what happened. I thought it was abundantly
28 clear when we had those hearings that we were in
29 support, I was, I think Ms. Wilson was too, and
30 certainly others. But our objection was in the
31 manner in which the contract was presented to us and
32 the fact that the council was not going to have the
33 ability to oversee the final contract, that that had
34 been abdicated totally to the county administrator.
35 And I made a motion for the purpose of amending that
36 ordinance to allow county council to have authority
37 to review that contract and at least approve it and
38 that was voted down. And for that reason, I could
39 not support the ordinance. So I think by no stretch
40 of the imagination, I don't think it's very fair to
41 make that accusation when, hopefully, most people
42 would understand that we did not, I certainly did
43 not, object to us having a better system of
44 communications in this county. But I felt like very
45 strongly that when you have something like a multi-
46 million dollar contract that was admittedly written
47 by the Motorola Company and had not been reviewed,
48 even at the second meeting of the council, that we
49 should buy into that particular contract. And I
50 still hold firm on that. If one finds that

1 objectionable, then so be it. Secondly was the issue
2 of teamwork. A great idea to have teamwork. But
3 you've got to be sincere about that and you've got to
4 include everybody. Whenever there are certain things
5 that are done that other people on council are not
6 privy to, then I don't call that teamwork. I think
7 that it's most appropriate that everyone have access
8 to all records, everyone have access to all these
9 opportunities, these trips, or these engagements that
10 are taken by certain council members, and that that
11 should be even across the board. That's what
12 teamwork is. But maybe we differ in our definitions
13 of what teamwork is. Lastly I would like to say to
14 Mr. Preston, I appreciate his response to my request
15 for the FOI information on cards. However, I found
16 that a charge for me getting those of five thousand
17 dollars ...

18 End of Side 2, Tape 2

19 BOB WALDREP: ... I can go and raise the
20 money some way. But on the other hand I'd like to
21 serve notice on Mr. Preston that perhaps I will give
22 him a call soon and he has graciously given me the
23 opportunity to now go to the records and look at
24 those records and perhaps have an opportunity to
25 review them so that I can gain an understanding of
26 just how this process works. So having said that, I
27 thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to
28 speak.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I'm going to make a request tonight. We have council
32 members who are making requests several times, a lot
33 of times, and I heard a statement tonight that this
34 council had voted to have a court stenographer do the
35 minutes. I personally do not recall that vote. And
36 I'm requesting the council representative from
37 district seven to work with the council clerk to
38 secure a copy of the minutes where this council cast
39 a vote to have a court stenographer do the minutes.
40 I would like to see the minutes that record that.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman, did you get
42 that request? Go ahead, Mr. Greer.

43 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 In regard to the 800 megahertz radio, I can't let Mr.
45 Waldrep's comments go without responding. I too had
46 some of the concerns that Mr. Waldrep had concerning
47 the contractual issues involved with the 800
48 megahertz. I for one like to see the contracts and I
49 read those contracts. I don't think there's anybody
50 sitting on this council that doubts the fact that I

1 read things. And I study them. And I ponder over
2 them. And I try to make sure that when I cast my
3 vote I've cast it appropriately. I find it curious
4 that we have a statement that we did not have a
5 contract to review when I had about two or three
6 copies of it. One was in the agenda book that was
7 delivered to my home on the Friday before we
8 considered it on third reading. And then on the
9 Monday afternoon before we were to consider this on
10 Tuesday I had what's called a red line version
11 delivered to my home that was easier for me to read
12 and look at the changes and so forth. And when we
13 considered this on third reading, I made the
14 statement very clearly that I had spent most of the
15 night on Monday and most of the day on Tuesday
16 reviewing that contract. It was difficult. Yes,
17 ma'am, everybody got it. It was delivered. I find
18 it curious that people say they didn't have a
19 contract. There was a copy of the contract in the
20 agenda packet. If anybody doubts that, I keep every
21 agenda packet that I have ever had since I've been on
22 the council. They're in my office. If you don't
23 believe it, you can go in there and see the stuff
24 stacked around the wall. And I will pull out my
25 agenda packet and show you the contract in that
26 agenda packet. So on third reading we did have a
27 contract that had been negotiated through the county
28 attorneys and this council did have time to review
29 that contract. You had from Friday afternoon when
30 the agenda packet was delivered until Tuesday at six
31 o'clock to review the contract dealing with the 800
32 megahertz radio. So to say you didn't have a
33 contract to consider and to review, in my opinion, is
34 totally erroneous, when indeed you did have the
35 contract to consider. And I'll produce it to anybody
36 who wishes to see it. You have to make up your mind
37 whether you're playing games with something or
38 whether you truly support it. And if you supported
39 our first responders, our EMS and our fire and our
40 law enforcement, you don't place petty politics above
41 our first responders. They go into harm's way every
42 day. They deserve better than that. If I'm
43 offending somebody, I'm sorry. But our first
44 responders deserve our utmost support. I'm going to
45 finish my comments tonight with this statement, and I
46 want you to listen carefully to what I'm going to
47 say. There is a phrase that goes that ours is a
48 government of the people, by the people, and for the
49 people. I'm going to rephrase it just a little bit.
50 And I want you to listen to it. Ours is a

1 government, and I phrased it this way, Anderson
2 County government is a government of all of the
3 people, by all of the people, for all of the people.
4 It's not for just a handful. It's for everybody.
5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 Mr. Pope -- excuse me, I don't know if I should have
9 done that or not. I shouldn't have done that, and I
10 apologize. But I have undue respect for a lot of you
11 in the audience. But I cannot sit here and let it be
12 said that there's a place in Anderson starting from
13 downtown Main Street to the other end that's called
14 no man's land. That's my district. I've never heard
15 it called no man's land before. And it was said that
16 that's a place that you really don't want to be. I
17 think that we need to be careful when we start
18 pointing out different things and different places.
19 There is a place in Anderson County that has
20 beautiful homes. Okay. I'll just use Thornhill
21 because that's the only one I can think of at this
22 time. Thornhill is a beautiful community. And if I
23 was walking around in Thornhill at eleven thirty,
24 twelve o'clock at night, I'm going to be in trouble
25 too. But it does not matter that you live in a
26 particular place that you could get in trouble.
27 That's just everywhere. And I work too hard in
28 district two to make it -- to have it accepted by
29 everyone as a viable part of this county, of the
30 community, to have those little slights made to it.
31 I know that my district is not a perfect district. I
32 know it's not perfect. It's not a -- it has the same
33 problems that you have, a lot of you have, in your
34 own districts. But don't slander it. Don't make it
35 any harder than it is. Don't scare people. Don't
36 frighten people for coming down in district two. I
37 have some good people who live out there with me.
38 It's where I live. And there are some good people
39 there. As it is in your district. And there are
40 some people who are not so good. As in your
41 district. But I will never sit by, I will never sit
42 by and let you down district two. That's all I have.
43 That's the reason why I am here in Anderson.
44 Michelle, you were -- excuse me, I did it again. You
45 were out of the room when I was congratulating you on
46 the work that you've done. I do appreciate it. You
47 have helped all of us in this county look really
48 good. And we're cleaning up our district because of
49 the people that you have gotten together to work.
50 And I'm going to ask Mr. Preston, please ask Mr.

1 Rickets -- can I do that? Please ask Mr. Rickets to
2 meet with the realtors. Let's get these people to
3 the table along with other people who are interested
4 in working together with Anderson County and making
5 sure that we're getting what we need to be getting
6 from builders and everybody else. I would like for
7 him to meet with these people and let's come up with
8 a plan that we all can live with. Folks, you know
9 me. I'm one of the biggest fighters in Anderson.
10 And I raise my sand every now and then. But I still
11 believe there's power at the table. I still believe
12 that when people come together and sit down with one
13 thing in mind, and that is teamwork and getting
14 along, that you can do these things. And for that I
15 thank you. And I thank you.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

17 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 In George Orwell's novel 1984, they have a term
19 called Newspeak. That is something could be said by
20 the politically correct forces that was in complete
21 contradiction of what they had said the day before
22 and it eradicated what they had said before as if it
23 had never happened. It also meant that whatever they
24 said at a given time was the truth, even if that
25 truth contradicted what they said even hours before.
26 Tonight we've seen an example of Newspeak. Two
27 council members sitting up here saying that they
28 supported 800 megahertz, when there were only four
29 councilmen that supported it. The opposition to 800
30 megahertz was actually a difficult thing because it
31 was always a moving target. We never knew what we
32 were going to face as the argument against it. The
33 orig -- the initial argument offered by two council
34 members was that the system just would not work, it
35 was a flawed system and would not work. The next
36 system was -- next argument was there was a better
37 alternative. The final problem was the contract. We
38 have an interesting spectacle of a councilwoman
39 reading from the service contract stating that there
40 was no warranty provided and -- rather than reading
41 from the equipment contract. The one consistency was
42 opposition to 800 megahertz. They supported it and
43 they supported it so much they voted against it every
44 opportunity they had. They supported it so much they
45 took every opportunity to speak against it. Not just
46 here at the council chambers, but on public radio and
47 in the newspaper. There is nothing in the record or
48 in any public statements that leads the council --
49 where you could say that the two council members that
50 voted against the 800 megahertz system had ever

1 supported it at any time for any reason whatsoever.
2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McAbee.
4 Mr. Wilson.

5 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 I wasn't going to say anything about 800 megahertz
7 until we got on it here tonight. But let me tell
8 you, you can talk till you're blue in the face about
9 how much you support something. But when you vote
10 against it every time you vote, don't tell me you're
11 for it. It doesn't hold any water. Now what these
12 two members ought to do is the same thing I did back
13 in December, when I made a mistake on zoning I
14 admitted it. And I told them I made a mistake. To
15 vote against the service industry, the emergency
16 service industry, police, fire and so forth, is
17 ridiculous. And you can spin that all you want to,
18 but you won't get anything out of it. They voted
19 against it and that's the bottom line. Now, what I
20 really wanted to talk about, we're going to be going
21 into the presidential elections the next few days.
22 The democrats are going to join next Monday at the
23 dome and you'll have Hillary and Obama there and
24 maybe Jim Edwards -- I mean, I'm sorry, Edwards from
25 -- John, thank you, and they'll be bashing the
26 Confederate flag. And they'll be at Martin Luther
27 King's rally there in Columbia. Martin Luther King
28 never led a demonstration anywhere in his life
29 against the Confederate flag, but yet that's what
30 these three will talk about, because we fly it at the
31 monument, by the soldier's monument, on the grounds
32 in Columbia. Well, who really makes me the maddest
33 over these issues is people like John McCain, Mitt
34 Romney and Fred Thompson when they come down here for
35 our vote and talk to us and then they'll go off to a
36 debate in Tampa, Florida or somewhere else and
37 they're asked about our heritage, they'll bash it.
38 Talk about how it's a symbol of racism. It may be to
39 them, but it's not to thousands and thousands and
40 hundreds of thousands of South Carolinians. And we
41 have a chance next week, we ought to send them all
42 packing. Two men spoke out in -- they didn't endorse
43 the flag. We've never asked for that. But they said
44 it's an issue for South Carolina. South Carolina
45 will decide the issue. That's exactly right. Those
46 two men are Ron Paul and Governor Mike Huckabee. I
47 can't wait to go vote, because I'm going to vote the
48 way I know a lot of South Carolinians will on this
49 and I, for one, am sick and tired of seeing national
50 politicians come here and hammer on us for our

1 heritage at the same time asking us for a vote.

2 Let's get rid of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. No

4 comments from the audience. I had asked Ms. Eddleman

5 to contact all council members to get a list of

6 projects you want the one cent sales tax commission

7 to consider. I had three lists. I do need to get

8 your list as soon as possible. The co-chairman of

9 the one cents sales tax commission asked me to do

10 this. I said I would. So please get me your list.

11 I want to thank everyone for how this meeting went

12 tonight. It's not nine o'clock and we're about ready

13 to adjourn. We got the business done and there was

14 not too much fireworks and I'm really pleased. I'm

15 just hoping this is things to come. But I probably

16 just jinxed it. Meeting adjourned.

17

18

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – February 5, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson - District #5, Presiding
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
CINDY WILSON
BOB WALDREP
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON
LARRY GREER

1 BILL MCABEE: Dear Heavenly Father, we
2 thank you for this opportunity to come together and
3 meet again at this time. Lord, open our heart to
4 know your will, illuminate our minds with wisdom
5 that we may better serve Thee and do the peoples'
6 work. In the name of my personal Savior Jesus
7 Christ I pray. Amen.

8 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Citizen comments, let
10 me read the instructions. Meetings of the county
11 council are based upon the representative form of
12 government and are regulated by parliamentary
13 procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly
14 the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens'
15 opinions, comments, and input. It is not a time for
16 debate, question and answer, or dialogue. Each
17 person will be allowed not more than three minutes
18 to address county council. You are asked to please
19 refrain from addressing members of the audience by
20 name. Please direct your comments to the council
21 chair and also give us the county council district
22 in which you live.

23 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 Roger Predrick.

25 ROGER PREDRICK: Thank you. My name is
26 Roger Predrick. I live in district six. I'm a
27 business owner and live in Anderson County. For a
28 period of time, I've heard county council talk about
29 teamwork. During this same period I've seen very
30 little of it. I believe I know something about team
31 work having officiated college football for twenty-
32 two years. I worked two hundred and four college
33 games, eight 1-AA playoffs and a national
34 championship. During any given Saturday I know I
35 have only six friends in the stadium and they happen
36 to be dressed the same way that I am. I also know
37 that each one of us have different areas of
38 responsibility. And if one official doesn't do his
39 job well, then we have problems and we all get
40 painted with the same brush as the one who failed to
41 carry out his responsibilities. I've seen this on
42 county council. You talk about teamwork but some
43 members seem to have their own agendas. They talk
44 about credit cards and waste but only in slight
45 percentages and dollar amounts. But at the same
46 time the budget as a whole comes in under budget.
47 We're all for reducing waste but at what cost to the
48 image of Anderson County? Does it help promote an
49 image of cooperation or an image of discord? What
50 has been the cost in paper, county manpower, legal

1 fees and time taken away from other job duties? It
2 reminds me of a hypochondriac who keeps going from
3 doctor to doctor until they find one to finally tell
4 them what they want to hear. Except in this case,
5 they're going from item to item hoping to find
6 something of significance in order to say I told you
7 it was here. It isn't teamwork when you have your
8 own agenda or you think you're the only one in step
9 in the band. Then there another council member
10 tries to put words into other peoples' mouth, even
11 tries to cross-examine our own county attorney. I
12 find it hypocritical that they would vote against a
13 resolution in October to allow the environmental
14 service division and the building and grounds
15 department to seek and obtain accreditation from the
16 American Public Works Association. Thank you. This
17 group of individuals just wanted to be validated
18 that they were a competent group of workers. For
19 example is there a big difference when an Attorney
20 has to pass the bar exam? By passing the exam are
21 they not saying I've been validated as being
22 competent in practicing law? I know one is required
23 by law and the other not. But are not both groups
24 not asking for the same thing, I've been validated
25 as being competent by an accrediting organization to
26 practice my trade. Thank you.

27 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown IV.

28 BROOKS BROWN: Good evening, Mr.
29 Chairman. Brooks Brown IV, council district one. I
30 want to talk about Ordinance 2008-010.
31 Unfortunately, not in the packet of materials so I'm
32 going to have to guess what this is about by it's
33 title. An ordinance providing access to public
34 records. We currently have a case involving this
35 council and the administration before the Supreme
36 Court. One that will probably be ruled against the
37 minority. I feel that any ordinance of this nature
38 is simply an in-run to try and get around any
39 possible ruling by the Supreme Court, is totally
40 inappropriate at this time and should be tabled at
41 best. Thank you.

42 TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

43 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr.
44 Chairman. My name is Rick Freemantle. I live in
45 the Williamston area, more specifically the White
46 Plains precinct. I'd like to speak on behalf of the
47 real Anderson County Taxpayers Association here
48 tonight.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Freemantle.

50 RICK FREEMANTLE: Yes sir?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You may speak as an
2 individual.

3 RICK FREEMANTLE: Sir, with all due
4 respect, I asked you a couple of meetings ago to
5 read me this law. You're familiar with the term
6 cherry picking? You've looked -- conveniently
7 several times left out the last sentence, sir, which
8 reads any citizen who is retained by a person, that
9 means being paid, ---

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

11 RICK FREEMANTLE: -- group or organization
12 for the purpose of promoting or opposing any matter
13 before the county council for compensation.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This is part of his three
15 minutes.

16 RICK FREEMANTLE: That's fine. -- shall
17 disclose, and here's the other kicker, we have three
18 choices, even though we don't qualify for this. We
19 can disclose persons, groups, or organizations, but
20 since I'm here voluntarily I don't have to do that.
21 Now, what I'd like to talk about, the ordinance
22 2008-009 pertaining to other matters herein. I hope
23 that that gets solve. I'd like to see that be a
24 two-thirds majority vote. Another thing, 2008-010,
25 it's unfortunate that we have to have an ordinance
26 to have an open and honest government in this county
27 and I'm hoping that it will be voted for in the
28 affirmative tonight. One other last little issue
29 pertaining to citizen comments. Couple of weeks
30 ago, sir, Mr. Chairman made the comment on WRIX
31 station that he considered our right to speak here a
32 privilege which could be removed by a simple
33 majority vote. With all due respect, Mr. Chairman,
34 I would love to see that vote before primary rolls
35 around.

36 TOM MARTIN: Doug Parham.

37 DOUG PARHAM: My name is Doug Parham. I
38 live in district three with family holdings in
39 district two, five, and seven. Mr. Chairman,
40 members of county council, and everyone present here
41 tonight.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please speak into the
43 mic.

44 DOUG PARHAM: Everyone here tonight,
45 I'm here tonight to make a blanket apology. I, like
46 everyone else can be fooled by someone who makes a
47 living out of putting a spin on topics in order to
48 pad his pocket and create job security for himself.
49 For letting people -- for letting myself be fooled
50 and be influenced by individuals and for some of the

1 things I have said in the past, to friends, family,
2 and anyone else who's listening here tonight or are
3 going to watch this on TV tomorrow, who may have
4 heard my views while under the influence of this
5 self-serving pied piper, I'm sorry. But most of
6 all, I would like to offer an apology to some
7 members of the council and other individuals in our
8 county government. I'm not saying that I'm changing
9 the way I think or the things I believe in. But I
10 am saying I will try and look at things objectively
11 and without anyone making or influencing my
12 conclusions from now on. In summing up this
13 statement, this individual and I did not have a
14 falling out because of any statement that I made,
15 but because I no longer believed in most of the
16 statements that he made and the garbage he was
17 handing out. It was said that I was causing some of
18 his faithful followers to think for themselves and
19 ultimately this would hurt him financially, so I was
20 condemned after all, using this spin doctor's
21 favorite phrase, it's all about the money. And by
22 the way I didn't join the original taxpayer's
23 association for about four reasons. The first
24 reason is, I don't believe the man that leads it is
25 strong enough a leader for me to follow. The second
26 reason is, I believe the only people who want to
27 belong to an organization and not have their names
28 be known are people who associate themselves with
29 organizations like the klu klux klan or Ray Steven's
30 ali babba and the temple of the shrine. Those are
31 the reasons that I never joined that organization,
32 for the person who questioned me on it. But I no
33 longer will be associated with this Jim Jones type
34 guru. Anyone can talk the talk, but in my opinion
35 it takes a real honest and truthful man to walk the
36 walk. So you people in the political ring and those
37 who plan to join in in this election ask yourself,
38 am I going to be an honest representative of the
39 taxpayers and voters or am I going to allow myself
40 to be used by someone whose only interest in
41 Anderson and this election is to feather his own
42 nest? Or can I run a campaign without any special
43 interests? In closing, let me say this, if you want
44 the support of me and my family don't align yourself
45 with any special interest individuals. I will not
46 only contribute to a candidate I feel I can vote
47 for, but I'll get out and be a worker and help
48 anyone whether he represents me in my district or
49 some other district as long as I feel like he is
50 trying to help Anderson County.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time. Time.

2 DOUG PARHAM: Thank you.

3 TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

4 STEVE POPE: I'm Steve Pope, Bellview
5 Estates, county district one. Members of council, I
6 just want to look tonight at the credit card things
7 and combined with some of the statements that
8 appeared in the paper. Now credit cards are an
9 excellent way to keep track off all of your
10 statement, because normally when you use one you
11 will have the signature thing you will sign but they
12 usually also provide you with a receipt that shows
13 the full detail items for restaurant or wherever you
14 go you'll have everything listed on there. I know
15 because when I go to a restaurant, I'll pay with a
16 credit card and I'll take my copy that I signed but
17 I'll also take the receipt copy that shows what I
18 ordered. That keeps a record of everything and that
19 way I can go back and track for my own personal
20 records exactly what I spent what on. It takes time
21 to develop a good system of keeping records and one
22 I'm still learning. But then the more you keep
23 track of it, the more you can track where all your
24 expenses go. It's a little bit more paperwork to
25 have to keep track of, but it's well worth the
26 effort. Thank you.

27 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Those are the only citizens under agenda matters.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
30 Resolutions and proclamation. Resolution 2008-005 a
31 resolution recognizing and honoring the Belton Fire
32 Department and the individual volunteer fire
33 fighters who risked their lives to save others on
34 December the 14thm 2007 and other matters thereto.
35 Is there a motion to consider?

36 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move we
37 consider this resolution.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? I
39 have a second. Any discussion? No discussion. We
40 are voting on resolution 2008-005. All in favor?
41 Unanimous vote. Mr. Greer, the floor is yours.

42 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 At this time I want to ask Chief Allan Sims from the
44 Belton City Fire Department and his fireman and the
45 members of their families to come forward. Members
46 of council and members of the audience, the group of
47 people that you see across the front of the chamber
48 floor is a group of people that you hope you never
49 see, but you're awful glad they're there when you
50 need them. And that's our fireman. We have some

1 police officers in the audience tonight and our EMS
2 personnel that I was involved in an incident with
3 some of those this afternoon down in my community.
4 And tonight we're going to recognize the efforts of
5 the Belton City Fire Department and the members of
6 that department. I'm going to read the resolution,
7 then I'm going to ask Chief Sims if he would come
8 forward and introduce his fireman and the members of
9 their family. This is a resolution recognizing and
10 honoring the Belton Fire Department and the
11 individual volunteer firefighters who risked their
12 lives to save others on December the 14th, 2007 and
13 other matters related thereto. Whereas the Anderson
14 County Council is elected by and representative of
15 the citizens of Anderson County and is therefore
16 deeply involved in and affected by all the events in
17 the lives of its citizens. And whereas on December
18 the 14th, 2007 a fire occurred in a multi-family
19 residential structure located on Guthrie Road in
20 Belton and due to the quick, methodical, and
21 professional acts of the firefighters responding to
22 the scene, two victims of the fire were saved and no
23 lives were lost. Whereas the council wishes to
24 recognize that it takes a special kind of courage to
25 rush into danger in order to protect people and
26 property. And council further wishes to recognize
27 that Chief Allan Sims, Firefighter Vaughn,
28 Firefighter Cawthorne, Firefighter Browning,
29 Engineer Riddle, Engineer Smith, and Engineer
30 Alewine displayed that courage in saving two lives
31 in the process. Whereas because our county and its
32 people are once again reminded of the valor
33 demonstrated everyday by firefighters who selfishly
34 face injury and death while protecting the public
35 from fire and other devastations, Anderson County
36 council desires to honor those volunteer
37 firefighters who risked their lives on December the
38 14th, 2007 to save others and further desires to
39 express its sincere appreciations to those above-
40 mentioned men for their professionalism and selfless
41 acts in the line of duty. Now therefore be it
42 resolved by Anderson County council in meeting duly
43 assembled that Anderson County acting by and through
44 it's county council hereby recognizes and honors
45 Chief Allan Sims, Firefighter Vaughn, Firefighter
46 Cawthorne, Firefighter Browning, Engineer Riddle,
47 Engineer Smith, and Engineer Alewine who risked
48 their lives to save others during the structure fire
49 on Guthrie Road on December the 14th, 2007, and
50 express its sincere appreciation for their

1 professionalism and selfless acts to protect others.
2 This resolution takes effect tonight. Chief Allan
3 Sims I would like to ask you to come forward at this
4 time.

5 ALLAN SIMS: Thank you all. I just
6 want to give you a brief synopsis of what happened
7 on that night in December. We got a call for a
8 multi-family structure fire, which is about two-
9 hundred yards from my house. Being the first one to
10 get there, the neighbors stated there were two
11 people in the upstairs room asleep, and the house is
12 on fire. These guys arrived there probably in a
13 couple, three minutes, most of them are off duty or
14 volunteer firefighters. We arrived on the scene and
15 we gained entry to the building. There was a fire
16 at the bottom of the stairs. These gentlemen put
17 this fire out, advanced up to the second floor,
18 found one victim, the female, lying in the floor
19 unconscious, almost dead. This female victim was
20 actually one of council member's daughter that
21 passed away last year, Mr. Jimmy Milford, his
22 daughter. They brought her to the top of the
23 stairs. Two fireman then carried her out where a
24 medtrans helicopter was put on standby. She was
25 flown to Augusta. Another crew was upstairs, found
26 another victim sitting in a chair, was unconscious,
27 barely breathing. Brought him out, flew him to
28 Augusta. This happened on Friday. Monday afternoon
29 both of these patients were released. This is a
30 very rare situation. Both conditions these guys had
31 to find these people in because they had to use a
32 thermal imaging camera to locate them. Their quick
33 response, teamwork, and effort and EMS's effort for
34 treating these patients is why these victims are
35 alive today. This is a very rare occasion and I
36 would like to thank Mr. Greer, county council. I
37 hope this will be the first recognition of many to
38 come for these guys. Again, like I say this is very
39 rare. Just to introduce you to them because these
40 are the heros and the teamwork of the Belton Fire
41 Department. Engineer Kevin Alewine and his family.
42 Michael Browning and his family. Engineer Chad
43 Smith. We've got Darren Vaughn, which is a police
44 officer in Greenville County. Engineer Luke Riddle.
45 Firefighter Daniel Cawthorne. These are the ones
46 that actually went in and put out this fire to save
47 these victims' lives. I would like to give them all
48 a thanks and applause.

49 APPLAUSE

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution 2008-010 a

1 resolution designating the week of February the
2 16th, 2008 through February 23rd, 2008 as Future
3 Farmer's of America Week and other matters thereto.
4 Is there a motion to consider?

5 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move we
6 consider.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
8 second. Any discussion? No discussion. All in
9 favor of resolution 2008-010 please raise your hand.
10 The vote is unanimous. Mr. Greer.

11 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 We have five members of the FFA chapters located
13 across the county who are going to speak to us
14 tonight. I would ask them to come forward at this
15 time and I'll come down and say a few words and then
16 turn it over to them. The FFA is a -- and they may
17 say some of this but I can't stand here without
18 saying some of it -- is a national organization.
19 It's the oldest -- one of the oldest youth
20 leadership organizations in this country. It's
21 probably the largest. We have five schools in this
22 county that have FFA programs in their agricultural
23 departments. We do have several teachers here
24 tonight who are instructors in the Ag programs and
25 we have some other FFA members at the back of the
26 room. I'd ask them to, the teachers and the other
27 FFA members, if they would, to stand at this time.
28 I would like to recognize those who are with us and
29 to demonstrate a little bit about how well this
30 organization works and how well this program works.
31 I'm not going to introduce these folks. They are
32 going to come forward and introduce themselves,
33 share what they have to share with you and then I'll
34 read the resolution and present it so at that time.

35 ANNA KATE WATERS: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
36 Good evening everybody. My name is Anna Kate Waters
37 and I'm currently serving as the Anderson FFA
38 chapter vice president. We are based right over
39 here at the Hanna Westside Extension Campus. Our
40 chapter is one of the seven thousand three hundred
41 and fifty-eight chapters across the nation,
42 including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. With
43 more than half a million members the FFA is one of
44 the largest youth organizations in the world. Our
45 mission is to make a positive difference in the
46 lives of other students, as well as myself, in
47 developing a potential for premier leadership,
48 personal growth, and career success. As county
49 council members you know that leadership plays a
50 major role in our society today. So as FFA members

1 we are provided with excellent opportunities to
2 learn the basics of leadership which you will hear
3 more about in a minute from Ashley. I personally
4 have experienced both the national FFA convention
5 held in Indiana and the Washington leadership
6 conference held in of course our Nation's capitol,
7 Washington DC. Along with having fun in the cities,
8 touring all the monuments and museums and
9 interacting with the other FFA members throughout
10 the country, these opportunities are the ultimate
11 way to assure that FFA members gain the qualities
12 that we strive for. Also, FFA members earn four
13 billion dollars a year through their hands-on
14 experiences. Most of this comes from community
15 service projects and supervised agricultural
16 experiences or SAEs. These SAEs are one part of the
17 three core areas that agriculture education is based
18 on. The other two being the classroom and lab
19 curriculums and then the FFA organization itself.
20 At my school, the Hanna Westside Extension campus,
21 our classes are split into two parts, horticulture
22 with a strong emphasis in landscaping taught by Mr.
23 Jay Copeland, and plant and animal sciences with a
24 strong emphasis in equine science taught by Ms.
25 Ashley Granada. It is through these classes that my
26 peers and I learn career success and that today's
27 FFA members are tomorrow's leaders. Thank you for
28 your time. I would now like to turn it over to
29 Jesse.

30 JESSE HUFF: Good evening, everybody.
31 I'm Jesse Huff, president of the Crescent FFA. It is
32 our pleasure to be in attendance tonight. My duty
33 tonight is to describe the state FFA organization
34 and how it ties into our local FFA chapters. First
35 of all, the state of South Carolina currently has
36 approximately fifty-eight hundred FFA members state-
37 wide representing ninety chapters. This is an
38 average sixty-four members per chapter. In
39 comparison to the state FFA association, Anderson
40 County schools have approximately six hundred FFA
41 members from Crescent, BHP, Anderson one and two
42 career center, Hanna Westside Extension campus and
43 Pendleton. This brings Anderson County to the top
44 of the state with an average of one hundred twenty
45 members per chapter. In other words, Anderson FFA
46 chapters are definitely leaders in our field. The
47 Crescent FFA chapter has the largest livestock
48 program in the state, showing over thirty beef
49 animals which earned our students over sixty-five
50 hundred dollars in scholarships this year. Our

1 chapter also teaches horticulture, natural
2 resources, agriculture mechanics and agriculture
3 science. We currently have one hundred and twenty-
4 one FFA members. Our advisors are Mr. Roger
5 Estridge and Mr. Tim Cowan. The South Carolina
6 Association of FFA is a state organization of
7 affiliated local chapters in schools where
8 instruction of agriculture education is offered
9 under the provisions of federal, vocational,
10 education legislation. FFA chapters in our schools
11 are an integral component of our class work. The
12 state FFA offers five degrees of active membership
13 based on the student's individual accomplishments.
14 The state association of FFA is governed under the
15 state FFA advisory committee which consists of
16 president, past president and president elect of the
17 South Carolina agricultural educators association as
18 well as one teacher from each of the four regions of
19 the state, one teacher educator from Clemson
20 University and one person from the agricultural
21 education state staff. This body of people makes
22 decisions of how the state FFA spends their funds as
23 well as our state FFA camp located in North Myrtle
24 Beach. Clemson University also employs four people
25 who make up the support staff of South Carolina
26 agricultural education as well as four educators at
27 Clemson who prepare new teachers. Finally, the
28 state FFA elects six state officers every year who
29 are either graduating seniors in high school or
30 first year high school graduates. The state
31 officers travel across the state as well as the
32 country promoting South Carolina FFA chapters. To
33 hold one of these titles is truly an honor for a
34 young person as well as a tremendous educational
35 opportunity. As students and FFA members of
36 Anderson County we thank you for allowing us to
37 speak tonight.

38 CALEB KEATON: Hello and good evening.
39 I'm Caleb Keaton. I'm the president of the Belton-
40 Honea Path FFA chapter. The BHP FFA chapter is the
41 second largest FFA chapter in South Carolina with
42 two hundred and six members. The Belton-Honea Path
43 FFA chapter has received the Governor's citation for
44 outstanding community service for three of the past
45 four years. Agriculture education courses offered
46 at BHP include agricultural science, horticulture 1
47 and 2, wildlife management, forestry, and Ag
48 mechanics. Career development events have contests
49 in which FFA members can use knowledge learned in
50 the classroom in competition. Students can win

1 trips to the national FFA convention as well as
2 scholarships. FFA sponsored career development
3 events include sow judging, wildlife, forestry,
4 horse judging, livestock judging, dairy evaluation,
5 dairy foods, poultry evaluation, nursery/landscape,
6 horticulture, creed speaking, public speaking, and
7 parliamentary procedure. Thank you.

8 ASHLEY KING: Thank you all for giving
9 me the opportunity to address you tonight. I'm
10 Ashley King, president of the Pendleton FFA chapter.
11 Our agriculture program in Anderson District 4 has
12 realigned its curriculum over the past few years to
13 offer new classes. Currently we have agriculture
14 science, agriculture mechanics 1 and 2,
15 horticulture, internship and turf management. Our
16 program is rapidly growing and I'm glad to be a part
17 of that. The opening sentence to the third
18 paragraph of the creed states, I believe in
19 leadership from ourselves and respect from others.
20 The FFA organization not only talks the talk, but
21 provides it's members with member enhancing
22 opportunities from the national to the chapter
23 level. Some examples of these are the Washington
24 Leadership Conference where FFA members have the
25 opportunity to visit and tour our Nation's capitol,
26 and learn about the working of American politics.
27 Also we have the green hand community, the green
28 hand conferences, summer camp, and chapter officer
29 workshops provide more opportunity and direction to
30 lead. As myself, a chapter officer who coordinates
31 meetings, activities, fundraisers and committees, I
32 am given a skill set that will last a lifetime. And
33 as our FFA mission says, we are developing procedure
34 from premier leadership. Thank you.

35 TOM HANSON: Good evening ladies and
36 gentlemen. My name is Tom Hanson. I am a junior at
37 Anderson Career and Technology Center. We are
38 located in Williamston, South Carolina and serve
39 district 1 and 2 students. Our plant, animal and
40 wildlife science program offers many different
41 classes including horticulture, forestry,
42 agriculture science, pet science, landscape design,
43 and turf management. We have two instructors, Mr.
44 Steve McGaha and Mr. Audi Green. Tonight we will be
45 discussing our supervised agricultural experience
46 program and how we participate. SAE benefits
47 students, employers, parents, school systems, and
48 the community. Supervised agricultural experience
49 program consists of all the supervised experiences
50 that are learned outside the classroom or lab.

1 Students participating in SAE are given the
2 opportunity to perform hands-on activities and
3 develop employability skills by working outside the
4 classroom at sites related to their course work.
5 Supervised agricultural experiences provide
6 opportunities for the student to learn by actually
7 doing, not just seeing it written down in a text
8 book or talked about in a classroom. Other benefits
9 of SAE are career exploration, opportunity to earn
10 money while learning, create opportunities for
11 graduation, develop interests in areas of agri-
12 science and develop work skills such as integrity,
13 communication, attitude, cooperation, respect,
14 attendance, punctuality, following directions,
15 safety and self-management. Anderson Career Center
16 offers numerous ways for students to participate in
17 supervised agricultural experiences. One way our
18 students participate in SAE's is through job-
19 shadowing. Job shadowing is usually a one-day
20 activity in which students will follow, or shadow
21 their mentor. This activity exposes students to the
22 real world of work and helps them focus on their
23 career interest. This one-on-one activity gives
24 students the opportunity to ask questions and obtain
25 first-hand knowledge of the work place. Students
26 are required to job shadow in a field related to the
27 plant, animal and wildlife science.
28 Entrepreneurship is another example of an SAE. This
29 SAE refers to the supervised activities conducted by
30 students as owners or managers for profit. One
31 student at the Career and Technology Center owned
32 and operated his own landscape business, operated
33 and maintained all equipment, preformed all labor
34 involved and dealt with customers. He also took
35 care of the billing and accounting duties.
36 Placement SAE is accomplished throughout our
37 school's co-op program. Placement SAE and/or co-op
38 is an opportunity that combines classroom
39 instructions and paid work experiences related to
40 their occupational program. Placement SAE's involve
41 senior level students. Students receive credit from
42 the Career Center course while alternating from
43 school to work. Placement SAE gives employers a
44 unique opportunity to make an investment in the
45 workplace of the future. In the past, students have
46 participated in SAE's at golf courses, greenhouses,
47 lawn equipment and repair places, landscape design
48 companies and veterinarian offices. This gives
49 students the opportunity to apply what they have
50 learned in the class to their responsibilities at

1 work. The final SAE program we participate in is
2 Agri-science internship. Students participate in
3 internship through our vet-science class. Students
4 recommended by the teacher are given the opportunity
5 to intern at local veterinary offices. The
6 internship is an unpaid experience that provides
7 hands-on learning and valuable career experiences.
8 The students work several hours a week and develop a
9 portfolio of their work experience along with a
10 PowerPoint presentation given to fellow classmates
11 detailing what they have learned on the job site.
12 This activity is very beneficial to students. They
13 are able to learn and preform techniques on the job
14 and learn about different types of equipment used in
15 the field. Students make future job contacts and
16 learn valuable employability skills. We are
17 fortunate that the FFA provides awards and other
18 recognition for achievements in SAE. These awards
19 provide members with incentives and rewards for
20 excellence in leadership and agri-science
21 achievement. That national FFA organization also
22 recognizes strong supervised agricultural experience
23 programs. Thank you, county council, for allowing
24 us to share with you the importance and the benefits
25 that the FFA organization provides with our schools
26 and community.

27 LARRY GREER: Members of Council, I
28 know that time has expired for this agenda item.
29 I'm asking that you allow me enough time to read and
30 present the resolution.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any objection? By
32 unanimous consent. Go ahead, Mr. Greer.

33 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 This is resolution R2008-010. A resolution
35 designating the week of February the 16th, 2008
36 through February the 23rd, 2008, as Future Farmers
37 of America Week in honor of the significant
38 contributions of Anderson County FFA chapters in the
39 promotion and preservation of agriculture and
40 agricultural careers and the preservation of
41 Anderson County's food systems and other matters
42 related thereto. Whereas Anderson County has
43 historically been the site of many and substantial
44 agricultural pursuits, including some of the largest
45 farming, cattle, and equine agricultural systems in
46 South Carolina. And whereas the Future Farmers of
47 America, a national organization of more than five
48 hundred thousand for agricultural education
49 nationwide is an integral part of public instruction
50 in agriculture and is dedicated to making a positive

1 difference in the lives of young people by
2 developing their potential for premier leadership,
3 educational excellence, personal growth,
4 volunteerism, patriotism, and career success through
5 agricultural education at the local, state, and
6 national levels. And whereas Anderson County
7 recognizes that the FFA helps to ensure a steady
8 supply of young men and women adequately trained in
9 the science, business, politics, and technology of
10 agriculture, agri-science, and agri-tourism, making
11 the FFA vital to the continued success of
12 agriculture in Anderson County and throughout the
13 United States. Whereas Anderson County desires to
14 honor and recognize the Anderson County FFA chapter
15 for their efforts to educate our youth with the goal
16 of promoting agriculture and securing the future of
17 Anderson County food systems and to promote the FFA
18 and its goals. Now therefore it is hereby resolved
19 by Anderson County Council in meeting duly assembled
20 that Anderson County acted by and through its county
21 council hereby honors and recognizes the students
22 and teachers of Anderson County's FFA chapters for
23 their dedication and continued service to Anderson
24 County and its citizens and to the agricultural
25 community and hereby designates the week of February
26 the 16th, 2008 through February the 23rd, 2008 as
27 FFA week in Anderson County and takes effect
28 tonight.

29 APPLAUSE

30 LARRY GREER: Give them one more round
31 of applause.

32 APPLAUSE

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution 2008-011, a
34 resolution recognizing Thomas Carl Gibson for his
35 persistence in securing the return of the Glidden
36 trophy to Anderson County and other matters thereto.
37 Is there a motion to consider?

38 GRACIE FLOYD: So move.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Any
40 discussion. Mr. Martin.

41 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, members of
42 council, I learned as the meeting was beginning that
43 we may have used the wrong name for this trophy.
44 The trophy may actually be called the Anderson
45 Trophy as opposed to the Glidden Trophy. I would
46 therefore appreciate it if council would consider an
47 amendment allowing us to modify the name. I do want
48 to check to make sure that we are using the correct
49 name for the trophy on the final resolution. So, if
50 council would amend simply to allow us to correct

1 the name to the correct name for the final
2 resolution as it is framed and presented, I would
3 appreciate it. I accept full responsibility for
4 this and simply can ask that you offer that
5 amendment.

6 BILL MCABEE: So moved.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of changing
9 the name to Anderson Trophy, raise your hand.
10 Unanimous consent. Ms. Floyd.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Mr. Martin.

13 TOM MARTIN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman,
14 thank you. I apologize. You are now back to the
15 discussion on the motion as amended.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm sorry. We need
17 to vote on the resolution as amended, is that right?
18 Okay. All in favor of the resolution as amended
19 raise your hand. Unanimous. Okay. Now, Ms. Floyd.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It gives me
21 great honor to ask Mr. Gibson to please come to the
22 microphone. This is a resolution recognizing Thomas
23 Carl Gibson for his persistence in securing the
24 return of the Anderson Trophy to Anderson County and
25 honoring Mr. Gibson for his longstanding dedication
26 to Anderson County and other matters relating
27 thereto. Whereas the Anderson County Council is
28 elected by and representative of the citizens of ...

29 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

30 GRACIE FLOYD: ... by all the events in
31 the lives of the citizens. Whereas the Anderson
32 Trophy is a sterling silver punch bowl that weighs
33 almost twenty-four pounds and features an engraved
34 image of Anderson's Historic County Courthouse, was
35 commissioned by the citizens of Anderson in 1911 for
36 the Glidden Tours, a competitive endurance race from
37 New York City to Jacksonville, Florida organized by
38 the American Automobile Association, which we call
39 AAA, to help popularize the use of the automobile
40 and promote the need for good roads and
41 infrastructure and the Glidden Trophy serves as the
42 proof of the county's vision and commitment to the
43 future and a fine example of a legacy of civic
44 pride. And I want to stop here because I want to
45 point out the trophy. This is it ladies and
46 gentlemen. Okay. Whereas the mobility we enjoy
47 today in South Carolina is a direct result in part
48 of the Glidden AAA Tours and the county can forever
49 be proud of its role in history of improving the
50 roads and service available to travelers in South

1 Carolina and the entire east coast. Whereas Thomas
2 Carl Gibson moved to the county in the early 1980s
3 and immediately involved himself in the community
4 and was instrumental in developing Anderson's Main
5 Street Car Show. And whereas Mr. Gibson at his own
6 personal expenses pursued what he has been referred
7 to as his own magnificent obsession which lasted ten
8 years and included research at the New York public
9 library and a trip to the AAA headquarters in
10 Heathrow, Florida which resulted in negotiations
11 between the City of Anderson and AAA for shared
12 custody of the Anderson Trophy. And whereas as the
13 result of the efforts of Mr. Gibson on April the
14 27th, 2007 almost ninety years after the Anderson
15 Trophy was first awarded, the county, the City of
16 Anderson, the State of South Carolina, and AAA
17 celebrated the return of the Anderson Trophy to the
18 county during a special ceremony at City Hall. And
19 whereas the county, a body politic incorporate as a
20 political subdivision of the State of South Carolina
21 desires to honor the efforts of Mr. Gibson for his
22 long expensive quest to return the Anderson Trophy
23 to the citizens of the county. Now, therefore it is
24 hereby resolved by Anderson County Council that
25 Thomas Carl Gibson will be honored and recognized
26 for his dedication and persistence in bringing a
27 piece of the county's history home and for his many
28 contributions to the county and its people,
29 including not only his work on returning the
30 Anderson Trophy but his work on the Main Street Car
31 Show and other activities. Tom, as a community, we
32 thank you for being one of the good guys and a
33 positive influence on our community. Tom, it is
34 really good to know you and we are so proud of what
35 you have done for our county. Now there is
36 something you need to know about this trophy. It is
37 insured for a quarter of a million dollars and it
38 belongs to Anderson County and we share it with AAA.
39 I'm going to ask Michelle Strange to come up.
40 Michelle is our museum, other person. All right.
41 She has been the guardian of this thing, of our
42 trophy for a while. In fact we had to have security
43 tonight in order to bring it here. Michelle is
44 going to tell you a little bit about it and then I'm
45 going to ask Tom if he would tell you the rest of
46 the story.

47 MICHELLE STRANGE: I guess Tom and I are
48 just a tag-team. We've been that for a long time.
49 We are very, very pleased to have the Anderson
50 Trophy back at home. It came home last April. It

1 is part of the good roads movement. They wanted to
2 show that the automobiles weren't just for the elite
3 but that one day every man would have an automobile
4 and in modern day some men have multiple
5 automobiles. So we are excited about this trophy.
6 It was originally first won by the Governor of
7 Georgia, who happened to be on a team, it was Hoke
8 Smith's team that won the Anderson Trophy originally
9 and we wish that AAA would change their mind about
10 this shared custody thing. But Tom's perseverance
11 and research for the trophy -- you can find some
12 history, there are brochures here and some in the
13 hall as well, please take them. And if you haven't
14 been to the Anderson County Museum, go see the whole
15 big exhibit. It will be there for probably about
16 eight more weeks before Orlando comes back to take
17 it for their year and then we'll have it here again.
18 But kudos certainly to Tom Gibson and to the city
19 council, I know Buck Roberts is out there, for their
20 efforts to bring this trophy home.

21 TOM GIBSON: Good evening, folks.
22 It's an honor to be here, Ms. Floyd, and the
23 council, Preston. Thank you very much for this
24 resolution. When you do a labor of love it's not
25 hard to rack up some time involved. I first learned
26 of the Anderson Trophy about twenty years ago when I
27 moved here from New York City and met Fred Whitten,
28 the local noted historian. He gave me a small
29 photograph of it, many times photocopied. I became
30 fascinated with it and started studying it. As time
31 went on I spent many, many days, I don't know how
32 many weeks, at the South Carolina room of our public
33 library looking at the old microfilm. Many of you
34 folks research family history and whatnot there.
35 It's a fantastic place, a treasure trove of
36 information. I discovered that there were documents
37 that existed that showed that Anderson had a claim
38 through a deed of gift on this beautifully carved
39 piece of history that was given, as Michelle said,
40 for the good roads movement. As time went by, and I
41 finally broke down and bought a computer, I found a
42 map in New York City public library. I went there
43 on a separate trip, was able to find a published
44 copy of the deed of gift, which I almost fainted
45 when I saw it because a deed is a deed, it never
46 ends, there's no shelf life on it. Long story
47 short, it took about six years before I was able to
48 go down to Florida to get a picture of the trophy to
49 bring back and we found through this that AAA owned
50 it, or had possession of it, but it was really truly

1 was supposed to revert to the City of Anderson who
2 gave it in 1911. Negotiations between AAA, with the
3 help of the entire city council and Mr. Frankie
4 McClain, the city attorney, led to this shared
5 custody arrangement that we have. The official
6 title of the trophy is the Perpetual Automobile
7 Touring Trophy, presented by the citizens of
8 Anderson, SC to the American Automobile Association.
9 That's a bit much to change, we don't need to do
10 that, but it's commonly confused with the Glidden
11 Trophy which was a much larger trophy which AAA does
12 own. I'm thrilled to be able to have had a hand in
13 bringing it back, but there were many people that
14 helped, some of whom are in the audience and I would
15 just like to say that Kay Thomas, Bob King, who
16 owned the Chiquola Hotel back in the turn of the
17 century, he was on the tours, he was the president
18 of the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Thomas and her
19 husband Al are here tonight, she's the
20 granddaughter. Please stand if you would, Al and
21 Kay. And then Buck Roberts from city council who
22 was very much behind this from the very beginning.
23 Ms. Eve Stevenson, who has lived here for many, many
24 decades and was also a shoulder I could cry on when
25 we thought we wouldn't get it. And Dave Bowman from
26 Charlotte, my business partner, and someone who also
27 has heard me go on a lot about this thing. They and
28 many others really brought this thing, not just me,
29 and it's very exciting. It'll be here in 2009 for
30 the hundredth anniversary of the first tour that
31 came. And it'll be here in 2011 for the hundredth
32 anniversary of its actual presentation. We plan on
33 having car club, car show events during these two
34 ensuing years. And I would urge you to go to the
35 museum and learn all about it. The brochure is nice
36 but it's even more special to see it in its new
37 temporary home. Thank you.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: One more footnote I want
39 to add, it didn't cost, for those of you who are
40 wondering, it didn't cost the county anything. All
41 of the expenses to bring it back home to us was
42 taken by Tom, Tom Gibson. We owe him a lot, folks.
43 And I thank you.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.
45 Item 5, ordinance's third reading, A2008-002, an
46 ordinance amending chapter 58 of the Anderson County
47 code of ordinances pertaining to solid waste and
48 other matters thereto. There is a public hearing on
49 this item. Let me read the instructions and these
50 instructions apply to all the public hearings

1 tonight. So, hopefully I can just do this once.
2 Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public
3 hearing for a reasonable period of time, as long as
4 he or she is speaking to the issue under
5 consideration. The chairman exercises control of
6 the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses
7 the public hearing process by engaging in
8 unreasonable lengthy comments, clearly repetitive
9 comments, profane, abusive, offensive, or
10 inappropriate comments. With that being said, the
11 public hearing on 2008-002 is now open. Anyone
12 wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward,
13 please state your name, address, and your county
14 council district.

15 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr.
16 Chairman. My name is Rick Freemantle as I said
17 earlier. I'm from the White Plains precinct.
18 Basically I don't have much problem with this
19 ordinance until we get down to the part where it
20 looks to me like the county is turning over their
21 authority to the administrator to raise, and I would
22 hope, lower these fees depending on the price index
23 in urban areas. Got a real big problem with that.
24 We just suffered a fifty percent increase in this
25 department here, this fee, and now we're going to
26 allow someone who's not even elected to raise this
27 fee. We go to the ballot box, we elect our
28 officials to represent us and handle these
29 authorities and I just don't think it's right to
30 continue turning over your authority to hired county
31 employees. Appreciate it.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there anyone else?
33 Hearing none, the public hearing is now closed. Is
34 there a motion to consider this third meeting of
35 this ordinance? The chair moves. Is there a
36 second.

37 Bill MCABEE: Second.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are now in discussion.
39 Chair wishes the floor. I don't know what fees are
40 being referred to. The objection of this ordinance
41 is to add disabled veterans, firefighters, and
42 police officers so they can get the homestead
43 discount. There are no fees being raised. We are
44 just adding this group of people so they can get a
45 discount. Any other discussion.

46 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I
47 please?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

49 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I would like
50 to amend this ordinance slightly, because I

1 definitely agree to give all of our senior citizens
2 and disabled a break in this fee. But on page two,
3 the second paragraph, toward the end of the
4 paragraph where it states, and will be adjusted by
5 county administrator and the environmental services
6 director of the county, I would like to add the
7 clause, by approval of Anderson County Council, and
8 continue as it states.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
10 to amend. Is there a second?

11 BOB WALDREP: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Motion to amend and
13 a second. Any discussion on the amendment?

14 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

16 LARRY GREER: I want to read this and
17 I'm going to ask Mr. Martin if he would clarify what
18 I'm going to say. I may not be reading this exactly
19 correct, but it says, a fee addressed in this
20 section may be set or changed by a simple vote of
21 county council and will be adjusted. Does not that
22 language, could not that language be interpreted to
23 read that the adjustment would have to be approved
24 by council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

26 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. I would view
27 those two clauses as separate clauses. County
28 council can adjust the fee at any time, up or down,
29 there is built in -- and by the way it's not done by
30 this ordinance, I don't believe. I think it's
31 already a part of this statute, or the ordinances of
32 the county, part of the county code. But there is a
33 built in adjustment based upon the consumer price
34 index either up or down as Mr. Freemantle noted,
35 that as the consumer price index changes the amount
36 of the fee will change. I believe that the
37 authority given to the administrator there is purely
38 administrative because is it simply a matter of fact
39 what the consumer price index is, so I don't think
40 that adjustment requires the approval of council.
41 However, council may adjust that at any time as it
42 desires.

43 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You finished, Mr. Greer?

45 LARRY GREER: I'm finished.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any more discussion on
47 the amendment by Ms. Wilson? Okay. We are voting
48 on the amendment by Ms. Wilson. All in favor of her
49 amendment please raise your hand. We have three.
50 Those who are voting no on her amendment, we have

1 Mr. Ron Wilson, Mr. McAbee, Ms. Floyd, and myself,
2 that's four. The amendment has failed. Now we are
3 back to the original ordinance. All in favor of the
4 ordinance 2008-002 ---

5 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, if I may
6 say something, I am to understand that if this
7 amendment passes, all we are in fact doing is adding
8 disabled military, firefighters and policemen to the
9 group that receives the discount. That if it fails
10 they don't receive the discount, but the adjustment
11 based upon the consumer price index is already in
12 the existing statute.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, the
14 disabled veterans, firefighters, and that group,
15 they get a different discount than the homestead.
16 And in order to get the homestead, they have to make
17 double application for the exemption. I'm trying to
18 make it easier on our veterans and firefighters, so
19 they can get the homestead exemption or the
20 equivalent thereof without doing the double
21 application.

22 BILL MCABEE: I see. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any more discussion? All
25 in favor of ordinance 2008-002 please raise your
26 hand. The vote is unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance
27 2008-003 an ordinance authorizing the transfer of an
28 easement or ingress and egress and utilities across
29 certain real property and other matters thereto.
30 There is a public hearing. The same instructions I
31 read previously apply to this public hearing. The
32 public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to
33 speak, please come forward. Hearing and seeing
34 none, the public hearing is now closed. Is there a
35 motion to consider?

36 BILL MCABEE: So moved.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? We
38 have a motion and a second. Any discussion? I'm
39 sorry. Mr. Waldrep.

40 BOB WALDREP: I just assume this is the
41 same easement up in Powdersville for the library?

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes sir.

43 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any more discussion?
45 Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
46 2008-003 please vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank
47 you. At this time the chair calls for a fifteen
48 minute break.

49 BREAK

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are on item

1 number six, ordinance's second reading. Ordinance
2 2008-009 and ordinance amending Section 2-37 of the
3 Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to
4 meetings of the Anderson County Council and other
5 matters thereto. There is a public hearing on this
6 ordinance. Same rules apply that I read earlier.
7 At this time the public hearing is now open. Please
8 come forward, state your name, address and the
9 county council district in which you live.

10 STEVE POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview
11 Estates, county council district one. Members of
12 the Anderson county council, language can make the
13 difference between a good ordinance and a bad one.
14 Words must be conveyed in a manner where the
15 objective is clearly understood. Comments made by
16 citizens and council members must be expressed to
17 ensure that the listeners can understand the
18 speaker's point of view and no misunderstandings
19 occur, so an apology will not be necessary. I
20 myself learned this in comments I made at the
21 previous council meeting by not fully expressing the
22 meaning of what I was trying to say. And
23 consequently I did make an apology to Ms. Floyd for
24 my error. Public speaking is something that many
25 people find difficult and it takes time to master
26 and the skills of being a public speaker when facing
27 individuals who have the power to make your life
28 difficult should they disagree with any comments
29 that you may make. Now before I begin, I think it's
30 necessary to look back at recent history and how the
31 county council has responded to the challenges that
32 have arisen. The new year was hoped to be a
33 progressive one where council and citizens would
34 work together and actually listen to each other
35 rather than just hearing. When citizens express
36 concerns it becomes the duty of council to answer
37 these concerns not just ignore them as though they
38 were never made. Sadly at times this has not been
39 the happen and we seem to be retreating and circling
40 the wagons to guard against the hostile Indian
41 attack both traveling the path on the great plains
42 in the Midwest as when our nation was founded and
43 expanding westward. Beginning in January, it was
44 hoped that we would have -- it would be a good year.
45 We seem to have started it off on the wrong foot.
46 Much came about, about the instance dealing with the
47 lobbying ordinance, well it took me a little bit of
48 time to go back and research it and find it, but I
49 did find it eventually. This turned out to be
50 ordinance 2006-046, dealing with lobbying and we all

1 know this came about in dealing with the purchase of
2 the Kroger building property where a group of
3 citizens hired Mr. Dan Draisen to come and represent
4 them. And county council needed to know who these
5 people were, and consequently they passed the
6 lobbying ordinance. Well I began to -- I started to
7 look about here, what is required, when you started
8 to mention registered by the secretary of state,
9 which was not written in the language of the
10 original ordinance. So I contacted the secretary of
11 state's office and the response I got was, our
12 office does not have the authority to answer
13 questions regarding the operations of the county
14 council. But they put down, there is no requirement
15 for an unincorporated association to file with the
16 secretary of state, and this is signed by Teresa
17 Shealy. But in the ordinance some of the key words
18 mentioned are compensation and also the word or.
19 Now I looked through the list of principles of
20 lobbyist. They do not list names, they list the
21 names of the organizations. So, initially what was
22 done by giving you the name of the organization,
23 they complied with the lettering and the wording of
24 the ordinance. It has also been said, in the
25 meetings of November 21st, Mr. McAbee said that the
26 council is going to have the open and honest
27 government, it's going to be accountable. It's a
28 comment to those who want to sway the body, that the
29 people know who they are, who they are representing
30 and who they are. And Mr. McAbee, you also
31 represented that in Washington and in Columbia
32 lobbyist have to register and disclose their
33 principles ---

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Pope. Mr. Pope

35 STEVE POPE: I will get to my point, I
36 will get to my point.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Pope. Please address
38 all comments to the chair and not to individual
39 council members. Thank you.

40 STEVE POPE: Anyway. To go through
41 anyway, members of council right in here, when a
42 member of council and the words also appear, paid,
43 paid individual and lobbyist in Columbia and
44 Washington, that as an elected official, a member of
45 council, who says -- is basically saying the county
46 council is going to abide by the rules by the state
47 ethics commission. In defining what a state ethics
48 commission is, a lobbyist who addresses a body as a
49 whole in an open session, does not qualify as a
50 lobbyist. It is simply a citizen representing the

1 views of other citizens together. In many -- also
2 in a case, another council member mentioned the
3 point that some citizens didn't want to come through
4 for fear of retaliation by council. And we all saw
5 what happened when council also took that kind of
6 policy and appropriated the amount of recreation
7 funds from another council member's district as a
8 means of showing what happens to those who make
9 waves or buck the trend. And also, regard this
10 council did pass another ordinance dealing with, and
11 many ordinances and that being ordinance 2007-09,
12 which means a new ordinance wouldn't be necessary if
13 any new changes were to be made. Now this ordinance
14 right here that is being proposed is a very good
15 ordinance. Personally I would rather it had said
16 majority instead of two-thirds, but I also would
17 like you to take attention that in the last
18 statement, that the words unless approved by every
19 member of council in attendance, or whichever is
20 less, the statement is meaningless and irrelevant
21 to the purpose of the ordinance. And I would ask
22 that you would simply please strike it out. I was
23 going to comment on the previous ordinance, but I
24 made two attempts already and in the wording of that
25 ordinance, it mentions the word disabled, it does
26 not qualify it by saying disabled veterans or
27 firefighters, it says disabled. Which means then
28 anybody who is classified by disabled could file
29 underneath that.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON:

31 Mr. Pope, we are on
32 ordinance 2008-009.

33 STEVE POPE: 009, which goes with the
34 part two-thirds majority. This deals, the wording
35 of the ordinance is, when I asked you to strike it
36 is, is just for more clarification to make certain,
37 if words are not used carefully, they can come back
38 and bite you. Just use caution whenever you pass
39 ordinances right now. Because people right now are
40 starting to listen. They're taking notice of what
41 is occurring on council meetings. Something I
42 thought would never happen before, but now they are
43 taking notice. Just be careful. I ask that you be
44 careful in your wording of your ordinances. That
45 you do express the full meaning you are trying to
46 express so the public will understand. And please
47 do answer the concerns that we are bringing before
48 you. Thank you.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there anyone else?
50 Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing is now

1 closed. Is there a motion to consider? We have a
2 motion and a second. We are now in discussion. Any
3 discussion?

4 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

6 LARRY GREER: When this ordinance was
7 originally proposed, it was proposed that time could
8 be extended on a simple majority vote. I am still
9 of the opinion that a simple majority vote is all
10 that is needed to extend the time for discussion. I
11 do not believe that it's necessary to make this a
12 two-thirds majority. Therefore I am going to offer
13 a motion to amend this ordinance, to delete the
14 words two-thirds in the first section of the
15 ordinance, and insert two words, a majority, and
16 that's in the form of a motion to amend.

17 CINDY WILSON: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
19 amend and a second. We are in discussion on the
20 amendment. Any discussion? Okay. We will now vote
21 on the motion to amend. All in favor to change it
22 back to basically a simple majority, right Mr.
23 Greer, rather than a two-thirds majority, please
24 vote. We have three in favor. All those opposed.
25 We have Ron Wilson, McAbee, Floyd, and Thompson in
26 the opposition. So the motion to amend fails. We
27 are now under discussion for ordinance -- my eyes
28 are getting crossed here, hold on, ordinance 2008-
29 009. We are in discussion. Any discussion? Chair
30 calls for the question. All in favor of ordinance
31 2008-009, all in favor please raise your hand.
32 Five. All opposed. Waldrep and C. Wilson oppose.
33 The second reading passes. Ordinance's first
34 reading, ordinance 2008-006, a rezoning request from
35 Palmetto Acquisitions Limited for rezoning from RA
36 to R20 of plus or minus thirty point three to five
37 acres of property on Foster Road in Williamston.
38 There is a public hearing. The same rules apply as
39 previously stated. At this time the public hearing
40 for ordinance 2008-007 is now open. Please come
41 forward, state your name, address, and the county
42 council district in which you live. Seeing and
43 hearing none, the public hearing is now closed. Is
44 there a motion to -- I'm sorry sir, I didn't see you
45 there. The public hearing is still open.

46 CHRIS EVERHART: I apologize. My name is
47 Chris Everhart. I'm in district 7. I'm here
48 representing the owner who could not be here for
49 health reasons. On that rezoning, I am with C.E.
50 Property Solutions, a surveying company. I was just

1 going to answer any questions you all may have
2 concerning the rezoning, if you had any. We are
3 asking to rezone this property from residential
4 agricultural to R20. Looked at the zoning map,
5 there's some R20 and this property also borders a
6 commercial C2 and I just wanted to answer any
7 questions you may have concerning that.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Sir, public
9 hearing is not a time for debate or question and
10 answers, but if during the discussion if a county
11 council member has any questions you can be called
12 back up.

13 CHRIS EVERHART: Okay.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Thank you
15 sir. Any more from the public on the public
16 hearing? We're still in public hearing. Okay.
17 Seeing and hearing no one else the public hearing is
18 now closed. Is there a motion to consider ordinance
19 2008-006?

20 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So moved. Is there a
22 second?

23 LARRY GREER: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
25 second. We are now in discussion. Mr. Waldrep.

26 BOB WALDREP: I was just going to ask
27 Mr. Ricketson to give us a run-down on it and ...

28 JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman, members
29 of council, the district 7 zoning advisory committee
30 recommends denial of this rezoning request and they
31 didn't really give us a reason why. They considered
32 this at a meeting on January the 2nd and they
33 recommended denial. But the planning commission,
34 followed the staff recommendation, recommended
35 approval of this. And staff recommended approval
36 because it's consistent with the comprehensive plan,
37 it's consistent with the overall development pattern
38 of the area.

39 BOB WALDREP: Okay. It was first a
40 denial by the -- which ...

41 JEFF RICKETSON: District 7 zoning
42 advisory committee.

43 BOB WALDREP: Zoning advisory committee
44 and then the planning committee itself overrode ...

45 JEFF RICKETSON: The planning commission
46 approved it. They're two separate boards.

47 BOB WALDREP: Well, does that act as
48 an override or is that just a parallel track.

49 JEFF RICKETSON: It's a parallel track.
50 The planning commission is a county-wide board that

1 is required by state law for zoning. The citizens
2 advisory boards are an extra measure that our county
3 ordinance provides. It's not required by state law.

4 BOB WALDREP: Well, what do you think?

5 JEFF RICKETSON: Well, our staff
6 recommended approval of it as being consistent with
7 the comprehensive plan. It's still single-family
8 residential R20, is what they're asking for.

9 BOB WALDREP: You have a map of the
10 area?

11 JEFF RICKETSON: It's in your packet, but
12 I don't have one present for tonight.

13 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep still has
15 the floor.

16 BOB WALDREP: I yield.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep yields. Go
18 ahead, Ms. Wilson.

19 CINDY WILSON: This may answer some
20 questions. I read the application and the related
21 information and I was concerned when I saw that the
22 citizens advisory planning committee had opposed it,
23 but I requested the minutes. There were no citizens
24 or adjoining landowners opposed to the rezoning.
25 There were members on the committee that were
26 concerned that there might be mobile homes going in
27 there. And if we might call Mr. Everhart back to
28 the mic to ascertain if they will all be site built.

29 CHRIS EVERHART: Ms. Wilson, my
30 understanding is that they're going to have some
31 restrictions. It will be stick built homes similar
32 to what's just down the road that was done this past
33 year. That's kind of their idea. The single
34 entrance road, very simple.

35 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Mr. Waldrep
37 -- I'm sorry, let's get Mr. Ron Wilson.

38 RON WILSON: Is there anything to
39 prohibit that?

40 CHRIS EVERHART: Prohibit the mobile
41 homes?

42 RON WILSON: Yes.

43 CHRIS EVERHART: I believe they would be
44 more than willing to do some restrictions to give to
45 address that concern. They're cops, if you will,
46 for the type of project that they're -- and the
47 infrastructure costs and land costs and things like
48 this is equivalent to what's just down the road,
49 which are new stick built homes. In the two
50 thousand, twenty-five hundred square foot range. I

1 don't know that there's anything other than, you
2 know, here just really wouldn't work from the total
3 cost perspective.

4 RON WILSON: So the concern by some of
5 the people on the committee are valid.

6 CHRIS EVERHART: For mobile homes?

7 RON WILSON: Yes.

8 CHRIS EVERHART: I guess other than doing
9 the deed restrictions, yes. I mean ...

10 RON WILSON: Let's try this again, the
11 concern of these people on that board, there's
12 nothing to prohibit what they're concerned about.

13 CHRIS EVERHART: No sir.

14 RON WILSON: Thank you.

15 CHRIS EVERHART: If they kept it at the
16 zoning it is now, the agricultural, they can have
17 livestock and things of that nature, there's a C2,
18 the intent of the owners to rezone it is to put some
19 sort of restriction on it, deed restrictions and to
20 do a nicer type of development without livestock
21 being capable of being on the lots and things like
22 that, which the agricultural would allow.

23 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

25 BOB WALDREP: I just wondered, sir, is
26 there a way that you can make an agreement of some
27 kind that conditioned on approval that this would be
28 mobile home prohibited, that seems to ...

29 CHRIS EVERHART: Yes. And the owners
30 would be very willing to do that, because that is
31 not even remotely in the concept of what they have
32 here.

33 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Mr. Ricketson do
34 you do that occasionally? Make it conditional?

35 JEFF RICKETSON: It can't be conditional
36 unless you're going to change it to a planned
37 development. What you are considering tonight is
38 zoning. Mobile homes are allowed in the current
39 zoning of RA. Mobile homes are allowed in the --
40 what they are proposing, R20, so the mobile home
41 issue is not really a factor unless you just want to
42 make it a planned development and under that
43 circumstance you can have a custom-made agreement
44 with the owner to put whatever you want him to put
45 in there. But that is the only tools you have to
46 specify what kind of unit can go there.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any more
48 discussion? Chair calls for the question on
49 ordinance 2008-006. All in favor please raise your
50 hand. That's three. All opposed. R. Wilson,

1 Floyd, Thompson and Waldrep. That's four. So the
2 ordinance fails. Ordinance 2008-007, a rezoning
3 request from Wadji and Jouamana Dbouk for rezoning
4 from R20, to rezone to standardized zoning in the
5 area. There's a public hearing on this item. Same
6 rules apply as previously. Anyone wishing to speak
7 on this issue please come forward, state your name,
8 address, and the county council district in which
9 you live.

10 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

11 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson second. We
13 are in discussion. Let me go back and reread that
14 heading. A rezoning request from Wadji and Jouamana
15 Dbouk for rezoning from R20 to C1N neighborhood
16 commercial of plus or minus four point three acres
17 on Highway 81 and other matters thereto. Is there
18 any discussion?

19 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

21 CINDY WILSON: This is not in my
22 district and -- but it's in my community. It's my
23 understanding that this family lives in this
24 property and they are planning on making their
25 medical practice there. This is in a very heavily
26 commercial area. I have been acquainted with these
27 folks in the past and as far as I'm concerned they
28 are very quality-minded. I cannot imagine that they
29 would do anything less than what's already there.
30 So, I'll plan to support this.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Martin. I
32 don't know if this is necessary but Dr. Dbouk is my
33 family physician. Any conflict here?

34 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 It does not appear as though you have any financial
36 interest ---

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No sir.

38 TOM MARTIN: -- in him or this matter

39 ---

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No sir.

41 TOM MARTIN: -- and so I would say no
42 conflict.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, sir.

44 TOM MARTIN: But ultimately I would
45 defer of course to the state ethics commission, but
46 nothing you've said causes me to recognize a
47 conflict.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Are you sick?

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Not right now.

3 GRACIE FLOYD: All right.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I just want to dot the
5 I's and cross the T's. Okay. Thank you. Any more
6 discussion? Chair calls for question on 2008-007.
7 All those in favor please raise your hand. The vote
8 is unanimous. Thank you very much. Ordinance 2008-
9 008 a rezoning request from John B. Wright, Sr. for
10 rezoning from R20 to OD which is office district,
11 plus or minute zero point four seven acres of
12 property on the north quadrant of the intersection
13 of Old Mill Road and Clemson Boulevard in Anderson.
14 Now, there's two. There's a public hearing on this
15 item. Same rules apply. Please come forward, state
16 your name, address, and your county council
17 district. Public hearing is now open. Hearing and
18 seeing none. The public hearing is closed. I need
19 a motion to consider.

20 BOB WALDREP: So moved.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? The
22 chair seconds. Okay. Very good. We are now in
23 discussion of ordinance 2008-008. Any discussion?

24 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

26 BOB WALDREP: I just have to ask again
27 if there's any -- what was the procedure here, was
28 there any problem with this, Mr. Ricketson?

29 JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman, members of
30 the council, the district one zoning advisory
31 committee voted unanimous approval of this request
32 as did the planning commission.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A happy parallel.

34 JEFF RICKETSON: Apparently.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
36 calls for the question. All in favor of ordinance
37 2008-008 please raise your hand. The vote is
38 unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-010 an
39 ordinance providing access to public records. Is
40 there a motion to consider?

41 BOB WALDREP: Motion.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

43 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
45 second. We are in discussion. Mr. Waldrep.

46 BOB WALDREP: Chairman and members of
47 council and members of the public. I wanted to let
48 everyone know that I've tried to give considerable
49 thought to bringing forth an ordinance which I have
50 drafted and given to the county attorney, Mr.

1 Preston, and other members of the council here.
2 I've done some research on the issues regarding the
3 access of council members to public records. And
4 some of this research and information goes back to
5 attorney general Carlie Condon. Ms. Condon gave an
6 opinion which says that, in short, a member of
7 county council must have access to all pertinent
8 information regarding the operation of county
9 government, just as each member of the general
10 assembly has a right to access the information. I
11 was frankly surprised recently when I ran into so
12 much difficulty in obtaining information from public
13 records through the administration. I think there's
14 been considerable discussion of that. And also, I
15 spent some time going down to the Supreme Court to
16 listen to the argument that Ms. Wilson was involved
17 in with Mr. Preston versus Wilson, Wilson versus
18 Preston, however that worked out. And it was my
19 sense in listening to the Justices of the Supreme
20 Court, and of course this is all -- can be
21 subjective, but that there is no question but that
22 members of this council not only have the right but
23 the obligation to have access to public information.
24 For some reason, this county has developed policies
25 and difficulties and obstructions that I have found
26 in no other venue, no other county, other than
27 Anderson County. Now I do realize that there is
28 some history in the past where this council had made
29 a ruling or maybe an ordinance to prohibit the
30 dissemination of certain public information to a
31 particular council member. I was not privy to that
32 particular episode in county politics or county
33 government. But whether it be me, Ms. Wilson, or
34 any member of this council, I thought that it was
35 extremely important that we allay any suspicions or
36 any fears that any person may have in this county
37 regarding the access to public information. I just
38 don't see it as that hard or that difficult. And
39 it's for that reason that I proposed an ordinance
40 and I think it's form is rather simple, subject to
41 of course amendment and discussion or what have you.
42 But it simply states that the council members are
43 vested with inherent powers of a body politic to
44 provide for the safety and welfare of the citizens
45 of the county. Council members are charged with the
46 responsibility of raising taxes for members of the
47 general public by various means. That all council
48 members are charged with a sworn obligation to
49 oversee, review, and approve expenditures of all
50 public tax monies raised by taxation grant or

1 otherwise and to account to the people of Anderson
2 County for these expenditures. And it's for that
3 reason that this ordinance just sets forth that each
4 elected county council member shall be vested and
5 empowered by council to demand and receive access to
6 any public records of Anderson County in the
7 possession of any county employee, division head,
8 county administrator or county attorney. That this
9 access and receipt of the requested records should
10 be provided to the requesting council member within
11 twenty-four hours of written notice provided to the
12 person or entity. That the written notices
13 requiring access and provision of information
14 requested may be described in general terms and
15 shall be immediately available to the requesting
16 council person without the necessity or consent from
17 any supervisory employee or county personnel. That
18 ample area would be provided for inspection or
19 copying of the records and that county employee
20 would be obligated to point out where they were
21 located and that the council members may elect to
22 provide a method of copying or to pay a reasonable
23 sum out of expense funds that are available. That
24 no prohibition to access to county public records
25 shall be posed by any elected or non-elected person.
26 That public records are defined herein as all
27 papers, communications, reports, contracts,
28 documents, receipts, letters, forms, memorandums,
29 notations, inter-office communications in any form
30 whatsoever, including but not limited to electronic
31 data, computer drives, and email. This ordinance
32 specifically includes all information which may be
33 designated as privileged or confidential. And the
34 requesting member shall be prohibited from
35 publishing such information deemed under the laws of
36 South Carolina as privileged or confidential. The
37 county administrator shall have the burden of proof
38 by designating any such information as privileged or
39 confidential and shall be required to express in
40 writing to the requesting council person his opinion
41 for making such a definition and that penalties for
42 violation of this ordinance, and attorney fees
43 association with a violation by any county employee
44 may be assessed by a court of competent
45 jurisdiction. Now, this ordinance I think is a
46 simple request. It's not complicated. It
47 incorporates into it any kind of areas of privilege
48 or confidentiality which we have run into
49 repeatedly. Issues such as, well that's economic
50 development or that's a personnel issue in some way.

1 I think that we can get through all that. I'm just
2 asking, someone made reference earlier to the fact
3 that sometimes we don't listen to each other, and I
4 guess I'm as guilty as anybody else. But I just ask
5 this council to listen to this request because I can
6 tell you it will not go away. The laws of this
7 country under freedom of information and the
8 obligations of council members to perform their
9 duties will not evaporate. And I know that the
10 issue before the court was a very narrow one. I
11 think all of you who traveled down to Columbia
12 realized that the focus was, well why weren't the
13 county council members made a party to this action?
14 I think that when the report does come out, and I'm
15 not a legal prophet, but I have the feeling that
16 that's going to be a very critical factor in the
17 judgement of the court, because the reason, if Mr.
18 Preston should not be required to provide this
19 information under mandamus, it would be because he
20 was directed by this council not to do so. And the
21 other issues having to do with freedom of
22 information and the right of a council person was so
23 narrowly construction, I don't think we ever got to
24 the real issue. Of course there was one member of
25 the court I think, who we'll recognize was quite
26 bacciferous in saying just give them the
27 information, what can it hurt for an elected
28 official to just have information of the tax money
29 that we pay to be spent by our administration.
30 That's really to me the question, what can it hurt?
31 I think beyond that, we are going to be getting back
32 -- and I would hope that we would avoid any more
33 litigation. That this is to me a vehicle to avoid
34 litigation and make everybody, if not happy, maybe
35 mutually miserable with the information that we
36 have. Sunshine laws, freedom of information have
37 been coming to this country for the last twenty-five
38 to thirty years. I hate to see them stopped here on
39 a local basis, because I can assure you, it will not
40 go away. Thank you.

41 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time is left,
43 Mr. Martin?

44 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you have
45 about five and a half minutes left.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. McAbbee.

47 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48 I see that this ordinance provides that, in fact in
49 item seven, this ordinance specifically includes all
50 information which may be designated as privileged or

1 confidential and the requesting member shall be
2 prohibited from publishing any such information
3 under the laws of South Carolina is either
4 privileged or confidential, but there's no provision
5 in here for any penalties for violating that.
6 Secondly, this would seem to me to include
7 information that is lawyer-client privileged. Would
8 that not be correct?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin. Are you
10 asking Mr. Martin?

11 BILL MCABEE: Yes.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

13 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Mr. McAbee, the beginning of the meeting was the
15 first that I have seen this and so I don't profess
16 to have any expertise, but just the literal words do
17 not provide an exception so I would assume that
18 attorney-client privileged information is included
19 under privileged or confidential.

20 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep seems to
21 think that this would reduce litigation, but
22 actually to me it seems to be a lawyer employment
23 act. The county administration has a burden of
24 proof, we would then have to defend that position.
25 Penalties for violation of this ordinance and
26 attorneys' fees associated with this violation by
27 any county employee may be assessed by the court.
28 It seems to me that there's no provision in here for
29 a requesting council member who is party to
30 litigation to not receive information that is
31 lawyer-client privileged. It's a flawed and faulty
32 document. It defeats lawyer-client privilege and
33 will cost this county more money, not less. I don't
34 know who drafted this but there's a lot of holes in
35 here. It has left the county open to more problems,
36 not reduced them. It's actually going to cost the
37 taxpayers more money, not save them money. The, as
38 I said, I don't know who drafted it, but I would
39 hate for them to do my will. I don't know who would
40 get my stuff. So, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. On page two
44 it has the Anderson County Attorney's stamp on this
45 thing.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's not signed.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. It's stamped there
48 but our attorneys did not do this, Mr. Chair?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

50 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Ms. Floyd that's correct. I did not.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Mr.
3 Chairman, I may continue?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, you have the floor.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. I
6 thought that when -- I know it's not signed, but I
7 thought that we made an ordinance one time that says
8 -- okay, I understand. I was under the impression,
9 Mr. Chairman, that our attorney -- that this stamp
10 here was just for our attorney. But anybody can put
11 a stamp down here, but it's just not signed, am I
12 correct?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin. Can you
14 answer that please?

15 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Ms. Floyd, I think that I understand your question
17 and the answer, if I understand it correctly, is yes
18 ma'am, that is correct. The Anderson County code of
19 ordinances indicates that the county attorney will
20 review all resolutions and ordinances for proper
21 form. The county attorney doesn't have to draft
22 them all, but all of them have to be reviewed.
23 However, the same code provides that first reading
24 can be by caption only and so obviously the county
25 attorney doesn't have to review the body of an
26 ordinance on first reading. But at some point it
27 does have to be reviewed by the county attorney in
28 accordance with the code of ordinances.

29 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So, Mr. Martin, so
31 basically even though this was given to us later, in
32 reality we are voting on an ordinance in caption
33 only because it hasn't been reviewed.

34 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I think
35 that I would interpret it that way. The only time
36 it doesn't have to be reviewed by the attorney is
37 when it is by caption only. But you are authorized
38 to do an ordinance by caption only on the first
39 reading. And so I would view that combination of
40 factors in saying, if you have something before that
41 hasn't been reviewed then probably it would be
42 better to treat it as caption only.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Second question,
44 how much time is left?

45 TOM MARTIN: About a half a minute.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Half a minute.

47 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, very
48 quickly. In the 800 megahertz ---

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I'm sorry.
50 Mr. Greer had previously asked for the floor.

1 CINDY WILSON: I'm sorry. I thought I
2 saw you motioning to me.

3 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Mr. Waldrep places other members of council at a
5 disadvantage tonight, in that this proposed
6 ordinance was delivered at the beginning of the
7 meeting. There may be some good points in this
8 ordinance. There may be some things that I agree
9 with, there may be some things that I don't agree
10 with.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time. Want to extend?

12 BOB WALDREP: Move to extend?

13 CINDY WILSON: Five minutes.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any objection to
15 extending by five minutes? It has to be unanimous.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee objects.

17 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move we
18 suspend the rule.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Move to suspend the rule.

20 LARRY GREER: Motion.

21 CINDY WILSON: Second. While we're
22 extended these same ---

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, we need to
24 vote on move to suspend the rule. There's a motion
25 to suspend the rules, I'll get it out, and it has
26 been second. All in favor of moving to suspend the
27 rules, please raise your hand. Three. Opposed.
28 Four. Okay. Sorry.

29 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I
30 have a point of privilege please?

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No ma'am.

32 CINDY WILSON: I think that should be
33 ---

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No ma'am. I call for the
35 question on this ordinance 2008-010 basically by
36 caption only. All in favor, raise your hand. Two.
37 Opposed. Ron Wilson, McAbee, Floyd, Thompson. Mr.
38 Greer is abstained.

39 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I have
40 a point of privilege please?

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wait. Hold up. Oh, I'm
42 sorry. No, it's two, four and one, is that right,
43 Mr. ...

44 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I did not
45 see Mr. Greer's vote, but I assume it was an
46 abstention.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah.

48 TOM MARTIN: In that case it would be
49 two, four, and one.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And it fails. Very good.

1 Resolutions and proclamations ---

2 CINDY WILSON: Point of privilege, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No ma'am. Resolution
5 2008-009, a resolution expressing concern over the
6 possibility of the State of South Carolina
7 relinquishing state roads to Anderson County and
8 other matters thereto. Is there a motion to
9 consider?

10 LARRY GREER: So moved.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
12 second. We are in discussion. Any discussion?

13 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

15 LARRY GREER: Having served on this
16 council slightly longer than anybody else up here, I
17 have watched over the course of the years as we have
18 had to absorb numerous cost transfers levied against
19 local governments by our state legislature and our
20 state government. And I very much fear that we are
21 about to be hit with another whopping problem. We
22 just dealt with the storm water issue. Now we are
23 dealing -- it appears there is a movement on the
24 horizon to give us state roads and I would just
25 about bet a five dollar bill to a doughnut that
26 there won't be any money to accompany those state
27 roads. Which in effect is going to place a further
28 burden on the property owners of the county of
29 Anderson, and all the other counties in this state.
30 And the state legislature has done a very good job
31 of painting local governments into a corner. Even
32 if we wanted to raise property taxes, and I'm saying
33 if, and that's a very big if, wanted to raise
34 property taxes enough to cover the cost of those
35 state roads, I believe Mr. Hopkins said something
36 like seven million dollars it would cost to operate
37 those state roads. Folks, that's fourteen mils of
38 property taxes to generate that amount of revenue.
39 We can't do that. And we've got to take a stand as
40 a council and as a local governing body to say to
41 the state powers to be, that enough is enough. We
42 just can't stand anymore. If you want to give us
43 the roads, do something right for a change and send
44 the money to accompany it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

46 RON WILSON: I completely agree with
47 Councilman Greer. We've seen all this reform by the
48 state and everything that's gone on for the last
49 year that I've been here. Usually means they're
50 cutting our stream of money and they don't want to

1 do anything to affect theirs. But we have to pick
2 up the cost and find money to handle this stuff.
3 And it -- I'm reminded that I think we passed an
4 ordinance on this council, telling our delegation
5 not to send us anymore unfunded mandates. And I
6 think this would be a good proclamation to go along
7 -- resolution to go along, and let them know how
8 serious we are about this, because we can hardly
9 take care of what we've got here as far as the
10 roads. And so I hope that we'll pass this and sort
11 of put them on notice that if this comes our way, if
12 they decide to do this, that there better be some
13 money with it, to accommodate this pressure that's
14 being put on us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 BOB WALDREP: Chairman.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

17 BOB WALDREP: I guess I share some of
18 the concerns that have been expressed here by Mr.
19 Wilson and Mr. Greer. I just wondered if anyone has
20 been keeping up with the process down there in
21 Columbia. It's hard to believe that they would do
22 this, to turn this over to us without any kind of
23 money at all to help pay for the roads.

24 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Waldrep, history is a
27 very good teacher. And we've had enough historical
28 incidences where this is just -- has occurred. The
29 storm water thing, we just sat here and voted on it.
30 We were forced to do that. It's going to add
31 hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars,
32 you said so yourself, to the cost of operating this
33 county, and they forced it on us and they don't send
34 us any funds to do it with.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else. Chair calls
36 for the question on resolution 2008-009. All in
37 favor raise your hand. It is unanimous. Thank you.
38 A proclamation, February 2008 as National Parent
39 Leadership Month. Chair moves to consider. Is
40 there a second?

41 RON WILSON: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Motion and a second. We
43 are in discussion. Mr. Preston.

44 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we've been
45 requested by the Foothills Alliance, we approved
46 this, to recognize, honor and celebrate parent
47 leadership across South Carolina and in Anderson
48 County at the fifth annual Parents Leading The Way
49 conference on February the 23rd, 2008 at the
50 Summerville Presbyterian Church in Summerville,

1 South Carolina. And we're just inviting the public
2 to attend that. I'd like to recommend approval.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Recommend approval? Any
4 more discussion? Chair calls for the question on
5 the proclamation. All in favor, raise your hand.
6 It is unanimous. Thank you. Okay. Number nine
7 presentation on national awards. Ms. Floyd.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Mr. Chair, at this time I would like to withdraw
10 number nine from the agenda. We were able to get it
11 done when we honored Mr. Gibson earlier tonight.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.
13 Item number ten. Fusion Warehouse presentation.
14 Ms. Floyd and Mr. Randall Brown.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Folks, this gives me great pleasure again tonight to
17 recognize Mr. Randall Brown, who is the founder and
18 director of Fusion Warehouse. I'm sure you have
19 heard me talk about Fusion many, many times. This
20 is the entity that I asked God to let me work with.
21 Using that preposition at the end of a sentence.
22 Okay. But this is the one that I asked the Lord to
23 let me work with and Randall has so generously
24 agreed to let me assist in whatever way I could in
25 helping him get this Fusion Warehouse off the
26 ground. Randall and I have been across the state of
27 South Carolina talking about this and tonight I
28 asked him to come to tell you what's new. Mr.
29 Brown.

30 RANDALL BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Floyd, for
31 that wonderful introduction and Mr. Chairman,
32 members of council, it is truly a privilege to be
33 here tonight. I want to thank you for the time to
34 allow me to give you an update. And I also want to
35 ever so briefly just share a little bit about -- for
36 those of you who may not know what the Fusion
37 Warehouse is about, we, about fourteen months ago,
38 took over a vacant Wal-Mart facility which was an
39 eyesore in the community, was sitting empty at the
40 time, about six to seven years. And we've taken
41 over that and turned it into a seventy thousand
42 square foot state of the art youth facility. And
43 the only problem that we really are having is
44 amazing growth. And I'm just going to go through a
45 quick presentation as to, when asked what the number
46 one problem facing today's student, when I was going
47 out and speaking and things like this, one high
48 school student replied, we are so bored, we have
49 nothing to do and no reason to do it. The question
50 I get a lot of times, is people ask, well do you

1 think there is a gang problem in Anderson County?
2 Absolutely. Do you think there's a drug and alcohol
3 problem in Anderson County? Absolutely. And my
4 thought, this is my theory, the number one problem I
5 think that causes this to happen is boredom. A lot
6 of times I ask youth and ask them what is it that
7 made you decide to do this or that, a lot of times,
8 well I was bored I had nothing else to do, or I was
9 at the wrong place at the wrong time. So, one of
10 our biggest problems, to me, number one is not
11 drugs, alcohol, or gang activity, but boredom which
12 leads to the drugs, alcohol, gang activity. The
13 Fusion Warehouse is trying to make a facility --
14 create a facility that keeps the idle minds and idle
15 hands busy. Our mission is to provide youth
16 programs and activities in a safe environment that
17 will teach moral and ethical character development
18 and to help all students reach their full potential.
19 Kid count census 2002, shows that student population
20 in Anderson County, ages ten to seventeen, is
21 eighteen thousand two hundred and seventy-three.
22 So, as I stated earlier, the growth that we are
23 experiencing is phenomenal. Fusion Warehouse has
24 registered over sixty-four hundred youth in fourteen
25 months, that is thirty-five percent of Anderson
26 County's youth is now a part of the Fusion
27 Warehouse. That is substantial. We actually have
28 over sixty-four hundred youth who we can say that we
29 actually have their ear. And that is the whole
30 concept behind the Fusion Warehouse. And I just
31 want to share some pictures. This is what it looks
32 like just minutes before we open our doors. They're
33 lined up, ready to come in. This is students
34 hanging out in the café. And as you can see,
35 they're not really interested in eating, they just
36 love hanging out in a positive, clean environment
37 and with role models that are there for them and
38 they know it's safe. There's an arcade area. And
39 every single weekend it's packed to capacity. They
40 play free basketball, have access to free internet,
41 computer lab, free movies continuously showing
42 throughout the night. Billiards, they can play
43 pool. And this is just hanging out on the street
44 enjoying a snack and a meal. This is what you may
45 see on a typical Friday night. You may think how in
46 the world do you maintain any kind of security and
47 things like that when you see this kind of crowd.
48 Well, we do a fifteen to one student to volunteer
49 ratio. Security is the utmost importance at the
50 Fusion Warehouse. Fingerprint every student through

1 biometrics, they're scan in, they scan out. This
2 way we know exactly who's in the building, we know
3 when they left. Mom and Dad can call and make sure
4 their son or daughter is where they're supposed to
5 be and if they left, what time they left. All
6 students walk through a metal detector. We do a
7 fifteen to one student to volunteer ratio before we
8 open our doors. We make sure we have enough staff
9 to accommodate the number of students in. Video
10 surveillance. We have volunteers that are
11 constantly there. Student volunteers get involved.
12 We have volunteer police officers actually on the
13 premises at all times as well. Programs that we
14 currently offer, we have a GED class that's actually
15 located within the facility through Palmetto Youth
16 Connection. They are utilizing some of our space.
17 A build to keep program through computers. Students
18 get involved that are interested in learning how to
19 put a computer together. We've got a lot of
20 computers that have been donated from our Anmed
21 Health, they have a lot of turnover. And so these
22 computer students can actually learn how to put them
23 together and then once they complete that they are
24 able to take them home. We have after school
25 tutoring and mentoring, radio broadcasting, we have
26 a budgeting class sponsored by Upstate Federal
27 Credit Union. They learn customer service skills,
28 nutrition and wellness. The list just goes on and
29 on. Our latest program that we are proud and
30 pleased to announce is our welding certification
31 class. Through WorkLink, WIA is a federal grant
32 that we received and Tri-County Tech has provided
33 the instructor for our welding certification class.
34 This class is free for all youth, ages sixteen to
35 twenty-one, out of school youth. They also get
36 stipends. They can -- the stipend actually comes
37 out to where they get minimum wage, so they earn pay
38 while they're taking this course. They earn college
39 credits through Tri-County Tech as well. It is a
40 six week program. The problem with this program is
41 keeping the students in class long enough because
42 the demand for welding is so high right now they're
43 calling and wanting to pull them out before they get
44 done. Coming this March, sponsored by the Anderson
45 Upstate Federal Credit Union, there will actually be
46 a working bank branch within the Fusion Warehouse.
47 Anderson University, known as SIFE, Students in Free
48 Enterprise, will actually be operating and building
49 this site. This is an opportunity for youth to get
50 involved, to understand the concept of saving and

1 managing money, while they're at the Fusion
2 Warehouse. Also we have a three thousand square
3 foot indoor playground that is going to be sponsored
4 by the credit unions of Anderson County. It will
5 actually be opening in March as well. You may ask
6 yourselves, how in the world can you fit all of this
7 in a building? Just think of a vacant Wal-Mart
8 building and probably a third of their space is used
9 by storage. We are utilizing every square inch.
10 We're trying to find where to store stuff, because
11 as we grow we are starting to take all of our
12 storage space. Activities that are available, there
13 are many, they have a coffee shop, game room,
14 basketball, putt-putt, laser tag arena, skateboard
15 park, billiard room, café, the list goes on. The
16 recording studio. The neat thing about this, when
17 these youth -- when they come in, it is free
18 admission, they have free movies, free internet
19 access, free basketball. Now, the recording studio,
20 where else can you find a state of the art recording
21 studio that will give students free studio time.
22 The only way they can earn free studio time is if
23 they write and produce their own music, then they
24 can have free studio time. Also, we have like our
25 billiards and arcades that may be a minimal amount
26 of money for them to play, but those youth that were
27 interested in say, signing up for a budgeting class,
28 or in our movie theater, in between movies we'll
29 show a fifteen to twenty minute documentary on the
30 effects of drug abuse, gang activity, things like
31 that. If they watch that movie or that video, they
32 earn fusion points. With those fusion points they
33 can trade that in and get free arcades, free
34 billiards, free food. So, it is open and available
35 as our mission statement says for all students. We
36 also have a fifteen hundred seat concert arena. I
37 truly believe it is our responsibility as leaders of
38 this community to provide a safe place for our
39 students to learn and play. And I do have a short -
40 - I've got to show this video clip, because there's
41 no way that I can do it justice ---

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is it under two minutes?
43 RANDALL BROWN: It is. Absolutely. This
44 little video -- as I'm speaking, this is -- we have
45 radio broadcast and auto mechanics that the youth
46 can get involved in. This is a video of what it
47 looks like outside of our facility. This is just
48 thirty minutes after opening our facility. As you
49 see we are packed to max capacity, they're lined out
50 the door. Now, I want to say this, Mr. Chair,

1 members of council, this is a jewel. Anderson
2 County has something here that is phenomenal and I
3 am proud and honored to stand before you and say
4 thank you for what you have done to help make this
5 possible for Anderson County. And I will say this,
6 it is truly obvious that you, the council, Chair,
7 you do care about our community and you do care
8 about the young people of our community. I thank
9 you. We have council members from all over that are
10 coming to Anderson County asking what is it that
11 Anderson is doing to make this work. I said, let me
12 tell you, and the name fusion is a melting or
13 blending together with a release of great energy.
14 We are all about coming together, because you may
15 have a good idea, I may have a good idea, but
16 together, and working together, they become great
17 ideas. That's the reason that I wanted to come here
18 tonight and say thank you. Look what we're doing as
19 a community. We are reaching out in this community.
20 Fourteen months impacting thirty-five percent of
21 Anderson County's youth. In another few months
22 imagine what that number can be. And I cannot wait
23 to be able to share and go to other places and say,
24 hey, look what my hometown is doing, Anderson
25 County. Thank you.

26 APPLAUSE

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time is -- time
28 has just been called. Thank you, Ms. Floyd and Mr.
29 Brown. Appreciate that. Thank you.

30 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, point of
31 privilege.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's stick to the agenda
33 please. Continued questions and answers regarding
34 Anderson County credit card expenses and GL65
35 reports. Ms. Wilson.

36 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Please, I would request that my fellow council
38 members save their questions and do not interrupt
39 until we are done. I'm very concerned regarding the
40 credit card issues that I have yet to see more than
41 twenty-seven pages of several months credit card
42 bills and supposedly the backup. I began my request
43 on September 25th, 2007. I understand that at least
44 four or five members of the media have had the
45 opportunity to go in and look and this council
46 member has yet to go. I had a hand delivered letter
47 last Tuesday night saying that we could come
48 tomorrow and Friday. And I hope that the media will
49 be alerted as to that because, should there be a
50 quorum, it would be considered an illegal meeting

1 and we would not want that to happen. We have in
2 Anderson County clear policies revolving around
3 lodging and per diem and I want to reemphasize that
4 where lodging is concerned, employees are required
5 to present the receipts and it must be within
6 budgeted dollars of each department or division.
7 Accordingly it states here that all expenses must be
8 supported by an expense report and it goes on in
9 greater detail. Can we really expect our county
10 council to vote to reign in credit card expenses and
11 to follow our policy when some of our own members
12 use those cards, and apparently somewhat
13 extravagantly. Of the twenty-seven pages that I was
14 provided information from, it was found that the
15 expenses involving Greg Norman's Australian Grill,
16 one member of the media went in to look and there
17 was absolutely no backup. Another member of the
18 media went and looked and then there was backup
19 indicating that members of the transportation
20 department and their families and guests were
21 treated to a dinner. The concern that I have here
22 is that in what I was given of the twenty-seven
23 pages, it appears that there were two sets of these
24 expenses totaling about nine hundred dollars each.
25 In one instance it was posted and transacted on 7/12
26 and on the other page it indicates posted on the
27 15th and transacted on the 12th. It would be very
28 helpful to have an explanation as to why there would
29 be that discrepancy. We also have a member of
30 council who has used the credit card to take himself
31 and his appointee on the economic and development
32 board to Chicago and apparently to other locations.
33 I would like to request by what process of approval
34 can county council members and their guests use
35 these credit cards and run up two and three thousand
36 dollars a bill at a single time, and with apparently
37 no backup. I want to know if there are other
38 instances where private citizens are also traveling
39 at public expense. And also in one of the articles
40 recently it appeared to indicate that employees are
41 using credit cards for personal use and then
42 reimbursing the county. I think this speaks to the
43 need to definitely have even clearer credit card
44 policy use. But certainly our personnel policy is
45 very clear on receipts and expense reports and
46 proper backup. There was also, going back to the
47 Greg Norman expenditures, the official explanation
48 indicated that the employees had not had a cost of
49 living merit raise in some time. But I want to
50 remind everyone that our cost of living merit raise

1 accounts were used to the tune of more than forty-
2 five thousand dollars in December to buy chamber
3 checks for each employee. Now going on to the GL65,
4 I will hope to make a report to greater detail on
5 credit card expenses after I've seen it. But
6 according to our administrator the GL65, which is
7 supposed to be our monthly financial statement, is a
8 budget to actual comparison of expenditures for that
9 period of time. However what I found in looking at
10 the actual budget, the bound version that we have
11 been given, the budget that we were voting on back
12 in May and June, then the bound version and then
13 this GL65, there are many, many discrepancies. For
14 example, the budgets in the GL65, the monthly
15 financial statement, differ from both what was voted
16 on and what was in the bound version. And these are
17 just a few highlights, because I could tell you that
18 there are many, many, many line items that are way
19 over budget, some items that are not even budgeted,
20 and walla there's a budget. For example, in
21 starting in numerical order in the budget, 5013 is
22 our administrator's department. The meals budget in
23 the unbound and then the bound version was seventeen
24 hundred and fifty dollars. Expenses as of the end
25 of December were, oh let's see, five thousand
26 seventeen dollars and nineteen cents and the budget
27 that shows in that document is suddenly fifty-one
28 hundred and fifty dollars. In 5031, and of course
29 there were plenty other items in that department,
30 but in 5031 which is our economic development,
31 please note that for example postage, the budget was
32 two thousand dollars, GL65 suddenly thirty-four
33 hundred, but they spent twenty-seven hundred and
34 twenty-eight dollars. Meals, they were budgeted two
35 thousand, and yet the GL65 indicates a budget of
36 four thousand dollars and twenty-two hundred and
37 some odd dollars are already spent. I've got at
38 least five or six categories from that department,
39 including an interesting one where development
40 construction, the budget was forty thousand and
41 suddenly it went down to twenty-six thousand six
42 hundred. And these type of unauthorized changes are
43 across many departments. In the Farmer's Market the
44 full-time salary was -- the budget was twenty-six
45 thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, but it shows
46 unspent in the GL65, our monthly statement, eighteen
47 thousand and twenty-five dollar budget. Temporary
48 part-time, for example, budgeted at two thousand,
49 what was approved and in the GL65 it shows ten
50 thousand nine hundred and sixty dollar budget and

1 suddenly they've spent thirteen thousand four
2 hundred and forty. Park police, the budget was over
3 one hundred and eighty-three thousand for salaries,
4 but the GL65 indicates about two hundred and
5 nineteen thousand. There was no budget for lodging
6 for park police, however they have already spent
7 money and indicate a budget in the GL65. Employee
8 benefits, the budget was four hundred and twenty-two
9 thousand five hundred and eighty dollars. The GL65
10 budget reveals four hundred and fifteen thousand
11 roughly. Special appropriations, I've asked since
12 September for an explanation of why under special
13 appropriation there was no budget in the unbound
14 version that we voted on, but in the bound version
15 there is a negative twenty-eight thousand two
16 hundred and twenty-five dollars with a new category
17 heading of unspecified reductions. In special
18 appropriations we were budgeted six hundred thousand
19 but yet the GL65 indicates five hundred eighty-seven
20 thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars. Are we
21 spending less on our indigent. Very interestingly,
22 we have had county council members in discretionary
23 accounts. For example district five in the GL65 has
24 overspent his budget by almost fifty-eight hundred
25 dollars, yet the county council package indicates a
26 balance of seventy-two hundred and thirty-four
27 dollars plus. Council district six in the last
28 county council package overspent their paving
29 account by more than nine thousand yet the GL65
30 indicates forty-one thousand dollar balance. So,
31 how reliable are the numbers that we're given. It's
32 hard to know because it varies from one document to
33 the other. It would seem that our budget should be
34 fairly clear and then the GL65 should follow. The
35 real interesting thing is in solid waste, our
36 recycling had a budget of sixty-five thousand but we
37 have a higher ---

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time. Thank you very
39 much.

40 CINDY WILSON: -- and the same with the
41 disposal and service, ---

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Time.

43 CINDY WILSON: -- we went over our
44 budget. Thank you. May I have a vote to extend by
45 five minutes?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're going on to the
47 next item. Appointments ---

48 CINDY WILSON: I made a motion to extend
49 by five minutes, please sir.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to

1 extend. No, Ms. Wilson, that's an improper motion
2 because you was not recognized. We are going on to
3 number twelve. Order in the chamber. This is a
4 legislative body not a town meeting. Appointments.
5 The chair appoints to the Anderson County
6 Development Partnership which is now the Innovate
7 Anderson committee, Gracie Floyd, Larry Greer,
8 Terrance Hanson, Bill McAbee, David King, Ron
9 Wilson, and myself, Michael Thompson. Are there any
10 more appointments. Ms. Wilson.

11 CINDY WILSON: No.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: That list that you just
14 read out, that was appointments to which?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: They are now called
16 Innovate Anderson. They used to be called the
17 Anderson County Development Partnership.

18 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you have any
20 appointments for your district?

21 BOB WALDREP: No, thank you.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer?

23 LARRY GREER: None.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have none. Ms. Floyd.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I don't have
26 any, but I would like to inquire about the progress
27 of the list of committee members that we do have on
28 other committees. We requested this last week.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman working on
30 this?

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, she was supposed to
32 be. I would like to request the progress on it.
33 I'd like to know the progress.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman, the list
35 of the committees.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: At the last meeting I
37 think we requested that she be given an intern.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, can you
39 provide an intern?

40 JOEY PRESTON: Well, we haven't been
41 able to do that because the last month and a half or
42 so we've been having to deal with requests from
43 county council members. But we hopefully will be
44 able to do it very soon. We did -- we were able to
45 deal with the Broadway Lake advisory -- or
46 commission, which met this afternoon.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, any
48 appointments?

49 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson

1 RON WILSON: None at this time.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you very much.
3 Requests by council. Mr. Waldrep.
4 BOB WALDREP: I would like to just
5 check to see if that is an accurate statement of how
6 much money I have? Was that the one that was posted
7 in our book? That was prepared so that's how much I
8 have? I'm not going to say how much is in there,
9 but I think that's what -- that's accurate. Okay.
10 Tonight I would like to make a request for a
11 thousand dollars to go to Fusion.
12 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second, okay. In a lump
14 sum or you want to ...
15 BOB WALDREP: Well, I've got a couple
16 of others too.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go right ahead.
18 BOB WALDREP: And I wanted twenty-five
19 hundred dollars to go to the Council of the Arts, I
20 think it is. And then a thousand dollars to go to
21 the Westside band and a thousand dollars to go to
22 the Hanna band.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Out of your rec account?
24 BOB WALDREP: Out of my rec account,
25 uh-huh (affirmative).
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?
27 LARRY GREER: Second.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of
29 Mr. Waldrep's appropriation please raise your hand.
30 It's seven and oh. Is that all, Mr. Waldrep?
31 BOB WALDREP: That's all. Thank you.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Ms. Floyd,
33 any appropriations?
34 GRACIE FLOYD: None at this time.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Greer.
36 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 I have no requests, but I'm just going to make a
38 comment in regards to the report on our recreation
39 accounts. I would call the attention of council
40 members that that report is the balance as of
41 December the 31st, 2007, so any appropriations
42 you've made since December the 31st of '07 will also
43 be subtracted from your total.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That all?
45 LARRY GREER: Thank you.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. McAbee.
47 BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr.
48 Chairman.
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Myself, I move to
50 appropriate the following sums from the district

1 five rec account. One thousand dollars to Clean
2 Start. One thousand dollars to the Anderson Free
3 Clinic, the Walk with the Docs and five hundred
4 dollars to environmental code enforcement Mr. -- I'm
5 sorry, Captain Bowman's department for some
6 training. Is there a second?

7 RON WILSON: Second.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor? Seven and
9 oh. Thank you.

10 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

12 BOB WALDREP: I had neglected, you
13 reminded me, I wanted to donate from the recreation
14 fund one thousand dollars to Walk with the Docs for
15 the free clinic as well.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any objection?

17 All in favor. A second? I second it. All in
18 favor. Okay. We got it. Mr. Ron Wilson.

19 RON WILSON: I have none at this time.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson

21 CINDY WILSON: None at this time.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We've got the
23 administrative report. I want to point out item F,
24 KAB Anderson county earns national award, awards I
25 should say. Is Ms. Strange still in the audience?

26 JOEY PRESTON: No sir.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please convey my
28 congratulations to her. Anderson County KAB earned
29 first place for the best litter prevention award,
30 second place for the best beautification and
31 community improvement award, the 2007 presidential
32 circle award, the Honda road to a cleaner America
33 reward, which included a four thousand dollar cash,
34 and a grant from the South Carolina forestry
35 commission for thirty-nine hundred dollars. I think
36 they're doing a great job and congratulations to
37 KAB. Anything else, Mr. Preston?

38 JOEY PRESTON: No sir. It stands as
39 submitted. But I do want to point out the item O,
40 the 2008 population estimates and projections,
41 please make sure you take a look at that and Mr.
42 Rickettson is ready to talk to you about that and
43 how it might affect your council district.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we need to talk to Mr.
45 Rickettson about that?

46 JOEY PRESTON: Yes sir, just let me know
47 and I'll arrange a time.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Citizens comments. The
49 chair will not receive comments tonight. The hour
50 is late so we are going to number sixteen, remarks

1 from council members. Ms. Wilson.

2 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I did want to
3 point out regarding some of the comparisons that
4 only five hundred dollars was in the budget for
5 communications under park police, yet the GL65 shows
6 a budget of almost half a million and about two
7 hundred and eight thousand spent. And then I do
8 require an explanation for the unspecified
9 reductions in special appropriations department
10 number 5851. I do want to point out also that the
11 county attorney has not reviewed every ordinance and
12 resolution as should be done before each council
13 meeting. There's proof of this in quite a few of
14 our agenda packets. In fact, when we voted on the
15 800 megahertz proposal for eight and a half million
16 dollars and almost half a million a year maintenance
17 the county attorney had not reviewed, even by second
18 reading, that particular ordinance. And I also want
19 to point out that I don't recall a single time that
20 I've ever voted to deny any council member extending
21 their time when they're making a presentation or
22 deny them putting an item on the agenda. And yet,
23 time after time, I'm not afforded the same
24 consideration. In fact, when I made my request last
25 meeting and this meeting for twenty minutes to make
26 the presentation I was cut to ten minutes. And I
27 think that is most egregious of our chairman and our
28 administrator to do that because the people of this
29 county deserve to know the numbers and the facts.
30 And people here want to know it and as long as they
31 are here wanting to know it, and the people on the
32 TV, watching the TV tomorrow night want to know the
33 information, then I should be afforded the courtesy
34 as I am a duly elected representative and I would
35 expect that the next council meeting when I request
36 fifteen minutes or twenty minutes I will be given
37 that, as are you. Thank you very much.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson. Okay. Mr.
39 Waldrep.

40 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I wanted to say a few things about Fusion Warehouse.
42 I went to a meeting that was called by council lady
43 Floyd, at the library and a presentation was made by
44 Mr. Brown and it had to do with gangs. And I just
45 want folks to think about the fact that the Fusion
46 Warehouse is one of the wonderful facilities that
47 provides a choice, an alternative for kids to spend
48 their time in a positive way. And I'm frankly
49 overwhelmed by the success of the Fusion Warehouse
50 and how well it's done. It is an outstanding

1 facility and I think it's something that's probably
2 going to obtain some type of national recognition
3 and Mr. Brown is of course to be greatly commended.
4 You can't have a facility like that unless you have
5 somebody that's a real spark plug and is totally
6 dedicated. I've rarely seen anybody as dedicated to
7 a facility and a purpose for our young people like
8 Mr. Brown is. And so I just had to say that,
9 because it really comes from way inside me, and very
10 sincere. The last thing that I wanted to say was
11 that I realize that my attempt to provide the
12 council with an opportunity to have a clear
13 ordinance that would allow us access to public
14 records was not perhaps well received, but I would
15 challenge members of council here, that if they
16 didn't like mine, they can certainly come up with
17 one of their own and I would certainly be amenable
18 to consideration of that. You know, the old saying
19 is, you can propose something and get shot down, I
20 tried to build a barn and you know the old saying
21 about anybody can kick a barn down, but you try to
22 build one occasionally, so I just wanted to mention
23 the fact that I was trying to build a little barn
24 here. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee. Mr. Greer.

26 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Mr. Chairman, the resolution 2008-009 concerning the
28 state roads was passed down for our signatures and I
29 noticed that it only has your signatures as a
30 chairman, and mine as a council member. I would
31 suggest that this would carry more weight if it was
32 redone and it had the appropriate signature lines
33 for all seven members of council, so I would
34 respectfully submit that for reworking to include
35 all seven council members' signatures on that to be
36 forwarded to the appropriate people. My comments, I
37 wasn't going to say anything, but I think I'll say a
38 few words. We had a group of young people here
39 tonight who were involved in agriculture, and quite
40 frankly, I'm right proud of them. I'm proud of how
41 they behave, I'm proud of how they conduct
42 themselves and how they're learning to be young
43 people who can stand on their feet and talk. The
44 fear of speaking is the greatest fear that people
45 have. The single greatest fear. And when you get a
46 fifteen, sixteen, seventeen year old to stand before
47 a governing body and speak like those did tonight,
48 of course they were nervous, I know you knew they
49 were nervous, but they did a good job, and I'm right
50 proud of them. And then Mr. Waldrep talked about,

1 I'm not sure if he said building a barn or tearing a
2 barn down.

3 BOB WALDREP: Building.

4 LARRY GREER: Building a barn. Okay.

5 And I'm reminded of a story of a farmer, this was a
6 fairly prosperous farmer who had a lot of property
7 and he planted all of the property that he had, a
8 lot of acreage, all the seeds and fertilizer and
9 everything to plant all the acreage that he had.
10 Hired new hands to help him with it. New equipment,
11 new machinery to help him with his bumper crop. And
12 he had a bumper crop. He had such a bumper crop
13 that his barns wouldn't hold the harvest that he
14 had. So he decided that he would tear his barns
15 down and build new ones to put his crop in and store
16 his goods so that he could live a life and enjoy
17 himself. And then a small still voice spoke to him
18 and said, now fool, thy soul shall be required of
19 thee tonight and who shall these things be. Be
20 careful what we do, how we say, and how we do it.
21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer. We
23 did it under three hours. Meeting adjourned. Oh,
24 I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. I do apologize.
25 Ms. Floyd.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. That's right.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'll reconvene the county
28 council meeting. Okay.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I'm going to say
30 this.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, I'm sorry, Ms.
32 Floyd. I do apologize.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: We had the gang task
34 forum at the county library, it was standing room
35 only, we brought in more chairs, but they kept
36 coming. Council members, I wondered where you were
37 because I know that you have these issues in your
38 district as well. I'm not the only one with it.
39 Mr. Waldrep, I thank you for coming. You came and
40 you stayed the full time with us. Again I thank you
41 for that. But the rest of y'all weren't there. But
42 we will get together again to work on this. I'm
43 appealing for the Free Clinic. They need help,
44 folks. Your Sunday school classes and your churches
45 and your garden club, bridge club, any kind of club,
46 please get together and let's take up a love
47 offering or a peace offering or a health offering
48 for the Free Clinic. If it were not for the Free
49 Clinic, these people would be at our doors and we
50 can't do it individually, but with collectively with

1 the Free Clinic we can do it. I met two new
2 constituents tonight, two of my new constituents and
3 they are still here with us, that's the man in the
4 red shirt and the lady in the green. I can't
5 remember their names, but welcome to our county
6 council and please come back. Also, we are
7 beginning to get phone calls from young people
8 wanting to know what to do to get out, and you know
9 what I'm talking about, that's a good thing, that's
10 a wonderful thing. Broadway committee met tonight
11 and we'll be hearing from them pretty soon. The
12 Fusion Warehouse, you know, we talk about the bad
13 things all the time, that's we ever get, but when
14 something good happens, when something good happens,
15 I'm wondering what's going to be said on the radio
16 show tomorrow. I bet you it's nothing, because it's
17 good. And with that I thank you.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd I do apologize
19 for that oversight.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, you did it on
21 purpose.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Now the meeting
23 is adjourned.

24
25 Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Audit Work Session, February 27, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Chairman Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Michael Cunningham – Assistant Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the work session is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, C.C.C.

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AUDIT PRESENTATION

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
RON WILSON

GINA HUMPHREYS
MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Good morning everyone.
2 We're going to start our meeting this morning. This
3 is a workshop for the presentation of the audit.
4 There will be no business taken. This is just for
5 information only. We have an agenda, and when we get
6 down to the number five questions and answers, I want
7 to do like a round robin. Each council member will
8 have five minutes to ask their questions. And then
9 once we make a complete round, we'll do a second
10 round for follow-up or additional questions. And
11 then after that point, we'll decide if we need to go
12 any further than that. Other than that, we just go
13 as the agenda is. So at this time, Mr. Wilson, would
14 you lead us in the invocation and pledge of
15 allegiance?

16 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Also,
18 let's note in the record that Mr. McAbee and Ms.
19 Floyd are not here. Okay. At this time, we have Ms.
20 Gina Humphreys who's going to introduce our auditor.

21 GINA HUMPHREYS: Good morning. Thank you,
22 Chairman. Good morning council. It's my pleasure
23 today to introduce Larry Finney of the firm Greene,
24 Finney and Horton. They're out of Mauldin, South
25 Carolina. This firm is a licensed CPA firm. They're
26 licensed in the state of South Carolina and all their
27 CPAs on staff are licensed as well. Greene, Finney,
28 just to give you a little background about the
29 company, provides audit services to thirteen school
30 districts, nine municipalities, thirteen special
31 purpose districts and over twenty not for profit
32 entities. Standing before you is Larry Finney. He
33 is a partner with the firm and he has been in the
34 auditing and consulting services business for over
35 nineteen years. He's the quality partner for this
36 audit. Larry also is a licensed CPA in the state of
37 South Carolina. Larry earned his BS in accountancy
38 from the University of Illinois in 1982. Sorry to
39 date you there a little bit, Larry. He has worked
40 with Coopers and Lybrand in Portland, Oregon for four
41 years. In 1986, Larry moved to Greenville, South
42 Carolina and joined the firm KPMG. He spent five
43 years there. He supervised and managed the audit of
44 the Greenville County School County -- Greenville
45 County school district for five years. Larry also
46 assisted them in earning their first certificate of
47 achievement for excellence in financial reporting.
48 Mr. Finney is going to give us a brief power point
49 presentation showing the highlights of our audit and
50 of our financial statements. And following that,

1 Rita Davis also has a slide show she would like to
2 present. Thank you.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you have handouts for
4 the presentation?

5 GINA HUMPHREYS: I have some. Yes.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Finney,
7 welcome to Anderson.

8 LARRY FINNEY: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.
9 Thank you, Gina. Mr. Chairman, council members, we
10 appreciate the opportunity to be here this morning
11 and also to work with the county this year. Gina has
12 told you a little bit about our firm and also I'll
13 just go ahead and get right to the presentation.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can you find a microphone
15 and speak into that?

16 LARRY FINNEY: Sure. There you go. Is
17 that better? Bear with me as I work with the
18 technology here. I think I've got it down, but we'll
19 see. What I'd like to do is to take a few minutes
20 and, number one, talk about a few matters that I
21 think are important when it comes to auditing any
22 entity, including a government. And then I want to
23 spend a few minutes kind of giving you the highlights
24 of the financial condition of the county for the year
25 end of June 30th, 2007. I want to start out
26 reminding you -- I know you have copies of the
27 financial statements themselves. And those financial
28 statements are the financial responsibility of the
29 county. The county has obviously management and
30 staff that take care of the day to day, recording the
31 day to day transactions that results in what you see
32 in the financial statements. And what you hire us to
33 do is to come in and perform audit services. The
34 result of all that is the expression of an opinion as
35 to whether those financial statements are fairly
36 stated or not. And I'll get to that in a little more
37 detail in just a moment. The one item that I like to
38 make sure I point out when we talk about an audit in
39 general is this concept of reasonable assurance
40 versus absolute assurance. Absolute assurance which
41 is what many people think happens when an audit is
42 performed would mean that every single transaction of
43 the county for the entire year were audited. That
44 would obviously take an inordinate amount of time
45 considering the county has several staff members that
46 take care of doing that day to day. So what we do is
47 we use this approach of reasonable assurance that in
48 essence does two things. One, for all material
49 transactions, we audit a hundred percent of those.
50 For transactions that are not material, what we do is

1 we get the information on the entire population of
2 those transactions and then select a random sample
3 and test that random sample. If we run into problems
4 or issues in testing that random sample, then we
5 might test some more. If we don't, then we move on.
6 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let him finish his
8 presentation and then we'll get to q and a. We can
9 do the questions. Things will move much quicker that
10 way.

11 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead, Mr. Finney.

13 LARRY FINNEY: The other concept that I
14 want to talk about for just a moment is fraud and the
15 risk of fraud. And I want to spend some time talking
16 about it not because we found any fraud in doing our
17 audit of the county, but fraud and the risk of fraud
18 has become a lot more important, has gained a lot
19 more public attention over the last few years. And
20 so over the last few years we have made sure that
21 with all of the fifty plus government and government
22 related organizations that we audit that we spend
23 some time talking about this. And part of the reason
24 we want to do this is because there is a general
25 expectation gap that exists when it comes to fraud.
26 I mentioned that concept of reasonable assurance
27 earlier. And in essence what that means when we
28 apply that to the audit is that if there were
29 material fraud in a fiscal year, then we as the
30 external auditors would expect to find that. But
31 historically when you look at fraud, most fraud is
32 not material. And so the questions is, what do we do
33 when it comes to both preventing and detecting fraud
34 and reducing the risk of fraud. And what I've
35 actually listed for you if you look at this slide is
36 the most -- six most common ways that fraud is both
37 prevented and detected. And what's interesting when
38 you look at this list -- I should step back and say
39 that there's an association called the Certified
40 Fraud Examiners Association. And what they do is
41 every two years they issue what they call their
42 annual report to the nation. Very extensive report.
43 They look at over a thousand plus fraud cases in the
44 last two years and basically do a significant amount
45 of analysis on that. And that's where a lot of this
46 information that I'm going to talk about comes from.
47 But what's interesting, when you look at that list of
48 those six items there, police, external audit,
49 internal controls, internal audit, accidental
50 detection and tips, is those are actually in reverse

1 order. And so the most common way that fraud is
2 detected is through tips, primarily through a
3 hotline, primarily an anonymous hotline. The second
4 most common way is accidental detection. Within that
5 accidental detection, primarily again it's both
6 internal or from outside vendors, customers, then
7 it's internal audit. Then the next most common way
8 is internal controls. Then you get to external audit
9 and police. And so you might ask, well why do I
10 bring this up? When you look at the statistics,
11 about a little over eighty percent of the time that
12 fraud is actually detected, it is detected
13 internally, not externally. And so we spend a lot of
14 time talking with, when we talk with our clients,
15 especially management, executive management and the
16 finance folks, we spend a lot of time talking about
17 the importance of what are you doing internally. And
18 we're actually going to talk a little bit more about
19 this when we get to one of our recommendations in our
20 management letter. But the important thought behind
21 all this is that it is internal controls. It is the
22 other steps that you take internally in order to
23 reduce the risk of fraud as best you can, taking into
24 account obviously the cost benefit that comes with
25 implementing those roles. And we did have a -- just
26 so you know, we did have a CFE or a certified fraud
27 examiner that participated throughout our audit and
28 we'll talk about that a little bit more later as
29 well. All right. To the audit itself. I am glad to
30 say that the county did receive what's called an
31 unqualified opinion. It's on page ten of the
32 financial statements. And what the opinion says is
33 that the balances and amounts in the financial
34 statements are fairly stated in all material
35 respects. The layman's version of that is, is that
36 is the best opinion that the county can receive,
37 whether you call it unqualified, whether you call it
38 a clean opinion, it is the best opinion that any
39 entity can receive. And the county did receive that
40 clean opinion this year. What I'd like to do now is
41 take a few minutes and kind of give you a little bit
42 of a big picture perspective as far as the financial
43 condition of the county at June 30th, 2007. We'll
44 start out with general fund and then look at some of
45 the other funds as well. When we look at general
46 fund, the focus tends to be on fund balance. So
47 that's where we like to start out. And you can see
48 for the year ended June 30th, '07 that the general
49 fund fund balance increased approximately one point
50 six million dollars to eighteen million dollars in

1 total. There is a certain amount reserved for
2 incumbrances and capital expenditures. And the rest,
3 the seventeen point two million, is the unreserved
4 and undesignated fund balance for general fund which
5 represents about fifty-eight percent of the 2007
6 operating expenditures. And that's a healthy number.
7 We think that the county's done an excellent job in
8 funding that fund balance. But you might ask the
9 question, well why do we need a fund balance? Why is
10 it important to maintain a good fund balance? And so
11 what we've done is list just a few of the items that
12 we consider real important when it comes to
13 maintaining that fund balance. Certainly not least
14 is that first bullet. When we look at June 30th,
15 2007, basically the county has got to go about five
16 to six months before they're going to receive any
17 more significant property tax revenue. So we need
18 some fund balance just to help carry us through cash
19 flow purposes. Obviously for, just like we would in
20 our own households, we need something for significant
21 emergencies or any other anticipated events that may
22 take place, just normal fluctuations that may take
23 place in revenues and expenditures. But it's also
24 important, that last bullet, that a good healthy fund
25 balance will also play an important role when it
26 comes to issuing bonds. The bond world, the rating
27 agencies, et cetera, that's one of the most important
28 things they look at. And it's not just the fund
29 balance, but it's also the policy or practice that
30 the county has in place. And we'll talk about that
31 in a few minutes as well. As far as the revenues and
32 expenditures for general fund, you can see the
33 revenues were a little under thirty-four million for
34 the year compared to about thirty-five point eight in
35 the prior year. By far and away, really the whole
36 reason for that decrease was the move of the
37 detention center to the Sheriff's fund from the
38 general fund in this last year. And that also was
39 really the primary impact on the expenditure side as
40 well. You can see there the taxes make up about
41 forty-seven percent of the general fund total
42 revenue. The county offices or licenses fees,
43 permits, et cetera, make up about another eighteen
44 percent. The intergovernmental piece would be the
45 third primary revenue, and most of that is the state
46 shared tax revenue that the county receives. On the
47 expenditure side, you can see the expenditures
48 decreased about three point nine million dollars for
49 the year. Again, that first bullet and then the
50 third bullet really highlight the primary reason for

1 the change in expenditures and that was the move of
2 the detention center to the Sheriff's fund, again.
3 You can see the other major highlights in the
4 expenditures. But those were -- those paled in
5 comparison to the move of the detention center. As
6 far as budget verses actual results. You may wonder
7 why this slide is in here. Well, what happens is
8 when we start looking at the narrative, you will see
9 that some of the numbers that we talk about are
10 pretty significant numbers in terms of hundreds of
11 thousand and even millions of dollars in terms of the
12 differences between actual and budget. But when you
13 look at it pictorially you'll realize that the
14 county, the council and management actually do a very
15 good job of budgeting and of managing that budget.
16 And that's what you see here. The actual revenue is
17 slightly higher. The budgeted revenues and the
18 actual expenditure is slightly lower than the
19 budgeted expenditures. So the county has done a good
20 job with that. If you look at that narratively,
21 you'll see that general fund revenues were about one
22 point five million higher than what was budgeted.
23 The bulk of that was, you'll see there, the interest
24 income, as well as the property tax revenue, building
25 permits and register of deeds. On the expenditure
26 side, the actual expenditures were a little over two
27 million less than what was budgeted. And we provide
28 the primary reasons for those differences as well.
29 The Sheriff's fund. Really, some good news here as
30 well. I mean basically the Sheriff's fund had a
31 break even year this year overall. That two point
32 three million dollar deficit still exists that was
33 carried over. But we realize the county has a plan
34 with that special levy to eliminate that deficit and
35 that's great. The other governmental funds,
36 primarily capital projects and debt service as well
37 as some special revenue funds, you can see here
38 overall the revenues were up slightly from the prior
39 year. That was primarily due to the
40 intergovernmental revenues, a little bit to the
41 county office revenue. Both property taxes and other
42 revenue were down slightly. And then on the
43 expenditure side, expenditures were down about six
44 million dollars. A lot of that is just simply due to
45 when we talk about special revenue funds, you may
46 receive grant revenue one year, the next year you may
47 not as you are awarded different grants. So that had
48 a big impact on the other governmental funds. Sewer
49 fund. You can see there was just a slight increase
50 in the operating revenues. That was basically due to

1 the increase in the sewer rates from the year before.
2 The operating expenses as well. The primary increase
3 was just due to the additional depreciation and
4 amortization expense. Other revenues were
5 essentially the same as the prior year. On the
6 balance sheet side, the capital contributions were
7 about three million dollars for the year. Overall,
8 the net assets -- and when we talk about -- as we
9 talk about these enterprise funds now, sewer, solid
10 waste, and airport, when we talk about net assets,
11 that's the equivalent as fund balance on the
12 governmental side of things. So the increase in net
13 assets was about three and a half million dollars for
14 the year. And you could see total net assets
15 represent about thirty-eight million dollars. And
16 there is a deficit in the unrestricted net assets.
17 On the solid waste side you can see the growth in the
18 operating revenues of about two hundred thousand
19 dollars as the county continues to grow. The
20 operating expenses increased about three hundred and
21 ninety -- well, the depreciation was about three
22 hundred and ninety thousand. Overall, the expenses
23 increased about eight hundred thousand primarily due
24 to the contractual obligations that the county has.
25 Overall, net assets decreased about four hundred
26 thousand dollars for the year. So the net asset
27 balance is sitting at about three and a half million
28 in the solid waste fund. And again there's a deficit
29 in the unrestricted net asset. And then the airport
30 fund. The operating revenue's at a slight increase
31 as well as the operating expenses. Both of those
32 increases were under fifty thousand dollars. So that
33 the net assets are again sitting at about three and
34 half million for the airport. Or ten point eight
35 million. Excuse me. And again, there's a deficit in
36 the unrestricted net assets of about half a million
37 dollars. You may remember from a few years ago if
38 you were on council when the county had to implement
39 what was called GASB 34. It was a new governmental
40 accounting standard. And in essence, one of the
41 primary reasons that GASB 34 was implemented and the
42 county had to implement it was because GASB said we
43 want governments to start to reflect their financial
44 information in the same way that you would see a
45 private enterprise doing. It's a little bit
46 different basis of accounting called a full accrual
47 basis of accounting. And in essence what's happening
48 is when we talk about the government-wide statements,
49 we're talking about adding all of the funds together.
50 But typically we'll separate them out and talk about

1 general fund, Sheriff's fund, capital projects, debt
2 service, et cetera. Now we're adding them all
3 together and saying what does the county look like
4 overall in total? What kind of an operation are we?
5 And so you can see assets of about two hundred and
6 ninety-four million dollars, liabilities of about
7 eighty-nine million dollars. And so we have our net
8 assets, or our equity, again, somewhat equivalent to
9 fund balance, of about two hundred and five million
10 dollars. The bulk of that two hundred and five
11 million dollars is going to be our capital assets and
12 infrastructure, less the debt that we owe on that.
13 As far as the net asset side is concerned of that two
14 hundred and five million, it increased about eight
15 million dollars. And you can see county-wide in
16 total overall, you're about a hundred million dollar
17 operation as far as your revenues and expenses are
18 concerned. A few other items that we just wanted to
19 bring to your attention and highlight for you, and
20 all of these are included in the notes to the
21 financial statements. The county does have a little
22 under two million dollars in outstanding commitments
23 on construction projects that are still in progress.
24 And you can see, we list those for you there, the
25 highlights. A subsequent year end after June 30th,
26 2007. There were a couple significant transactions
27 that are included in the notes as well. The tax
28 anticipation note for the Sheriff's office for the
29 cash flow of five and a half million dollars, as well
30 as the capital lease for about eight and a half
31 million dollars related to the Palmetto system. And
32 I do like to mention that we also audit the Anderson
33 County library system. And it is a component unit of
34 the county. And so its financial information is
35 included in the county's financial statements. I
36 have one slide that kind of highlights where the
37 county is at as far as its debt is concerned. You
38 can see that you've got about six different sources
39 of debt. But the three primary ones are the special
40 source revenue bonds that you have, general
41 obligation bonds, and then the note payable to the
42 other governments. A few other items now. We'll get
43 into kind of some of our findings as far as the audit
44 was concerned as well as some recommendations in the
45 management letter and a couple of other items we want
46 to mention to you. First of all, there was one
47 reportable condition and I think is a continuation
48 from the prior year. There still was not sufficient
49 collateral related to the cash and investments for
50 the Sheriff's fund. And I will just mention to you,

1 that just specifically relates to the fact that state
2 law requires all of the county funds to be fully
3 collateralized and it's up to the -- it's really --
4 the banks ultimately are the ones that have to make
5 sure that gets done. They've got to make sure that
6 collateral is there at year end to cover those
7 balances. In this case it wasn't. We've talked to
8 the county management about that, and they just need
9 to watch that a little more closely and really talk
10 to the banks a day or two before year end and just
11 make sure that everything is in good shape from that
12 standpoint. Unfortunately, it's a very common
13 finding we have with a number of our entities because
14 the banks tend to be not quite as diligent as they
15 should be. We also perform what is called a single
16 audit. The federal government requires that whenever
17 an entity, it could be a private company, a not for
18 profit entity or a government, receives more than
19 five hundred thousand dollars in federal revenue that
20 the external auditors specifically select some
21 programs and test those programs for compliance with
22 the federal requirements. If we had any findings,
23 any matters where the county was not in compliance,
24 those would be part of the financial statements. We
25 did not find any in the programs we tested.
26 Everything seemed to be in great shape as far as
27 those federal programs were concerned that we tested.
28 That third bullet there is talking about some new
29 standards that will need to be implemented in this
30 fiscal year that we're in right now that ends June
31 30th, '08. I want to bring this to your attention
32 because these are pretty significant. Primarily just
33 to kind of summarize what these in essence are
34 requiring, up until now external auditors have been
35 required to gain a general understanding of any
36 entities, internal controls, and internal control
37 system policies and procedures. These new statutes
38 are going to require us as the auditors to gain more
39 than a general understanding. We're going to have
40 to get into more detail, and we're going to have to
41 do some specific testing. These standards basically
42 continue what we've seen coming down the road to
43 government entities and not for profits that started
44 back several years ago with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act
45 that congress passed as a result of Enron, Worldcom
46 and some of these other frauds that took place
47 numerous years ago. Congress passed an act called
48 the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. It initially applied just to
49 public SEC companies. But over time, we've started
50 to see some of those requirements come down and be

1 applied to private companies, governments, not for
2 profit entities, et cetera. And these new
3 requirements are part of that as that continues. The
4 other item that I wanted to mention was GASB 45.
5 Again, there's going to be a new standard that the
6 county is going to have to implement related to other
7 post employment benefits. There's already a
8 requirement out there that the county disclose if
9 there's any outstanding liability related to pension
10 and retirement plans. This relates to post
11 employment benefits other than that. Primarily what
12 this means is it applies to most governments as it
13 relates to healthcare plans. If an entity has any
14 commitments and obligations that its made to retired
15 employees to help them with their healthcare benefits
16 after they retire, this GASB 45 is going to require
17 the county to use an actuary to in essence determine
18 what that liability is long term and to record that
19 liability and to begin to fund that liability over
20 time as opposed to using a pay as you go system. So
21 you'll hear more about that over the next few months.
22 Okay. Last slide. Management letter. As part of
23 any audit, as we are performing our audit if we have
24 -- and I think, Gina, is that the copies you're
25 passing out now? Okay. Good. As we find items that
26 we want to bring to the county's attention, whether
27 it be to improve internal controls, whether it be to
28 simply maybe consider making operations more
29 efficient and effective, whatever it may be we like
30 to bring those to the county's attention and talk
31 about those. So we have four items in the management
32 letter this year. And I'm just going to mention each
33 of them briefly. Really, the first three are all
34 semi-related in that number one, the accounting
35 policy and procedure manual. The county has a manual
36 but it's old and it hasn't been updated in a while.
37 And so we are recommending that the county do that.
38 And there's a number of benefits to that, not the
39 least of which is if you've got a good updated manual
40 and it's been designed well, then you can make sure
41 that it's being implemented well, as well. That is
42 that the employees are following that and performing
43 the procedures and controls that they should. Number
44 two, it's very beneficial to new employees. As a new
45 employee comes on board, they've got something they
46 can look at to understand how things work. The
47 second item, enterprise risk management and fraud
48 risk management programs. As more and more focus and
49 attention is placed upon internal controls as
50 Sarbanes-Oxley regulations continue to come our way,

1 it becomes more and more important that the county
2 make sure that as part of all those overall policies
3 and procedures that there's a good program that
4 addresses assessing the risk of fraud at the county
5 and making sure that we are addressing those risks
6 appropriately. Let me give you an example of some of
7 what we're talking about here. One of the primary
8 focuses of this needs to be what kind of tone is
9 being set at the top of the county. And what we mean
10 by that is both at the council level as well as with
11 executive management and moving on down the line. Is
12 risk being assessed regularly and appropriately and
13 then what's being done about communicating that to
14 the rest of the organization? What's being
15 communicated as far as the importance of just ethics
16 and morals and how is all that being done? Those are
17 the kinds of things that we're talking about that
18 it's good to take something that really is being done
19 informally right now and make it more of a formal
20 program. The third one, the procurement
21 recommendations. This really relates to quite a bit
22 of work that was done by the CFE. As we spent some
23 time in our planning process, et cetera, one of the
24 areas that in general we are seeing with
25 organizations overall, public companies, private
26 companies, not for profit organizations, as well as
27 government organizations, one of the concerns that we
28 see is in the procurement area simply because there
29 is probably overall a little higher risk of fraud in
30 that area because much of what can happen happens
31 outside of the financial ledger. And so we just had
32 some general recommendations related to the county
33 looking at their procurement policy and considering
34 some changes there. Last but not least is the
35 establishment of a fund balance policy. The county
36 right now has an informal policy. Three to six
37 months is what that informal policy is in terms of
38 what they'd like to see. What we're recommending
39 that the county do is look at actually formalizing
40 that. Does a couple of things for you. Number one,
41 the bond world likes to see that. But number two,
42 when we talk about an unreserved, undesignated fund
43 balance policy, I mean a fund balance of seventeen
44 point two million dollars. Well, the real question,
45 one of the questions in my mind is, well how much of
46 that really should be set aside as part of a fund
47 balance policy verses how much is really there to
48 potentially use for future expenditures. And so if
49 there's a formal fund balance policy, what we would
50 be able to do is to show the portion of that fund

1 balance, of that seventeen point two million dollars
2 that is the fund balance policy would show as a
3 designation and would be separate from what's really
4 undesignated and unreserved that is something that
5 you could look at doing something with in the future.
6 So that's what that recommendation relates to. And
7 that completes my presentation. So I think Rita,
8 you're going to do yours and then we can answer
9 questions.

10 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's have Rita's
12 information. Then we'll take questions and answers
13 from both parties.

14 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, how long are
15 we going to go -- are we going to go through the
16 whole program before we can ask a question or get a
17 definition of anything?

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. I want all
19 information presented. And then we're going to do
20 our questions and answers. Our questions. Go ahead
21 Rita. I mean Ms. Davis.

22 RITA DAVIS: Good morning, county
23 council. Thank you for this opportunity to present
24 this information. I apologize if some of it's
25 redundant.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Speak into the mic. I
27 can't hear you.

28 RITA DAVIS: Okay. Sorry, sir. I
29 will. This is a brief outline of what we'll be
30 discussing. We'll talk about some financial
31 highlights. We'll talk about the general fund,
32 capital assets, our debt that the county has, discuss
33 our three proprietary funds briefly, briefly discuss
34 the Sheriff's department, and then I think Gina may
35 have some closing comments. The good news of course
36 is the general fund did operate clearly within its
37 adopted budget. The fund balance did increase one
38 point six million dollars which we're proud to
39 report. I want to repeat again, we did get the award
40 for the CAFR, eleven years running, 1996 to 2006 and
41 of course we've submitted the audit again this year.
42 So hopefully we'll have it twelve years in a row.
43 And we have gotten the budget award from the
44 government finance officer's association three years
45 in a row now. And as Mr. Finney did report, our
46 audit received unqualified opinion. Some people
47 refer to it as a clean opinion. This is a chart
48 showing how the general fund budget has been from
49 1998 to the current audit, how we've performed.
50 You'll see where budget expenditures was almost

1 thirty-five million. We spent thirty-two million,
2 leaving a positive variance or difference of two
3 point one million dollars. And you'll see those
4 numbers again on page sixty-seven in your audit
5 report. The chart showing what the general fund
6 balance has been over the last ten years. And you'll
7 see where at June 30, 2007 it was eighteen million
8 dollars. We originally planned to use one point two
9 million dollars of our fund balance. And thankfully
10 we did not have to. Showing what the award actually
11 looks like, there's one of them duplicated in the
12 front of your CAFR. Showing that the GFOA did give
13 us the achievement for excellence in financial
14 reporting. Here is a copy of the distinguished
15 budget presentation award. And this is what it looks
16 like from the GFOA. And again we have earned that
17 for the third year running. It's called the
18 distinguished budget presentation. And here is Mr.
19 Finney's clean audit opinion. Again, I think that's
20 on page ten of your audit report. Let's talk about
21 the general fund a little bit. This is a good
22 picture of our communications center over in the
23 public safety building. What departments are in the
24 general fund? Well, county council and their
25 expenditures and salaries is in the general fund, as
26 is the legislative delegation, administrator, clerk
27 of court, a listing of all the departments that
28 comprise Anderson County's general fund. Elected
29 appointed officials as well. But what's not in the
30 general fund then? The primary fund that's not in
31 the general fund is the Anderson County Sheriff's
32 Department including the detention center for fiscal
33 year 2007. Our three proprietary funds, sewer, solid
34 waste and airport, are not in the general fund.
35 They're reported separately. And we have a lot of
36 special revenue funds that are not in the general
37 fund. For example Tri-County Tech and the Anderson
38 County library. Here's a pie chart showing where the
39 general fund revenues primarily come from. And as
40 you see less than half, forty-six percent of those
41 come from property taxes, as you would expect.
42 County offices represents about eighteen percent for
43 fiscal year '07. That's building and codes, the
44 people that collect licenses and permits and so
45 forth. Intergovernmental primarily is the local
46 government fund, the money we receive from the state.
47 Again on page sixty-one in your CAFR, you'll see
48 where those numbers come from and how those
49 percentages are derived. And here's zero fund
50 expenditures. And again just want to point out that

1 the detention center was moved as part of the
2 Sheriff's special revenue fund is fiscal year '07.
3 You can see that half goes to our county government
4 administration whose departments are, for example,
5 register of deeds, the finance department, county
6 council, administrator, those type that carry on the
7 general overall operations of the county
8 administratively, comprise the greatest percentage,
9 with the next percentage being highways and streets,
10 the engineering and roads and bridges department. On
11 page sixty-one in your CAFR as well you'll see where
12 we originally budgeted thirty-two million in revenue
13 and actually collected almost thirty-four billion.
14 That was a one point five billion favorable variance.
15 And the variance column on the far right will tell
16 you the amounts, show you where we were over budget.
17 Expenditures originally budgeted almost thirty-five
18 million. Actually spent thirty-two million and
19 that's a two point two favorable variance or six
20 percent. And just wanted to show you again the
21 general fund balance when you take into consideration
22 those revenues and expenditures we just discussed how
23 it ended up at eighteen million at June 30, 2007. As
24 Mr. Finney was talking about, a part of that is
25 reserved at '07. Eight hundred and sixty-one
26 thousand, primarily that's reserved for encumbrances
27 and the unspent lease proceeds. We reserve it so
28 that the reader of the financials knows that you
29 can't spend that for general operations. And with
30 unreserved being seventeen point two million. Let's
31 talk a little bit about capital assets. At year end
32 we had two hundred and twenty-seven million in
33 capital assets. That's after depreciation has been
34 deducted. And capital assets, infrastructure, your
35 building, sewer lines. Here's some of the major
36 capital project additions that you will see in the
37 capital project section of the CAFR. These are some
38 of the major projects that were underway in last
39 fiscal year. The Pendleton and Powdersville library,
40 started the kennels at the animal shelter. Of course
41 you purchased the old Kroger building for a new
42 courthouse annex. The Ronnie Townsend building was
43 purchased so that those offices that you see there
44 could be housed there in the future, the magistrate,
45 veteran affairs, registration, election. And we also
46 renovated a portion of the health department building
47 and added a new addition. We just talked about
48 capital projects. That's buildings, infrastructure.
49 And you also have what they call capital assets.
50 That's primarily ...

1 End of tape 1, side 1
2 RITA DAVIS: ... idea of the major
3 capital assets that was added last fiscal year. Road
4 maintenance got some items to help them in their
5 operations, tractors, ice spreaders. Of course we
6 always have to keep the computers upgraded. And
7 public safety was able to get radios through some
8 FEMA monies. And the Sheriff also got some new
9 radios for his force. Solid waste got two roll-off
10 freightliners. And of course we started construction
11 of the new Powdersville convenience center.
12 Capitalize of sewer lines, phase II of Beaverdam and
13 the Starr Iva sewer line, and also the Webb Road
14 sewer line. And the airport has finalized their
15 runway extension, and thankfully the federal
16 government funded ninety percent of that, and the
17 state kicked in five percent and the county matched
18 the other five percent. Regarding debt, we had
19 fifty-two point three million in bonds and capital
20 lease outstanding at June 30, '07. County council
21 approved a seven point three million dollar bond to
22 purchase a new courthouse annex and to make
23 renovations across the street regarding security at
24 the new courthouse. And of course as you're all
25 aware, the state does have a legal debt margin. It's
26 eight percent of the assessed value of all taxable
27 property in Anderson County. And again, that's in
28 table twelve at the back of your CAFR in the
29 statistical section. Regarding debt administration,
30 the county does plan bond issuances carefully. A lot
31 of factors are taken into consideration. And when we
32 think it's appropriate, bond rating upgrades to lower
33 the cost of borrowing are -- we do try to obtain
34 that, and of course, we were able to do that in 2005
35 with a rating upgrade by Standard & Poor's. And we
36 like to, as old debt rolls off the books and retires,
37 incur new debt so that the levy remains pretty
38 constant. And debt service levies are at the lowest
39 level in over fifteen years, and we'll show you a
40 table here in a minute. There again are the ratings
41 by Moody's and Standard & Poor's and those ratings
42 were reaffirmed whenever the seven point three
43 million dollar GO bond was issued. There's your debt
44 service levy from 1998 to '06. And again we're
45 talking about tax years here. So the tax year of
46 2006 impacted our fiscal year 2007 at four point six
47 mills, which is low when you look at the rest of the
48 year comparatively. There's our legal debt margin.
49 We were talking about the state requires eight
50 percent of your assessed property that you can incur

1 without a referendum. So our legal debt margin
2 showing at June 30, '07, you had up to eighteen more
3 million dollars that we could incur without a
4 referendum. What's in long term debt? Because on A1
5 exhibit in your CAFR, you'll see a thing called long
6 term debt. We're talking about our general
7 obligation bonds, our leases, special assessment
8 debt, special source revenue bonds, landfill closure
9 and post closure care cost and compensated absences.
10 Again, governmental type activities which are your
11 general fund, your special revenue fund, it was
12 fifty-two point five million. And business type
13 activities which again is sewer, solid waste and
14 airport had almost twenty-nine million, for a total
15 of eighty-one million dollars. And that comes from
16 page fifty-one and fifty-three in your CAFR. In the
17 footnotes to the financial statements there's a
18 detailed itemization of all the debt. And also your
19 amortization schedules are contained in the footnotes
20 to the financial statements. See how the proprietary
21 funds did last fiscal year. As Mr. Finney noted, the
22 sewer operating revenues increased two hundred
23 thousand. Solid waste operating revenue increased a
24 hundred and seventy thousand. And airport increased
25 thirty thousand over the prior year. We're talking
26 about revenue now. This is a snapshot of what their
27 income loss, including depreciation on the top line
28 which is a non cash expenditure, of course, what it
29 looks like at June 30, '07. And then the second line
30 shows that if you take the appreciation and
31 amortization out, what does it look like? And of
32 course the difference is your depreciation and
33 amortization amount. And of course like looking at
34 the sewer you'll see how much it impacts the bottom
35 line. Here's a pie chart showing where does the
36 airport primarily get its revenue from? And of
37 course the largest percentage is from fuel with the
38 second largest with the rental of hangar tie down
39 space. Here's a graph showing their operating
40 revenues and how it continues to increase. With the
41 runway extension they're hoping to recruit larger
42 aircraft and so that this number would just keep
43 climbing. Here's a -- now this is, excluding
44 depreciation, what their bottom line looks like. And
45 you'll see they primarily finished like they did last
46 year at a breakeven point or close. And excluding
47 the appreciation. Here's the sewer fund numbers for
48 last fiscal year with operating revenue being four
49 point three. Operating expenses being four point
50 two.

1 The net income being six hundred and fifteen
2 thousand. Again, that's before transfers and capital
3 contributions. Solid waste. There you'll see that
4 their net loss was five hundred thousand dollars and
5 that was the primary reason that council voted to
6 increase their solid waste fee. Again, their revenue
7 is up two hundred thousand primarily due to recycling
8 income and growth of number of households in the
9 county. And here is a graph of their -- excluding
10 depreciation, their revenues and expenditures from
11 the 2000 fiscal year to the present. As Mr. Finney
12 stated, the Sheriff's department primarily broke even
13 this year, and this is just a history of their
14 millage. And you'll note that in '06 they were at
15 twenty-two mils because the detention center was part
16 of the general fund. In fiscal year '07, they
17 combined with the Sheriff's special revenue fund.
18 And that milage increased to thirty point eight mils.
19 There again, their excess over revenues is nineteen
20 hundred dollars. So in essence they broke even for
21 the year. The Sheriff's fund owes the general fund
22 in that four point five mils has been -- is being
23 collected. It was on this last tax bill. So I'm
24 hoping to get that deficit eliminated. You might
25 have some comments now. Thank you.

26 GINA HUMPHREYS: Next slide, Rita, if you
27 don't mind. There's just one slide left of some
28 wrap-up items we wanted to state. The audit history
29 of Anderson County has been that since 1990 through
30 2007, we've actually had five different auditing
31 firms. And it's required that we change auditing
32 firms. Since that time, or during that seventeen
33 year period, Anderson County earned a clean audit
34 opinion beginning in year 1993. And we've had that
35 unqualified audit opinion ever since 1993. And also
36 we just wanted to finish out by noting that Anderson
37 County, as required by law, we undergo a complete and
38 thorough financial statement audit each year. And we
39 have earned a clean opinion every year under this
40 current administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Humphreys.
42 Now we're going to take questions for Mr. Finney and
43 the finance staff. So Ms. Humphreys, would that be
44 you?

45 GINA HUMPHREYS: Rita and I will probably
46 tag team. I can stand here if Larry wants to take
47 that mic and ...

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Each council
49 member will have up to five minutes to ask their
50 questions so that everyone can participate. And then

1 after everyone has a chance, then we'll go a second
2 round for follow-up or additional questions. And
3 then after that we'll determine if we need to go any
4 further. Mr. Waldrep, do you want to go first?
5 BOB WALDREP: Ladies could be first if
6 they wish.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. ---
8 BOB WALDREP: I'll be glad to go. Okay.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You have five ---
10 BOB WALDREP: Yes. Mr. Finney, my name
11 is Bob Waldrep and I represent district one. And
12 thank you for coming. I have a couple of questions.
13 One is a definition, and that has to do with the
14 statement made earlier that all material transactions
15 are audited, I guess you might say, reviewed,
16 audited. And what do you mean by material
17 transactions?
18 LARRY FINNEY: Well, what actually
19 happens, and it varies by fund, but there are some
20 guidelines that are put out by our industry where
21 basically what we do is, for example for the county,
22 we would look at each fund and we would look at the
23 assets and the revenues in that fund and then there's
24 a calculation that you make that basically comes up
25 with a dollar value that says every transaction over
26 that dollar value is material. And so we go through
27 and we identify that number. And we go through the
28 county's ledger for that fund and look at those
29 transactions that are over that amount so we can
30 audit those. And then we select a sample of the
31 others as I mentioned before.
32 BOB WALDREP: What is that amount?
33 LARRY FINNEY: It varies by fund. I mean
34 it's a different number for each fund.
35 BOB WALDREP: Okay. And then you said
36 that of course it would be impossible to audit every
37 transaction. And so you try to reduce it to the
38 things that in your mind are the most significant
39 under the practices that you are trained to do in the
40 world of accounting.
41 LARRY FINNEY: Correct.
42 BOB WALDREP: Okay. All right, sir.
43 Just had a -- I was interested to note that whenever
44 you do an audit that there's certain areas that seem
45 to be more sensitive than others. And one of those
46 areas would be the formal -- would that be the formal
47 program? What was that word that you -- it was a --
48 procurement areas in particular.
49 LARRY FINNEY: Okay.
50 BOB WALDREP: Did you review our

1 procurement policy?

2 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

3 BOB WALDREP: Okay. And how do you go
4 about doing that?

5 LARRY FINNEY: Well, in this case what we
6 did is we get a copy of a narrative, the write-ups on
7 the county's procurement policies and procedures.
8 And then in this case what we did is we went through
9 and reviewed those and actually the CFE that we work
10 with has quite a bit of experience in that area. So
11 he reviewed it and provided some recommendations.

12 BOB WALDREP: And what were those?

13 LARRY FINNEY: They varied. A lot of
14 them actually related to looking at the vendor
15 qualification process. And we just recommended that
16 they look at making some changes to that process and
17 how they qualify vendors. Primarily I will just tell
18 you that it relates in general to -- in any -- with
19 procurement in general, and this is any entity and
20 organization that exist, the biggest concern overall
21 that you obviously have in the procurement is making
22 sure that there's independence between the county and
23 the vendors. And so we just provided some
24 recommendations about the qualification process and
25 then about the review process afterwards when it
26 comes to making decisions on bids and awards.

27 BOB WALDREP: Are we going to be privy
28 to those? Are you going to allow the council to see
29 those recommendations?

30 LARRY FINNEY: We probably can at some
31 point in time. We're still working through in terms
32 of what the county wants to do as far as all that's
33 concerned.

34 BOB WALDREP: May we have those? Do you
35 think once you get through them that you would be
36 able to provide us with that? That seems an
37 essential part of what we're doing here is trying to
38 come up with the best, clearest, most transparent
39 type of accounting system. Is that our goal here?

40 LARRY FINNEY: Probably the easiest thing
41 for us to do is we took a, we took a vendor
42 qualification questionnaire that is actually used by
43 an entity much, much bigger than the county. We're
44 talking an entity the size of a GE, General Electric.
45 So a multi-billion dollar entity. And basically,
46 excuse me, just took that and gave that to the county
47 and said obviously this is more extensive than what
48 really needs to happen at the county because of the
49 size of entity it is. But let's take that and then
50 work through what makes sense to apply at the county.

1 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think, Mr. Waldrep,
3 your five minutes is up. You can have follow-up ---

4 BOB WALDREP: I move for just a couple
5 of more minutes, Mr. Chairman, if I could have an
6 extension of time? Just a couple more minutes.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any objections. Okay.
8 Go ahead, Mr. ---

9 LARRY FINNEY: Mr. Chairman, can I just
10 make -- or Mr. Waldrep, can I make one other comment?
11 What I'd recommend that we probably do when you were
12 asking about the information is that when we end up
13 with the new policies and procedures that that would
14 be a great thing to give to y'all to see what it
15 looks like when it's done.

16 BOB WALDREP: Okay. The last question
17 that I have right now is, in doing an audit of any
18 entity as you are trained to do, is it significant or
19 important in the auditing process that you have all
20 sources of revenue that are recorded that come into
21 that entity?

22 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

23 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Can you do an
24 accurate audit without having all sources of revenue
25 that come into that entity?

26 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, if they're not
27 material.

28 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Now we get back to
29 that word material. Are we talking about a hundred
30 thousand dollars, two hundred thousand dollars, a
31 million dollars?

32 LARRY FINNEY: Again, it varies by fund.
33 But it's going to be in the thousands of dollars.
34 Yes, sir.

35 BOB WALDREP: More than fifty thousand
36 dollars?

37 LARRY FINNEY: Some funds yes and some
38 no. Again, it depends on the fund. Obviously if
39 I've got a -- not using the county, but if I've got a
40 fund that has revenue of fifty million dollars then
41 fifty thousand may not be as material, as opposed to
42 a fund that has a million dollars in it.

43 BOB WALDREP: But I don't guess I'm
44 going to be able to get an answer from you on that.

45 LARRY FINNEY: What's your ---

46 BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess my question
47 is, you know, we have a budget, let's just say
48 there's a budget that someone would have of a million
49 dollars. If they get a hundred thousand dollars into
50 that budget, is that material? By any standard?

1 LARRY FINNEY: Yes. That would be. That
2 would be. The one number that jumps out to me, I
3 know that the one fund, there's one fund that's
4 probably one of the smaller ones, the materiality
5 level was thirty-four thousand dollars.

6 BOB WALDREP: Right.

7 LARRY FINNEY: To give you an example.

8 BOB WALDREP: Okay. And do you ever get
9 into the policies of spending and receipts and things
10 of that nature for expenditures? Do you make any
11 kind of investigation to verify that the expenditures
12 made are actually for that particular purpose?

13 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

14 BOB WALDREP: You do?

15 LARRY FINNEY: We do.

16 BOB WALDREP: Okay. And give me an
17 example of that.

18 LARRY FINNEY: Well, what we do at a
19 minimum, we will select a random sample of forty
20 expenditures to make sure that they're recorded
21 properly, to make sure that the supporting
22 documentation is accurate and complete, and to make
23 sure that the expenditure is recorded where it should
24 be so we're going to see what the expenditure was and
25 see if it was handled properly. So we do that across
26 all the funds, both for payroll and for non-payroll.

27 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Did you do that for
28 the credit card fund expenditures of this county?

29 LARRY FINNEY: I don't know specifically
30 if we had any of the credit card expenditures come up
31 or not. I could look it up and get back to you with
32 that.

33 BOB WALDREP: You would get back to me
34 and tell me if you did do any kind of investigation
35 of credit card expenditures for Anderson County?

36 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

37 BOB WALDREP: You could do that? Would
38 you make a note? Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done, Mr. Waldrep?

40 BOB WALDREP: That's all I have, Mr.
41 Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
43 Waldrep. Okay. Okay. To be fair with everyone, Mr.
44 Waldrep used about nine minutes so everyone else
45 would have about nine minutes to ask their first
46 round of questions. If I can figure out how to reset
47 my watch here. Okay. Okay. Who's next? Who wishes
48 to go next? Ms. Wilson, you have nine minutes.

49 CINDY WILSON: Good morning, Mr. Finney.

50 LARRY FINNEY: Good morning.

1 CINDY WILSON: Thank you for coming
2 today. I have a number of questions. Will Greene,
3 Finney and Horton be performing other services for
4 Anderson County besides the audit? For example, will
5 you be performing any professional services or
6 management consulting services?

7 LARRY FINNEY: Not that I'm aware of
8 right now. These are the only services we've ever
9 provided to the county.

10 CINDY WILSON: Well, going back to the
11 spirit of Sarbanes-Oxley, there should be a firewall,
12 I thought, between consulting and the audit. And
13 that has not been the case in Anderson County before.
14 Previous external auditors have made more of their
15 money performing management consulting or
16 professional services than they did for the actual
17 audit. And that was very distressing to me. I felt
18 like we needed to pay you more and have a more
19 complete detailed audit than having this mixing of
20 performance. Also, were you aware that there has
21 been a request on county council for an internal
22 auditor answerable to county council but yet we've
23 been denied that?

24 LARRY FINNEY: I wasn't aware that that
25 had happened in the past, but that is actually, if
26 you look at our management letter, that's one of the
27 -- in our recommendation that we think the county
28 ought to consider, is having an internal audit
29 position.

30 CINDY WILSON: I did see that, and I'm
31 grateful for your noticing that. Because we don't
32 feel like we have an internal auditor reviewing
33 policies and procedures and budgets and then giving
34 us an assessment of what's going on. In fact, I've
35 been on council since 2001 and for a few months in
36 2001 we received a monthly financial statement, and
37 then they ceased coming to us. We finally started
38 receiving them again this past August. There's been
39 a bit of concern lately about credit card expenses in
40 the county. And I noticed one of your other
41 management letter concerns was on the policy and
42 procedures manual.

43 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, ma'am.

44 CINDY WILSON: We have one but it's not
45 even being followed. We have few if any receipts,
46 few if any expense reports attached to pretty
47 extensive use of credit cards. We have twenty-three
48 county credit cards. And we have for example a
49 member of council using the credit card for two or
50 three different divisions. That's also a concern.

1 We have employees for the county billing their
2 expenses to departments other than the actual
3 department. On your list for your procurement
4 question, I would really appreciate having a copy of
5 that list of your recommendations. And of course I
6 think that we should, as a council under the council
7 administrator form of government, vote on any new
8 procurement policies and procedures. We have for
9 example no bids, no bidding procedures for solid
10 waste, engineering, legal bonds, and for example the
11 800 megahertz. We have that company donating a
12 thousand dollars to the county. But we really didn't
13 have a bid. We were using the state bid procedure
14 and there were a lot of questions regarding that. It
15 was rushed through very quickly. Also, may I have a
16 list of the forty expenditures that you did your
17 deeper look at, please? And I'm going to request ---

18 LARRY FINNEY: Can I ask that you do me
19 one favor related to that? If you guys -- if council
20 has information that they would like to get from us,
21 it would be very helpful if all that was put in
22 writing for us. It makes it easier.

23 CINDY WILSON: I'll be glad to. I have
24 other questions. Did your firm look at anything
25 involving credit card use in the county or host fee
26 revenues for the county or contributions,
27 sponsorships, et cetera, for the county? We were
28 given a list last night from a local newspaper that
29 says we have an administrator who billed a great deal
30 of expensive meals, some of them appearing to be
31 alcohol expenditures instead of just meal expenses.
32 And the list that we were given was for calendar year
33 2007 sponsorships which actually is composed of parts
34 of two fiscal years. In the monthly financial
35 statement, the revenue is part of that ledger. We
36 couldn't find any of many of those revenues that he
37 indicated on the list that was provided last night.
38 It looks like some of the so-called sponsorships may
39 have been from last fiscal year and not in this
40 current fiscal year. It may be counted for two years
41 in a row. There are no dates on these contributions
42 or reimbursements, no accounting. Like we don't know
43 which account they go into. And I would request that
44 you look into that and advise us, please. I did see
45 the question concerning the Sheriff's department, and
46 if you have any more detailed information regarding
47 that that would be very helpful.

48 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. I will tell you on
49 that, that actually has already been resolved. It
50 was kind of a one time thing where obviously what

1 happens is at that day on June 30th there was not
2 enough collateral. When we checked after a year
3 later, obviously the bank had fixed it and there was.
4 So that tends to be one of those issues that if it
5 was a problem at June 30th, it usually gets fixed
6 pretty quickly subsequent to that once that's brought
7 to the bank's attention.

8 CINDY WILSON: Another question. In the
9 CAFR on page twelve, it's talking about during the
10 year the county's governmental expenses were a
11 certain amount. And then in the last sentence it
12 says, in the prior year expenses exceeded revenues by
13 five point eight million dollars. And it also, next
14 bullet, discusses business type enterprise -- like
15 our enterprise funds where our revenues increased a
16 small amount but yet the expenses increased like
17 three times what the revenue increase was. And we
18 have some longer -- a total of our long-term
19 liabilities had increased. But as a result of a one
20 point four million dollar note payable to other
21 governments -- that's the final bullet on that part
22 of it. Was that one point four million dollars where
23 we have to pay a major percentage to the city of
24 Anderson, and is that included in your discussion of
25 other, or debt? Is that part of the other?

26 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, ma'am.

27 CINDY WILSON: Would it be possible for
28 you to be available for additional time after we go
29 through this to look at questions and maybe get back
30 with us at another time?

31 LARRY FINNEY: Well, unfortunately today
32 I have to leave at eleven o'clock because I had
33 another commitment that I could not get out of. But
34 I am more than happy at any other time that the
35 council wants to meet, I'd be more than happy to come
36 down and have further discussions.

37 CINDY WILSON: Well, I'm only one council
38 member asking this and possibly Mr. Waldrep, as well,
39 but in looking at the revenues part of the ledger as
40 opposed to what was claimed in this, and I'll be glad
41 to provide you the copy that I was given last night,
42 it's not apparent in the GL65 which was as of January
43 31st. Would you be able to guide us through finding
44 these revenues that are in these three pages that we
45 were given?

46 LARRY FINNEY: I would just have to look
47 at that and see. You know, without the information I
48 couldn't tell you for sure.

49 CINDY WILSON: Well, I appreciate your
50 coming, and I will write you a letter then.

1 LARRY FINNEY: Thank you.
2 CINDY WILSON: Thank you so much.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Greer or
4 Mr. Wilson.
5 LARRY GREER: I can go next.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Greer, nine
7 minutes.
8 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you, sir.
9 I'm intrigued, Mr. Finney, by the difference between
10 the term reasonable assurance and absolute assurance.
11 LARRY FINNEY: Okay.
12 LARRY GREER: And I understand that it's
13 a cost effective issue, the difference between
14 reasonable assurance and absolute assurance. Am I
15 ---
16 LARRY FINNEY: Well, let's say it this
17 way. I would guess, you know, ballpark, if you look
18 at the number of transactions that the county enters
19 into, financial transactions, in a given year, I
20 mean, it's got to be in the hundreds of thousands if
21 not millions if you think about everything the
22 county's doing. And so if we were going to provide
23 absolute assurance, we would be looking at every
24 single one of those and I'm not sure we could -- we
25 could get it done in a year, but it would take a lot
26 of people. And so, yes, the cost of doing that, Mr.
27 Greer, would be astronomical.
28 LARRY GREER: That's my next question.
29 What is the cost of performing this audit which is
30 done to a reasonable level of assurance?
31 LARRY FINNEY: Our fee is about forty
32 thousand dollars.
33 LARRY GREER: Okay. Forty thousand
34 dollars?
35 LARRY FINNEY: Uh-huh (Affirmative).
36 LARRY GREER: Okay. If this audit was
37 performed to obtain an absolute level of assurance,
38 what would you predict or estimate?
39 LARRY FINNEY: Hundreds of thousands of
40 dollars?
41 LARRY GREER: How many hundreds of
42 thousands of dollars?
43 LARRY FINNEY: Several. I mean I
44 couldn't -- but it'd be several.
45 LARRY GREER: Five hundred? More than
46 that?
47 LARRY FINNEY: No. Probably not out of
48 the ballpark.
49 LARRY GREER: Okay. So we're saying at
50 a minimum if we were looking for an absolute level of

1 assurance we would be looking at a total cost of
2 somewhere in the neighborhood of half a million
3 dollars.

4 LARRY FINNEY: That's just a guess, but
5 sure.

6 LARRY GREER: Ballpark.

7 LARRY FINNEY: Uh-huh (Affirmative).

8 LARRY GREER: Okay. And I believe you
9 did say that you had a certified fraud examiner
10 participate throughout this audit process and that
11 most fraud is detected internally. And I was
12 listening as you made some of those comments that
13 most common fraud is detected by tips. And I think
14 you're probably correct there. I would tend to agree
15 with that. And that most fraud is detected
16 internally within the organization itself.

17 LARRY FINNEY: Correct.

18 LARRY GREER: And I'm reminded of a
19 couple of instances where we have had problems in the
20 county in the past and they were detected and those
21 situations were taken to task and it was rectified.

22 LARRY FINNEY: And if you think about it
23 that's really the purpose of having your internal
24 controls, et cetera, there, to do just that.

25 LARRY GREER: Okay. I want to go to
26 your slide number seven. Okay. That's the one where
27 the last statement you make says that we have an
28 undesignated fund balance of seventeen point two
29 million which is fifty-eight percent of the 2007
30 operating expenditures. To my best knowledge, we've
31 been operating for the last several years under the
32 assumed principal that we needed to maintain at a
33 minimum of three months reserve fund up to somewhere
34 in the neighborhood of a five month reserve fund,
35 three to five months. And I believe that's what some
36 of our previous auditors had mentioned. And I did a
37 little quick numbers, I'm a numbers person, with
38 these seventeen point two and the fifty-eight
39 percent. And that works out to about seven months
40 worth of undesignated fund balance for the general
41 fund.

42 LARRY FINNEY: That's correct.

43 LARRY GREER: And based on that, that's
44 saying that we need about two and a half million
45 dollars per month for our reserve fund. And all this
46 is leading up to the question, as we approach our
47 coming budget year and everything is going to be
48 strained to meet budgets without tax increases. And
49 I for one am not looking for a tax increase. How
50 much of that seventeen point two million could we

1 utilize in this upcoming budget year, but adversely
2 -- without adversely affecting our credit rating and
3 putting our fund balance into an area where it would
4 not be acceptable?

5 LARRY FINNEY: That's the sixty-four
6 thousand dollar question. And that's why actually
7 Gina and I have had some discussions about that in
8 terms of, I think, the informal policy that the
9 county has had, the three to five months or three to
10 six months, whatever it's been, that's very
11 reasonable. And so, you know, the question really
12 becomes, and you've got to specifically look at
13 county operations and say from county management and
14 county council, what are we comfortable keeping as a
15 minimum fund balance that we're going to set aside
16 and not touch. And it really involves quite a bit of
17 detail in terms of both philosophy, you know,
18 philosophical approach as well as looking at county
19 operations and what you're planning on doing in the
20 future to make that determination. So I couldn't
21 answer that questions specifically today.

22 LARRY GREER: Okay. Do you think at
23 some point in time you could?

24 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. Yeah. We probably
25 could.

26 LARRY GREER: My quick manipulating of
27 the numbers so to speak says that if we maxed out at
28 five months on the reserve fund, that would be about
29 twelve and a half million approximately. And then
30 that would leave somewhere in the neighborhood of
31 four and a half to five million that we could use in
32 this coming budget year and still maintain a
33 satisfactory level of fund reserve. Am I thinking
34 logically?

35 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. Yeah. If you use
36 that five month number that you mentioned, that's
37 what it would be. That's correct.

38 LARRY GREER: Okay. I'm getting there.
39 On page eleven of the handout that we have, I believe
40 it's slide twenty-two that you have, you list the
41 bonded indebtedness -- or not bonded. You list the
42 indebtedness or the debt totals for the county.

43 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

44 LARRY GREER: And I fully understand
45 that GOB bonds, general obligation bonds, are based
46 on the taxpaying ability of the county. I understand
47 that. How many -- which ones of those other bonds of
48 seventeen and a half to five point four, one point
49 nine, twenty-five point four, four point three are
50 tied directly to the general taxing ability of the

1 county, if any?

2 LARRY FINNEY: Gina and Rita, help me
3 here. We looked at this. I mean obviously the
4 special source revenue bonds are specifically tied to
5 the specific operations.

6 GINA HUMPHREYS: Right.

7 LARRY FINNEY: The ---

8 LARRY GREER: Let's stop right there.

9 The special source revenue bonds. Am I to
10 understand, and I think I do, that those are special
11 source revenue bonds that are tied to, for instance,
12 fee in lieu of agreements that we've established with
13 some of the industries that are located in our
14 county? So they are actually -- so those are
15 actually paid for with the fee stream from that
16 particular fee agreement for that particular
17 industry. Is that correct?

18 GINA HUMPHREYS: That's correct.

19 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you.

20 GINA HUMPHREYS: The leases is part. The
21 five point four million outstanding capital leases,
22 that is our lease purchase that we do every other
23 year if not annually for capital equipment. That's
24 tied to the general taxing authority of the county.

25 LARRY FINNEY: The compensated absences
26 are as well.

27 GINA HUMPHREYS: The twenty-five point four
28 million note payable to other governments, that is
29 basically -- Rita, correct me if I'm wrong -- that's
30 what we would owe the city of Anderson with regards
31 to our commitment for the sewer. And four point
32 three and other -- I just have to look at the detail
33 of that other, but some of that may be tied to the
34 general taxing authority as well.

35 LARRY GREER: Well, I've just been
36 nudged by the chairman that I may be running out of
37 time. I want to move on to slide twenty-three.

38 LARRY FINNEY: Okay.

39 LARRY GREER: This past Friday -- I'm on
40 the budget committee for the Appalachian Council of
41 Governments, and I'm also on the board along with Mr.
42 Thompson and Ms. Floyd and some others from here in
43 Anderson County. And the Appalachian Council of
44 Governments made a very hard and difficult decision
45 this past Friday in relation to something that's
46 contained on page twelve, slide twenty-three, the
47 post employment benefits.

48 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

49 LARRY GREER: And the decision that was
50 made there was that the Appalachian Council of

1 Governments could no longer fund those post
2 employment benefits because they're going to create
3 such a drain on the financial resources of that
4 organization. Those who are currently getting those
5 benefits will be allowed to continue getting those
6 benefits. But future retirees would not. And I
7 think that's -- I know employees don't like to hear
8 things like this and I'm sorry. But I think that's
9 something that we as a governing body are going to
10 have to come to grips with and we may have to
11 address. I think we're going to have to address.
12 Because it places a burden on our ability to pay. Am
13 I reading that correctly?

14 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir. And what you've
15 stated in terms of what ACOG or the Appalachian
16 Council of Governments has decided to do is not
17 unusual from what we've heard with other entities as
18 well.

19 LARRY GREER: Okay. I'm looking forward
20 to seeing some of these ...

21 End of tape 1, side 2

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
23 Mr. Wilson.

24 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
25 Mr. Finney, I appreciate you being here. I enjoyed
26 your presentation. I want to ask you -- I want to go
27 back to something that Mr. Greer started out with.
28 So in your opinion, to have an absolute assurance,
29 y'all sort of talked about the five hundred thousand,
30 it seems to me if it's going to take y'all a year and
31 quite a bit of manpower we're probably talking about
32 more than that.

33 LARRY FINNEY: We very well -- like I
34 said that's just a guess. I've never even actually
35 thought about that before and it very well, very well
36 may be. I mean, think about, think about the staff
37 and the payroll expenses that you have to get all of
38 that reported.

39 RON WILSON: Well, I -- we may very
40 well be at a point in this county where that's what
41 we're going to have to do. So I just as soon to know
42 how much the cost is and look at it and go from
43 there. Let me go to the couple of slides you had on
44 fraud and I know that's been talked about a little
45 bit. I know there was some discussion about an
46 internal auditor. Would you view that as being a
47 helpful thing in the fraud process and so forth?

48 LARRY FINNEY: Absolutely.

49 RON WILSON: In what ways? Give me an
50 idea why.

1 LARRY FINNEY: Well, because number one,
2 you have a position that is not focused on day to day
3 operations. You've got somebody that is outside of
4 day to day operations that can have more of an
5 objective view in terms of looking at policies,
6 procedures, et cetera, and can therefore, when they
7 work and provide information, reports, et cetera,
8 it's more of an objective viewpoint.

9 RON WILSON: I'm going to go to the
10 part where you had the recommendations. Let me see
11 if I understand this. So you're suggesting that the
12 county needs to update its accounting policy and
13 procedural manual?

14 LARRY FINNEY: Correct.

15 RON WILSON: Then the enterprise risk
16 management and fraud risk management programs, they
17 need to be updated?

18 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. What they need ---

19 RON WILSON: The area of risk, I don't
20 think we've even done that.

21 LARRY FINNEY: Well, a lot of it, and
22 what we're finding with other entities as well is a
23 lot of that is being done, but it's being done on an
24 informal basis and it's not really being documented.
25 And what we're talking about doing is let's formalize
26 it.

27 RON WILSON: I know we had some
28 discussion near the budget process about having a
29 risk manager period. And so you're recommending
30 that. Is that what you're doing?

31 LARRY FINNEY: Well, no. That's kind of
32 a whole different subject. What we're talking about
33 doing is just really formalizing a process where you
34 do an overall risk assessment and then look at your
35 operations and make decisions based on that
36 assessment of risk that you do. A risk manager maybe
37 had -- would have a part of that but gets involved in
38 a lot of other things as well.

39 RON WILSON: I guess I don't understand
40 why you would have a policy and not have somebody to
41 implement it. If you wind up having it implemented
42 by department heads, you're about back to where you
43 started.

44 LARRY FINNEY: Well, this policy really
45 would be implemented from the council on down.
46 Everybody would be involved in it.

47 RON WILSON: Okay. You've got -- the
48 other thing you suggested was the procurement
49 recommendations.

50 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

1 RON WILSON: Go into a little bit of
2 detail on that.

3 LARRY FINNEY: Well, as I explained
4 earlier to Councilman Waldrep, what we did is we
5 simply looked at the current county procurement
6 policy and looked at overall the risks that exists
7 when it comes to procurement area and just made some
8 recommendations in terms of the county considering
9 tightening some of that up. And as I mentioned we
10 took a questionnaire that is probably much more
11 comprehensive than really needs to be implemented at
12 the county. But it's something that you could start
13 with and then customize it and tailor it for what the
14 county needs here. That was the primary
15 recommendation.

16 RON WILSON: Mr. Finney, I appreciate
17 you being here and I hope you'll be back before we
18 finish this process.

19 LARRY FINNEY: Thank you.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.
21 Okay. My turn. On reasonable assurance and absolute
22 assurance, you had the term independence in which you
23 did random sampling. Define independence.

24 LARRY FINNEY: Well, independence is
25 really separate from random sampling. But when you
26 say define independence, into what independence means
27 is that we are not involved in county operations and
28 we're not making management decisions and we're not
29 doing those things that would cause us to have a
30 clouded viewpoint as far as the audit is concerned.
31 So we're outside of all that so we can have that
32 objectivity.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And materiality.
34 You audit one hundred percent of that. So what is
35 materiality.

36 LARRY FINNEY: Again, that's what is
37 defined by our regulations.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Whose regulations?

39 LARRY FINNEY: The AICPA which is our
40 governing body in essence. They establish
41 regulations that tell us how we can do some
42 calculations by each individual fund to determine
43 what's material for each individual fund and then
44 based on that that's what we determine which
45 transactions we'll look at a hundred percent.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you have a governing
47 body to tell you ...

48 LARRY FINNEY: Correct.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. When you were
50 going through, I called them -- I'm having a senior

1 moment here -- the sewer fund and all that stuff.

2 LARRY FINNEY: The enterprise funds, uh-
3 huh (affirmative).

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Enterprise. There you
5 go. They were coming up in the negative. The net
6 assets were coming up in the negative.

7 LARRY FINNEY: The unrestricted net
8 assets. Yes, sir.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And if I
10 understand that, that's sort of equivalent to a fund
11 balance. Right? So shouldn't we want those to end
12 up in the positive? I mean, I think like three of
13 the accounts ended up in the negative. So is this an
14 area of concern that we should work on? Ms.
15 Humphreys, he's looking at you.

16 GINA HUMPHREYS: I'm sorry. I wasn't
17 paying attention. What was the question?

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Sewer fund, solid
19 waste fund, airport fund, generally called enterprise
20 fund.

21 GINA HUMPHREYS: Yes, sir.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: They all ended up in the
23 negative on the net assets. Shouldn't we want these
24 to be break even or positive? And since these are
25 negative, is this something that we need to work on
26 or address?

27 GINA HUMPHREYS: Well, we are working on
28 it. The airport as you know has over the past
29 several years made expansions to services and
30 enhanced its revenue base. We have a, I guess you
31 call it maintenance operations at the airport now
32 which brings in additional revenue. We've expanded
33 the fuel pump operations. So in response to that, I
34 would tell you that it is a process and that every
35 year we get closer and closer to the goal. The
36 airport, I think, had about a five thousand dollar
37 negative income this year. And that's a small
38 number. The solid waste issue the council has
39 addressed with increasing the solid waste fee. So we
40 should see a turnaround in solid waste.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So basically that hasn't
42 kicked in yet, or it's in the process.

43 GINA HUMPHREYS: It will kick in in this
44 fiscal year, FY08.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. So
46 they are being addressed and it's a work in progress
47 basically is what you're saying.

48 GINA HUMPHREYS: Yes, sir.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And if I understand
50 correctly, the collateralization of the Sheriff's

1 fund, that is basically a bank process. So Anderson
2 County is not at fault? We just need to nudge our
3 bank earlier?

4 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. I mean Anderson
5 County is ultimately responsible for that, but it's
6 really a process of making sure that we're
7 communicating with our banks and following up with
8 them.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And on the
10 recommendations, on most of them we do have
11 procedures in place but they're not, quote,
12 formalized, unquote. You want something in writing.

13 LARRY FINNEY: Want something in writing
14 that is updated and current.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And on the procurement
16 recommendation, I've just got recommend changes. And
17 very briefly, can you give me an executive summary of
18 what kind of changes ---

19 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. In essence, the
20 biggest one that I mentioned earlier is we have
21 provided a vendor qualification process slash
22 questionnaire that again is much more extensive than
23 what the county really needs to use. But they can
24 take that then and tailor it and customize it for
25 county use.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Have you met with
27 Mr. Carroll and discussed this with him?

28 LARRY FINNEY: He has all the
29 information. He was not able to make it to the
30 meeting that we had. But yes, he does have all the
31 information. And we met with Gina and Rita as well.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. Thank
33 you. Okay. That concludes my first round of
34 questions. It's about twenty till. Mr. Finney needs
35 to leave at eleven. So if we can just do a follow-up
36 very briefly from each council member.

37 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ---

39 BOB WALDREP: Waldrep.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Thank you.

41 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Finney, first of all
42 Mark Twain said, you know, a good compliment will
43 last me for thirty days. I want to give you a
44 compliment on being here and your presentation. I
45 think you were very professional and about as
46 forthright as any accountant can be.

47 LARRY FINNEY: Thank you. I think.

48 BOB WALDREP: However, I wanted to ask
49 you, is there a median between an absolute audit and,
50 I guess you might say, a regular audit? Isn't there

1 something called expanded procedures that is used in
2 the auditing world?

3 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. There's -- or it --
4 the term we tend to use is called agreed upon
5 procedures.

6 BOB WALDREP: Right. Okay.

7 LARRY FINNEY: And so yeah. You can take
8 any audit and then say in addition to what you would
9 normally do, we can do some additional agreed upon
10 procedures.

11 BOB WALDREP: Right. And which that
12 would cut down -- if we're talking about a million
13 dollars for an absolute audit, you could cut that
14 down to whatever you wanted to. If you just had
15 particular areas that you wanted to go into.

16 LARRY FINNEY: Definitely.

17 BOB WALDREP: And you're amenable to
18 that type of audit.

19 LARRY FINNEY: Oh, sure. We actually do
20 that quite a bit. That's fairly common.

21 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So fine. We're not
22 talking about a great budget breaking expense; are
23 we?

24 LARRY FINNEY: No.

25 BOB WALDREP: Well, thank you very much.
26 That's all I had. I appreciate it again.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else very briefly
28 with respect to Mr. Finney's time? Ms. Wilson.

29 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 On page one hundred and two of the CAFR, there's a
31 transfer out from EMS from the revenues. Would there
32 be any way that you could tell us where that three
33 hundred and thirty-five thousand five hundred and
34 sixty-five dollars went?

35 GINA HUMPHREYS: That was debt service from
36 that fund on capital lease for Motorola. That's
37 transferred out of that fund into the debt service
38 fund to make those payments.

39 CINDY WILSON: So that comes out of, is
40 it zone nine where they're taxed twice for EMS?

41 GINA HUMPHREYS: We have two EMS levies.
42 One is zone nine that you refer to and that is the
43 city limits of Anderson. And then there is a county-
44 wide EMS tax levy as well.

45 CINDY WILSON: So where is this revenue
46 derived from? Is that zone nine?

47 GINA HUMPHREYS: It's actually from both,
48 both those tax levies.

49 CINDY WILSON: Is there any way to get a
50 breakdown of what was zone nine and what was derived

1 from the county at large?

2 GINA HUMPHREYS: We keep a separate report
3 showing how much is coming from the county-wide levy
4 and how much is coming from zone nine levy. So yes,
5 that breakdown is available.

6 CINDY WILSON: Okay. If we could have a
7 copy of that, that would be a big help. I'm really
8 interested in this five point eight million dollars
9 that was expenses exceeding revenues by five point
10 eight million dollars for the prior year. Would we
11 be able to get a breakdown of where those expenses
12 came from? I'm sure that must have something to do
13 with the Sheriff's office too as well. Is that true?

14 GINA HUMPHREYS: And you're back on page
15 twelve, Ms. Wilson?

16 CINDY WILSON: That's on page twelve.

17 GINA HUMPHREYS: Okay. Yes. That's from
18 the previous year. So the bulk of that would be
19 coming from the Sheriff's operations.

20 CINDY WILSON: And could you give us a
21 breakdown on what that was, please?

22 LARRY FINNEY: And actually we should be
23 able to go to the '06 report ---

24 GINA HUMPHREYS: Yeah. Or either page
25 sixteen is a breakdown of that because it shows the
26 current year and the prior year.

27 CINDY WILSON: Okay. So we had a
28 shortage under program revenues of twenty percent
29 less. Is that what we're referring to?

30 LARRY FINNEY: Well, if you look at -- on
31 page sixteen if you look at the first column under
32 governmental activities it says 2006. And then you
33 go all the way to the very bottom where you see
34 increased, decreased in net assets. That's that
35 negative five point eight million that's referred to
36 on page twelve. So what that's saying is you had
37 total revenues in '06 of eighty-three point five and
38 you can see what makes up that detail. And then you
39 had total expenses of the eighty-nine point three.
40 And you can see what made that up. And that
41 difference between those two is that five point eight
42 million. And if you would go to the 2006 financial
43 statements, that same schedule that we have this
44 year, schedule B2, would give you even more detail of
45 how you get to that negative five point eight million
46 in the prior year financial statements.

47 CINDY WILSON: In this particular
48 statement, it refers to a negative nine point one
49 percent under public safety, a negative seventy
50 percent under economic development, and a negative

1 fifty-one point one percent under health and welfare.
2 But there are others that have ---

3 LARRY FINNEY: But if you look at those
4 negative numbers, those are actually referring to
5 changes in expenses, and what that's telling you is
6 the expenses actually decreased in those functions by
7 that much.

8 CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? Mr.
10 Wilson.

11 RON WILSON: I wish you were here every
12 meeting just to eliminate some of our questioning.
13 Let me say this. There was a comment about doing
14 some kind of a partial audit. If we're going to do
15 an audit, I want it complete. I want this ended. We
16 have accusations made by people on this council all
17 the time. If we go to some kind of partial audit,
18 then we will not have audited the right thing. So if
19 we're going to do this we're going to bite the bullet
20 and go full boar and get this thing over with. Thank
21 you.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

23 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 I've got several questions and comments and I'll be
25 as quick as possible. Mr. Finney, in general terms,
26 does the debt load for Anderson County, is it
27 acceptable for a county our size?

28 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

29 LARRY GREER: So would you say that the
30 debt load for a county our size that it shows that
31 we're practicing good financial management in
32 managing our debt load as it relates to the assets of
33 the county.

34 LARRY FINNEY: Yes. Your debt load at
35 Anderson County is very reasonable for the size of
36 the county and the operations, et cetera.

37 LARRY GREER: So in your opinion and
38 your expert opinion as an auditor and a CPA, then
39 it's not excessive.

40 LARRY FINNEY: No, sir.

41 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you for that.
42 I want to go back to the procurement process for just
43 a little bit. And I have always operated under the
44 belief that anything that Anderson County purchases
45 through the state contract which is bid through the
46 state procurement process is an acceptable form of
47 bidding. Is that a safe belief, safe assumption on
48 my part, that if we purchase something that is part
49 of the state purchasing procedure such as the 800
50 megahertz radio system that that is an acceptable

1 purchasing procedure?

2 LARRY FINNEY: That's the whole purpose
3 of the state procurement and state contracts being
4 there so that local governments don't have to do
5 everything on their own. They can rely upon work
6 that's already been done by the state.

7 LARRY GREER: So this is one benefit
8 that the state provides for us and it's to our
9 advantage to take advantage of it.

10 LARRY FINNEY: Yes. Absolutely.

11 LARRY GREER: Over the course of the
12 last several years, and I'm going to kind of pick up
13 on what Mr. Wilson was talking about, we've had
14 criticisms of every audit that's ever been performed
15 since I've been sitting here, that they were not
16 thorough, they were not complete, they were not real
17 audits. Is the audit that you performed, is this a
18 real audit?

19 LARRY FINNEY: I don't know what -- I
20 mean yes. Yes, sir. I think actually the comment
21 when we were having our meeting -- Rita, what was it
22 you said? Basically, Rita made the comment that
23 there were a lot of things that were asked for that
24 had not been asked for before and that it -- yeah.

25 LARRY GREER: So you're saying this is a
26 very thorough audit? I'm asking Mr. Finney.

27 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

28 LARRY GREER: All right. How does this
29 audit for Anderson County compare with audits that
30 are performed for other counties the size of
31 Anderson, for other organizations similar to
32 Anderson. How does it compare?

33 LARRY FINNEY: Very favorably. And I'll
34 tell you the one thing -- and I can kind of maybe
35 just as a result of that question make a couple of
36 closing comments. The one thing that stands out
37 probably in our audit work here that we did was two
38 things. The staff were very efficient in getting
39 information to us. But probably more than anything
40 is I only have two -- I audit fifty plus government
41 related organizations. We're the only firm in this
42 state that I know of that our primary business is
43 auditing governments. I only have two out of those
44 fifty plus clients, believe it or not, that actually
45 prepare front to back their own financial statements.
46 Most of them either we prepare it or they -- it's
47 kind of a joint effort together. It says a lot about
48 the financial ability of the county staff when they
49 truly prepare from beginning to end their own
50 financial statements. And frankly, it makes the

1 audit a lot more efficient and enables us to focus on
2 the audit procedures which is what we should be
3 focusing on more, as opposed to the preparation of
4 the financial statements.

5 LARRY GREER: So am I to assume that
6 Anderson County is one of those two?

7 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

8 LARRY GREER: And would you say by your
9 comments that Anderson County is ahead of the curve
10 as far as performing audits?

11 LARRY FINNEY: Yes, sir.

12 LARRY GREER: Okay. My next question
13 is, have you ever conducted a total audit of an
14 organization?

15 LARRY FINNEY: You talking about absolute
16 assurance?

17 LARRY GREER: Absolute assurance?

18 LARRY FINNEY: No.

19 LARRY GREER: Never?

20 LARRY FINNEY: Never.

21 LARRY GREER: Ever?

22 LARRY FINNEY: Ever.

23 LARRY GREER: Okay. I'm going to read
24 part of a paragraph of the letter that was handed to
25 us and then I'm going to ask you a question.

26 LARRY FINNEY: Okay.

27 LARRY GREER: It says as part of
28 obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Anderson
29 County's basic financial statements are free of
30 material misstatement, we performed tests of its
31 compliance with certain provisions of laws,
32 regulations, contracts and grants. Non-compliance
33 with which could have a direct and material effect on
34 the determination of basic financial statement
35 amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance
36 with those provisions was not an objective of our
37 audit. Question -- I'm going to stop right there for
38 a second.

39 LARRY FINNEY: Okay.

40 LARRY GREER: The question is, if that
41 had been an objective of your audit, could you have
42 accomplished that objective?

43 LARRY FINNEY: Yes.

44 LARRY GREER: Would it have cost more
45 money and taken more time?

46 LARRY FINNEY: A lot more.

47 LARRY GREER: A lot more. Okay. And
48 then I'm not going to read the rest of the paragraph,
49 but I'm going to read the last sentence. While our
50 audit provides a reasonable basis for opinion, it

1 does not provide a legal determination of the
2 county's compliance with those requirements. Could
3 you have provided a legal determination of the
4 county's compliance with those requirements.
5 LARRY FINNEY: No, sir. Not myself.
6 That's a legal matter.
7 LARRY GREER: That's a legal matter that
8 would have to be provided by someone in the legal
9 field?
10 LARRY FINNEY: Correct.
11 LARRY GREER: Okay. I'm going to finish
12 with this comment and it's going to be along the
13 lines of what Mr. Wilson said. I'm about ready to
14 put this beast to bed. I'm about ready for this dead
15 horse to quit getting beat. If we're going to do
16 anything beyond what we're doing, then it's got to be
17 all of it. It's time for the suspicions and
18 innuendos and everything to come to a stop. So if
19 we're going beyond what we're doing here today and
20 we've heard our auditor make the statement that we're
21 ahead of the curve, we're doing more than other
22 counties are doing, I'm going to stop with this
23 comment, Mr. Chairman. When is enough enough? Thank
24 you.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
26 Mr. Finney, I thank you for your presentation. Ms.
27 Humphreys, I thank you and your staff for the work
28 you've put into this. I don't have any follow-up
29 questions. I think everything has been said. It's
30 five till. We did good, Mr. Finney. We are
31 adjourned. Would council members please funnel their
32 follow-up questions to Ms. Humphreys so we don't
33 piecemeal Mr. Finney. Thank you.
34
35 Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – March 4, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Chairman Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, C.C.C.

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 4, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
BOB WALDREP
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The March 4th, 2008 county
2 council meeting will now come to order. Before we get
3 into the agenda I want to make a couple of comments.
4 When I met with Ms. Eddleman, our clerk, on Thursday,
5 we had a hundred and forty minutes of people who just
6 want to come before council to talk. I think we need
7 to take a different approach to the way we do things.
8 And I will be looking into that situation. But a
9 county council meeting is a business meeting. This is
10 in essence a board meeting. And if there's no voting
11 to be taking place, then it really shouldn't be in a
12 board meeting. It should be in the workshop. So I
13 will be looking into that area, that issue in the next
14 few weeks. But we need to refocus ourselves and take
15 care of business during the county council meetings.
16 Also with that being said, Mr. Gray called and said
17 that he would not be able to be here tonight. So item
18 eleven will be coming off the agenda. And also I
19 received a note just moments ago from Mr. Preston
20 saying that item twelve will be coming off the agenda.
21 So that being said, we're ready to start. Ms. Wilson,
22 will you lead us in the invocation and pledge of
23 allegiance?

24 INVOCATION BY CINDY WILSON
25 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Resolution R2008-
27 013, a resolution honoring and recognizing the
28 Anderson and Honea Path Free Clinics. Ms. Wilson.
29 One moment. Is there a motion to approve?

30 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

32 BILL MCABEE: Second.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And any discussion? Ms.
34 Wilson.

35 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I'll just ask
36 that all that are here with the Free Clinic to please
37 come forward for this presentation. And we can go
38 ahead and vote before we do that.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of the
40 resolution R2008-013, please raise your hand. The
41 vote is unanimous. Thank you.

42 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. This is a
43 resolution, this is a resolution honoring and
44 recognizing the Anderson and Honea Path Free Clinics
45 and expressing appreciation for the volunteer work
46 that the Anderson and Honea Path Free Clinics perform
47 to keep Anderson County citizens healthier, especially
48 those who cannot afford medical and dental work and
49 other matters related thereto. Whereas Anderson
50 County, South Carolina, a body politic incorporate and

1 a political subdivision of the state of South Carolina
2 is deeply involved in and affected by all the events
3 in the lives of its citizens and recognizes that the
4 good health of all its citizens is vital to the
5 community. And whereas Anderson County has been
6 blessed in having literally dozens of Anderson County
7 residents and others including many, many healthcare
8 professionals donate time, money, energy, resources,
9 materials, experience and love to create, open,
10 operate, manage and staff Free Clinics for medical and
11 dental work and prescription services to both the city
12 of Anderson and the town of Honea Path. And whereas
13 Anderson County sees and is fully mindful of the
14 importance the Free Clinics have in preserving and
15 protecting the overall health of the entire community
16 which is in turn critical for the overall well-being
17 of the entire community. And whereas Anderson County
18 acting by and through its county council desires to
19 honor and recognize the Anderson and Honea Path Free
20 Clinics and all their healthcare professionals, staff,
21 and volunteers and express appreciation for the
22 volunteer work that the Anderson and Honea Path Free
23 Clinics perform to keep the citizens of Anderson
24 County healthy, especially those citizens who cannot
25 otherwise afford medical and dental work. And further
26 desires to emphasize the importance of these
27 institutions to the citizens of Anderson County.
28 Therefore, be it resolved by Anderson County council
29 in meeting duly assembled that Anderson County, acting
30 by and through its county council, hereby honors and
31 recognizes the Anderson and Honea Path Free Clinics
32 and all of their healthcare professional staff and
33 volunteers and expresses its appreciation for the
34 volunteer work that the Anderson and Honea Path Free
35 Clinics perform to keep the citizens of Anderson
36 County healthy, especially those citizens who cannot
37 otherwise afford medical and dental work. And hereby
38 encourages the citizens of Anderson County to fully
39 support the Anderson and Honea Path Free Clinics with
40 their time, money, energy, resources, materials,
41 experiences and love. This resolution shall take
42 effect and be in force immediately upon enactment
43 resolved in meeting duly assembled this 19th day of
44 February 2007. We were to have done this last
45 meeting, but we moved it to this one so we could have
46 you here. And you have a Walk With the Docs coming up
47 soon and I'd like to present one of these to our
48 Anderson office and one to our Honea Path office. And
49 would you each introduce yourselves please and give us
50 a little background for our citizens?

1 BOB AUSTIN: My name is Bob Austin. I'm
2 a dentist here in town and a board member and long-
3 time volunteer for the Anderson Free Clinic. For
4 those of you that don't know, the Anderson Free Clinic
5 has been in our community for twenty-three years
6 providing care to the under-served population in
7 Anderson County. The one thing that the Free Clinic
8 does in our community is provides maintenance
9 medications for those people that can't afford
10 prescriptions. In the year 2007, we dispensed over
11 forty thousand prescriptions throughout our community.
12 Now these medications are to help people deal with
13 high blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. The
14 Free Clinic does not deal with psychotic drugs or pain
15 medicine. So it's strictly maintenance medications.
16 And these maintenance medications help keep these
17 people out of the emergency room and provides them
18 with quality of life. A number of years ago we
19 started a dental clinic. And we have limited dental
20 services. Just a few years ago again the people of
21 Honea Path jumped in and we started a satellite office
22 over in Honea Path under leadership of Renee McCormick
23 and many others and I dare not to miss somebody. But
24 the community of Honea Path stepped up and has taken a
25 great leadership role in being a satellite of the
26 Anderson Free Clinic. Our funding comes primarily
27 from United Way and our big fund-raiser. Most
28 everybody here has probably heard of Walk With the
29 Docs. On March 15th, we're going to have our Walk
30 With the Docs. The importance of this walk is like I
31 said it's our major fund-raiser. And it's this time
32 with the economic times that we're having right now,
33 our clinic has more demand than it has ever had.
34 We're seeing between sixty and seventy new patients a
35 month. And you can imagine the burden that's put on
36 our Free Clinic. And in the year 2007 we again
37 dispensed over forty thousand prescriptions. So I
38 just ask that if you can and see it in your heart,
39 please think of the Free Clinic. For a twenty-five
40 dollar donation, you can go ahead and get a wonderful
41 Walk With the Docs t-shirt. And you'll be
42 contributing to one of the, what I think, top notch
43 non-profit organizations in our community. Because
44 it's been shown that for every dollar that's donated,
45 we get ten dollars back in medical services, medical
46 and dental services. So I don't know about you, but
47 if you're in investments, that's a pretty darn good
48 investment across the board. So I thank you. I don't
49 want to steal the thunder, but I'd like to introduce
50 Maureen Sartini, who is the executive director for the

1 Anderson Free Clinic. And again March 15th at Chris
2 Taylor Park, the walk will start at nine forty-five.
3 And over in Honea Path it'll be eleven o'clock at the
4 Honea Path middle school football field. So we
5 appreciate your support and thank you. Maureen.

6 MAUREEN SARTINI: Like Bob said, I'm the
7 director of the Free Clinic and I just wanted to
8 introduce the other folks that are here with me today.
9 Karen Johnson is the site manager for the Honea Path
10 clinic and Renee McCormick over here is one of the
11 volunteers that helped start the Honea Path clinic.
12 And of course I'm representing the clinic as a whole.
13 And Bob has been a board member, and he's also headed
14 up our dental clinic for many, many, many years.
15 Thank you all very much. This is a really nice
16 resolution and we appreciate the recognition.

17 APPLAUSE

18 BOB AUSTIN: I'd just like to go ahead
19 and hand out these T-shirts to our council members.
20 But I would ask they not take offense by the size that
21 I might provide them with. So if it's not your size,
22 you can trade it in at the clinic. And thank you, Ms.
23 Wilson, too.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Next item is
25 approval of minutes for February 19th, 2008. The
26 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

27 RON WILSON: Second.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Do we
29 have any discussion on the minutes? Seeing no one,
30 the chair calls for the question. All in favor of
31 approving the minutes for February 19th, 2008 please
32 raise your hand. We have a unanimous vote. Thank
33 you. We have citizens' comments, agenda matters. Let
34 me give you some instructions. Meetings of county
35 council are legislative meetings based upon the
36 representative form of government and are regulated by
37 parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings.
38 Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt
39 of citizens' opinions, comments, and input. It is not
40 a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue.
41 Each person will be allowed not more than three
42 minutes to address county council. You are asked to
43 please refrain from addressing members of the audience
44 by name and county council members. Direct your
45 comments to the chair. When you come up please give
46 your name, address, the council district in which you
47 live and the agenda item on which you are speaking.
48 Mr. Martin.

49 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 There are six citizens under agenda matters.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS, AGENDA MATTERS

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
That is all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
Ordinance's third reading, 2008-007, an ordinance
amending ordinance 99-004, the Anderson County zoning
ordinance as adopted July 20th, 1999, by amending the
Anderson County official zoning map to re-zone from
R20 to C1N, that parcel of land consisting of plus or
minus four point three acres in the Hopewell precinct
on the west side of SC 81 North and other matters
related thereto. Is there a motion to -- the chair
moves to approve? Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
007, please vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you.
Ordinance 2008-008, an ordinance amending ordinance
99-004, the Anderson County zoning ordinance as
adopted July 20, 1999 by amending the Anderson County
official zoning map to re-zone from R20 to OD which is
office district, that parcel of land consisting of
plus or minus point four seven acres in the Edgewood
precinct on the northeast quadrant of US 76 and Old
Mill Road and other matters related thereto. The
chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
favor of ordinance 2008-008, please vote. Unanimous.
Thank you. Ordinance's second reading. Ordinance
2008-006, an ordinance amending ordinance 99-004, the
Anderson County zoning ordinance as adopted July 20th,
1999 by amending the Anderson County official zoning
map to re-zone from R20 to PD, that parcel of land
consisting of plus or minus thirty point three five
acres in the Williamston Mill precinct on the south
side of Foster Road, Williamston, and other matters
related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is
there a second? Ms. Wilson seconds. Thank you. Any
discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in
favor of ordinance 2008-006 please vote. Unanimous.
Thank you. Ordinance 2008-011, an ordinance amending
in limited particulars only chapter thirty-eight of
the Anderson County code of ordinances regarding the
administrator and policies and procedures for public
roads and other matters related thereto. We have a
public hearing. Instructions for a public hearing.
Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public
hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he
or she is speaking to the issue under consideration.

1 The chairman exercises control of the public hearing
2 to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing
3 process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments,
4 clearly repetitive comments, profane abuse or
5 offensive or inappropriate comments. With that being
6 said, this public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing
7 to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
8 state your name and address before speaking.

9 PUBLIC HEARING

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else for the public
11 hearing? Seeing and hearing none this public hearing
12 is now closed. Okay. The chair moves to approve
13 ordinance 2008-011.

14 LARRY GREER: Second.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
16 discussion?

17 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes ma'am.

19 CINDY WILSON: The gentleman who just came
20 before us in the public hearing raised an interesting
21 question, and I wondered if we could get a definition
22 of that? Mr. Hopkins, maybe.

23 HOLT HOPKINS: That definition would be
24 determined by the SCDOT or the state at the state
25 level. And I don't have the answer to that either.

26 CINDY WILSON: There are no numbers or
27 thresholds that you've heard of before?

28 HOLT HOPKINS: The only roads that we've
29 kind of heard that they would be interested in
30 unloading would be the neighborhood type roads,
31 traffic count less than a thousand cars a day. It is
32 the secondary -- part of the secondary system that is
33 not eligible for federal aid monies. And those are
34 all the smaller neighborhood type streets. Midway
35 Road is an example of a federal aid secondary road.
36 But a lot of the city streets in the neighborhoods and
37 subdivisions are the lower volumes. But as far as a
38 specific definition, we don't have that.

39 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Finished, Ms. Wilson? Mr.
41 Waldrep.

42 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Hopkins, I guess I'm
43 trying to envision a practical application of this and
44 how it might work. And would you say that there would
45 be a neighborhood where there would just be a few cars
46 for example that the county has taken into its system
47 and that because of this ordinance we have the option
48 to stop repairing and maintaining that road?

49 HOLT HOPKINS: No sir. These are -- this
50 ordinance is directed toward the existing state

1 maintained roads. If -- by law though, it's an
2 automatic thing. If the state abandons a road it
3 automatically comes to the county. This ordinance
4 would allow it to be automatically abandoned by
5 council without us having to go through the thirty day
6 posting and the signs and the review.

7 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I guess I just
8 misunderstood the thrust of this ordinance and any
9 language in it gave me some concern that we were
10 somehow abandoning a responsibility out there to
11 anyone in our road system once a road becomes a road
12 whether it be a state road or county road or ...

13 HOLT HOPKINS: In my current experience
14 there's a good example that y'all approved just a
15 month or two ago. It's an old abandoned right of way
16 up in the Powdersville area. A car has not been on
17 that road probably in twenty years or more. It was
18 grown up with trees and everything, but the right of
19 way still existed. The state actually had to abandon
20 it to the county. Then the county had to go through
21 its procedure and it takes six to eight weeks in order
22 to abandon our side of it. This would make it
23 automatic. If the state abandons something it
24 automatically is abandoned.

25 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I imagine there's
26 going to be some communication between the county and
27 the state whenever they go through this process so
28 that there would be some notice, some discussion about
29 how this would pan out, so to speak. Thank you.

30 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

32 LARRY GREER: So that we can make sure
33 we're on track, one of the reasons for this ordinance
34 being introduced is that we're in danger of being
35 dealt another unfunded state mandate by the state
36 abandoning roads that they're responsible for to the
37 local governing body which is Anderson County and not
38 providing the revenue to maintain these roads once
39 they're abandoned. I don't think we have a problem
40 with accepting the roads provided they provide the
41 funds through which to maintain and take care of these
42 roads. But we need to send a very clear message that
43 we're no longer going to sit still for these unfunded
44 mandates. And if you're going to send it to us, send
45 the money to take care of it with. And so this is not
46 abandoning any county roads. Anderson County really
47 and truly is not abandoning these roads. If they're
48 abandoned, they will be abandoned by the SCDOT and not
49 Anderson County. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair

1 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
2 011 please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance's
3 first reading. Ordinance 2008-013, an ordinance
4 amending the agreement for development of joint county
5 industrial and business park within Abbeville County,
6 South Carolina, executed on January 8th, 2008 to
7 include additional property in Abbeville County as
8 part of the joint county industrial park and other
9 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
10 Is there a second?

11 BILL MCABEE: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
13 discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in
14 favor of ordinance 2008-013 please vote. Unanimous.
15 Thank you. Ordinance 2008-014, an ordinance
16 authorizing the transfer of certain Anderson County
17 real property and other matters related thereto. The
18 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

19 BILL MCABEE: Second.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? Mr. -- he
21 left it, he left it. Is there -- can we retrieve him
22 quickly? Mr. Preston, can you ---

23 JOEY PRESTON: Yes. Mr. Martin will
24 address it for ---

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: As I understand this, when
26 the, I think it was the Michelin Boulevard was put
27 through, an agreement was made. Now we're just
28 basically honoring that agreement. Is that right?

29 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Mr. Chairman and members of council, that is
31 essentially correct. As a part of the process of
32 obtaining the right of way for Michelin Boulevard, an
33 agreement was made with a particular property owner
34 that as a part of the compensation for his property
35 the county, once the road was completed, the adjacent
36 property became excess to the county, would deed that
37 property to him. And the county gave him permission
38 to make certain improvements on that property ahead of
39 time. He has made those improvements and it is now
40 simply time to honor the county's commitment.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

42 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, may I just
43 add a little bit to that?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

45 HOLT HOPKINS: Part of the new right of
46 way for that road actually took away Dr. Groeber's
47 parking. Since we did have that remainder we had to
48 actually take down the daycare center on the property
49 that we're talking about. It serves no purpose to the
50 road, but it did help mitigate his loss of parking

1 lots.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? The
3 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
4 2008-014 please vote. Seven and oh. Thank you.
5 Ordinance 2008-015, an ordinance to establish a
6 committee to oversee expenditures made for certain
7 capital projects in Anderson County, South Carolina
8 and to provide for the appointment, composition,
9 duties and responsibility ...

10 End of tape 1, side 1

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to approve.
12 Is there a second?

13 LARRY GREER: Second.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer seconds it. Any
15 discussion?

16 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

17 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

19 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Mr. Chairman, I asked the county attorney to draft
21 this ordinance at the request of some members of the
22 capital project's commission based on input that they
23 had received at several of their meetings that they've
24 held county-wide. Their wishes and concerns were
25 conveyed to the attorney as he drafted this ordinance.
26 Basically what this ordinance does is it establishes
27 the chairman and the vice chairman and one other
28 member of the commission to be appointed by the
29 chairman and vice chairman to serve as an oversight
30 committee to oversee the expenditure of the funds of
31 the capital project sales tax should it pass in the
32 referendum. It also calls for the establishment of an
33 independent auditor to assist them in examining the
34 records. And I believe it calls for a quarterly
35 report to the oversight committee. And this is coming
36 at the request of members of the capital projects
37 commission.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson, did you
39 want to speak.

40 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I've attended some of those meetings, and we should
42 commend the wonderful citizens who've worked really
43 hard bringing themselves up to speed and meeting the
44 citizens and taking their input. There's only one
45 minor issue that I want to bring to your attention.
46 Both the vice chair and the chair are from Belton.
47 And wouldn't you think it would be a little more
48 appropriate that maybe the other municipalities be
49 permitted to select an individual also for that group?

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you making an

1 amendment, or are you just throwing something out
2 there for ---

3 CINDY WILSON: Well, I'm suggesting that
4 we discuss this and then I'll probably make a motion
5 for amendment if someone else does not.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: The ordinance, it's a good
10 one. I've read over it and I've mulled over the whole
11 thing. And the part I have problems with is the part
12 on section two. It reads, the CPST oversight
13 committee shall initially consist of three members.
14 And the three members are the final chair of the
15 capital project, the final vice chair of the capital
16 project and C, a member of their choosing. I have a
17 little issue with this. A and B, the vice chair and
18 chair all reside in, is it ---

19 CINDY WILSON: Belton.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Belton.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Is that Mr. Greer's
22 district? Okay. I think that it needs to be a little
23 more widespread than this. Already these people in
24 Mr. Greer's district came to him to have this done.
25 No one else knew anything about this, and I'm afraid
26 that we'll run into some of the same things as we were
27 -- who are implementing the capital project money, if
28 it should pass. What I'd like to see is maybe the
29 chair remaining in that position because it's feasible
30 that he should guide the committee through
31 appropriating the money. And I'd like to see three
32 other members come in from maybe different areas. It
33 doesn't have to be members who are on the oversight
34 committee. It needs to be members who live in
35 Anderson, South Carolina and who are interested in
36 making sure that the money is going where it's
37 supposed to be going. I don't like the tone of the
38 whole thing. It appears as if we're getting ready not
39 to trust somebody here. We're getting ready to say,
40 okay, county members, we're going to make sure y'all
41 are going to put this money in the right place. But
42 it can be handled without us going with that type of
43 connotation of the whole thing. But I don't like the
44 idea that these people are going to be taken off of
45 the committee, chosen from the committee and two of
46 them coming from one area. I thank you.

47 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Mr. Hopkins,
49 can you come forward please? How many people are on
50 this capital projects committee? How many people are

1 on there?

2 HOLT HOPKINS: The commission is made up
3 of six members, three from the municipality side and
4 three from the county.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And do we -- are all --
6 no. We need some way of wording this so that a
7 representative is not -- two representatives are in
8 the same district, basically is what everyone is ---

9 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I? What
10 about if we ---

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. The chair has
12 the floor. I'm trying to ask some questions here. We
13 need some way of wording this, from what I'm gathering
14 here, so that one district is not overly represented
15 over the other. Now do you have any idea of where the
16 various representatives are from? But you can find
17 that out.

18 HOLT HOPKINS: I can tell you where
19 they're from, the current commission.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Yes. What are
21 they?

22 HOLT HOPKINS: One of the county
23 representatives is from the Powdersville area. The
24 other one is from the Anderson kind of school district
25 four area. I mean, he taught in district four but he
26 lives in the Anderson/Belton -- somewhere between
27 Anderson and Belton.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. My pencil broke
29 and my pen went dry. So -- you've got Powdersville.
30 Go ahead.

31 HOLT HOPKINS: One from Anderson.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anderson.

33 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, another one is from
34 Anderson as well, the north side of Anderson.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Two from Belton.

36 LARRY GREER: No.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One from Belton.

38 HOLT HOPKINS: Anderson. Two from
39 Anderson.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two from Anderson. One
41 from Powdersville.

42 HOLT HOPKINS: And then there is one from
43 Belton, lives in Belton. One lives just outside of
44 Belton.

45 LARRY GREER: He lives in district seven.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Belton. Seven.

47 Okay. Five.

48 HOLT HOPKINS: And then the last one.

49 BILL MCABEE: Pendleton.

50 HOLT HOPKINS: Pendleton.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Pendleton. Okay. Mr. --
2 who asked for the floor? Mr. Wilson.

3 LARRY GREER: I did.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you yielding to Mr.
5 McAbee?

6 RON WILSON: No.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

8 RON WILSON: Let me ask a question. It
9 seems to me these issues should have been resolved
10 when we selected the committee because if the chairman
11 and the co-chair -- what is it, vice chairman?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair, vice chair and ---

13 RON WILSON: They were elected by the
14 group?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: By the group.

16 RON WILSON: Well then they had enough
17 confidence in them to elect those people. And so I
18 don't see that this is an issue. You know, I think
19 that the committee did its -- I've been to three of
20 these meetings and they're working hard and the real
21 work on this will be the next meetings when we meet at
22 the civic center and start drawing up the priority
23 list, the rows. And all this group is going to do
24 that's in this ordinance as I understand it is to sort
25 of oversee it and make sure that they're spent the way
26 it's -- if it's passed and if it's elected, if the
27 voters choose to do this, then they're just there to
28 make sure that they follow that priority list as was
29 put together and voted on. So I don't see this as a
30 problem.

31 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

33 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 Mr. Wilson is correct. When they return their report,
35 their project list and it goes to the ballot, if it is
36 approved by the voters the projects will be done in
37 the order that are approved by the committee and by
38 the voters. The oversight committee really is just
39 going to oversee the flow of money and the progress of
40 the projects. But they cannot change the projects.
41 They cannot change the order of the projects. The
42 work will have to be done as the original committee
43 lays it out and if so approved by the voters.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

46 BOB WALDREP: I just wondered -- I know
47 we've spent a lot of time on this. But is there any
48 reason that the committee that is serving now would
49 not just continue to serve?

50 CINDY WILSON: As an oversight?

1 BOB WALDREP: I'm just asking that.

2 CINDY WILSON: That was what I was going
3 to ask. Why couldn't the committee that's in charge
4 now just continue as an oversight committee? That
5 would seem to resolve any concerns of representation
6 being vested in one predominant area.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you want all six
8 members to continue to serve as an overall oversight.
9 Is that what you're saying?

10 BOB WALDREP: I think it would from a
11 standpoint of representation. I realize they might be
12 constrained by what duties that they have, what
13 priorities. But sometimes there's a little discretion
14 in there and whenever that is exercised that would
15 certainly cover their population of the county rather
16 than just having representatives coming from one
17 particular area. I would just offer that as an
18 amendment.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're offering that as an
20 amendment?

21 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have an
23 amendment on page two, paragraph two. Instead of
24 having three members, to have all six members to
25 continue to serve as an oversight committee. Is that
26 correct?

27 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Wilson seconds it.
29 So we end the discussion of the ordinance -- amendment
30 to the ordinance.

31 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

33 LARRY GREER: Thank you, sir. Just to
34 set the record straight, Mr. Burris who is the vice
35 chair is a resident of Belton. However, he is an
36 appointee by the municipal organization through the
37 city of Anderson. He was appointed by Mr. Oglesby, I
38 believe, through his appointment, Mr. Oglesby's
39 appointment, by the city of Anderson. Mr. David Jones
40 who is the chairman resides in council district seven
41 not council district three. I want to make sure that
42 everybody understands, I'm not trying to load the
43 wagon in my favor. That just happened to be who is
44 the chair and the vice chair. I for one think the
45 larger you make this oversight committee, the more
46 difficult you make it for it to get its job done.
47 It's a whole lot easier for three people to get
48 together than it is six people. And I believe that we
49 would be creating a burden on the people who are going
50 to do this if we went with a six member oversight

1 committee versus a three member oversight committee.
2 I recommend defeat of this amendment.

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It was said
6 earlier that these people would not have much of a job
7 to do because all they would be doing would be
8 following the guidelines set by the primary committee.
9 And it's also said that -- some of the council members
10 said that it didn't matter if you had three or just
11 one. They couldn't understand, you know, why it
12 wouldn't make a difference. But so if it doesn't
13 matter to you whether or not this is done one way or
14 the other then it should -- the ones that it does
15 matter to should take the lead in it. It matters to
16 me. It matters to me. It matters to my district. I
17 like the idea. We point at these people for one
18 particular job. And we point at them with that in
19 mind, one particular job, and that was to serve on the
20 capital project sales tax. And now before the job is
21 even finished, we are getting ready to appoint them
22 for a second job. The same people. Three of the
23 seven or six of the same people. I don't think that's
24 right. I think that we should go back to the pot and
25 say okay, we appointed you to do this. And when you
26 finish this job then we're going to get some folks to
27 do the oversight part of it. Now we can keep the full
28 committee or we can get some new people. But I don't
29 like the idea of the three people. And let me tell
30 you, the more people you have working on this project,
31 I'm not saying fifteen or twenty, I'm saying seven.
32 The more people you have on this project, the easier
33 it's going to be for everybody because each person
34 would be ensuring that everything is being met.
35 You're putting a burden on three people. I thank you.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time left, Mr.
37 Martin?

38 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Seven minutes. Mr. Greer.

40 LARRY GREER: I call for the question on
41 the amendment.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
43 question. All in favor of the call for the question
44 please vote. Four, five. Okay. Everybody wants to
45 vote. Great. Seven and oh on the call for the
46 question. So we're voting on the amendment that Mr.
47 Waldrep offered to make this a six member committee.
48 Ordinance 2008-015 on the amendment. All in favor of
49 the amendment please vote. One, two, three. All
50 opposed. Ron Wilson, McAbee, Thompson, Greer. So the

1 amendment fails three to four.

2 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we're back in
4 discussion of the original ordinance. Mr. Greer.

5 LARRY GREER: I call for the question.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Call for the question on
7 the original ordinance 2008-015. All in favor of call
8 for the question please vote. Unanimous on call for
9 the question. So all in favor of ordinance 2008-015
10 please vote. Five. Opposed, Floyd, Waldrep and Cindy
11 Wilson. For the -- four. Four, three. So the
12 amendment passes.

13 LARRY GREER: The motion as unamended
14 passes, Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That is correct.

16 LARRY GREER: Okay. You said the
17 amendment.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Ordinance
19 2008-016, an ordinance to create the full-time
20 position of internal auditor for Anderson County
21 government. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
22 second?

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
25 now in discussion. Ms. Wilson, do you want to take
26 the lead on this?

27 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Our external auditors when they presented our audit
29 last week or week before, they in their attachment A,
30 they had a list of recommendations. And one of those
31 was that the county have an internal audit function.
32 And I'll quickly run down some of the reasons. In
33 their recommendations, they recommended that we have a
34 financial policy and procedures manual because what we
35 have is no longer utilized and needs to be updated.
36 Due to the importance of maintaining internal control
37 over the accounting and financial reporting processes
38 and due to the new auditing standards, they've also
39 recommended that we have a position of internal
40 auditor. It goes on to say that while the county does
41 informally assess the risk of fraud within the county
42 on a regular basis the county does not have a formally
43 documented enterprise risk management and fraud
44 management program in place. And it goes on to say we
45 recommend that the county consider the implementation
46 of a formal enterprise risk management and fraud risk
47 management program to ensure that the risks due to
48 fraud and error are appropriately evaluated and
49 assessed and addressed. The program should include a
50 regular evaluation and update once the initial

1 assessment is completed, as this program should be
2 ongoing. The creation of an internal audit function
3 would be very beneficial in this endeavor as well as
4 provide many other benefits to the county. They go on
5 to state that our finance division director serves in
6 that capacity currently, but that this person does not
7 and cannot devote one hundred percent of her time to
8 internal auditing. Years ago, I believe it was in '94
9 or '95, our current finance division director was
10 hired by a previous council as an internal auditor.
11 And once our current administrator came into his
12 position, he brought her into his finance department.
13 It's been recommended by a number of people to keep --
14 of professional standing that in order to keep our
15 proper checks and balances in place, that we should
16 have an internal auditor. There's a department at
17 Clemson in the accounting department that trains these
18 type people. And even though we just got the surprise
19 earlier this week or toward the end of last week, that
20 according to some attorney general opinions that were
21 unpublished opinions, that the position of internal
22 auditor should be under our county administrator,
23 there have been other counties like Anderson County
24 previously to have an independent internal auditor.
25 In fact, I spoke with people in Charleston today, and
26 Ms. Senak (phonics) with the Anderson Independent also
27 researched it. They've had two internal auditors
28 working for the county for more than twenty years. I
29 think that in order for us to have this position, it
30 should be -- of checks and balances system, and rather
31 than the conflict of serving for the administrator
32 which some of the law indicates should be the case.
33 But other parts of the law are somewhat nebulous. It
34 puts it into a conflict for someone who is to provide
35 the function of internal auditor to work under the
36 administrator. And I'm suggesting that because the
37 precedent already exists in practice and as I
38 understand it and you may have to correct me, Mr.
39 Waldrep, but I think precedence is a legal standing
40 when a court considers an issue.

41 BOB WALDREP: It depends on whether you
42 like it or not.

43 CINDY WILSON: Well anyway, I think that
44 if we're really sincere and genuinely concerned about
45 having more translucence or transparency in our county
46 accounting, a very effective and minimally expensive
47 method would be for us as a council to set the
48 parameters of the job and to hire an internal auditor.
49 It probably shouldn't cost the county more than sixty
50 thousand a year. Currently we're spending only forty

1 thousand a year for an audit fee, and yet we're
2 spending over a hundred thousand for consulting and
3 professional services in that same department. It
4 would make good sense for us to look at maybe
5 transferring in the upcoming budget year those funds
6 to that particular function. Maybe have expanded
7 procedures as well as an internal auditor. And
8 there's another legal consideration here that I want
9 to bring to your attention, if I can find my notes.
10 According to the South Carolina Home Rule Act, article
11 one, section 49-25, power of counties, it states that
12 all counties of the state, in addition to the powers
13 conferred to their specific form of government, have
14 authority to enact regulations, resolutions and
15 ordinances not inconsistent with the constitution and
16 general law of the state, including the exercise of
17 these powers in relation to health and order in
18 counties or respecting any subject as appears to them
19 necessary and proper for the security, general welfare
20 and convenience of counties, reserving health, peace,
21 order and good government in them. The powers of the
22 county must be liberally construed in favor of the
23 county and the specific mention of particular powers
24 may not be construed as limiting in any manner the
25 general powers of the county. So I think that that
26 alone, along with the precedent of some other counties
27 having this function in place, provides us with the
28 ability to do just this.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I'd
32 like the privilege of asking Ms. Wilson one question
33 and then I want to make a statement, please sir.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go right ahead.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Ms. Wilson, you
36 quoted Charleston. You said that Charleston had two
37 internal auditors, but you never did say whether they
38 worked under the umbrella of the county -- of the
39 administrator or the county.

40 CINDY WILSON: They work for the county
41 council, as does their county attorney.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. I wanted
43 to correct one thing you did say and I know this for a
44 fact. You said that we did have an auditor that
45 worked for the county -- that worked for the council.
46 And that was so. Yeah. You did say that.

47 CINDY WILSON: That was my understanding.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. Yeah. Well you were
49 right. You were right. And then you said that when
50 Mr. Preston came along, he moved her under his. Okay.

1 It didn't happen like that. Ms. Gina was hired by the
2 council to work as an auditor for county council. But
3 when the reigning chairman was voted out of office, it
4 was correct. Because at the time we were following
5 the rule that said that the auditor had to work under
6 the county council. My husband, my dear departed
7 husband, William Floyd, made the motion of putting it
8 in the proper place at the time when he was on county
9 council. Mr. Preston had nothing to do with it. I
10 just wanted to clear that up. Okay.

11 CINDY WILSON: If that's so, I stand
12 corrected.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Okay. But it was
14 done by Williams A. Floyd. And another thing I want
15 to say is that I'm not clear on the rule on this one.
16 I'm not clear, that part of the law says to me that it
17 has to be under the administrator, and I'm hearing
18 that it can be under the county. Well, if it's got to
19 be under the administrator, then we already have
20 internal auditors going on here. We have two, two
21 CPAs. And if they need help then let's just hire them
22 some help. But to hire an internal auditor to work
23 for the administrator, it just adds one more level of
24 bureaucracy. It's going to add another person that
25 folks will not believe when he says or she says
26 there's nothing going on in the county. To put this
27 person under the county council is -- again I feel
28 like we're saying well you go find something wrong and
29 come back and tell us. Okay. I just don't see this.
30 I just don't see that. I don't see it. And I just
31 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time left, Mr.
33 Martin?

34 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you have
35 eleven minutes left.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

37 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
38 was here at the audit meeting on Wednesday, and I was
39 very impressed with this firm. I thought they had
40 done the best job that we -- since I've been on
41 council. And that was a recommendation of theirs, and
42 I'm in complete support of it. I think it's a good
43 idea. But I think what we need to do is have an
44 ordinance drafted that complies with state law. And I
45 would make a motion to refer it to the county attorney
46 for that to be drafted and presented at the next
47 meeting. And that's my motion.

48 LARRY GREER: Second.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion to
50 refer to the county attorney and a second by Mr.

1 Greer. All in favor of that ---

2 BOB WALDREP: Are we going to have any
3 discussion?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on that
5 motion?

6 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I've got some.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

8 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I'm trying to get
9 clear in my mind about the status of the state law.
10 We've heard probably a couple of different versions
11 here and I've tried to read into some of the
12 ordinances that seemed to indicate that, particularly
13 the interpretation of the attorney general seems to be
14 that the empowerment for appointing this person is
15 vested in the administrator. However, there seems to
16 be some other, I guess you might say interpretation of
17 that law. And I'm frankly not clear except to say
18 that there is some ongoing legislation which seems to
19 indicate that once again that power could be vested
20 into Anderson County if we so desired to do that, that
21 we have that authority ourselves. Frankly Mr. Martin,
22 I don't know where we are on that. Do you have any --
23 could I ask? Do you have any idea where we are on
24 that?

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

26 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Mr. Waldrep, do you mean where are we as to the latter
28 comment about the ongoing legislation?

29 BOB WALDREP: Well not so much that, but
30 just how you would view the authority of this council
31 to pass an ordinance that would vest the power to
32 appoint that person and hire that person for council
33 -- as a council auditor as opposed to us simply
34 sitting up here and appointing another auditor that
35 would be hired by Mr. Preston and under Mr. Preston's
36 domain.

37 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

39 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, let me address
40 the easier of those first, the latter. Another
41 auditor appointed by Mr. Preston, you don't really
42 need to do anything in that regard. That is already
43 an active ordinance in Anderson County. That is a
44 part of the Anderson County code of ordinances. I
45 believe you'll find it codified at 2-111. So there is
46 already in place in Anderson County an active
47 ordinance creating the position of internal auditor.
48 It may or may not be filled, but at least that exists
49 and it falls under the administrator. That -- and I'm
50 going to apologize to council. My hearing still is

1 not proper. I go back to the doctor again tomorrow.
2 But as of right now, I didn't hear it thunder today if
3 that gives you a clue. That particular section of the
4 code can be expanded to include additional parameters,
5 additional duties, it can be whatever council desires
6 it to be. But at least the concept of there being an
7 internal auditor in Anderson County coming under the
8 administrator is already in place. What this
9 ordinance would do, and this fault is mine, Ms.
10 Wilson, I'll accept full blame. I probably should
11 have styled this as an ordinance to amend the code of
12 ordinances to put the internal auditor under the
13 administrator instead of -- I'm sorry under the
14 council instead of under the administrator. And
15 should council desire to enact this, that certainly
16 can be done. The question then becomes what Mr.
17 Waldrep was driving at, and that is what does state
18 law say about who this position would report to. And
19 I'm going to answer that completely candidly. I think
20 that the law itself is fairly straight forward and the
21 interpretations of the attorney general are fairly
22 straight forward. But practice is what has been
23 somewhat different. The law of both the council/
24 administrator section, 4-9-630, et seq, and the
25 sections that follow it, and the section dealing with
26 the appointment of county employees would indicate as
27 has been said earlier tonight that really only the
28 clerk to council and the administrator fall directly
29 under the county council. All other county staff fall
30 under the administrator both as to appointment and as
31 to supervision. Council can create the position.
32 Council can set the duties of the position and the
33 parameters of the position. But the actual
34 supervision, the day to day supervision as well as the
35 hiring and firing, the executive level management of
36 the job would be that of the administrator. The
37 attorney general, I think, has been consistent in that
38 interpretation throughout. There also is at least
39 once a supreme court case that is pretty illustrative
40 in this regard, but it deals with the county attorney.
41 But the language it uses, if you read the entire case,
42 it actually gets into the authority of the
43 administrator or in that case the supervisor. And I
44 think it would apply to any position, not just the
45 county attorney. So there is one supreme court case.
46 All of the attorney general cases have been
47 consistent. The attorney general has opined in every
48 case that the position of internal auditor would fall
49 under the county administrator in the council
50 administrator form of government. Practice has been

1 different. There -- as Ms. Wilson has correctly
2 noted, Anderson County at one point appointed the
3 internal auditor under county council. Charleston has
4 -- they actually have one auditor under the county
5 council. The second one is an assistant to the first
6 and reports to the first. The first then reports to
7 county council. And there are a couple of other
8 counties that have internal auditors who report
9 directly to the county council. That is at least some
10 argument for that authority belonging to the county.
11 No court has ever approved that, and it has never been
12 approved by the attorney general. The attorney
13 general has always opined to the contrary that that
14 should not be done. There is at least one county in
15 the state -- well, I won't get into that. That's
16 far afield. So the answer to your question, Mr.
17 Waldrep, is there is a difference between the official
18 opinions that have been issued and the practice of
19 counties.

20 BOB WALDREP: Let me ask you this
21 question, and that is, is there an option that a
22 county may have to enact an ordinance which would vest
23 this authority into council to, you know, hire him,
24 set the parameters, set the salary, and to whom they
25 would report? Is there an option that the county has
26 at this point?

27 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

29 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I
30 don't think so. In other words, the county cannot
31 enact an ordinance which would supersede the state
32 law. And so I don't think -- there is no doubt that
33 you can create the position, that you can set the
34 parameters, authority, you can do everything except
35 the hiring and firing and the supervision. That I
36 don't believe the state law gives you the authority to
37 do. But candidly, I will make the same comment to you
38 that I did to the newspaper when they called. They
39 wanted to know how other counties could do it, and the
40 answer is they just do it until it's challenged and
41 until a court rules that it's -- I can't, I can't --
42 I'm not a policeman. I don't enforce you.

43 BOB WALDREP: Okay. One last question.
44 I didn't know whether you were aware there's some
45 pending legislation that's been introduced by the
46 president pro tem and senate having to do with some
47 issues of empowerment of counties and what areas that
48 counties would be operating in. Have you had a chance
49 to look at that? I just got a quick look at something
50 that came across my desk today that seemed to say in

1 effect that this ordinance would have an effect on
2 further empowering the counties, local counties, to
3 act and have more authority to act within the
4 parameters, I guess you might say, of the Home Rule
5 Act. I just didn't know whether you'd seen that or
6 not.

7 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

9 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, actually I
10 have not. The only pending legislation that I'm aware
11 of, there are three separate bills that are currently
12 pending that would virtually strip all counties of any
13 vestige of Home Rule. Essentially you'd go back to a
14 state general assembly controlled local government.
15 There are three pending, and the one that comes to
16 mind, and I don't know the one that you're talking
17 about. The one that comes to mind that is somewhat
18 similar to that but is sort of a hundred and eighty
19 degrees out is one that says that the general assembly
20 can pass legislation for any specific county. I mean,
21 the whole concept of Home Rule is the general assembly
22 wouldn't govern a particular county. This would
23 change that and say the general assembly can govern
24 Anderson County if it is a power that is traditional
25 to the state of South Carolina. That's the only thing
26 I've seen that -- I'm hoping that what you're
27 suggesting that somebody has recognized that the
28 voters voted in Home Rule and have decided to give the
29 county some authority. But the only three I'm aware
30 of would in effect stop Home Rule. It would
31 completely counter the referendum that the people of
32 the state passed in 1975.

33 BOB WALDREP: Well this would be another
34 referendum. They've put this out for referendum. I'm
35 trying to get a copy of it from senator ---

36 TOM MARTIN: I would be vitally
37 interested in that, but I'm simply not aware of it
38 right now.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time left, Mr.
40 Martin? Are we over? Okay. We have a motion on the
41 floor to refer this ordinance to the county attorney.
42 We're out of time. The chair calls for the question.
43 All in favor to refer this ordinance to the county
44 attorney, please raise your hand. Calling for the
45 vote. Yes, sir. Calling for the vote. Okay. All
46 opposed to refer to the attorney. One, two. Ms.
47 Floyd and Ms. Cindy Wilson oppose. So this ordinance
48 has been referred to the county attorney. Seven
49 twenty-five thereabouts. We're going to take a
50 fifteen minute break.

1 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, may I please
2 before the recess ...

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Yes, sir.

4 TOM MARTIN: I just want to clarify. It
5 was my understanding, my instructions are the referral
6 was to refer to the county attorney to draft in
7 accordance with state law to be presented back at the
8 next meeting of county council.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. That is correct.

10 TOM MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Fifteen minute break.
12 Thank you.

13 BREAK

14 End of tape 1, side 2

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I have been
16 informed that item sixteen, presentation on the
17 BalloonFest has been taken off the agenda. So item
18 sixteen has been removed from the agenda. Okay. Item
19 eleven, twelve and sixteen have all been taken off the
20 agenda. Okay. So at this time we have a
21 proclamation, a motion to ratify a proclamation
22 proclaiming February the 28th as George Mize day in
23 Anderson County, South Carolina. The chair moves to
24 approve.

25 LARRY GREER: Second.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
27 No discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in
28 favor please vote. It is unanimous. Thank you.
29 Number ten, presentation of certificate for attaining
30 the eight hour ozone standard by 12-31-07. Ms. Myra
31 Reece, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Air Quality. Ms.
32 Reece, you have ten minutes.

33 MYRA REECE: Okay. Thank you. Good
34 evening.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Good evening.

36 MYRA REECE: Mr. Chairman, members of
37 the council, I really appreciate the opportunity to
38 speak before you tonight. I'm here for two reasons,
39 and first and foremost is just to thank you. We're
40 making some major improvements in air quality in the
41 state of South Carolina and in particularly here in
42 the upstate. And a lot of that can be directed back
43 to your leadership and commitment. And so tonight, I
44 don't know if you recall but back in 2004 we were
45 violating the eight hour ozone standard. And we
46 decided to go a different route. We didn't want EPA
47 coming in telling us how to fix the problem. We, the
48 state and local government wanted to work together and
49 do things that would better fit our communities across
50 the state. And at the same time we agreed to take

1 that path, we also said that we would meet the ozone
2 standard sooner than what was expected. So we had a
3 deadline of this past year to meet the eight hour
4 standard. And we met it. And that's a huge
5 accomplishment. So I just want to present to you a
6 certificate of our appreciation which says, on
7 achieving the goal of cleaner air sooner for the
8 citizens of Anderson county. And just special thanks
9 to the county council members and also the staff of
10 Anderson County. So thank you very much.

11 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to also
12 recognize Burris Nelson. He's our clean air czar.
13 He's not with us tonight, but he's worked hard.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

15 MYRA REECE: The second reason that I'm
16 here and some of you probably are saying she's going
17 to spoil the party because she's already talking about
18 the challenge is not finished. We still have more
19 work to do. I did put some information together for
20 you and I realize you just got the package tonight.
21 But later on if you'd like me to come back and have
22 some discussions with you I'll be more than happy.
23 But I did just -- it would not be fair for me to just
24 leave and say let's celebrate our success. But at the
25 same time EPA looks at these standards every five
26 years. And if they feel like they're not protective
27 enough of public health then they will drop the
28 standards. Well next week EPA is proposing to drop
29 the standard. We don't know what the level is going
30 to be, but you may see something in the paper on March
31 the 12th which says the eight hour ozone standard,
32 just when we achieve it, is going to be dropped down
33 again. So the maps that I provided to you, if you
34 look, the first map for current status for ground
35 level ozone, that just -- there are no red counties.
36 All of our counties are achieving the current
37 standard. The current standard is point oh eight
38 five. And you can see a lot of the levels in the
39 upstate are point oh eight three, point oh eight one,
40 around that area. When EPA looks at an area of the
41 state that's a monitor that's violating the standard,
42 they don't just say that county is violating. They
43 will pull in the counties that adjoin it and are part
44 of the MSA or even combined MSA. So it's really, you
45 know, very important for you to not only look at
46 monitors that might be in your county. In fact you're
47 going to have two that are going to be installed in
48 Anderson County soon because of the new rule. You
49 need to be not only concerned about your monitors but
50 monitors in the upstate as a whole. But EPA, the

1 story right now or question is really how low will
2 they go. We're looking at a point oh eight five now,
3 but they're considering dropping down to point oh
4 seven oh to point oh seven five. At a minimum that
5 first map, it says monitors in South Carolina
6 indicating ozone concentrations of point oh eight oh.
7 That will be the best situation we come out with with
8 ozone. And if you look at that there's a monitor,
9 actually two monitors, one in Spartanburg County, one
10 in Pickens, and one in Abbeville that are over that
11 level. So the challenges for the upstate are going to
12 always be there. And I think all of you know it
13 really -- you can really kind of understand where our
14 challenges are because so many of our air pollutants
15 come from transportation, mobile sources. And along
16 our transportation quarters, I-85, I-20, we always
17 have air quality problems because we have so many
18 pollutants coming from mobile sources. We'd have the
19 same thing in Charleston if we didn't have the coastal
20 winds. But right now where the standards are met --
21 and the advantage of the coastal winds are diluting
22 those pollutants. But even if EPA were to drop the
23 standard even lower, along the coastal counties we're
24 going to have issues as well. So I just wanted to
25 point that out. Not only do we have a challenge with
26 ozone but we have a challenge with -- point five.
27 That pollutant is your fine particles. It comes from
28 fires, power plants, those type of sources. Right now
29 we are violating in Greenville County. EPA is going
30 to make a decision in December whether they want to
31 come in and designate the upstate. Anderson will get
32 pulled in with Greenville and Spartanburg. The only
33 difference, what will make a difference -- and in fact
34 they're coming in to meet with us with the air quality
35 forum March the 14th, which we're hoping to have good
36 representation from Anderson County. They will look
37 and come in and see what you have done individually as
38 a county and regionally. And we'll showcase some of
39 the things that you've done. If they see that
40 leadership and commitment, they will leave us alone.
41 We can continue to work together. So in one of my
42 slides I put what's the strategy, what's our game
43 plan, we know the challenges are going to continue for
44 us. I don't think we'll ever get to the point where
45 EPA relaxes an air quality standard. They're always
46 going to keep getting tightened up. We don't want to
47 live just for that standard and meet that current
48 standard. We want to be proactive and we want to stay
49 ahead of the standards. And so what we're doing is
50 we're supporting the national efforts that are going

1 on. I'm looking to see if there are some state things
2 that we need to do. And then we have resources that
3 we want to provide to local government and local
4 stakeholders to help bring together partners. This
5 should not be just on the shoulders of local
6 government. This is an issue for all of us and for
7 all of us to work together. So we are very committed
8 to working with local stakeholders and we just really,
9 really appreciate the commitment and leadership that's
10 been demonstrated by Anderson County so far and we
11 look forward to continued work.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Ms. Reece, may I ask
14 you a question please?

15 MYRA REECE: Sure.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: I know when we were out of
17 compliance at one time it was said that part of our
18 problem was where they placed the instrument that
19 measured that over in Greenville. It was placed, I
20 think, near 85. And it was picking up a lot of the
21 traffic -- I mean, a lot of the traffic from the ozone
22 and all of that. Do you know what I'm talking about?

23 MYRA REECE: There is a monitor in
24 Greenville County that's located downtown.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

26 MYRA REECE: It was being impacted by
27 fire -- wood burning fireplaces from a community that
28 was there.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now here's my
30 question. Have they moved that thing? Have they
31 moved it somewhere else?

32 MYRA REECE: We -- what we have done is
33 we've worked with the local stakeholders. In fact, I
34 think there was representation from Anderson. The
35 stakeholders of the upstate selected a better site for
36 us.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Good.

38 MYRA REECE: We have installed a
39 monitor. We have to keep the old monitor there for a
40 few months. And once we do that then EPA has
41 conditionally approved for us to remove that, but we
42 have to have both monitors operational for probably
43 eight to ten months. So we are in the process of
44 doing that.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Do you think that
46 that was the reason why we did see a decrease in the
47 measurement?

48 MYRA REECE: No. That was particulate
49 matter. What we met was the ozone standard. And I
50 think a lot of that goes back to national measures

1 that have been done across the country with
2 powerplants and stuff.

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

4 MYRA REECE: Yeah. But we have worked
5 really hard and that was a great question that you
6 bring up. And we're working very closely with
7 counties when we come in and select sites. Because in
8 the past we might -- the ideal site may not be
9 available to us. But now that counties understand
10 this could have a huge impact on me, they're working
11 with us to get those better sites.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Good.

13 MYRA REECE: Thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Reece.
15 Okay. Eleven and twelve have been removed. We're on
16 thirteen. Employee of the month of January and
17 February of 2008 and employee of the year for 2007.
18 Mr. Derrick Singleton, human resources committee
19 chair. You have ten minutes.

20 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of
21 council, Mr. Preston, I'm here tonight on behalf of
22 the human resource committee for Anderson County. I
23 have three awards to give tonight. 2007 employee of
24 the year award. If I could go ahead and recognize
25 this employee. Judge William P. Steele.

26 APPLAUSE

27 BILL MCABEE: Marianne and Gregory, y'all
28 ought to come on down.

29 DERRICK SINGLETON: Judge Sharpe, Dan Sharpe.
30 Judge Steele, on behalf of Anderson County (inaudible)
31 2007 (inaudible).

32 JUDGE WILLIAM STEELE: If I could just say a
33 word or two. I don't want to use up too much of the
34 time. You'll have to forgive me. As I've gotten a
35 little bit older I have to get a list so I don't
36 forget anybody now. So I want to make sure -- I first
37 of all want to thank God. It's a real miracle and a
38 testament to him that he let a child that nearly died
39 in childbirth, was never supposed to walk, to live
40 these fifty-seven years and to be able to work. And
41 that doesn't say anything about William Steele. It
42 says everything about His grace and His love. I want
43 to thank my parents, my father Presley who incidently
44 worked with George Mize at the Anderson newspaper.
45 And daddy taught me so much about history, about great
46 books. He inspired me to a lot of learning. I'm so
47 grateful for that. My mother Sadie McGukin Steele who
48 was a registered nurse, and today is her birthday. So
49 she's hopefully smiling down from the pearly gates.
50 And she was employee of the year at Anderson Memorial

1 Hospital in the 1970s. So I'm very grateful for her
2 showing me how to love people because I genuinely do.
3 I want to thank my wife, Marietta, who twenty years
4 ago this year took me for better or worse and she's
5 had me for worse ever since, and who agreed in
6 sickness and in health and has seen me through several
7 sicknesses. My son Greg who has just been a real joy
8 to us. He's had to deal with a dad who couldn't go
9 out and play sports with him in the yard. He's seen
10 me through three major surgeries and cancer, but he's
11 loved me and put up with me and been just a wonderful
12 son through it all. I want to thank my church,
13 Trinity United Methodist, all the teachers and
14 classmates I had growing up here in Anderson, my alma
15 mater Erskine College where I got a great grounding in
16 education, to Judge George Gregory who once I
17 graduated from the University of South Carolina Law
18 School allowed me the opportunity to clerk for him at
19 the South Carolina Supreme Court. Judge Gregory is no
20 longer with us. He taught a very brash young man a
21 great deal about humility. And he was just a great
22 mentor. And he was someone who himself survived polio
23 as a child. I want to thank Senator Ed Garrison who
24 made the politically unpopular decision to appoint me
25 many years ago. And the other senators since then
26 including Bob Waldrep and Senator Kevin Bryant who
27 have been so kind to me and good to me over the years.
28 And I appreciate all they've done for me as well. To
29 Judge Divine who nominated me for this award and to
30 all the other judges who served with me. Judge
31 Smith's here. Judge Sharpe's here. I appreciate them
32 being here today. To all of my staff, I'm so
33 grateful. The administrator and all seven of you on
34 county council, all of you have been very kind and
35 good to me over the years. The human relations
36 committee or human resources committee. I was
37 privileged to serve on that committee and enjoyed
38 that. Was really enlightened and enjoyed being on
39 that committee and appreciate all they've done for me.
40 And I leave you all with this message as I leave. As
41 we go through lent and approach Easter, we should
42 never forget God's love for us. First Corinthians 13
43 says, faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of
44 these is love. Ladies and gentlemen, we are all in
45 this room everyone of us children of God. Whether we
46 like it or not, that makes us brothers and sisters.
47 As brothers and sisters we have a duty to show the
48 same love to each other that God showed to us. May
49 God bless you all.

50

APPLAUSE

1 DERRICK SINGLETON: Well all I can say is amen
2 to that. You really -- I want to be succinct here. I
3 want to talk about the public servant. How can you
4 have a better example of public service, of a public
5 servant than Judge William Steele. And I think if we
6 look at what, as public servants which is seldom easy,
7 that if we serve with integrity and fairness and
8 compassion, then not only is public service rewarding,
9 but it's also enjoyable too. And I really, I can't
10 say enough about working with someone like Judge
11 Steele. A keen legal mind would be not saying enough.
12 But we are so fortunate in Summary Court in Anderson
13 to have such a mind as his and such compassion that he
14 has for the citizens of Anderson County. And I just
15 want to end up there and thank Judge Steele so much
16 for his service to all the citizens. All right.
17 Thank you.

18 APPLAUSE

19 DERRICK SINGLETON: Okay. The employee of the
20 month for January 2008 is Mr. Tommy Murdock. Tommy,
21 if you and your wife ...

22 APPLAUSE

23 DERRICK SINGLETON: Tommy, on behalf of
24 Anderson County human resource committee -- well, let
25 me back up. I work with Tommy everyday. He's well
26 deserving of this. I'd like to say I'm thankful that
27 your hard work is recognized. Congratulation on being
28 employee of the month for January 2008.

29 TOMMY MURDOCK: I don't really know what to
30 say except wow. I mean, how can you follow Judge
31 Steele. I mean, I don't think I could ever fall into
32 someone's footsteps quite like that. And I think in a
33 particular time like today where it seems like
34 Anderson County is kind of under fire from just about
35 every direction, you know, I'm standing up here and
36 I'm proud to say that I work for Anderson. I
37 appreciate the opportunity of being an employee. And
38 I'm thankful. And I'm grateful to God, my personal
39 Lord and Savior, for giving me strength and just a
40 little bit of knowledge. Which I'm just an old
41 country boy. You can dress me up, but I'm still just
42 a country boy. You can't hide that. But I'm grateful
43 for the little bit of knowledge that he's given me to
44 do the job that I've been called to do. I'm thankful
45 for my family. I think most of us would agree that if
46 we don't have a good family life it spills over into
47 our work ethics and they suffer. So I've got a good
48 wife. I've got a good son here. And I'm very
49 grateful. I'm thankful for Jerry Singleton, my
50 manager. I'm thankful for Derrick which is my

1 supervisor and Greg which is the division head. I'm
2 grateful and I'm thankful. And I appreciate this.
3 And I hope that down the road I don't let you guys
4 down. And once again, thank you. Appreciate it.

5 APPLAUSE

6 DERRICK SINGLETON: I'd just like to say to
7 Tommy, you know, that we've appreciated the time that
8 he's been in our department. He's been with us for
9 something over seven years now. And he's been a
10 really great employee. I'm not just saying that, but
11 he lives what he talks. He's really good. To Tommy
12 and his family, we appreciate it. Tommy's got a good
13 family and a good working relationship. And we just
14 enjoy him and he does a fine job. Thank you, Tommy.

15 APPLAUSE

16 DERRICK SINGLETON: I'm just thankful to see
17 one of the employees from the environmental services
18 getting the award. Holt kind of took over last time
19 so I'm glad to see this. Tommy, I appreciate the job
20 you do. I know you're dedicated. I can honestly say
21 that we appreciate the support from his wife because
22 there are many nights that he has to leave in the
23 middle of the night to go check an alarm that went off
24 at a pump station. A lot of people don't understand
25 that but that is a part of life. You need support of
26 your family and support of God also. God is there
27 with us always. But I will say one thing about Tommy.
28 This past year, I don't know if any of you went, but
29 Honea Path First Baptist had a singing Christmas Tree.
30 Guess who got on center stage and sung a solo during
31 that whole deal. I can honestly say Tommy can sing.
32 And he's smiling everyday. He's good hearted, and I
33 know he's always there for you. Tommy, I appreciate
34 it.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Tommy, congratulations.

38 I'm just so very, very proud of you, as I am Judge
39 Steele. I really wanted to hear you sing tonight, but
40 our chair won't let me because of something called
41 time. But anyway, I really did want to hear you sing
42 tonight. But please let me know where you're going to
43 sing and I'll be there.

44 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: I've got to brag on Tommy a
47 little bit as well. Tommy grew up with my sons. He's
48 from the community down below where I live. And his
49 wife is also from that community. And I know we
50 aren't supposed to do this, but I'm going to do it

1 anyway. Tommy has a wonderful Christian testimony.
2 If you've never heard it you ought to hear it. And he
3 does a beautiful job singing for our Savior. Tommy,
4 thank you.

5 APPLAUSE

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Singleton, we need to
7 extend time. The chair moves to extend this item for
8 five minutes.

9 LARRY GREER: Second.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on that?
11 All in favor please raise your hand. The vote is
12 unanimous. Go ahead, Mr. Singleton.

13 DERRICK SINGLETON: Thank you. For the month
14 of February 2008, Bernie Wilson, transportation.

15 APPLAUSE

16 DERRICK SINGLETON: I think, Bernie, you're
17 also a retired police officer. Is that right? It
18 took us a couple of days to make Bernie realize
19 there's a right way and there's a Washington, DC way.
20 I think after a couple of days he finally seen things
21 our way. But anyway, Bernie, congratulations.

22 BERNIE WILSON: I didn't know I was going
23 to have to give a speech, but I will say that I feel
24 honored to first of all be honored by the county as
25 employee of the month. I will say that I work with a
26 great deal of respect for the people I work for. The
27 road and maintenance crew are outstanding. I'm just
28 honored to be a member of that crew.

29 APPLAUSE

30 DERRICK SINGLETON: Bernie does do a great job
31 for us. He takes care of your investment on our
32 roads. If somebody starts cutting our roads -- many
33 years ago we'd pave a road and the next week we'd ride
34 down it and it already had a trench down the middle of
35 it. This man has put just about a complete stop to
36 that which is a great thing. He and Valerie Lloyd,
37 that you met last time, they pretty much
38 singlehandedly put together our encroachment permit
39 policy and procedures two years ago. And it's been a
40 challenging thing to go through because we came out
41 feeling like we were Washington, DC policemen about
42 roads. And then we had to turn into Sheriff Taylor,
43 Andy Taylor, on it; didn't we, on quite a few times.
44 We had to learn to negotiate with people. But the
45 people we -- or the people Bernie has to work with,
46 the ones he could potentially fine for tearing up our
47 roads, have turned around. These are the utility
48 companies. They turn around and they depend on Mr.
49 Wilson, on what he does, because he not only protects
50 our investment in the public right of way, he protects

1 the utilities' investment in the public right of ways
2 and helps keep it organized so we don't tear up each
3 other's stuff. But the number one reason is what I'm
4 hearing from the committee that they were -- that he
5 was selected is because he was actually -- we received
6 a praise letter from the city of Anderson's utility
7 company. He coordinated with them and helped them
8 through the process of permitting and working with
9 them on every project through their big waterline
10 expansion project just recently. So Bernie does a
11 great job and I'll hush and let Judy speak.

12 JUDY: Bernie does have a
13 nickname. He's our enforcer. And you know, being a
14 DC cop we were a little hesitant, being his number one
15 achievement in DC was clubbing somebody and causing
16 thirty stitches to his head -- a hundred five stitches
17 to his head. That man obviously didn't give Bernie
18 any more trouble. We have had to moderate him a bit.
19 And about a year ago we gave them a badge which -- and
20 along with that a little squirt gun. But we gave him
21 a badge so that he could go out and actually issue
22 citations so we could issue fines not having to have
23 another resource officer come out and help with that
24 duty, but that Bernie could do that on the site if we
25 had gotten to the point where someone was not
26 motivated enough to clear up their problem in the
27 right of way. So I just wanted to add that, that
28 Bernie has been very successful in developing rapport
29 with the utilities, getting the respect of the
30 citizens of Anderson County and has helped us out
31 greatly here in our department.

32 APPLAUSE

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item fourteen. The
34 safety achievement award presentation, Mr. Preston.

35 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask
36 Mr. Hopkins if he would come back up to the mic.
37 Recently at the January 30th meeting of the South
38 Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and
39 Property Liability Trust membership meeting, the
40 Anderson County transportation division during the
41 year 2007 received an achievement. And the
42 achievement was zero lost time accidents for the
43 entire transportation division during that time
44 period. And I think we all understand what that means
45 when it comes to saving money. Also as a result of
46 their efforts, they've been able to work with the
47 environmental services division, has been working with
48 them very closely. And to date they have no lost time
49 accidents in any department of any division for the
50 year 2007. At this time I'm going to ask Mr. Hopkins

1 to talk a little about what they were able to do in
2 order to accomplish this worthy goal.

3 HOLT HOPKINS: Thank you, Mr. Preston.
4 The credit for this, really a lot of it goes to this
5 man, Mr. Charles Pinson. And we only have one member
6 of our safety committee, Mr. Nichols. Well, as far as
7 on the employee side. We have a committee made up of
8 employees as well as management. If y'all would, the
9 department heads that are here, would y'all stand up
10 please. Anybody that sits on the committee. These
11 folks, under the leadership of Mr. Pinson, has made
12 this possible. It really is a team effort, the entire
13 division. Every department is involved. And if you
14 haven't read the summary of the award application, I
15 encourage you to do that. I won't go into it tonight.
16 Just to give you an example of what this means, what
17 this safety program means, I remember eight to ten
18 years ago we were paying out in claims, fifty to a
19 hundred thousand dollars in one year. At the six
20 month period, one year ago, we had brought that down
21 to about fifteen -- a little more -- fifteen five,
22 fifteen thousand five hundred dollars. I'm proud to
23 announce today at the six month period we're at
24 thirteen hundred. Not thirteen thousand, not ---

25 APPLAUSE

26 HOLT HOPKINS: So it is working. We're
27 keeping our people safe and it has a lot to do with
28 this gentleman and the folks that are here tonight and
29 others. Mr. Pinson, do you want ...

30 CHARLES PINSON: The only thing I would just
31 like to say is is that in the transportation division
32 we have embraced the concept of a house divided can't
33 stand. So it's a collective effort and for all of us
34 to be safe. We have put together a good training
35 program in order that we can train our people. Our
36 people have embraced our training and they have
37 started to apply what they have been trained. And
38 along with that we try to give some incentives for
39 them to continue doing the good job that they're
40 doing. None of this can be accomplished by just one
41 person. Once again, it's a collective effort. We've
42 got great managers, we've got great people in the
43 division, in the public works division. And we're so
44 glad that the environmental services and those areas
45 have come to join with us. And we're just looking for
46 bigger and better things out of those individuals. We
47 want to keep our cost down, but the greatest reward is
48 to be able to see our people go home each and every
49 day safe with all their fingers and toes that they
50 brought to work. Thank you.

1 APPLAUSE

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item fifteen. A
3 report from the Broadway Lake commission. Ms. Floyd.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 At the last meeting I gave our chairman a letter from
6 the Broadway Lake commission in which they stated that
7 they have ruled that the lake will not be lowered this
8 year. Please, fellow council members, keep this in
9 mind that this is a recommendation that they have made
10 to us. And Mr. Chair, I don't know if we need to act
11 upon this by voting to accept this or just take it as
12 information of acceptance.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, can you advise
14 us on that point?

15 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I don't think
16 there's any specific protocol, but it never hurts the
17 council to endorse anything.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you want us to
19 vote on accepting to leave the lake as it is.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: I want us to vote on
21 accepting the recommendation of the Broadway Lake
22 commission.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Which is to leave it as it
24 is.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Which is to leave it as it
26 is. For this year.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. That's a motion to
28 approve.

29 RON WILSON: Second.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
31 discussion on this? All in favor of this
32 recommendation, please vote. It is unanimous.
33 Anything else, Ms. Floyd?

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. No.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you very much.
36 Sixteen has been removed. A proposal for position of
37 internal auditor, Mr. Waldrep. Ten minutes.

38 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, most of what
39 I would be discussing here has already been discussed.
40 However, I do have a couple of observations that I
41 want to make within the recommendation that this
42 matter be turned over to the county attorney for some
43 drafting of an internal auditor. I have to say that
44 without access, without individual councilmen having
45 access to this auditor, I think it will be rather
46 meaningless. And I have to say that because of my
47 personal experience that I've had in the county in
48 trying to speak sometimes with county employees and
49 finding that I've been prohibited from doing so.
50 That's happened on two occasions and I'm troubled by

1 this. I just think that the council people have an
2 obligation and responsibility to be able to find out
3 what's going on and that that sometimes cannot be
4 filtered or always blocked or obstructed by the
5 administration's position that they have taken that no
6 council member can speak with an individual. I
7 realize that there's some issues there about
8 investigation and what have you. But I just -- on a
9 couple of occasions that really bothered me. I love
10 to be a team player, and I like for everybody to be
11 able to sing kumbaya and we all get along real well.
12 But I've got to tell you that I get disturbed when I
13 try to get information and I have to go through the
14 Freedom of Information Act to get that information. I
15 find that to be really absurd. I'm asking this
16 council to try to in some way at least in the proposal
17 to consider, when Mr. Martin draws this up, to
18 consider some kind of amendment to allow council
19 members -- maybe it could be get a chaperone or
20 something like that for one of us. But at least give
21 us some opportunity to get out there on our individual
22 basis and look at this information. We're all adults.
23 We were elected. We've got responsibilities. And I
24 find it incredibly inconsistent that we have a
25 situation where we employ someone who says that they
26 are an employee of the council and yet we can't get
27 information at times. And that -- that's what
28 troubles me. So I just want council to think about
29 that once again. You may not always be in the
30 majority. Thank you.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
32 Item eighteen. Continued discussion of Anderson
33 County financial matters. Ms. Wilson, you have ten
34 minutes.

35 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
36 recent meetings, I've brought to your attention that
37 there are variances from one financial document to
38 another. For example, we have amounts budgeted for
39 items in what we voted on as a budget last year and
40 then not quite matching some of the items in the bound
41 budget version. And a great variety of variance in
42 the GL65 which is our monthly financial statement.
43 I'm unable to obtain the weekly general ledger reports
44 110. The last set of those documents I obtained were
45 provided in November, November 14th was the last date.
46 I do need those. I'm sure that each of you will need
47 those. It's very difficult without access to all the
48 documents and all the numbers to be able to do our
49 jobs up here. We find that the budgeted amounts and
50 verbiage vary from one book to another and one

1 document to another. We find that council members are
2 taking trips, spending out monies out of other
3 departments and no process of approval for that. I
4 have to ask if some of the road blocks that we are
5 encountering might be because some of our own council
6 members have serious conflicts. The -- as I came to
7 the meeting tonight, as I was walking out the door, a
8 fax came in from our county administrator dealing with
9 questions that I had requested information for dated
10 February 5th and two requests on February 13th. And I
11 won't read it all entirely, but I'll just read you
12 some clauses so you'll understand the difficulties.
13 On February 5th I requested, under FOIA, all monies
14 paid to and expenses paid for fiscal year '06-07 and
15 fiscal year '07-08 to date for the three individuals
16 and any businesses that they are principals in or
17 associated with. Those individuals were Paul Brown,
18 Amy Plummer, Allison Schaum. Paul Brown is a local
19 reporter and he's paid a fair amount to report for the
20 county and to create videos. It appears that we've
21 paid him somewhat less than twelve thousand, I can't
22 find that sheet here, but it was around eleven five I
23 think for fiscal year '06-07 and '07-08 to date. Our
24 administrator has claimed that neither Amy Plummer nor
25 Allison Schaum were paid money during this time.
26 Well, in cross referencing some of the various
27 financial documents, I find that a company named
28 Palmetto Agricultural Consulting has been paid money
29 for consulting out of an account labeled number 5827,
30 county council special projects matching grant funds.
31 That account is budgeted for a hundred and five
32 thousand four hundred dollars. This particular person
33 has been -- according to newspaper reports, has a
34 contract with our county to provide consulting
35 services. Those consulting services began evidently
36 in September. This person registered this company
37 with the Secretary of State on August 17th and billed
38 the county in September. The curious thing about a
39 Palmetto Agricultural consulting business is that we
40 are right down the road from the largest agricultural
41 college in the state and probably one of the biggest
42 east of the Mississippi. It's very difficult to
43 ascertain why our council -- I mean why our county
44 would hire a consultant with a year and a half farming
45 experience and no formal education regarding
46 agriculture. And I have to say I fully support the
47 county's effort with the sustainable agriculture. But
48 we have a head of department available to the county.
49 And this particular person's father is sitting on our
50 council. And when you look at this information and

1 understand that it came out of county council's
2 special account, matching grant funds, that should
3 really raise questions. Then we move onto Ms. Amy
4 Plummer who another council member appointed to a seat
5 on the economic development commission. That
6 councilperson and this lady traveled, it looks like
7 around twenty-five thousand dollars worth of expenses
8 paid for those individuals to travel. Ostensively for
9 Anderson County but did we ever vote to do this? It
10 was not paid out of Anderson County council's
11 reimbursable account. It came out of our economic
12 development department. And that department is really
13 making a big effort to recruit industry to the state.
14 But should our council people who have not been
15 approved by the council be acting in that capacity?
16 The administrator claims that there are no records of
17 these two individuals being paid, yet there are
18 extensive records that we have seen that do indicate
19 they're being paid. And I would like to challenge
20 that that information be provided. And I would make
21 myself ...

22 End of tape 2, side 1

23 CINDY WILSON: ... come and look and if
24 there's something of interest that we can bring our
25 own copiers and copy and of course redact any social
26 security numbers or IRS numbers. The -- another
27 request was to have an accounting for the current --
28 well the credit card information, the backup
29 information. It needs to be pointed out that we were
30 offered the opportunity to go and look February 6th
31 and 8th. The requests began in September. What we
32 saw when we got there was very troubling. There were
33 files that appeared to be hastily put together. There
34 were duplications of the same receipts sometimes.
35 Sometimes the credit card information was mixed from
36 one file to another. There were very little expense
37 reports, very few in there. We requested copies of
38 what we saw. We had that set aside. We were told
39 that we would be able to pick that up shortly. It's
40 now March 4th. We don't have that information. I
41 request that we be provided that along with the
42 GLR110s. The request was also that with the
43 contention that many of the expenses for meals,
44 travel, lodge and food and catering had been
45 reimbursed, donated or contributed and not paid by
46 taxpayers be provided backup documentation which would
47 include but not be limited to the name of the donor,
48 the date and the amount of contribution, the name of
49 the department, function or other for which money had
50 been given, and a copy of. The only thing I've gotten

1 was our local Anderson Independent provided me a copy
2 of a calendar year '07 list of donors. I must point
3 out to you that a calendar year is composed of two
4 halves of two different fiscal years. There were no
5 dates on that list. There were no accounts to which
6 those funds went to. It appeared that some of the
7 funds may be going to multiple uses and not just the
8 balloon festival. Today I have requested in reference
9 to that that we be provided a copy of the contract
10 where Allied Waste Industries is required to pay, I
11 think the paper reported, seventy-five thousand a year
12 for community use. I would like to have a copy of
13 that contract. I think we could save a lot of money
14 on copying charges and so forth if council members are
15 simply allowed to review the information, and if
16 copies are desired then we can certainly set up a
17 program for that. So it looks like part of the
18 stalemate that we've had in getting timely responses
19 to information are not just simply restricted by our
20 administrator by perhaps members of council have an
21 interest in our not seeing the information. I think
22 that because we are expected to adhere to a higher
23 standard of accountability and be like Caesar's wife,
24 above reproach, that it's time for us to put forward
25 the information. And I for one have certainly
26 indicated that I'm willing to be investigated again.
27 And I think all of us should open ourselves to a
28 higher level of scrutiny. At this point, I would like
29 to ---

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, your time has
31 expired. Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Item nineteen, we
32 have appointments. Mr. Wilson.

33 RON WILSON: I have none at this time.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

35 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: None at this time.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for district five.

39 Mr. Greer.

40 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I have one
41 appointment at this time. I move to appoint Mr.
42 Manfred Gurman (phonics) to the Broadway Lake advisory
43 committee.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any
45 discussion? All in favor of this appointment please
46 vote. The vote is unanimous. Anything else, Mr.
47 Greer?

48 LARRY GREER: That's all. Thank you.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, any
50 appointments?

1 BOB WALDREP: No appointments.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, any
3 appointments?
4 CINDY WILSON: None at this time.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Item twenty.
6 Requests by council members. Mr. Waldrep.
7 BOB WALDREP: None at this time.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None. Thank you. Ms.
9 Floyd.
10 GRACIE FLOYD: None at this time.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
12 LARRY GREER: None at this time.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
14 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None from district five.
16 Mr. Wilson.
17 RON WILSON: None at this time.
18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
19 CINDY WILSON: None at this time.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Administrator
21 report. Any comments, Mr. Preston? No comments. Any
22 questions from council? None. Citizens' comments,
23 other matters. Mr. Martin -- same rules apply as
24 previous. Address all comments to the chair. Do not
25 call anybody by name. No questions answered, debate,
26 dialogue and all that good stuff.
27 CITIZENS' COMMENTS, OTHER MATTERS
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Remarks from
29 council. And I hope we can do it in under fifteen
30 minutes collectively. Ms. Wilson. Please be
31 respective of the time.
32 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I did request
33 twenty minutes for the discussion. You cut me to ten.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I gave
35 everybody ten.
36 CINDY WILSON: First of all, I certainly
37 offer to be investigated for anything. I hope y'all
38 will too. Second of all, I hope the county has not
39 finished paying for the sewer construction on
40 Beaverdam because there's a lot that has not been
41 completed. I've written to Mr. Preston. I've also
42 written and talked with Mr. Singleton. The reseeding
43 has not been done. The elevations and pipes are
44 backing water up so it can't drain off. We've got
45 some issues including silt fence dumped in the creek
46 and construction debris. And I'll request for the
47 umpteenth time that someone from the county meet with
48 us so we can show them what the problems are and get
49 those problems resolved. When I was called time on I
50 was going to make a motion and I should say I'm just

1 going to refer this on to the county attorney for the
2 next council meeting. But I want to alert y'all and
3 have you giving consideration to this, that our county
4 council engaged Greene, Finney and Horton to fully
5 explore, audit and report to county council findings
6 regarding all sponsorships, reimbursements,
7 contributions, gifts to Anderson County for the fiscal
8 year '06-07 and fiscal year '07-08 to date including
9 but not limited to dates and amounts of money and/or
10 detail of like in kind gifts and to which specific
11 accounts these sponsorships, reimbursements,
12 contributions, gifts, donations were made. And too
13 that Greene, Finney and Horton be engaged to fully
14 audit and report to county council their findings
15 regarding the use of Anderson County credit cards for
16 fiscal year '06-07 and fiscal year '07-08 to date
17 including but not limited to applying the county's
18 current policies and procedures in place to actual
19 use. They should also provide to us copies of
20 itemized receipts and expense reports which should be
21 examined and county department and the employee's name
22 should be provided. And I'm going to request that
23 that be an item on the next council agenda, that we
24 look at doing that. I still believe that if we go for
25 expanded procedures and some agreed upon procedures
26 and an internal auditor, we can accomplish the
27 accountability level that we desire and at a lower
28 cost to the county. Thank you.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
30 Ms. Floyd.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have a note
32 I'd like to read please. This note is from one of my
33 constituents if I may get approval to -- it's a little
34 short thank you note.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No objections.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. To county
37 council, Gracie Floyd and Dewey Pearson. We first
38 want to thank God for answering our prayers to supply
39 us with water. We really appreciate all of your help
40 in getting us water at 102 Griffin Road. Please know
41 that your work has not gone unnoticed. You never will
42 know how much you need water until you do not have it.
43 Thank you so much for your hard work and we pray that
44 God will bless you. This says, sincerely Brian and
45 Amber Jennings. Mr. Preston, I would also like to
46 give you my gratitude for the help in getting this
47 done. We have some people here tonight that I really
48 do want to recognize. Because it seems as if we're
49 beginning to bring in more people from the other side
50 to our meetings and -- the other sides, I prefer to

1 call them supporters. And I'm glad you're here.
2 Martin Luther King said, it is not the words of our
3 enemies, and I'll add, our distractors, that hurt us
4 so much, but it's the silence of our friends. We've
5 had too many friends being silent watching this stuff
6 going on on television. And then when they see me
7 they slap me on the back. Oh, ha, ha, ha. What are
8 y'all going to do about ... And I say what are you
9 going to do about ... If you're tired of it, if you
10 don't like it, then you need to come down and do what
11 everybody else does. Get your picture on the TV
12 standing up there with your words of great wisdom.
13 Some of you I do appreciate your comments when you get
14 up. It not only gives me inspiration, it gives me
15 hope. And a lot of time it gives me a direction.
16 Others of you when you get up, I'm human. I go, oh,
17 my God. And it's always late in the night as it is
18 now. But to the folks who came tonight and sat here
19 with us through all of this, and you didn't have to be
20 here tonight, and you told me you came just to give us
21 a show of support, I just want to say I thank you and
22 big hug to all of you. And folks, you're sitting at
23 home. Come on out here and help us out. Okay. Thank
24 you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd. Mr.
26 Waldrep.

27 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
28 was pleased tonight to see the county employees
29 receiving these awards. We have a lot of great county
30 employees. We really do. I think it's very important
31 that we live by example. And one of my favorite
32 people to quote is Albert Einstein. He's one of the
33 smarter people, I guess you might say, that we've had
34 on this planet. He said, example is not just an
35 important thing, it's the only thing. We've seen a
36 lot of good examples by some of the county employees
37 out here. Let's think about that example. And I did
38 want to thank Mr. Cunningham for helping get that
39 sound system, Mr. Preston, over in the county court,
40 the family court. I hope that -- is that complete
41 yet? Or do you know?

42 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Carroll?

43 MR. CARROLL: They're still in ---

44 BOB WALDREP: The county system, is the
45 acoustical system complete in the county courthouse?

46 MR. CARROLL: It's not complete. They
47 are working on it, second and third floors. And they
48 are in communication with the judges. And they're
49 aware of the process.

50 BOB WALDREP: Is there an estimated time

1 of arrival, completion?

2 MR. CARROLL: I don't have an exact date.
3 But I would think by now probably within the next
4 thirty days. There were several steps that ---

5 BOB WALDREP: Right. I just want to
6 thank the county for doing that because never a time
7 do I go to the courthouse that they don't ask me about
8 that. And I appreciate very much your attention to
9 that.

10 MR. CARROLL: One of the delays right now
11 is scheduling when courtrooms are available, you know,
12 to shut down for x number of days at a time. But they
13 are working with the judges.

14 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you very much.

15 MR. CARROLL: You're welcome.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
17 Mr. McAbee.

18 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 We're coming up on another budget year and I can't
20 help but think back to the last time we were preparing
21 a county budget. Tonight there's been a lot of talk
22 about hiring an internal auditor. In fact, two
23 council members had items on the agenda regarding
24 this. Or as our auditing firm refers to it a risk
25 manager and a fraud risk management program. I can't
26 help but think back to the last time we were doing the
27 budget, there were discussions going on, negotiations
28 between council members for council members -- for
29 different items to be in the budget and different
30 items to be left out. There was one member of this
31 council who was steadfast in their opposition to
32 having a risk manager in a fraud risk management
33 position in this county. It is the councilman from
34 district one. His opposition of this was basic. It
35 was the single sticking point for him in the budget.
36 That position had to be eliminated for him to consider
37 the budget. And here we are a few months later and
38 there are proposals everywhere to create this
39 position. But at that time his opposition, the
40 councilman from district one's, was as strong and
41 paciferous as his and the council woman from district
42 seven's opposition to 800 megahertz was at that time.
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McAbee.
45 Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 will try to be brief. I made some comments at the
48 last -- well not at the last meeting but during the
49 audit workshop in relation to retiree benefits. And I
50 gave some explanation or discussion of some things

1 that were occurring at the Appalachian Council of
2 Governments. And I think the sum total of what I said
3 in relation to that was that we might need to look at
4 it. And at this time I'm going to ask everybody in
5 this room to do something for me. I want you to look
6 at the clock on the balcony wall back there. Does
7 looking at it make it go away? It didn't. It's still
8 there. I'm looking at it but it didn't go away. So
9 when you make a comment that you're going to look at
10 something that doesn't mean that you're going to
11 increase, decrease it, leave it the same. It means
12 that you're going to examine it and see if there might
13 not be a better way to accomplish the purpose that
14 you've got. And I take issue with the person who
15 walked out of this room that day spreading rumors.
16 And that's exactly what it was. Rumors that I was
17 trying to cut the insurance for our retirees. I
18 simply was facing a real world situation and saying we
19 need to take a look at it. Taking a look at it does
20 not make it go away. It simply says that you're going
21 to examine it. And while I'm on the subject of
22 employees, from the top to bottom Anderson County has
23 some of the best employees in the state of South
24 Carolina. I'll put them up against any of them. Now
25 you can criticize them. You can belittle them. You
26 can do whatever you want to. But we have some really
27 good county employees. Have we had bad employees?
28 Yep. We sure have. Guess what? They no longer work
29 for Anderson County. They're somewhere else. In the
30 nine years that I've been here, I've watched those
31 things happen. Do we have internal controls that deal
32 with these issues? Yes, we do. I watched a situation
33 in one department where people were terminated. And
34 that department now is under new management. I'm not
35 going to name the department because I don't want to
36 name individuals. But that department now is one of
37 the most efficient in Anderson County. The problem
38 was identified, it was rectified and corrected.
39 There's another instance where something was going on
40 that shouldn't have been going on. The person was
41 actually prosecuted. So do we have problems? Yeah,
42 sure, we do. The issue is not whether or not you have
43 problems, it's what you do with them when you find
44 them out. In the instances that I referred to they
45 were dealt with, appropriately in my opinion. But our
46 employees do not -- and I'm looking at some of our
47 employees and I want you to hear me loud and clear.
48 Our employees do not need to be considered as second
49 class citizens in Anderson County. They're just as
50 important and just as valuable and just as needed as

1 anyone else doing any job in this county. And I thank
2 you for the job that you do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer. Mr.
4 Wilson.

5 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 First let me say that anybody can investigate me
7 anytime they want to as long as they want to. I've
8 seen a stunt here tonight by Cindy Wilson. And I'll
9 be honest with you. You need to pray for me because I
10 haven't been quite as mad as I am right now in a long
11 time. The entire story of my daughter having the
12 contract she has was printed in the Williamston
13 Journal a few days ago. And I'm quite confident you
14 read it. All this is is to try to find leverage
15 against me and it won't work. This member says she's
16 for the 800 megahertz but she votes against it. She
17 said she was for the Kohl's department store and voted
18 against it. She said she supported sustainable
19 agriculture a few minutes ago and then went ahead and
20 spoke against it. What I resent the most is for you
21 implying she has no knowledge of what she's doing.
22 She has a formal education that exceeds your. Not in
23 that field. A lot of people are educated in a field
24 and excel in another one. She spent the last four
25 years, not a year and a half, in agriculture. And
26 she's been doing a particular type of agriculture that
27 this county is out in front of than any county in the
28 state. In fact at an economic development seminar
29 recently in Charleston, Anderson was quoted time and
30 time again for the type of agriculture we're talking
31 about. We're not talking about what Clemson does
32 which is traditional agriculture. I tell you if I
33 ever reach the point that I think I can't debate you
34 on the issues I won't draw Martha Elizabeth in it.
35 I'll tell you that. I thought you had some amount of
36 decency to you but this stunt finishes it with me and
37 you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.
39 It's my turn. It's my turn. Okay. I'm basically
40 going to reiterate what I said at the beginning of the
41 meeting. We had our break about seven thirtyish.
42 Here it is five after nine. And since that time we
43 have been listening basically to people talk. County
44 council is supposed to be ran like a board meeting.
45 If there are no board actions to be taken then that
46 issue should be put into a committee or to some kind
47 of work meeting. And I will be looking into this
48 situation and making changes. I think it's time that
49 Anderson County, Anderson County council, get back to
50 the business of doing the county business and put all

1 this other stuff somewhere else. Because I want to
2 see Anderson County grow and prosper and be the best
3 that we can be. And that's saying something coming
4 from a Navy man. This meeting is adjourned.

5
6

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – March 18, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

ABSENT

Ron Wilson - District #6

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, C.C.C.

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 18, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please note that in the
2 agenda packet on the last page I am calling a called
3 meeting April the 1st, three p.m. in this chamber.
4 And also please note for the record that Mr. Ron
5 Wilson is absent. DHEC is holding a meeting up in
6 his district regarding the landfill that they're
7 fighting and he felt that he should be up there with
8 his people. With that said, Mr. Waldrep, would you
9 lead us in the invocation and the pledge of
10 allegiance?

11 INVOCATION BY BOB WALDREP
12 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have approval
14 of minutes. The February 27th, 2008 audit
15 presentation. The chair moves to approve. Is there
16 a second?

17 BILL MCABEE: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on those
19 minutes? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor
20 of accepting the minutes please vote. Six and oh.
21 Approval of March 4, 2008 minutes. The chair moves
22 to approve. Is there a second?

23 BOB WALDREP: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The
25 chair calls for the vote. All in favor please vote.
26 Six and oh. Thank you. Citizens' comments, agenda
27 matters. Instructions. Meetings of county council
28 are legislative meetings based upon the
29 representative form of government and are regulated
30 by parliamentary procedures and are not town
31 meetings. Accordingly the citizens' agenda is the
32 receipt for the citizens' opinion, comments and
33 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
34 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
35 more than three minutes to address county council.
36 You are asked to please refrain from addressing
37 members of the audience by name and also members of
38 council. Please direct your comments to the council
39 chair. When you come forward please state your name,
40 your address and what district you live in and the
41 agenda item on which you are speaking. Mr. Martin.

42 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 There are three citizens under agenda matters.

44 CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA MATTERS

45 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Yes, ma'am.

47 CINDY WILSON: May I have a point of
48 order please?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What's your point of
50 order?

1 CINDY WILSON: The phone conversation I
2 had with you yesterday regarding the item to be ...
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm going to talk
4 about that when we get to it.
5 CINDY WILSON: Oh, okay.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
7 McAbee.
8 BILL MCABEE: Thank you. May I have a
9 point of personal privilege?
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of
11 personal privilege?
12 BILL MCABEE: My wife, Mary McAbee, is
13 here tonight and today is her birthday. And I want
14 to wish her a happy birthday. It's a milestone
15 birthday.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You may wish her a happy
17 birthday.
18 BILL MCABEE: Happy birthday.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.
20 BILL MCABEE: But I'm not saying which
21 one.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Moving on.
23 Resolution. Item number five, resolutions. R2008-
24 017, a resolution acknowledging the twenty-fifth
25 anniversary of the Anderson County museum and other
26 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
27 Is there a second? We are in discussion. Any
28 discussion? Ms. Strange and Mr. Preston.
29 JOEY PRESTON: Ms. Strange.
30 MICHELLE STRANGE: Mr. Preston and council,
31 it is the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Anderson
32 County Museum. We're very excited about that. And
33 so this resolution is recognizing some of the service
34 that has led to the twenty-five years of collecting
35 and preserving our local history. And we put it out
36 there for your consideration. We're excited about
37 it. We've got a lot of things going on. Our Celtic
38 exhibit is currently here. And in May we'd like to
39 be able to present this resolution to the community
40 in celebration of international museum month. We'll
41 do our hall of fame induction in May. The Sally Rose
42 dollhouse will be unveiled. It'll be the last chance
43 to see the Anderson trophy. It'll be here for about
44 eight more weeks before it heads back to Florida.
45 And we have some other exhibits coming up. The
46 official anniversary is in the fall. It'll be in
47 October. But this is the start of our twenty-fifth
48 year, and we're excited about it.
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Any more
50 discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in

1 favor of resolution 2008-017, please vote. Six and
2 oh. Thank you. Ordinance's third reading. 2008-
3 006, an ordinance amending ordinance 99-004, the
4 Anderson County zoning ordinance as adopted July 20,
5 1999 by amending the Anderson County official zoning
6 map to re-zone from R20 to PD, that parcel of land
7 consisting of plus or minus thirty point three five
8 acres in the Williamston mill precinct on the south
9 side of Foster Road, Williamston. The chair moves to
10 approve. Is there a second?

11 CINDY WILSON: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Thank you.
13 We're in discussion. Any discussion? No discussion.
14 The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
15 ordinance 2008-006, please vote. Six and oh. Thank
16 you. Ordinance 2008-011, an ordinance amending, in
17 limited particulars only, chapter thirty-eight of the
18 Anderson County code of ordinance regarding the
19 administrator and policies and procedures for public
20 roads and other matters related thereto. The chair
21 moves to approve. Is there a second.

22 BILL MCABEE: Second.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a second. Any
24 discussion? Mr. Waldrep. Turn your mic on.

25 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I was looking at
26 that ordinance earlier. I think it's in B. Is this
27 6B?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

29 BOB WALDREP: I just thought I would
30 make a comment to the council with the whereas clause
31 that was provided in the ordinance and I was hoping
32 that we could start tempering our language a little
33 bit when we start dealing with some of these
34 ordinances. In particular I'm talking about -- is
35 this -- I'm talking about 6B, the whereas clause
36 where we talk about dumping roads and crystal clear,
37 in the spotlight, on what the state and the general
38 assembly is doing to the counties. The inferences
39 about raising taxes and facing the wrath of
40 taxpayers. Is that language that was formed by the
41 county attorney? Is that ...

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Were you asking Mr.
43 Martin?

44 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I would ask. Mr.
45 Martin, is that the language of the county attorney?

46 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Martin.

48 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, that is
49 language that we wrote based upon suggestions that
50 were given to us.

1 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I'm not asking in
2 particular, you know, for an author and I'm certainly
3 not trying to direct any kind of bad comments. But
4 you know, we spend a lot of time going down to
5 Columbia asking for help. And we also get about, as
6 I understand, about thirty percent of our budget
7 sometimes out of Columbia. I just hesitate to use
8 the kind of language that we use sometimes when we
9 address the general assembly. And I realize that
10 maybe it's because I've been here, I've been there
11 and I've been back again. And let me tell you
12 something. When you want friends, you don't use that
13 kind of language to your friends. You try to work
14 together. Everybody has been talking about working
15 together and kumbaya and getting along. I just
16 suggest that we temper our language in some way where
17 we can effect the same thing. But we don't need to
18 be making political statements to Columbia where we
19 at the same time go down there and throw a party for
20 them and hug them at the same time and then stick
21 them with this kind of language. So that's just an
22 observation that I want to make. Thank you.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?
24 Okay. The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
25 ordinance 2008-011, please vote. Four. Oppose. Mr.
26 Waldrep opposes and Ms. Wilson is abstaining. So
27 it's four, one and one. Ordinance's second reading,
28 2008-013, an ordinance amending the agreement for
29 development of a joint county industrial and business
30 park with Abbeville County, South Carolina, enviro
31 project, executed on January 8, 2008 by and among
32 Abbeville County, South Carolina and Anderson County,
33 South Carolina to include additional property in
34 Abbeville County as part of the joint county
35 industrial park and other matters related thereto.
36 The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

37 CINDY WILSON: Second.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Thank you.
39 Any discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for
40 the vote.

41 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Yes, sir.

43 TOM MARTIN: I believe you have a
44 public hearing scheduled on this one.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. I do. Thank
46 you. I'm having focus problems and I do apologize.
47 Public hearing instructions. Any person desiring to
48 do so may speak at a public hearing for a reasonable
49 period of time as long as he or she is speaking to
50 the issue under consideration. The chairman

1 exercises control of the public hearing to ensure
2 that no person abuses the public hearing process by
3 engaging in unreasonable and lengthy comments,
4 clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive,
5 offensive or inappropriate comments. With that being
6 said, the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing
7 to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
8 state your name and address before speaking. And
9 these instructions apply to all public comments so
10 that I don't have to repeat them. Anyway, the public
11 hearing for ordinance 2008-013 is now open. Hearing
12 and seeing no one. Yes, sir. Okay. Go right ahead,
13 sir.

14 PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2008-013

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing no
16 one and hearing no one, this public hearing is now
17 closed. We are in discussion. Any discussion from
18 the council? The location is in Abbeville County.
19 And it is an industrial park or multi park in
20 existence. We're just adding some acreage to it.
21 That's all we're doing.

22 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

24 BILL MCABEE: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer calls for the
26 question and it has been seconded. All in favor of
27 call for the question please vote. Okay. It's
28 unanimous. Very good. All in favor of ordinance
29 2008-013 please vote. Keep your hands up please.
30 It's unanimous. Okay. Good. Ordinance 2008-014, an
31 ordinance authorizing the transfer of certain
32 Anderson County real property and other matters
33 related thereto. There is a public hearing on this
34 also. The same instructions do apply. So at this
35 time the public hearing for ordinance 2008-014 is now
36 open. Hearing and seeing no one, the public hearing
37 for ordinance 2008-014 is now closed. The chair
38 moves to approve.

39 LARRY GREER: Second.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
41 in discussion. Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

42 BOB WALDREP: The same piece of property
43 that we discussed last time having to do with Dr.
44 Groeber.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Regarding the library up
46 in ---

47 BOB WALDREP: No. Dr. Groeber on
48 Michelin Boulevard.

49 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
50 Mr. Waldrep is correct.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: On Michelin. Okay. I'm
2 sorry. Anymore discussion? Okay. The chair calls
3 for the vote, ordinance 2008-0 ---

4 TAPE PLAYING DURING MEETING

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item B, resolution
6 2008-015 has been withdrawn from the agenda. So
7 we'll move on to item C. Resolution 2008-018, a
8 resolution authorizing the expansion of Anderson
9 County engagement of Greene, Finney and Horton, LLP
10 and other matters related thereto. The chair moves
11 to approve. Is there a second?

12 CINDY WILSON: Second.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are now in discussion.
14 Ms. Wilson, do you want to take the lead on this?

15 CINDY WILSON: Not necessarily. But the
16 important thing here is that there have been a lot of
17 unanswered questions, lack of provision of documents
18 for council review. There's been -- even the media
19 has had difficulty. They've been denied documents.
20 And it seems like it would be a good idea for us to
21 clear the air to understand what's the true case
22 here, these items. And I'm requesting that my fellow
23 council members vote to provide for agreed upon
24 procedures where we engage Greene, Finney and Horton,
25 LLP, our external auditors, to audit the
26 sponsorships, contributions, reimbursements,
27 donations and gifts to Anderson County during the
28 fiscal year '06-07 and '07-08 to March 18th, an audit
29 of all the credit card expenditures made by Anderson
30 County during fiscal year '06-07, fiscal year '07-08
31 to March 18th, and an audit of the accounting and the
32 accounting measures in place during fiscal year '06-
33 07 and '07-08 to March 18th to ensure that Anderson
34 County is receiving an accurate host fee for the
35 solid waste tonnage admitted to the Anderson regional
36 landfill. I ask your indulgence to approve this. I
37 think it will educate us quite well and it will clear
38 the air publicly.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, has anyone
40 approached Greene, Finney and Horton, LLP and asked
41 them if they will accept this task?

42 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I believe --
43 correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe they said that
44 they could not accept it the way it's written.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So they object. Okay.

46 CINDY WILSON: How would they prefer it
47 would be written? What is the issue?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Humphries.

49 GINA HUMPHRIES: When a group of auditors
50 do this type of work, which is called agreed upon

1 procedures, there's a standard form, a standard
2 letter of agreement, if you will, that they will
3 bring forward. There will be a mutual agreement
4 between the auditee and the auditor of exactly what
5 is to be audited, for example the host fee, the time
6 period that is to be audited. And also in this
7 letter of engagement, there would be the objectives
8 of the audit laid out. So the language in this
9 resolution as it is written is not auditors'
10 language, if you will. I noticed the word
11 exploration. Auditors don't do explorations. And I
12 don't say that to be funny. It's just factual. So
13 an auditor is not going to accept this language as an
14 agreement of work to be done. But as I stated
15 before, what normally the client and the auditor do
16 is come to an agreement about what will be done. And
17 from that point they establish the agreed upon
18 procedures and a subsequent engagement letter.

19 CINDY WILSON: Well with that being
20 understood I would like to withdraw my resolution and
21 talk with the auditors as to what specific language
22 they would require and then bring it up at the next
23 council meeting. ??

24 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

26
27 BOB WALDREP: I would assume -- last
28 time we discussed the current composition of that
29 committee when it was formed and I thought that
30 that's pretty much what Ms. Floyd was referring to in
31 a way that we had each appointed someone from our
32 particular district. We had not?

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. My guy didn't
34 make it. There are six members and there's seven
35 districts but my guy didn't make it.

36 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I'm sorry about
37 that.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I am too.

39 BOB WALDREP: And so this would be a
40 little bit different then. It would be one from each
41 council district. Okay.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anymore discussion on the
43 amendment?

44 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Normally I would agree
47 with this line of thinking but it's my opinion for
48 what it's worth that eight members on a committee is
49 awkward because you have the possibility of a tied
50 decision. Anytime you're making a decision there

1 should always be an odd number so that you don't have
2 the possibility of a tie. Also, once you get over
3 three or five members on any committee, it gets
4 bulky, awkward. You have trouble getting a quorum at
5 times. It's my opinion that this -- an eight or a
6 nine committee is bulky, awkward, cumbersome and
7 would be hard to carry out tasks that we would assign
8 them. So I prefer to leave it somewhat similar to
9 what we have done.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Floyd, Mr.
11 Greer brings a good question. We have eight people
12 and so, you know, you have a four four tie.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. That situation
16 can be worked out. Now we need to do the right
17 things for the right reasons to work it out. And
18 also referring back to Mr. Greer, this is too
19 delicate. This is too delicate for us to just slide
20 off of it and say well we don't need but three
21 people. Here we're asking people to come up to the
22 table and pay money for us to do other things for
23 Anderson County. And we have assured people that
24 this money will be used for the purpose of
25 improvements. And we have assured people that there
26 will be projects throughout Anderson County. Why
27 can't we assure them by appointing people over this
28 money, because that's what it is, over these projects
29 to make sure to ensure that people are getting what
30 they want. It may be bulky. It may be bulky. It
31 may be cumbersome. But from district two's
32 standpoint, I think I would sleep a little better at
33 night knowing that I have a representative who's
34 watching over district two and district two's
35 projects. I know Anderson County. I know Anderson
36 County. And because of some of the things that I do
37 know, I feel that each area ought to be represented.
38 Now if we do not do this then we'll have three
39 people. Three people. And already these three
40 people came upon a problem and they only contacted
41 one council member. I didn't receive a telephone
42 call telling me that they wanted to do this or they
43 thought it was best to do this. Why? I want to be
44 represented. I want to know what's happening to that
45 fund. When there's a problem I want my
46 representative to come to me and tell me what the
47 problem is without a county council member coming to
48 me and telling me what the problem is. And I stand
49 by the vote. Did I answer your question?

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're in discussion.
3 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just
4 wonder if Ms. Floyd would accept an amendment to
5 reduce it to seven?
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you accept to reduce
7 it to seven?
8 BOB WALDREP: And then let the committee
9 pick its own chairman.
10 GRACIE FLOYD: I have no problems with
11 that. In fact, the person who chose the present
12 chairman may be interested in just appointing him.
13 But I have no problems with that.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you are amending your
15 amendment?
16 GRACIE FLOYD: I was going to let Mr.
17 Waldrep amend it if you would like.
18 BOB WALDREP: I would make that motion
19 to amend it.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we are amending the
21 amendment.
22 CINDY WILSON: Second.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have an
24 amendment to the amendment.
25 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I did want
26 to say that the council is composed of seven members
27 and I hate to think of them as being bulky and
28 cumbersome.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are amending
30 Ms. Floyd's amendment. Instead of having eight
31 people we're having seven, one to be appointed by
32 each council members. Okay. We are in discussion on
33 that.
34 BOB WALDREP: I call for the question.
35 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a call for
37 the question. All in favor of call for the question
38 please vote. Okay. Unanimous. Okay. All in favor
39 of having a seven member oversight committee ...
40 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, this is
41 actually the amendment to change it from eight to
42 seven.
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. This is the
44 amendment ---
45 BILL MCABEE: To the amendment.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- to have a seven member
47 oversight committee. Please vote. It's unanimous.
48 Okay. So now we go to the ordinance as amended? No.
49 Mr. ...
50 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you would

1 now go to the amendment as amended.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The amendment as amended,
3 which is still seven members, right?

4 TOM MARTIN: That is correct. You're
5 back to Mrs. Floyd's original amendment as it has now
6 been amended.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We go back to Ms.
8 Floyd's amendment as it has been amended. All in
9 favor -- it's still seven members; right? It's still
10 seven members. Please vote. Unanimous. Okay. Now
11 we're at the ordinance as amended, right? All in
12 favor of ordinance 2008-015 as amended, meaning we
13 have a seven member oversight committee, please vote.
14 Unanimous. Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ordinance's first
16 reading. I have some housekeeping to do here before
17 we get into discussion. The original ordinance 2008-
18 016 was sponsored by Ms. Wilson. The council as a
19 whole referred this to the county attorney. And what
20 is in our agenda packet is the work under the
21 instruction of the council. So Ms. Wilson is not the
22 sponsor of this ordinance. It basically is the
23 council as a whole. But Ms. Eddleman, you can put me
24 down because I'm representing the council. That
25 being said, the chair moves to approve ordinance
26 2008-016, an ordinance amending chapter two of the
27 Anderson County code of ordinance pertaining to the
28 position of internal auditor and other matters
29 related thereto. Is there a second?

30 BILL MCABEE: Second.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Okay.
32 We are now in discussion regarding the position of
33 the internal auditor. Any discussion?

34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

36 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I think we
37 had a considerable amount of discussion last time
38 with regard to who would be the hiring person and
39 under whom this person would be, under control. And
40 I'm not quite confident that we have reached that
41 point. I thought it was the original intent of our
42 body to have -- if we had an internal auditor that
43 that auditor would be solely responsible to the
44 council and would not be responsible to the county
45 administrator. Am I remember incorrectly?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: If I remember correctly,
47 the council referred the ordinance to the county
48 attorney under the instruction of basically writing a
49 legal ordinance as state law dictates. And there are
50 a number of attorney general opinions, I believe,

1 stating that the auditor, internal auditor, falls
2 under the county administrator under our form of
3 government. Did I leave something out, Mr. Martin?

4 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 No, sir. That is correct. The original ordinance
6 was a caption which would have placed the internal
7 auditor under the control of the county council. At
8 the last council meeting council referred that
9 ordinance, 2008-016, to me to draft in a form that
10 complied with state law. The ordinance that is
11 before you is my attempt to do that.

12 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

14 CINDY WILSON: A couple of days after the
15 last council meeting I spoke with Mr. Artigliere. I
16 don't know if he's here tonight. We spoke about the
17 resolutions for agreed upon procedures and also my
18 request to have an ordinance reflecting the state
19 Home Rule article one override capability and also
20 the existing practice and precedence set by
21 Charleston County, Richland County and Beaufort
22 Counties and also what Anderson County had prior to
23 our administrator arriving here. And I went back and
24 did homework. This ordinance was amended from its
25 prior form which was in 1995 to February 4th, third
26 reading, where we removed the internal auditor from
27 county council and put it under the administrator.
28 And that was some six or eight months after our
29 administrator's arrival. I want to bring to your
30 attention that since other counties have certainly
31 kept their internal auditor under the council, and
32 having spoken with the chairman for Charleston's
33 county council, they were very pleased with that
34 arrangement. They also have their county attorney
35 under the county council and felt like that provided
36 for better balance in the checks and balances
37 schemes. I want to read to y'all very briefly this
38 article one of the South Carolina Home Rule Act.
39 It's section 4925, the power of the counties. And it
40 states that all counties of the state, in addition to
41 the powers conferred to their specific form of
42 government, have authority to enact regulations,
43 resolutions and ordinances not inconsistent with the
44 constitution and general law of the state, including
45 the exercise of these powers in relation to health
46 and order in counties or respecting any subject as
47 appears to them necessary and proper for the
48 security, general welfare and convenience of the
49 counties, reserving health, peace, order and good
50 government in them. The powers of the county must be

1 liberally construed in favor of the county and the
2 specific mention of particular powers may not be
3 construed as limiting in any manner the general
4 powers of the county. That is our override. And I
5 do take exception that while I was given the
6 opportunity to review the resolution which is before
7 you tonight, I requested my ordinance which provided
8 for an internal auditor as it correctly should be
9 under county council. It was not provided to me and
10 suddenly we have this ordinance providing for
11 internal auditor under the administrator in our
12 package. So this is not what I requested. I really
13 feel violated in this and I think that we have some
14 serious conflicts of interest that we need to examine
15 here, particularly with our county attorney
16 situation. Our county attorney drafted the contract
17 for our current administrator prior to his becoming
18 the county attorney. And we've had instances, I want
19 enumerate each and every one, but the most recent one
20 we had an economic development project in front of us
21 and without ever notifying us the McNair Law Firm,
22 Mr. Martin himself and Mr. Todd Davidson, were the
23 attorneys representing the project and yet you've got
24 interoffice communication where they never
25 acknowledge that they were not the county's attorney.
26 So they had inside information, so to speak, on an
27 economic development project. You can't have -- you
28 can't serve two masters here. And this is where
29 we're having problems. And while I was violated in
30 my request for an ordinance, it violates common
31 sense. It violates the people. The people want to
32 have checks and balances. They want transparency in
33 the accounting. An internal auditor should be under
34 the county council. I will have another ordinance
35 up, first reading, next council meeting which will
36 reflect what I requested. And I think that our
37 county attorneys do owe us an apology for making this
38 mix-up. And I did ask of you, Mr. Chairman, that you
39 withdraw this and we would have both of our
40 ordinances on the agenda for the next council
41 meeting. And I thought you had agreed to honor that.
42 And I feel very, very sad that I trusted you to do
43 what you said and now you haven't.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me clarify.
45 As I stated at the beginning of my housekeeping, Ms.
46 Wilson was the sponsor of this ordinance. The
47 council, the body as a whole, voted to refer the
48 ordinance ---

49 CINDY WILSON: Minus two.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- to -- well the

1 majority. The majority of the council voted to refer
2 the ordinance to the county attorney to write an
3 ordinance that complies with state law. So therefore
4 Ms. Wilson is no longer the sponsor of this
5 ordinance. And since Ms. Wilson is no longer the
6 sponsor of this ordinance, she does not have the
7 right to remove it from the agenda.

8 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I had a thought, but go
10 ahead, Mr. McAbee.

11 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I listened with interest to the provisions of the
13 Home Rule Act that councilwoman from district seven
14 read. And I think that the -- I don't understand
15 where there is a provision in that for the council to
16 directly hire an auditor. Earlier in that passage it
17 states that all actions must be consistent with state
18 law ...

19 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

20 ... else in that provision would not allow
21 us to do something inconsistent with state law.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you asking Mr.
23 Martin?

24 BILL MCABEE: Yes, please.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, he's asking
26 you a question.

27 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 Mr. McAbee, that is correct. The provision that Ms.
29 Wilson read a portion of goes on to say that it has
30 to be in accordance with state law. Therefore, if it
31 is not in accordance with state law it does not
32 provide the authority that is being alleged.

33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

35 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Martin, threshold
36 question here is whether Anderson County has the
37 authority to change its ordinance to hire an auditor
38 or not. Isn't that correct?

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

40 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
41 Mr. Waldrep, that is correct.

42 BOB WALDREP: And the position of your
43 law firm is that Anderson County does not have that
44 authority. Is that your position?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

46 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
47 Waldrep, that is correct.

48 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Mr. Martin, I just
49 want you to know that there are other legal minds out
50 there. And this is an opinion from the McNair firm,

1 and I challenge that. I don't know that I'm
2 absolutely correct, but I really challenge that
3 because of the way that the Home Rule Act has been
4 written. It provides, as far as I can see, ample
5 room and liberally construed to be able, to be able
6 for this council to hire its own auditor. Now I
7 realize I could be wrong, and I don't think that this
8 has really perhaps been tested. And it looks like
9 it's another one of those situations that might have
10 to be more thoroughly researched and tested. So I
11 just -- if we have an ordinance that's simply going
12 to give another employee to the county administrator
13 that I can't talk to, then we are absolutely wasting
14 a great deal of time here.

15 CINDY WILSON: And money.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. ...

17 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'd like to
20 address a question to Mr. ---

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Martin.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: -- Martin. Yes. Okay.

23 Mr. Martin, last week you told us that we already had
24 an ordinance on the books that gave our administrator
25 the permission to hire the auditor. You told us
26 that. Okay. And then when I talked with you later
27 you told me when I was questioning, well why did we
28 sit up here and ask you to do it if it was already in
29 the books? And you told me at the time, well the
30 language needed to be cleaned up. You know, so
31 that's why you were going to just go ahead and accept
32 and rewrite it. So anytime in the past that Mr. Joey
33 Preston, I'm sorry Mr. Preston, that anytime Mr.
34 Preston wanted to hire this person he had the right
35 to do so according to what's in the auditor's book.
36 Am I correct?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

38 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

39 Ms. Floyd, that's correct.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now, my problem is
41 there's a lot of discussions on whether this person
42 should be placed under the umbrella of the council or
43 the administrator. My thing is if it should be
44 placed under the administrator then that's what needs
45 to be done. But I'm having trouble seeing why we
46 need the position period. The position was started,
47 I think -- I think the position came up because there
48 were some people on council who thought that we
49 should have an auditor who would report to us so that
50 we would know what's going on. So that's not going

1 to happen. We already have two auditors. We have
2 two CPAs on our books already. What we're doing now
3 is just layering. Okay. Those who don't believe
4 what we're doing as far as our budget and our
5 spending is concerned are not going to believe it
6 anymore because we have a third person. If it's not
7 under the council they're not going to believe it
8 anymore. It's not going to help them to believe it.
9 I feel that we are taking taxpayers' dollars and just
10 using it to satisfy something. But I can't figure
11 out what it is. If Ms. Humphreys needs help and Ms.
12 Rita Davis, then maybe we should look for another
13 type position, an assistant position or something
14 else. But to hire a full fledged auditor who has to
15 be a CPA, which would give us three CPAs we'd have to
16 pay for, I don't see it. Thank you.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

18 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I'm going to ramble for just a little bit. But I'm
20 going to preface the comments that I'm going to make
21 with this statement, and I'm going to remind all of
22 us that we stood right down front here, placed our
23 hands on a bible, stood before someone and took an
24 oath to uphold the constitution of the United States
25 of America and the state of South Carolina and the
26 laws thereof. So what I do in relation to this, I'm
27 going to base my ultimate and final decision on what
28 I deem to be what the laws of this state say.
29 Tonight we've heard two legal opinions. One from Mr.
30 Martin. And Mr. Martin gives some background for his
31 decision. I heard one from Mr. Waldrep who basically
32 stated his opinion, but I don't hear any background
33 for his opinion other than someone else is doing it
34 and we've done it in the past. Two wrongs don't make
35 a right. Just because somebody else is doing
36 something that violates the laws of this state does
37 not make it right for this county to do the same. So
38 I'm still pondering what is actually the legal aspect
39 of what we should be doing in relation to this
40 internal auditor. Ms. Floyd made the comments that
41 if it's reporting to the administrator then it won't
42 do any good because that's not what some people want.
43 And she's exactly right. It'll be a waste of money.
44 A total waste of money because they don't believe
45 that -- I don't know what they believe. So with all
46 that in mind, as Ms. Wilson proposes what she's going
47 to propose, I'm going to make a motion to table this
48 ordinance and that we as a part of the motion to
49 table, that we direct our county attorney on behalf
50 of this council to write to the attorney general of

1 the state of South Carolina to get a legal opinion on
2 whether or not we can indeed hire an internal auditor
3 that is hired by and reports to the council. And
4 that's in the form of a motion to table with the
5 attachment.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: I second it.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So a motion to
8 table and a second. All in favor to table ordinance
9 2008-016 please vote. Unanimous. The ordinance is
10 tabled. Ordinance 2008-017, an ordinance to impose
11 and post notice of a vehicle weight restriction on
12 Hammond Road which is county road 02-0137 between Old
13 Greenville Highway which is SC 88 and the Pickens
14 County border and other matters related thereto.

15 BILL MCABEE: So moved.

16 LARRY GREER: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
18 second. Any discussion?

19 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I call for
20 the question.

21 BILL MCABEE: Second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A call for the question.
23 All in favor of the call for the question please
24 vote.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm voting against that.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So it's five one, the
27 call for the question. Okay. All in favor of
28 ordinance 2008-017 please vote. Okay. That's five.
29 And how are you voting, Mr. Waldrep?

30 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't
31 sure what I was voting on so I'm just going to
32 abstain.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The ordinance is
34 five, zero and one with Mr. Waldrep abstaining.
35 Resolutions. Resolutions R2008-014, a resolution
36 authorizing the execution and delivery of an
37 equipment lease purchase agreement in the amount of
38 not exceeding one point two million to defray the
39 cost of acquiring various equipment as approved in
40 the county's 2007-2008 annual budget and other
41 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
42 Is there a second?

43 BILL MCABEE: Second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

45 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

47 CINDY WILSON: I had requested yesterday
48 for an itemized list of equipment and vehicles that
49 would be purchased under this and all I got today,
50 after I asked again today, was the same thing that's

1 in the agenda packet. And it says under equipment
2 five hundred and sixty thousand seven hundred and
3 forty-five dollars, vehicles three hundred and sixty-
4 six thousand five hundred and thirty-five dollars and
5 computers and technology, two hundred and seventy-two
6 thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars. That's
7 not an itemized list. I requested to know
8 specifically what equipment we're buying, vehicles,
9 computers, et cetera and what departments or
10 employees they would go to. And I understand that
11 there was a bid held today and I just got a quick
12 copy of that a while ago after I asked. Again it's
13 just the interest rates that five bidders made but no
14 lists. And I would request that we table this until
15 we have the list.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that a motion to
17 table?

18 CINDY WILSON: Yes.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson move to table.
20 Is there a second on that?

21 BOB WALDREP: Second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
23 table. All in favor of tabling resolution R2008-014
24 please vote. Three. Opposed. McAbee, Floyd and
25 Thompson oppose. A tie. So the motion is not
26 tabled. Is that correct, Mr. Martin? Very good.
27 Okay. We're back in discussion.

28 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: I have a real quick
31 question of Mr. Preston or some of the staff people.
32 If I remember correctly during the budget process, we
33 had, as part of our backup material in developing the
34 budget, we had a list, I believe you've got it in
35 your hand, I remember seeing it, that has those items
36 on that list.

37 JOEY PRESTON: That is correct, sir.

38 CINDY WILSON: But it's a million seven.

39 LARRY GREER: Well if it's a million
40 seven versus one point two I'm assuming you've taken
41 some items off of it.

42 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. What'll have to
43 happen is it can only go up to wherever you all
44 approve.

45 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair calls for the
47 vote on resolution 2008 ---

48 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sorry. Yes, sir. Mr.
50 Martin.

1 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if I might
2 very quickly. I assume that the motion to approve
3 was to approve the completed resolution that was
4 placed before you tonight. That is the one that had
5 the bids in it and the interest rates. In other
6 words, in the agenda packet you had one that had
7 blanks because the bid was not help until today.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

9 TOM MARTIN: Then placed before you
10 tonight was the completed resolution that had the
11 bids actually contained in it. And in that material
12 you will note something somewhat unusual about this
13 bid. There were two apparent bids which were
14 apparently lower than the bid which staff has
15 recommended to council. One of those bids was based
16 upon this particular bond or this particular
17 borrowing being bank qualified. The invitation to
18 bid specifically indicated that it was not bank
19 qualified. The bank involved was contacted. They
20 confirmed that their bid would only be valid if it
21 were bank qualified. Therefore, that bid was non-
22 conforming. It did not conform to the invitation for
23 bids. The second apparent low bid contained a two
24 hundred and fifty dollar escrow account setup fee and
25 a five hundred dollar up front bank discount fee as
26 well as UCC fees. So the total cost of financing of
27 that bid once you add the fees in was forty dollars
28 more than what staff has recommended to council as
29 the low bid. So the bottom line is what staff has
30 recommended to council as the low bid as stated on
31 this memo is in fact the low bid of RBC Centura out
32 of Columbia, South Carolina because two other bids --
33 one did not meet the invitation for bids. It would
34 have been higher if it had actually met those
35 invitation for bids. The other contains hidden
36 costs. I shouldn't say hidden costs, but additional
37 costs, once factored in made that a higher bid. So
38 what you're considering tonight is actually the
39 lowest of the five bids that were received. The
40 interest rate for this, if approved by council, would
41 be two point six four percent.

42 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

44 LARRY GREER: Greer.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 Mr. Martin, so I'm assuming that we need to have a
48 motion to amend to substitute the amended version
49 that was placed before us tonight since it's not in
50 the agenda book.

1 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman. That is
2 correct. That would be the better way to make it
3 clear that what you're actually approving is the
4 resolution that has the blanks filled in.

5 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
6 amend to substitute the package that was placed
7 before council tonight.

8 BILL MCABEE: Second.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
10 to substitute. Okay. Everyone understands that?
11 We're actually voting on the packet that was handed
12 and not the one in the blanks. So we need to approve
13 the substitution. Okay. All in favor of accepting
14 the substitution, the actual bids that we received
15 tonight, all in favor of that please vote. Okay.
16 It's unanimous.

17 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I? I
18 recognize that we need to accept the bid tonight.
19 And I would like to amend this resolution to reflect
20 that we would accept the bid tonight, however we
21 would be given the final approval on the equipment,
22 vehicle and computer list which is absent right now.
23 Because what we had in our budget book was a long
24 list of items going different ways. Surely since we
25 know we have one point two million dollars to spend,
26 we just don't know the interest rate, we have at
27 least a list of the items we're going to purchase.
28 In fact I saw a bid for, I think, four Nissan Xterras
29 about two or three weeks ago. Would that be part of
30 this package? Is it? I mean we need to know.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

32 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, the make and
33 brand of the vehicle would not be on the list. We
34 try to find vehicles that will meet our needs ---

35 CINDY WILSON: I know, but the bid said
36 ---

37 JOEY PRESTON: -- and get good gas
38 mileage too.

39 CINDY WILSON: -- specific -- it was very
40 specific. It said Nissan Xterras. But there's
41 nothing that indicates what vehicles, it's just a
42 price.

43 JOEY PRESTON: Council was provided with
44 a list. What we'll have to do is to back down off of
45 that list in order to meet the dollar amounts.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

47 CINDY WILSON: So may we have a list to
48 review prior to final approval of the lease purchase
49 agreement. Like tonight just vote on the bid for the
50 interest rate and the bank but then do the second

1 part of the resolution maybe at the next council
2 meeting or even tonight if we have a list.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson, can
4 you shorten your amendment and restate it so that we
5 understand what you're asking?

6 CINDY WILSON: My amendment would be that
7 we agree to the bid for the bank and interest rate
8 tonight and reserve the approval of the one point two
9 million dollars expenditure pending our receipt of
10 the itemized list of what we're spending the one
11 point two million dollars on.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But as I understand it,
13 Ms. Wilson, we already have approved the funds when
14 we approved the budget.

15 JOEY PRESTON: You've also approved the
16 list.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We've also approved the
18 list.

19 CINDY WILSON: That's one point seven
20 million.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you're asking us --
22 we've already, we've already done it.

23 CINDY WILSON: We approved one point
24 seven million dollars in equipment, but we've only
25 earmarked one point two million for it. So we've got
26 to determine what of this list we're going to buy.

27 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

29 LARRY GREER: I'm getting there. Give
30 me time. I understand what we've got. We've got a
31 one point seven million list. We've got one point
32 two million that we're planning to spend. Now here's
33 how I see this thing shaking out. If you -- the
34 better deal you get when you bid out these various
35 pieces of equipment determines how close you come to
36 fulfilling that whole list. So for us to sit here
37 and try to say, well this list of one point two
38 million includes these specific units is going to be
39 difficult because you may get a really good deal on
40 one piece of equipment and you may not get as good a
41 deal on the other piece of equipment based on how
42 your bids come in. So how far you're able to go from
43 that one point two million up to the one point seven
44 million is going to depend on how you bid it out. I
45 know Mr. Hopkins bid out more in some years past. I
46 think you were able to get more than you thought you
47 would because the bids came in even better than you
48 anticipated. So if we do this as Ms. Wilson is
49 proposing, what we're going to do is we're going to
50 tie the hands of the people who are trying to

1 purchase these various pieces of equipment and we
2 could delay this two, three or four months, depending
3 on the length of time it takes to get all the bids
4 in, get all the various pieces of equipment bid out.
5 So I'm going to be opposed to this amendment.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Does anyone wish to
7 second Ms. Wilson's amendment? The motion dies for
8 lack of a second, Ms. Wilson. We are back on the
9 resolution. The chair calls for the vote on the
10 resolution. All in favor of R2008-014 please vote.
11 Five. How do you vote, Ms. Wilson?

12 CINDY WILSON: Opposed.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Wilson votes in
14 the negative. So it's five, one. The vote is five,
15 one.

16 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, just as a
17 point of clarification. Council had previously
18 amended. So that was a vote on the amended
19 resolution which was the completed one before
20 council.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. At this time
22 we'll take a fifteen minute break.

23 BREAK

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So Ms. Wilson, do you
25 move to table?

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

28 LARRY GREER: Also if the person who
29 makes the motion and the person who seconded the
30 motion withdraws the motion and the second it can be
31 withdrawn that way.

32 TOM MARTIN: I believe that would be in
33 the form of a motion, though, to withdraw.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So I moved, so I withdraw

35 ---

36 CINDY WILSON: I don't think we ever had
37 a second on that, did we?

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So basically we've got to
39 back up.

40 CINDY WILSON: Okay.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So I remove my motion to
42 approve. Ms. Wilson moves to withdraw her second.
43 And now she moves to table.

44 LARRY GREER: To withdraw.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To withdraw. To
46 withdraw.

47 CINDY WILSON: I do.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So do we vote on
49 the withdraw or she just withdraws?

50 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if you have

1 withdrawn your motion and she has withdrawn the
2 second then it can simply be taken from the agenda.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I want to make
4 sure everything is correct. Thank you, sir. Item B
5 or 2008-019, a resolution designating May 2008 as
6 Confederate history month in Anderson County and
7 other matters related there. The chair moves to
8 approve. Is there a ---

9 LARRY GREER: Second.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
11 discussion? No discussion. All in favor of
12 resolution 2008-019 please vote. It's unanimous.
13 Okay. Six and oh. Appointment to WorkLink
14 Investment Board, Ms. Julie S. Hoyle, I hope I
15 pronounced that correctly, Administrator. You have
16 ten minutes, Ms. Hoyle.

17 JULIE HOYLE: Mr. Chairman, members of
18 the council, periodically we ask that you appoint
19 members to our board when there are vacancies. We
20 are asking that Mr. Mike Bannister with Timken
21 replace Michael Henthorne who resigned in December.
22 Mr. Bannister has served as an ex officio member of
23 one of the committees for the board for over three
24 years and has done a very good job, has contributed a
25 great deal. That is our reason for asking him to be
26 appointed.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is this something we need
28 to vote on?

29 JULIE HOYLE: Yes, sir.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor.

31 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move we
32 approve.

33 BILL MCABEE: Second.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So a motion to approve
35 and second. Any discussion on this?

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, ---

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: -- county council members,
39 do any of you know Mr. Bannister?

40 CINDY WILSON: I think I've met him.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: You think you've met him?
42 Okay. But no one else knows him, right?

43 BILL MCABEE: No, ma'am.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: More discussion?

46 BOB WALDREP: You want to tell us a
47 little more about Mr. Bannister.

48 JULIE HOYLE: Well as I said he's been
49 on one of our committees for a long time. He has
50 been with Timken a long time as well. He's their

1 manager of training, I believe. He is their senior
2 HR resource analyst. When Butch Harris was on the
3 board previously, he resigned just over a year ago,
4 it was initially intended for Mike Bannister to
5 replace him, but he was out of the country at the
6 time with business for Timken. So that's why we had
7 replaced him with someone else. But I remember Mr.
8 Greer had an issue with someone from his area being
9 on the board. So that's why we were asking for Mr.
10 Bannister.

11 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

13 CINDY WILSON: I will say this. The
14 Timken Company is just a bulwark in that part of the
15 county. They -- I don't know how many employees they
16 have right now, but they're a wonderful corporate
17 citizen. All the people I've met there have just
18 been really excellent citizens. They do a lot
19 outside of their company. The upper echelon people
20 are very involved in community projects.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Did you say
24 that he is in Mr. Greer's district which is district
25 three?

26 JULIE HOYLE: Okay. I just -- at the --
27 when we had the last vacancy when Mr. Harris had
28 resigned, and I think it was maybe from that area.
29 We wanted somebody from that area.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: So he is from district
31 three.

32 LARRY GREER: No.

33 JULIE HOYLE: Well he's from Honea Path.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Honea Path. Okay. All
35 right.

36 JULIE HOYLE: I'm sorry I don't know the
37 districts as well.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. I just thought
39 you said he was from that area. How many people do
40 you have on the board now?

41 JULIE HOYLE: There are thirty-five
42 members.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Thirty-five board members?

44 JULIE HOYLE: Yes.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: And you don't find that
46 cumbersome?

47 JULIE HOYLE: Congress is the one who

48 ---

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. I apologize for
50 saying that. Yeah. Thirty-five. That's a lot.

1 Yeah. Okay.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of accepting
3 this appointee to the board please vote. Unanimous.
4 Thank you.

5 JULIE HOYLE: Thank you.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Acceptance of Craven
7 Creek subdivision, Cravens Creek Court, into the
8 county road system. The chair moves to accept. Is
9 there a second?

10 BILL MCABEE: Second.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion. Is
12 this just one road, Mr. Hopkins or Mr. Ricketson?
13 Just one road?

14 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir. It's just one
15 road.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And this road is in
17 district six.

18 HOLT HOPKINS: Correct.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And the developer is
20 Powdersville Development, LLC. Anymore discussion?

21 BOB WALDREP: Just one question, Mr.
22 Hopkins. I assume it meets all the specifications
23 and you're happy with it?

24 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of
26 accepting Cravens Creek Court into the county road
27 system, please vote. It is unanimous. Okay.
28 Appalachian council of governments, services to
29 Anderson County. Mr. Steve Pelissier and Mr. Joe
30 Newton.

31 STEVE PELISSIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 As the chairman mentioned, with me this evening is
33 our deputy director, Joey Newton. And we're here to
34 give our annual report of Appalachian Council of
35 Government services to Anderson County. And we
36 appreciate the services and active participation of
37 Mr. Thompson, Ms. Floyd, and Mr. Greer on our board
38 of directors as well as Mayor Roberts from the city
39 of Anderson, Mr. Wallace Shaw from Belton town
40 council and Mr. Dennis Claramunt, a citizen member
41 and Senator O'Dell. Last year as for the past
42 seventeen years, Anderson County's investment in the
43 Council of Governments has been seventy-four thousand
44 nine hundred and forty-eight dollars. For FY2008,
45 your return on that investment was a little over
46 eight point four million, resulting in a return on
47 investment ratio of one hundred thirteen to one. As
48 noted in the handout Mr. Newton is distributing, of
49 this total, one point seven million came from loans
50 made directly to Anderson County businesses to the

1 Council of Governments Appalachian Development
2 Corporation. These loans generated an additional
3 three point one million in private capital
4 investment. That's equity investment from business
5 owners and funds provided by lending institutions to
6 make up the entire package. In addition these funds
7 resulted in the creation of thirty-three new jobs in
8 the county as well as the retention of five jobs.
9 Well, we also, over the past twelve months, worked
10 with the city of Pendleton to obtain one point four
11 million dollars in CDBG, community development block
12 grant and Appalachian resale commission funds for
13 their town wide water improvement project.
14 Approximately one point eight million in funds went
15 for work force development services. These help
16 citizens to enhance skills that are needed to remain
17 or to become employable in the ever-changing economy.
18 To provide services to workers affected by plant
19 closings. And to provide funds to local businesses
20 to provide on the job training opportunities which
21 are often the entryway for young people and folks
22 just entering the workforce towards a career path.
23 We also provide for youth training programs. Most
24 recently a partnership with diffusion warehouse for
25 GED classes as well as for a recently started welding
26 program that's been extremely popular in its early
27 stages. We also have an additional four hundred
28 thousand that went to senior citizens services to
29 provide for meals, healthcare, transportation and
30 household support. In addition to the dollars, I'd
31 like to mention just a few of the services provided
32 by the COG over the past year -- over the past year.
33 I won't go over all that are on your handout there as
34 you're all perfectly capable of reading. But I am
35 excited about some of the new programs that we're
36 offering. We're working with Anderson County and
37 your municipalities on LUCA which is the Local Update
38 for Census Address Program of the US Census
39 Department. In 2000, Anderson County and the
40 municipalities of Anderson County experienced an
41 under account in the census. This has cost you
42 hundreds of thousands. If you put it all together,
43 over a million dollars over ten years in lost
44 revenue. We're working with you, the state budget
45 control board, and the census to make sure the census
46 knows where your people are so you get a more
47 accurate account and you get more fair funding over
48 the next ten years. We continue to work with many of
49 your communities around the county with local
50 government assistance, planning assistance. Belton,

1 Honea Path, Iva, Pelzer, Pendleton, West Pelzer,
2 Williamston. We continue to offer a state mandated
3 program for planning education to boards of appeals
4 and planning commission members. We've responded to
5 a hundred twenty-two requests for information about
6 Anderson County from industries and businesses
7 seeking or exploring investment in the community.
8 And of course we continue to support the Anderson
9 County gang task force. Coming up over the next
10 twelve months you'll notice a chart I put in there.
11 With grant applications we are currently developing
12 for the county a series of Appalachian regional
13 commission and CBDG grants for the upcoming cycle.
14 All together these total about two point three
15 million dollars. Through our partnership with the
16 South Carolina Department of Transportation for
17 continuing a rural transportation system improvement
18 program. We have two point seven million dollars
19 allocated for Anderson County projects over the next
20 four years. Over the past eight years we've been
21 able to put thirty-four million dollars into the
22 county through this program. We look forward to
23 expanding our small business lending program to
24 provide additional resources for existing and new
25 businesses. While most of the business expansion and
26 job creation is generated by the small and
27 entrepreneurial businesses targeted by the program,
28 most economic incentives target larger operations.
29 We're pleased that we have this to offer for the
30 small guy, the startup entrepreneur out there. Just
31 for information I included on pages three and four an
32 outline showing grants that the Appalachian Council
33 of Governments has helped the county and other
34 entities in the county receive over the last five
35 years. I believe we're about seventy-five hundred
36 dollars short of eight million. And Joe, do you have
37 a check for seventy-five hundred so we can get to
38 eight. But hopefully real soon here with this April
39 cycle we'll be able to get over eight million, since
40 Joe is not much help. I've been with the COG for
41 eighteen years now. During that time I've seen a lot
42 of progress, a lot of change, a lot of excitement in
43 Anderson County. I've enjoyed working with you, your
44 staff and your citizens. And we certainly look
45 forward to continuing to work with you in the future.
46 If we can ever be of assistance please do not
47 hesitate to let us know. And Mr. Chairman, that
48 concludes my comments. I'd be glad to respond to any
49 questions.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair. Okay. Mr.

1 Pelissier, we have one grant that's outstanding.
2 We're still waiting. We're anxiously awaiting to
3 hear if we're going to receive it. Have you heard
4 anything?

5 STEVE PELISSIER: No, ma'am. That was
6 supposed to be announced the end of February. But
7 still have not heard anything on that one.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Pelissier, may
9 I please respectfully request that we make a phone
10 call?

11 STEVE PELISSIER: Yes, ma'am. I'll make a
12 phone call by eight thirty tomorrow morning.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you.

14 STEVE PELISSIER: And I'll give you a call
15 before noon tomorrow to let you know what I've
16 learned from that call.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you.

18 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

20 CINDY WILSON: Thank you for what y'all
21 do. From the first acquaintance I had with the COG
22 back in the late seventies from business, you've
23 always provided wonderful information and help,
24 especially with the grants. I did notice there was a
25 grant in, I think, your viewpoint letter that might
26 be used for local libraries with workforce ...

27 STEVE PELISSIER: Yes, ma'am.

28 CINDY WILSON: Would it be possible that
29 we could look into that for Anderson County,
30 particularly for some of the smaller brand libraries
31 like Honea Path and Williamston? There are a lot of
32 folks out of work and they go to the local libraries
33 to use the computers to do resumes and so forth. And
34 I know in those particular towns, and I'm sure there
35 might be some other libraries too, they're short of
36 computers and help. And I wondered if that might be
37 a possibility.

38 STEVE PELISSIER: Yes, ma'am. For that
39 particular grant program the town would have to have
40 a low and moderate income population of over fifty
41 percent. And off hand I'm not sure which communities
42 in Anderson County do or do not. But I certainly can
43 get that information and get that to Mr. Preston, Ms.
44 Eddleman to distribute as well as more specific grant
45 rules on that. And that's something we can follow up
46 on very quickly as well.

47 CINDY WILSON: I think Williamston and
48 Honea Path qualify. And of course Williamston, their
49 library covers Pelzer and West Pelzer. And those are
50 very poor areas.

1 STEVE PELISSIER: Right. And that's -- I
2 can look that up before noon tomorrow as well.

3 CINDY WILSON: Bless your heart. Thank
4 you so much.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Pelissier.
6 Upstate Alliance annual update. Mr. Al Johnson.

7 BILL MCABEE: Hal.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Al. There's no H in my
9 book. Okay. Mr. Johnson, what's your first name?
10 Hal? I do apologize. There was no H in my book.
11 Regardless, Mr. Johnson, you have the floor for ten
12 minutes.

13 HAL JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, members of
14 council, on behalf of the Upstate Alliance, our board
15 of directors, our chairman, Mr. John Miller, I want
16 to thank you for the opportunity to share this annual
17 update with Anderson County council and the citizens
18 of Anderson. We always start every meeting by making
19 sure that we share the vision, mission and focus of
20 the Upstate Alliance with all of our investor
21 counties and the citizens of the upstate to make sure
22 that everyone truly understands the position of the
23 Upstate Alliance. Our vision is to position and
24 market this region so that we can compete
25 successfully for business. The mission of the
26 Alliance is three fold, one to market the upstate
27 South Carolina region to attract investment, support
28 the economic development efforts of the alliance
29 investors, and build cohesive relationships among the
30 region's private and public members. We're very
31 focused in generating leads and prospects for the
32 region. I want to really quickly go over our staff.
33 We've had some changes on our staff where one of our
34 key members, Mike Panasko, has now joined the
35 Anderson County team with Innovate Anderson. We do
36 have Jennifer Noel, my VP of marketing. Eric Miller
37 from the South Carolina Department of Commerce has
38 joined us as our new director of business
39 development. We have also hired Ms. Jennifer Pegram
40 as our business development coordinator. Jennifer
41 Miller has come to us from Mississippi World Trade
42 Center as our research manager. Yolanda Morton is my
43 right hand. Richard Blackwell is our investor and
44 public relations director. And Clyde Eldridge is our
45 investor relations consultant. A wide open team and
46 I can tell you they work very hard for the region.
47 Our executive committee, Anderson County's John
48 Miller, who is representing as our chair this year.
49 Vice chair is Leon Patterson from Laurens County,
50 chair of Palmetto Bank. Treasurer, Bobby Hitt with

1 BMW representing Spartanburg County. Secretary
2 George Acker with Duke Energy representing Cherokee
3 County. And the immediate past chair is Craig White
4 representing Greenwood County. Operating budget for
5 2008 is one million four hundred and fifty-one
6 thousand. You'll notice that we do have -- we are
7 fifty-six thousand under that budget right now. We
8 set an aggressive goal of a hundred and sixty
9 thousand over what our last year's budget was. So I
10 can tell you with great success, so far we've raised
11 a hundred and ten thousand dollars in private sector
12 funding this year. You can see also that the public
13 sector versus the private sector, and one thing we
14 always want to be real clear to point out is that the
15 Upstate Alliance is truly leveraging the public
16 sector's dollar more than two to one. I think this
17 is fantastic and we ought to keep it this way. A
18 little bit about our public and private investors.
19 All ten counties, Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee,
20 Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens,
21 Spartanburg, and Union counties are investors in our
22 organization along with the city of Greenville,
23 Greer, Spartanburg, and last year we were joined by
24 the city of Union and Clinton as they came on. Each
25 of the three cities of Greenville, Greer and
26 Spartanburg have economic development officials. The
27 city of Union and Clinton, their mayor is wanting to
28 be actively involved and seated at our table helping
29 us make marketing decisions for the region. And they
30 have joined us as investors. The Upstate Economic
31 Developers work hand in hand on a monthly basis. We
32 all get together, share opportunities and lead
33 successes and failures so that we understand how we
34 can work more cohesively as a region. I think this
35 is one of the greatest things that the Upstate
36 Alliance has had a chance to do, is working with our
37 local economic developers. A little bit about our
38 private sector investors. There are thirty-one board
39 members. What's real important for you to know is
40 that each of these board members invests over twenty-
41 five thousand dollars in our organization. The
42 partner level investors are at twelve thousand,
43 sponsor level at thirty and the friend level is at
44 two thousand dollars each. A little bit about
45 business development. I want to be real quick and
46 make sure we all understand what the Upstate Alliance
47 and what each of our economic development
48 organizations face. Whether you're in a community
49 such as Belton or whether you're in a county such as
50 Anderson or whether you're in the upstate or the

1 state like South Carolina, we all understand
2 geographic boundaries. And sometimes we get caught
3 within them. A lot of times we get caught with what
4 happens day to day in our own county. And we don't
5 think about anything else that happens on a global
6 perspective outside our county boundaries. What's
7 real important for us to realize is when a company is
8 looking at us we're just a dot on a map. That's
9 realization of economic development. And if we don't
10 think that's true just ask companies that can invest
11 capital anywhere in the world. And they choose our
12 location. Why did they choose us? A lot of times
13 when we ever see them they've already narrowed it
14 down to six communities or less. A little bit about
15 the process of the Upstate Alliance. We are the
16 marketing arm. So through web sites, trade shows,
17 missions, advertisements and events, we produce leads
18 and prospects. When they turn into projects through
19 the RFI or request for information process, a project
20 team is created. That's when we involve the county
21 economic developers, when we involve the Department
22 of Commerce and the private sector partners. Now let
23 me be real clear is that the county economic
24 developers are hand in hand with us on most of our
25 marketing missions as well as our trade shows,
26 advertisements and events. They're all guiding us in
27 our process. When that prospect gets down to one
28 county, the Upstate Alliance turns it over to the
29 county economic developers and we turn over that
30 project and we back out and start the marketing
31 process again. A little bit about the upstate as a
32 whole. Last year there were a total of thirty-six
33 RFIs. Out of those RFIs, and you can see here this
34 is very open and we want to make sure that we're
35 extremely clear, you're not the only county council
36 that sees the RFI process this way. Every county
37 council sees it this way. We want to make sure that
38 everyone understands that it's an open door policy
39 with the Upstate Alliance. Yes, ma'am.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Would you please explain
41 the term RFI so everybody can understand what you're
42 talking about?

43 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am. An RFI, as
44 stated earlier, is a request for information that is
45 actually requested by a company to the Upstate
46 Alliance in order for us to provide information on
47 specific counties or locations. As those RFIs are
48 provided, we send those out to the counties. The
49 counties then refer back based on the information
50 that is provided by the companies. And you can see,

1 look at Anderson County. This year out of thirty-six
2 total RFIs, Anderson was eligible for thirty-one,
3 twenty-two of which the Upstate Alliance generated.
4 And others were generated either through some of our
5 investors or other folks within the state. Maybe the
6 Department of Commerce. Out of those you will see
7 that five are pending, three are inactive, two are
8 lost. What's real important here is to see that out
9 of twenty-one of those thirty-one RFIs, Anderson
10 County did not have eligible product. Now this is
11 very important as a constructive measure for the
12 Upstate Alliance to make sure we share with you that
13 in order for us to be able to market, in order for
14 Anderson County and Heather to be able to do her job,
15 we need to make sure that we have industrial parks,
16 we've got sites, we've got buildings that are all
17 certified and ready to go. In this case, Anderson
18 County missed out on twenty-one of those
19 opportunities because it did not have eligible
20 product for those prospects that were asking. And
21 this is something that we can work on constructively
22 together. Again it's not a finger pointing at
23 anyone. It's mainly a measure. As a local economic
24 developer from Orangeburg County, if anyone was
25 providing this to me when I was there, I would have
26 been grateful for that information. Target markets.
27 The Upstate Alliance is focusing on the five target
28 markets of automotive advanced materials, life
29 sciences, plastics, allied chemicals, and logistics.
30 You can see we've actually changed the way we've
31 marketed each of these target markets to marry
32 towards existing research capabilities from Clemson
33 University. And we think it's real important, you
34 guys here through the advanced materials research lab
35 in Anderson County have one of our main targeted
36 areas. And you'll see in a moment as we show you the
37 2008 marketing calendar some of the opportunities
38 that will be presented this year. Marketing agenda.
39 There will be fourteen different trade shows.
40 There's also nine different marketing missions, ten
41 events and conferences that are currently planned.
42 What we may end up doing because of the value of the
43 dollar, we may end up changing out some of the trade
44 shows and end up moving them into more missions that
45 are focused on Europe, Canada and Asia right now as
46 we are going to really see some opportunities in
47 those areas as they may take advantage to invest in
48 the US while the dollar value is low. Real quick on
49 the Upstate Alliance web site. We're investing over
50 two hundred, excuse me, over four hundred thousand

1 dollars into our web site on our GIS based system.
2 Two hundred thousand dollars of that came from
3 Advanced SC which is through Duke Energy. We're very
4 excited we're working with the Appalachian council of
5 governments. And we've got a great partnership with
6 them as well. We really enjoy this relationship.
7 They actually maintain all the demographics for the
8 entire region of the upstate as well as our GIS web
9 base. And they're partners in the investment of this
10 web site improvement. I'm going to come back to the
11 regional strategic plan if I can and finish up on
12 that. Because I know there are some comments that
13 need to made. Upstate Alliance is focusing on a
14 regional campaign. It's called I was blown away. I
15 was blown away is an opportunity to take the
16 stereotypes that we all face in South Carolina that
17 companies seem to have a perception about our region,
18 and we're asking folks who've moved here from other
19 locations to give their testimony about what they
20 thought before they got here and then how great it
21 was once they've gotten here. This is a great
22 opportunity. We've paired up with BMW and South
23 Carolina charities. The Upstate Alliance has been
24 asked by BMW and South Carolina charities to actually
25 host this event or this campaign. We will be raising
26 funds through our foundation. We've applied for
27 those. Currently we've raised over two hundred
28 thousand dollars. And we will be asking for
29 additional monies from the private sector to support
30 this. But there will be fifty-four different
31 commercials during the BMW pro-am promoting this
32 region. Now real quick. Back to the regional
33 strategic plan. We are in process of a regional
34 strategic plan within the Upstate Alliance. We have
35 been so as called by our past chair, Craig White. In
36 our annual meeting the consultants for this actually
37 proposed a strategy and where they were in the survey
38 process. We are not done collecting information.
39 This is only preliminary report to the Upstate
40 Alliance. I want to make sure that every citizen in
41 Anderson County understands that there is a bright
42 red link up here and every person has a voice of what
43 they want the Upstate Alliance to be if anything
44 different than it already is. So please visit our
45 strategy, our survey. One thing that came out of it
46 that caught a lot of word, and I do get a chance to
47 read up on the newspapers and the blogs and
48 everything here, and it's been quite a contested
49 issue, is one of the comments from our marketing
50 consultant came up and suggested that we actually

1 change the name of the Upstate Alliance -- Upstate
 2 South Carolina Alliance to the Upstate Alliance for
 3 the Greater Greenville-Spartanburg Region. Out of
 4 that has come a lot of interest from not just
 5 Anderson County but also Greenwood County. Those are
 6 so far the only two counties that have given us any
 7 information that they do object to a proposed name
 8 change of the Upstate Alliance. Let me be real
 9 clear. It is a proposed name change by our
 10 consultants. There has been no movement by our board
 11 of directors, by our chairman, our executive
 12 committee or anyone else on the Upstate Alliance to
 13 change the name. It's purely a recommendation. So
 14 any press or media that stated it any other way is
 15 absolutely false. The Upstate South Carolina
 16 Alliance is intact. We work for all ten counties in
 17 the upstate. And I believe it should be taken into
 18 consideration, as a brand, there are twelve other
 19 upstates in the United States. Twelve other upstates
 20 that are physically marketed in the United States.
 21 What makes us different, what differentiates us when
 22 we're talking to China or Germany, we need to listen
 23 to what our consultants say. Do we have to agree
 24 with them? No. Our question is, if there's a
 25 suggestion for a name change in order to better
 26 position us in the region, help us figure out what
 27 that answer is by participating with us. I open up
 28 for any questions, Mr. Chairman.

29 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

30 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

31 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold it. Hold it. Hold
 33 it. Mr. Johnson, just so you know, I object to the
 34 name change.

35 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And if you want to put
 37 Spartanburg, Greenville, just be sure Anderson is
 38 leading the way.

39 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

40 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

42 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43 And I know that I learned about this from Heidi Cenac
 44 interviewing me in the paper regarding it. And I
 45 feel that this is not just -- the potential name
 46 change is not just a disservice to Anderson County
 47 but to the eight other counties besides Greenville
 48 and Spartanburg that make up the Upstate region. We
 49 are all in this together. And for us to pick two of
 50 the ten counties out of the region to name the

1 alliance after I think is both a disservice and
2 unfair. Not only that, we have an established brand.
3 You know, once you create a brand it has an image in
4 the marketplace. We've spent a long time creating
5 the upstate South Carolina brand. I don't think that
6 the marketing effort necessary to change our brand
7 and create this new brand image is -- would
8 necessarily be worth it. And it certainly would not
9 be worth it to -- it certainly would be a disservice
10 to the other eight counties other than Greenville and
11 Spartanburg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Time has
14 expired on this issue. Do we wish to extend the
15 time?

16 LARRY GREER: I move to extend by five
17 minutes.

18 BILL MCABEE: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending
20 the time by five minutes please vote. It's
21 unanimous. Mr. -- who called for the floor?

22 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I did.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

24 CINDY WILSON: I understand where the
25 marketing effort is heading. And one suggestion that
26 I might make because before I came into county
27 council I did a lot of work with industrial clients.
28 And if I said Anderson, they didn't know. But if I
29 said Greenville-Spartanburg area they knew
30 immediately. So perhaps a possibility would be to do
31 something with Greenville-Spartanburg with a bigger
32 name, but have them write in smaller letters all the
33 counties underneath.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh (Negative).

35 CINDY WILSON: So that that would give us
36 the advantage of name recognition. I do know for a
37 fact that Anderson County probably has more of the
38 industrial land available and greater deal of
39 frontage on I-85 and plus all the other wonderful
40 communities. One question that I have to ask of you,
41 when you do your database on the properties
42 available, I know the Department of Commerce looked
43 at some things with them several years ago, Anderson
44 County had like three or four thousand acres in
45 various tracts in varying stages of readiness. Do we
46 have that possibility through the Upstate Alliance
47 currently to have all the tracts that are of interest
48 to industrial clients cataloged on your site?

49 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am. We actually
50 work hand in hand with Heather Jones and the Anderson

1 County EDO to make sure that any sites that they want
2 to have on our web site, it is given the proper
3 exposure.

4 CINDY WILSON: So if a landowner or real
5 estate broker representing a landowner has a parcel
6 they believe to be a proper industrial site, they
7 could refer that through Ms. Jones and then on to
8 you.

9 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

10 CINDY WILSON: And then it would go on to
11 the Department of Commerce in Columbia and to y'all.

12 HAL JOHNSON: Once it reaches Ms. Jones
13 at the Anderson County EDO, we share the information
14 with ACOG. It is placed on our web site. And then
15 we want to also make sure it's on the South Carolina
16 Department of Commerce's web site.

17 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, called for --
20 Mr. Greer.

21 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 I'm going to be real brief, real straight forward. I
23 strongly support economic development. It's been
24 something that I have been very much interested in
25 since I joined council. And I firmly support our
26 efforts to do economic development. But if we're
27 going to spend the money of Anderson County to
28 support an economic development organization, then
29 that organization needs to be representative of
30 Anderson County as well as the other counties. My
31 opinion is if you change the name of your
32 organization so that you're calling out two counties
33 and not the others then you're not representing my
34 county. You're taking my money and you're -- taking
35 my county's money and you're using that money to
36 advertise for Greenville, Spartanburg counties. And
37 you're not promoting and developing my county. And
38 if that's the case then I don't see any reason for
39 our county to pay funds to support the Upstate
40 Alliance. So I mean I don't know what the answer is
41 to what you're saying. I heard some of the
42 discussion prior to the meeting and I'm hearing what
43 you're saying as far as there's a number of upstates
44 across maybe the nation. If you want to change your
45 name, I strongly suggest that you don't change it so
46 that you earmark two counties and leave the other
47 eight out. I think you're going to face a similar
48 dilemma in those other eight counties if you pursue
49 that route. For instance, I'm thinking of a
50 publication that's printed in this area that's called

1 a GSA business publication.
2 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, sir.
3 LARRY GREER: You're aware of what I'm
4 talking about?
5 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, sir.
6 LARRY GREER: What does the A stand for
7 in that?
8 HAL JOHNSON: Anderson.
9 LARRY GREER: Thank you, sir.
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. How much time
12 do I have left? A couple of seconds? We going to
13 have to extend time because I have something I want
14 to say too concerning this. I adamantly -- what's
15 the next word? I adamantly ...
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oppose.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Oppose. Thank you. I
18 adamantly oppose to this happening. Anderson County
19 to us is just as important as Greenville and
20 Spartanburg counties are to their people. To leave
21 us out and to put us on the bottom in the little
22 writing on the bottom, that's second class. And I
23 think that we need to be right up there with the best
24 of them. We can play with the big dogs. What
25 bothers me though is you showed us something where we
26 lost something like twenty-one contacts. I want to
27 know why. What are we doing that Union -- what are
28 we not doing that Union is doing? Union is much
29 smaller than we are. They don't have highway 85 as
30 we do. They don't have the vastness that we do.
31 They don't have their area with infrastructure -- a
32 lot of area with infrastructure that we do. I would
33 like for you to go back through that list and tell me
34 why we have lost so many. I think we were the second
35 most county who lost these contacts. I want to know
36 why. You don't have to tell me now because he's
37 going to cut you off in a minute. Okay. But you
38 just, please, if you could just send us all a report.
39 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we as a
40 county council vote to disagree with this possible
41 name change. I'd like for it to go down on the
42 records.
43 LARRY GREER: Second.
44 BILL MCABEE: Second.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
46 on the floor to reject the name change to Upstate
47 Alliance Greenville-Spartanburg. And we have a
48 second.
49 CINDY WILSON: May I speak, please?
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on the

1 motion? Ms. Wilson.

2 CINDY WILSON: I understand the concern
3 that we have in maybe not ---

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, just a
5 moment. We've got to adjust the time. The chair
6 moves to extend this by five minutes.

7 BILL MCABEE: Second.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of five
9 minutes please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Wilson, please
10 continue.

11 CINDY WILSON: But knowing how a lot of
12 our industrial prospects look at us, they look at the
13 upstate region first of all and they recognize us
14 because of the Greenville-Spartanburg name. What we
15 need to realize is that we have more land available
16 than the other counties. And once they come to your
17 group you understand -- you come to understand what
18 their needs are and then you market the entire area.
19 I think that we are being very myopic and very
20 shortsighted myopic if we don't recognize how we're
21 being viewed internationally and nationally. I don't
22 think it takes away from us at all to have it under
23 Greenville-Spartanburg and maybe Anderson as long as
24 we've got those counties -- all the counties
25 underneath that name. But when someone is going to
26 go looking for a site in the upstate, they're going
27 to look at Greenville-Spartanburg first. I've been
28 reading what the marketing people told you and I
29 think there's a lot of merit there. I can't vote to
30 deny the continuation of study of this issue before
31 y'all come back to us with a proposal. Thank you.

32 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

34 BILL MCABEE: Ms. Floyd.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: You haven't spoken yet,
36 have you?

37 BILL MCABEE: Well I have once.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I forgot. Will go
40 to him so that I can remember?

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

42 BILL MCABEE: Yes. Thank you. I just
43 wanted to make one brief point. And there's nothing
44 wrong with having a regional branding identification
45 like Upstate Alliance South Carolina. The greater
46 Atlanta metro area is now no longer marketing itself
47 as Greater Atlanta. They're marketing themselves as
48 North Georgia metro. It's a tremendous area, a
49 hundred miles across that has gone together to market
50 themselves. And it's not Atlanta. It's North

1 Georgia metro. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. When the
5 Upstate Alliance folks first came to us about this
6 organizing thing, I think we had a meeting over at
7 the hospital. That was the first time I ever heard
8 about it. They were bringing it to Anderson and they
9 had people there from everywhere. And you all were
10 courting everybody. And you start telling us how all
11 of us would be represented. I had reservations then.
12 I had reservations then. But you assured the group
13 there that this was going to include everybody. We
14 would all get the same type of attention and that one
15 would not supersede the other. And now a couple of
16 years later -- let's see that was my first year. I
17 came in 1999. How many years is that? Almost ten
18 years later you're coming back. Seven years?
19 BILL MCABEE: Eight years.
20 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Eight years.
21 You're coming back and you're doing something brand
22 new here. You're doing what I thought you was going
23 to do all the time. Make a liar out of me which I
24 don't do. But make a liar out of me. Okay. Thank
25 you.
26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr.
28 Martin. Two minutes. Mr. Greer.
29 LARRY GREER: Thank you. I will be
30 brief. I know I think Mr. Waldrep wants to chime in
31 and say a little something. What was your
32 predecessor's name. I'm trying to remember but it
33 won't come to me.
34 HAL JOHNSON: Sam Konduros.
35 LARRY GREER: Sam Konduros. Like Ms.
36 Floyd when the Upstate Alliance was first started I
37 met with Mr. Konduros and someone else, I can't
38 remember who it was at this point in time, in my
39 office back here. And we talked for about an hour
40 and a half and he was showing me the various
41 publications that the Upstate Alliance was proposing
42 and what they were doing. And I was looking at it
43 and reviewing it. And there was something
44 conspicuously missing from the maps and so forth.
45 Guess what that was? I was Anderson. It was not on
46 there. Greenville-Spartanburg was showing up rather
47 clearly, boldly, on the map. This showed I-85.
48 Anderson was mentioned, but it wasn't on the map so
49 to speak. And I made a very loud and clear point at
50 that point in time that if they wanted us to

1 participate then Anderson did indeed need to be a
2 major player in this and it needed to be recognized
3 and published throughout all the publications. And
4 that changed after that meeting. And I'm kind of
5 like Ms. Floyd. We're backing up. We're not going
6 forward now. We're backing up to what I saw
7 happening when this thing first started. So you
8 know, if the name needs to be changed to better
9 market the upstate to foreign corporations, I can
10 understand the logic and the reasoning there. But to
11 change it to a name that earmarks two counties in my
12 opinion is grossly wrong to the other eight counties.
13 And I will pursue every effort to make sure that
14 doesn't happen.

15 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

17 BOB WALDREP: Just a quick question.

18 How about the Anderson Area Regional? Would that be
19 a good idea? Anderson Area Regional Alliance.

20 HAL JOHNSON: Then all nine counties
21 would object, as well, sir, if I ---

22 BOB WALDREP: No. I'm just being a
23 little facetious.

24 HAL JOHNSON: That's okay.

25 BOB WALDREP: But I just wanted to ask
26 you one quick question. And that was, of all the
27 things we need to do, what do you think is first of
28 all the thing that we need to do most in Anderson
29 County? And maybe I didn't pick that up. And
30 secondly, I wanted to ask your opinion about frontage
31 roads and how important they are to our industrial
32 development in this area. Just those two questions.

33 HAL JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, if I may.
34 The first thing, the most important thing in Anderson
35 County is to make sure that there's a singular
36 message for economic development that's delivered
37 from the county and the cities respectively to the
38 region, to the state, to the world. We need to make
39 sure we're carrying a singular message. We don't
40 need to -- we need to make sure that there's not
41 multiple arms of economic development happening
42 within the community that aren't going through a
43 unified -- that's why you have a county economic
44 development office. Secondly, and I think it's very
45 important that every county have that same mission
46 and focus. And once they have that established, we
47 know how to sell them. As regards to frontage roads
48 is concerned, I think that anytime we're doing
49 planning whether it's -- and you can look at
50 Bluffton, South Carolina. I grew up on Hilton Head.

1 And the worst road in all of South Carolina is 278
2 going into Hilton Head. They should have planned
3 frontage roads right on the edge of it in order to
4 ease traffic. Well the same thing here. If you're
5 expanding opportunities to open up your interstate
6 frontage, Anderson County has over forty miles of it.
7 We want to help promote that interstate frontage.
8 But we're missing access and we're missing
9 infrastructure to a great part of that. You've got a
10 great opportunity to market and there are plenty of
11 great future sites out there. But we've got to work
12 on two things, access and infrastructure.

13 BOB WALDREP: Could you help us with
14 that? Could you help us with the planning?

15 HAL JOHNSON: I'd be glad to help with
16 the planning process, sir. I spent six and a half
17 years doing that in Orangeburg County.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: On Ms. Floyd's motion you
19 stand opposed to the naming of Upstate Alliance
20 Greenville-Spartanburg. All in favor of this motion
21 please vote. Four, five. I'm sorry. And Ms.
22 Wilson, how do you vote?

23 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five, zero with Ms.
25 Wilson abstaining. Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
26 Johnson.

27 HAL JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman,
28 out of respect may I have two minutes?

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What about thirty
30 seconds?

31 HAL JOHNSON: Okay. Thirty seconds is
32 fine. Please, I want everyone in this room to
33 understand that the findings that have come to you
34 today with name change recommendations are not that
35 of the Upstate Alliance's staff, the board or the
36 executive committee. It is our consultants that have
37 offered us these opportunities, that have viewed us
38 and benchmarked us against other regions around the
39 United States. Want to make sure that's very clear
40 that it's not your staff that is making these
41 recommendations.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

43 HAL JOHNSON: Thank you, sir.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item fourteen.

45 Presentation on Lake Hartwell, United States Army
46 Corp of engineers, grant funds for market analysis
47 and/or impact studies. Mr. Mike Gray, co-chair,
48 South Carolina - Lake Hartwell Coalition. Mr. Gray.

49 MIKE GRAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
50 and council. Just wanted to take a moment or two

1 here to give you a little history. Mr. Nelson will
2 give us a presentation and then I'll make some brief
3 comments at the end. But we're a coalition of the
4 chamber of commerces and municipalities, counties and
5 cities around Lake Hartwell. And this goes back
6 several years. And a couple of gentlemen here
7 tonight that helped get this started. Lee Love,
8 President of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, was
9 asked if he could help get all the chambers around
10 the lake involved. He hosted a meeting where we did
11 that. Then Mr. Preston was asked if he would do the
12 same thing with all the municipalities around the
13 lake. And he graciously did that. Ms. Floyd, Mr.
14 Thompson, Mr. Greer were involved in those early
15 meetings. And they were not solicited to help. They
16 volunteered. They really were interested in the lake
17 and jumped out front on this issue. Of course Mr.
18 Waldrep has been a champion of water issues forever
19 and he was deeply involved in those original
20 meetings. And we eventually formed a coalition of
21 each of these organizations. And that culminated in
22 a meeting where we met with the municipalities and
23 the chambers all together. And as we were making one
24 of these presentations the other night over in Hart
25 County, one of the council people reminded me that he
26 voted for me to be chairman of that committee. And I
27 asked him please not to ever do that again. And I'm
28 reminded tonight that Ms. Floyd insisted that I be
29 the chairman of that committee, and I'm certainly
30 asking and encouraging you not to do that again also.
31 But this has been quite a journey. But co-part, we
32 have a co-chairman over in Georgia. And he's here
33 tonight too, Mr. Tom Colie. Tom works real hard over
34 in Georgia to do the same things that we're trying to
35 do over here. As a result of all those meetings and
36 all the times -- we ended up with a meeting over here
37 at the corp of engineers office about four or five
38 months ago. I know Mr. Waldrep, Mr. Greer, Mr.
39 Thompson were at that meeting. And we decided that
40 we would go forward with some attempt to do a study
41 on Lake Hartwell to measure what economic impact that
42 it has on upstate South Carolina, northeast Georgia.
43 And what effect lake levels have on that impact. At
44 that meeting we were instructed to go forward. We
45 formed a committee. Clemson University, the Strom
46 Thurmond Institute, Dr. Michael Mikota and the Corp
47 of Engineers, not the division that operates our
48 lake, but a division that does research on parks and
49 recreation will combine to actually do this study and
50 Mr. Nelson will give you the details of that.

1 BURRIS NELSON: This is a photo of what
2 the lake looks like without water in it. I'm sure
3 most of you are aware of that. Of course, this is
4 Anderson, the list of the counties and the cities.
5 And at this point, Mr. Chairman, I'd like a point of
6 personal privilege to apologize to council and to Ms.
7 Eddleman. I sent the document to her for the agenda
8 posting that used the word grant. And the Corp of
9 Engineers does not use the word grant. These are
10 matching funds. So if I can correct that for our use
11 as well as for the Corp of Engineers' purposes. How
12 does lake level impact our local economy? And that's
13 a question that we've asked and need to know. How
14 much bare shoreline does it take to impact visits to
15 the lake? And of course we're concerned about our
16 tourism efforts there as well as any other reason to
17 visit the lake. How many dollars of lost retail
18 occur when the lake levels drop by any incremental
19 amount, four feet, six feet, or when it gets down as
20 low as ten feet or fifteen feet below full pool? And
21 then how do low lake levels impact other sectors of
22 the economy? We have an example in Anderson County
23 of a company who came here when the lake was full. A
24 man happened to visit here, saw the lake full
25 visiting his sister, said this is a beautiful place
26 and brought his company here. And they're located on
27 29 South now. I don't know that the same thing would
28 have occurred if he'd come today and seen the lake
29 the way it is today. And in this photo you can see
30 that there's actually rain. And one of the interns
31 that took this photo is twenty-two years old and he
32 said at the time that he'd never actually seen rain.
33 How can we know? Market analysis using sales tax
34 data has been a determination. We've discussed this
35 from many parties on both sides of the lake as well
36 as the folks at Corp offices and at Strom Thurmond
37 Institute. Lake property sales may be another
38 indicator, a way of figuring out how it impacts the
39 lake level. Surveys of local business. And then who
40 will perform this. And of course we talked about the
41 study and we worked with the Corp, Clemson University
42 and Strom Thurmond, and Mike has mentioned already
43 Dr. Mikota is working with Strom Thurmond and will
44 help us with that as well as contributions from
45 counties, cities, towns, chambers, and citizens. And
46 how much will it cost? And first to determine that
47 we had to figure out what the scope of work was and
48 what we needed to do to come up with some money -- to
49 come up with this information we needed. We
50 solicited local input to establish the scope and

1 desired outcomes. Went to the US Army Corp of
 2 Engineers and Strom Thurmond to formulate the work
 3 load and a time line. Then through that information
 4 they determined that phase one of this, and we think
 5 that phase one may be enough, would be about two
 6 hundred thousand dollars and about a ten month time
 7 line. And who will pay? And of course this is phase
 8 one. This is -- funds will come and these are
 9 matching dollars, I emphasize matching dollars, from
 10 the United States Army Corp of Engineers planning
 11 assistance to the states. They have a hundred
 12 thousand dollars that we think we will be able to
 13 access. And then coalition, towns, counties, cities,
 14 chambers of commerce will come up with the rest. The
 15 money that the corp has, and the money that the towns
 16 and the counties come up with must be handled through
 17 a non-federal political subdivision that has taxing
 18 authority to receive and manage the USACE's matching
 19 funds and the balance of the funds. That is a
 20 federal requirement. We've had some discussion at
 21 all of the county meetings and all of the citizen
 22 meetings we've had in the past. I have proposed that
 23 Anderson be the host county. And that because we
 24 have a fairly large staff and you have Gina and
 25 others in that office, additional work, but because
 26 we have a grant opportunity or grant group in there
 27 that tracks money and funds similar to these, that we
 28 might be able to do that. And we've had much
 29 discussion about how to divide up the -- how much
 30 money would come from each coalition member. When
 31 you look at six equal parts, you divide it by a
 32 population, by miles of shoreline or even geographic
 33 size, in most of the conversations with all of the
 34 counties that we've met and discussed these things
 35 with, we feel like and they feel like so far and
 36 we've gotten some acceptance already that miles of
 37 shoreline is a method to look at how to contribute
 38 and share proportionally the hundred thousand dollar
 39 funding component. And of course how will the
 40 analysis be used? I'm going to let Mike complete
 41 that and give you some information for that
 42 component.

43 MIKE GRAY: And we're here tonight
 44 because, as I tried to outline in the very beginning,
 45 Anderson's always been the hub to what we've done.
 46 And we would hope you'd strongly consider what Burris
 47 has asked, that you be the hosting county and go
 48 forward with this and continue to be a hub in what
 49 we're trying to do. They other of course is asking
 50 for money and you have a booklet on your desk. If

1 you look on the last page, how we prorate it with the
2 amount of shoreline that each county contains, and we
3 have a suggested amount of money for each county. We
4 have made this presentation. Oconee County, they've
5 already written a letter committing the funds to the
6 study. We've made the presentation in Hart County.
7 We're meeting with them again next Tuesday, I
8 believe, to finalize what they will be doing. But it
9 appears that they're going to be giving the funds
10 that we've requested from them. If we get the amount
11 from you folks, and we hope you round it up a little
12 bit and give us a little more maybe than you're
13 supposed to, it would be enough to begin the study
14 and start phase one. We're going to continue to
15 visit with every county, every city around the lake.
16 And we're going to also ask that we be allowed to
17 make this presentation to Greenville County and the
18 city of Greenville and especially in light of the
19 success that the Bass Classic tournament with ESPN
20 here a couple of weeks ago. In just listening to the
21 previous presentation, I don't think it's going to be
22 very long, especially if ESPN keeps catching fish on
23 the lake, that we're going to know where Anderson is.
24 It's right there next to Lake Hartwell. I appreciate
25 that you give this your utmost consideration. And I
26 really appreciate the time that your folks devote to
27 your county. Thank you.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Gray, you so --
30 referring to the chart on the last page. You are
31 asking Anderson County, which has of course the most
32 shoreline, to contribute thirty-four thousand two
33 hundred and thirty-eight dollars and ninety-seven
34 cents to this study. Is that correct?

35 MIKE GRAY: I would ask you to do that
36 if you would not give forty thousand.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Floyd.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I might have missed
39 this, but did you tell us when the funds are needed
40 or when we should, you know, come up with this money?

41 MIKE GRAY: We're looking now at the
42 possibility of starting this study toward the end of
43 April.

44 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

45 MIKE GRAY: We would not need all the
46 money to start the study.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. May I continue?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment please. Time
49 has expired. Do we wish to extend this conversation?

50 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I move to

1 extend by five minutes.
2 LARRY GREER: Second.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending
4 by five minutes please vote. Unanimous. Okay. Ms.
5 Floyd, please continue.
6 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So you're talking
7 about the money being done in this fiscal year? I
8 thought we could do it in the next fiscal year, but
9 you're talking about now, '08?
10 MIKE GRAY: I can't tell you when to
11 give the money, but yes, we would need it any time
12 that you gave it to us.
13 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But you can tell us
14 when you need it. And you would like to have it in
15 this fiscal year, '08. Right?
16 MIKE GRAY: Yes, ma'am.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. And
18 will you sign, please, a contract saying that you
19 will not erase Anderson out of it ten years from now?
20 MIKE GRAY: Yes, ma'am, I will.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, did you ask
22 for the floor?
23 CINDY WILSON: Just briefly please. I
24 noticed that the most economical approach to this for
25 Anderson County would be via the landmass. That
26 would be a little less money.
27 MIKE GRAY: That's correct, but when
28 you get into land masses, because the counties in
29 Georgia are just structured differently than in
30 Anderson, it really doesn't compare apples with
31 apples anymore.
32 CINDY WILSON: I was just being funny.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?
34 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
36 LARRY GREER: Mr. Gray, as we've gone
37 through the discussions on this at some time in the
38 past I remember that there was some discussion of the
39 in-kind services as a part of the grant. Is that
40 still a possibility like our GIS people and some of
41 those providing some of the services and that being
42 part of the funds. Is that still a possibility or is
43 that not part of what we're looking at?
44 MIKE GRAY: I'll let Burris answer
45 that.
46 BURRIS NELSON: It has to be approved by
47 the Corp of Engineers. But up to twenty-five percent
48 of that total for all the counties, towns and cities.
49 But it has to be approved by the Corp of Engineers
50 what that in-kind is.

1 LARRY GREER: So our staff could put
2 together a possible in-kind service as a part of
3 this? And that's something that we could look at?
4 MIKE GRAY: Yes, sir. Anderson County
5 and any of the other counties. Yes, sir.
6 LARRY GREER: Okay. Mr. Preston, did
7 you hear that?
8 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I did.
9 LARRY GREER: Thank you.
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Thank you,
11 Mr. Gray.
12 MIKE GRAY: Thank you.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item fifteen has been
14 removed from the agenda at the request of the
15 sponsors.
16 JOEY PRESTON: No. We're prepared to
17 make that tonight.
18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Outreach Entertainers?
19 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. It won't take
20 but just a minute.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.
22 MICHELLE STRANGE: Mr. Chairman and council,
23 I do come to you on behalf of the Outreach
24 Entertainers to thank you. Earlier in the year you
25 as a council approved a five hundred dollar
26 appropriation from the district one recreation
27 account to purchase sound equipment for the Anderson
28 County Outreach Entertainers. And since the first of
29 the year they have been visiting places near and far
30 and have visited, they're probably nearly a thousand
31 people since the first of the year with that
32 equipment. So it's been traveling. And they just
33 sincerely wanted to say thank you. They're putting
34 it to good use and really appreciate the council and
35 your allowing them to entertain other folks. And
36 they had an engagement last night and have one in the
37 morning and said if you haven't already seen them you
38 would be welcome to join them. They would be
39 tomorrow morning at ten a.m., Williamston Town Hall,
40 and they're expecting over a hundred participants to
41 be there. So if you haven't heard them sing and play
42 music and spread joy in the hearts of many of our
43 seniors, they just wanted to share with you that they
44 have been enjoying it as have area residents. So
45 thank you for the donation on their behalf.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Strange.
47 Item sixteen, agreed upon procedures with the
48 external auditor. Ms. Wilson, ten minutes.
49 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 That was pretty much covered by the resolution. So

1 at this time other than to encourage all of us to
2 work together on this and have it ready for the next
3 meeting, I'll withdraw it.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Questions
5 regarding financial reports and appropriations. Mr.
6 Waldrep.

7 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
8 I wasn't quite sure about the budget, when we were
9 going to get the budget. Was that ---

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, I presented you at
11 the beginning, before the meeting, the schedule.

12 BOB WALDREP: When is that?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So look on your schedule.
14 We're going to have three workshops.

15 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And then we're going to
17 have -- during the workshop we're going to have a
18 budget presentation.

19 BOB WALDREP: Is that April 1st? You
20 had some meeting on -- I wasn't sure whether that was
21 April Fools Day.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, the called
23 meeting for April 1st is not regarding the budget.

24 BOB WALDREP: What are you calling it
25 for?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm wanting to rearrange
27 the way we do things so that we don't sit here all
28 night. And so we're going to have a three o'clock
29 meeting to do non-legislative actions. And then
30 we're going to take care of the board meeting issues
31 during the actual council meeting. But I presented
32 you with the agenda before the meeting regarding the
33 budget.

34 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So we will have the
35 budget at the first meeting before that, that
36 meeting?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: During the workshops the
38 budget presentation will be given. And we're going
39 to have three workshops.

40 BOB WALDREP: Okay. But we'll have an
41 actual budget.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.
43 We'll have an actual budget.

44 BOB WALDREP: Okay. All right. That
45 was one question I had. And then the other one was
46 the fact that I'm still trying to get copies from the
47 administration, Mr. Preston, of the information that
48 was copied back in February that Ms. Wilson and I
49 went up and was copied when we were up in the council
50 chamber or rather conference room. And do you have

1 any idea when we might have that? That was back in
2 February.

3 JOEY PRESTON: I'll check with the
4 finance staff tomorrow and see when that package will
5 be ready for you, sir.

6 BOB WALDREP: That doesn't give me an
7 answer. Is there some way you can ever give me an
8 answer? You're always checking with somebody, and I
9 just -- Mr. Preston, I never get any kind of answer
10 from you.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

12 JOEY PRESTON: I'll try to give you an
13 answer tomorrow. I've got to talk to the finance
14 staff because I don't know exactly what you asked for
15 at that time so it's hard for me to sit here tonight
16 and give you that answer. If you had asked me before
17 the council meeting I would have had an answer for
18 you.

19 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well I'll try to
20 ask you that. And then did you get my check for a
21 hundred and thirty-seven dollars today?

22 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. They're
23 gathering that information for you now.

24 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Now that check, as
25 I understand it, is payment to the council to take
26 care of the records that I have asked to reconstruct
27 the information about the donations and the
28 bookkeeping procedures that you're using.

29 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

30 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Now can you give me
31 any kind of projection about when that might be
32 available?

33 JOEY PRESTON: You should have that this
34 week, sir.

35 BOB WALDREP: In two weeks?

36 JOEY PRESTON: No. This week.

37 BOB WALDREP: This week.

38 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

39 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. That's
40 all I have. Thank you.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
42 Appointments. Mr. McAbee. Well, let's just go down
43 the list. Mr. Waldrep, do you have any appointments?

44 BOB WALDREP: No appointments.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, any
46 appointments?

47 GRACIE FLOYD: No appointments.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, any
49 appointments?

50 LARRY GREER: None.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
2 BILL MCABEE: None.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None from district five.
4 Mr. Wilson is not here. Ms. Wilson, any
5 appointments? Very good. Requests from council.
6 Mr. Waldrep, any requests?
7 BOB WALDREP: No. No requests.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
9 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I have one request
10 please. I would like to use one thousand dollars of
11 district two's rec fund to go to the cub scout troop
12 number twenty-five that meets out at the Jebco
13 Center. This is in the form of a motion.
14 BILL MCABEE: Second.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor please vote.
16 Unanimous.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: That's all I have.
18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
19 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 I have four, but I'm going to lump three of them
21 together and then make the second one separate. At
22 this time I move to appropriate thirty-seven thousand
23 dollars from the district three paving account for
24 paving, grading and drainage at the Starr athletic
25 complex. Five thousand dollars for paving, grating
26 and drainage for the town of Iva. Five thousand
27 dollars for paving, grating and drainage for the town
28 of Belton. And that's in the form of a motion.
29 BILL MCABEE: Second.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of Mr.
31 Greer's motion please vote. Unanimous.
32 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I have one
33 more. That's to appropriate one thousand dollars
34 from the district three recreation account to the
35 Parker-Bowie Old Farm Days.
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
37 All in favor please vote. It is unanimous. Is that
38 all, Mr. Greer?
39 LARRY GREER: That's all. Thank you.
40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
41 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have two which I will
43 lump together. I move to appropriate one thousand
44 dollars from the district five rec fund to Keep
45 America Beautiful for the purchase of tarps. That's
46 for their tarp campaign. And also from the district
47 five rec account, one thousand dollars to the JV
48 baseball team at Westside High School for the
49 purchase of uniforms and equipment. Is there a
50 second for my motion?

1 BILL MCABEE: Second.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
3 favor please vote. Mr. Waldrep, how are you voting?
4 Mr. Waldrep. I appropriated a thousand dollars to
5 Westside High School JV baseball team and a thousand
6 dollars to Keep America Beautiful. Okay. The vote
7 is unanimous. Okay. That is all for me. Mr. Wilson
8 is not here. Ms. Wilson.

9 CINDY WILSON: None. Thank you.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. At
11 this time you probably can tell that I am sick and
12 all that. So at this time the chair moves to
13 adjourn. Is there a second?

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
16 adjourning please raise your hand. Three. Oppose.
17 Three. So the motion to adjourn does not pass.
18 Moving on to the administrator's report. Any
19 comments, Mr. Preston?

20 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. It stands as
21 submitted.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Citizens'
23 comments.

24 CINDY WILSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry.

26 CINDY WILSON: I had a question on the
27 departmental transfers.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Go right
29 ahead.

30 CINDY WILSON: This goes back to a
31 question that I've been asking for months and months
32 and months about the appearance of twenty-eight
33 thousand two hundred and fifty dollars in a
34 department 5851, which is the special appropriations
35 account, I mean department, which covers everything
36 from taking care of medical bills at the hospital for
37 poor people, the indigent, to the YMCA and so forth.
38 But there was a notice of twenty-eight thousand some
39 odd dollars. And it was not in the original budget
40 that we voted on. It was in the bound budget and
41 then it shows up in the ledger reports. And I wonder
42 if our administrator could please tell me more
43 precisely why this reason to cover amount needed to
44 balance general fund budget savings came from
45 vacancies and reducing travel. And yet it comes from
46 the account name of parts reimbursement and fleet
47 services and goes to unspecified reductions. I just
48 don't quite understand that.

49 JOEY PRESTON: Ms. Wilson, I believe you
50 have that backwards, I believe.

1 CINDY WILSON: It says from parts
2 reimbursements, department named fleet services to
3 unspecified reductions and the appropriations, the
4 special appropriations.

5 JOEY PRESTON: You're talking about the
6 transfer that's in the book. You're not talking
7 about some other GLR report you've seen.

8 CINDY WILSON: No. What I'm saying is
9 that it was not in the budget that we voted on, but
10 it showed up in the bound version that we finally
11 got, I think October or November for fiscal year '07-
12 08. And then I saw it in the GL65. But ...

13 JOEY PRESTON: I will get Mr. Hopkins to
14 give a little better explanation. That is his
15 department. Go ahead, Mr. Hopkins.

16 CINDY WILSON: But to balance general
17 fund budget ...

18 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Hopkins can explain.

19 Hoyt Hopkins: The general budget for
20 this year, we were over ---

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir. Mr. Hopkins, can I
22 please indulge your -- I'm going to excuse myself and
23 the vice chairman will preside over the remaining of
24 the meeting.

25 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Hopkins, whenever
26 you're ready you may continue.

27 HOLT HOPKINS: If you remember in the
28 budget discussions last year we came up short as a
29 whole in the county budget. And county council asked
30 staff to reduce our budget. This was fleet services
31 contribution to that effort to help balance the
32 books.

33 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Hopkins.

34 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

35 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Greer.

36 LARRY GREER: Just to shed a little bit
37 more light on this. I'm remembering correctly and
38 it's been some time, I think during the final budget
39 presentations there was a number, and I'm not sure
40 this is the same number I think it was, but there was
41 a number that was unspecified reductions to be
42 determined at a later date that was part of the
43 budget presentations. And from what I'm reading here
44 this is an effort to cover that and take care of it.

45 JOEY PRESTON: It's a part of it. Yes,
46 sir. I'll provide Ms. Wilson with a copy of the
47 minutes where that was discussed and what we were
48 directed to do at that time.

49 CINDY WILSON: I just don't understand
50 why it comes from fleet services and goes to a new

1 category in the special appropriations department.
2 And I've asked this question going back to I guess
3 August or September.

4 JOEY PRESTON: That's the way you have to
5 account for it. I'll get the ---

6 CINDY WILSON: But nobody would answer it
7 then.

8 JOEY PRESTON: -- to try to explain that
9 to you in writing.

10 CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you.

11 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Preston.

12 Citizens' comments. The rules that applied to
13 citizens' comments earlier in the meeting apply now.
14 Mr. Martin.

15 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 There are four citizens signed under other matters.

17 CITIZENS' COMMENTS OTHER MATTERS

18 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
19 citizens under other matters.

20 BILL MCABEE: I see. Thank you, Mr.
21 Martin. Mrs. Floyd.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have a
23 couple of things I wanted to say and I sure wanted to
24 get out early tonight. But this is one of these
25 nights where I'm just troubled here. Okay. The
26 manager sat down talking about who we're going to
27 represent. I can't speak for the others, but I
28 represent twenty-two thousand people. Twenty-two
29 thousand people. That man that stood up just then
30 was only one person. Okay. If he were in my
31 district would he want me to represent his views and
32 don't worry about the others. Or do I represent all
33 twenty-two thousand views. Folks, you need to look
34 at that. You aren't the only people that we
35 represent. I have some folks in my district who are
36 delighted with what we do here. I have some folks in
37 my district who encourages me to keep going to
38 support what we're doing here. And I have some
39 people in my district that tell me other things. But
40 when I represent district two, I represent all
41 twenty-two thousand. I do it the best way that I
42 can. God gave me a mind, and I use that mind to make
43 the best decision possible taking in all accounts.
44 Mr. Preston works for me. He works for me and
45 district two. If I were not satisfied with him I
46 would bring up some charges or I would go to him and
47 tell him, I'm not satisfied. I've never had to do
48 that because I'm satisfied. And I wish that you
49 folks would get a grip on it. I'm so sick of hearing
50 about the lake thing. The lake thing. I am so sick

1 of it. And you just keep bringing it up. For what
2 reason? For what reason? I'm going to go to that
3 lake. Yeah. And I'm going to have you meet me out
4 there so we can start our own rumor. And believe me,
5 honey, it would be a rumor. Okay. But we need to
6 get a grip on it. If you don't like what your
7 council person is doing then vote him out, vote her
8 out.

9 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

10 GRACIE FLOYD: ... I was born and reared
11 in Columbia, South Carolina. That's where I was
12 born. My husband married me on a Saturday and
13 brought me here on a Sunday, the next day. And I
14 have been here every since. And I will not leave. I
15 have no family, no kin folks here. It's just me all
16 by myself. But I'm here and I'm here to stay. And I
17 love it more than some of you who were born and bred
18 here. I sat here tonight and listened to somebody
19 say, well go ahead and put up the big name counties
20 and then underneath that in the little teeny weeny
21 writing put down Anderson County. I'm bigger than
22 that. I'm bigger than that. The county I represent
23 is bigger than that. If we can't be first, we'll
24 take our ball and go home. If we can't be up there
25 with the best of them, we're going to take our ball
26 and we're going to go home. I am nobody's second
27 class nothing. We need to get a grip on things,
28 folks. This has gone on long enough. This has gone
29 on long enough. I've got work to do. I've got a
30 county. I have five mill sites in that county and I
31 need to work. I don't have time to come up here
32 every night, every week to listen to the same old
33 things. I don't have time for that. If that
34 television station was not on now, half of you
35 wouldn't be coming up here. It must feel good to see
36 yourself on TV. I hate to see me on TV. I don't
37 listen to it. It must feel good to hear yourself on
38 the radio spouting ignorance. I don't listen to the
39 thing. All I'm saying is get a grip on it. I mean
40 just get a life. Let's move on here. And with that,
41 Mr. Chairman, can I leave? Thank you so much. I'm
42 finished.

43 BILL MCABEE: All right. Thank you. By
44 all means. Ms. Wilson.

45 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you. I would
46 request the status report on the Kroger project. I
47 want to know who did the inspection because we were
48 told that there would not be a need for demolition.
49 But most sensible people involved in the real estate
50 or construction industry saw that we needed a site

1 ready place because that old building really was
 2 going to cost more to work with than to start fresh
 3 at that same sight. The other questions involve, at
 4 the last council meeting, the representative from
 5 district two referred to a waterline that had been
 6 run in her district. And we desperately need
 7 waterlines all over the county. But apparently there
 8 was not an appropriation from that respective
 9 district's recreation or paving funds. So I request
 10 to know how much funding was provided for the county
 11 and just a status report on that situation. And also
 12 just a reminder to Mr. Preston. I did do an FOI
 13 which stated on February 5th to provide under FOIA
 14 all monies paid to and expenses paid for fiscal year
 15 '06-07, fiscal year '07-08 to date for the following
 16 individuals. I got the information and Mr. Paul
 17 Brown, but in your response you said that the county
 18 had not paid any money to or expenses for Amy Plummer
 19 or Allison Schaum. But that's contradicted by some
 20 of the documents that we've been provided and I would
 21 request to have that answered please. And fourthly,
 22 there was a response to an article in the Anderson
 23 Independent where our administrator said that the
 24 landfill company, Allied Waste, by contract had to
 25 provide to the county seventy-five thousand plus or
 26 minus dollars per year. And I asked to see that copy
 27 of the contract. And the response indicates that
 28 this was a verbal agreement that Allied Waste made to
 29 give money back to the community. Does this include
 30 the campaign contributions that are made by Allied
 31 Waste to various council campaigns? I would like to
 32 have that information provided please. And also,
 33 finally, we were supposed to evaluate by the
 34 ordinance dealing with out contract with Mr. Preston.
 35 By February 1st we're supposed to do an evaluation
 36 every year. And would we please have a status report
 37 on that? Thank you.

38 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep.

39 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

40 I just have a couple of comments about economic
 41 development. It seems like it's become a very broad
 42 and open umbrella. I was interested tonight when we
 43 heard from Upstate Alliance and that got kicked
 44 around pretty well about what the county could do to
 45 better improve our situation of dealing with economic
 46 development in Anderson County. The thing that I
 47 like best of all hearing from the gentleman that
 48 spoke to us tonight was that we speak with one voice.
 49 I've just gotten the impression that we've had a lot
 50 of voices running around in Anderson County and

1 different places. It's given me a lot of concern. I
2 would like for us to think about we're all members of
3 the economic advisory development board, are we not?
4 We're not? Well I thought we -- help me out on that.
5 What are we if we -- don't we participate as council
6 people as members of an advisory board of economic
7 development? Can anyone help me out on that?

8 LARRY GREER: You want me to answer?

9 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.

10 LARRY GREER: There's five members of
11 this council that was appointed by the chairman two,
12 three meetings ago that sit on the formerly economic
13 development partnership board that is called Innovate
14 Anderson that were appointed by the chair.

15 BOB WALDREP: Well, it's my
16 understanding, maybe I've misunderstood, that all
17 members of the county council were on that board.
18 Having said that, I just think it's important that
19 this board try to reign in its horses so to speak and
20 focus out there as far as economic development is
21 concerned. I might have an impression that's not
22 accurate about how it's working. But at least maybe
23 when we get into some of our workshops we can get a
24 little bit more information about this organization,
25 how it works, and how we can begin speaking with one
26 voice rather than all of the voices that I hear.
27 Thank you.

28 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Greer.

29 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 When I came here tonight I hadn't planned on saying
31 anything in closing remarks. But I'm going to have
32 to. Is that Mike Panasko I see sitting back there?
33 Good. I'm going to try to answer a part of Mr.
34 Waldrep's concerns and then I'm going to ask Mike to
35 come forward. Yes, I am. It's my time. The
36 Anderson County Economic Development Partnership
37 formally, now Innovate Anderson, which I strongly
38 disagreed with when it happened and I still strongly
39 disagree with it. I think it should be Innovate
40 Anderson County. That six letter word, county, is
41 not a dirty word and it's all inclusive of the entire
42 county and does not simply lead one to believe that
43 the partnership represents only the metro Anderson
44 area. And that's why I strongly disagree with it.
45 And I have made my disagreement known. But Mr.
46 Panasko is not performing the same job as our
47 economic development office. And he works through
48 the partnership and it's assisted by a large number
49 of private firms who participate in the Innovate
50 Anderson, I still prefer partnership, who participate

1 in that. And his role is so to speak to assist our
2 economic development partnership, not to actually do
3 their job for them or be the frontrunner or out there
4 soliciting clients and things like that. It's an
5 accessory, I guess, is the best way to put it. So
6 Mr. Panasko, about two minutes. Would you come
7 forward and kind of give your version of what's
8 happening with that versus what's occurring with
9 economic development?

10 MIKE PANASKO: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
11 Happy to do that. And actually I would invite all
12 council members and those that are on the advisory
13 board or have been nominated by the chairman to
14 attend our board meeting next Thursday, the 27th, at
15 eight o'clock in the morning to hear more about, in
16 detail about our organization. But Mr. Greer hit the
17 nail on the head about our role in economic
18 development and the support mechanism that we provide
19 for Heather Jones's group. We have what I like to
20 refer to as clients. And this is -- I'm going to try
21 and pick up the pace here. We're here to support the
22 initiatives that come out of the EDO office here
23 locally. That's one of our clients. Our second
24 client is the Clemson University Advanced Materials
25 Center and that we manage and develop that process.
26 We're also responsible for the Anderson Convention
27 and Visitor's Bureau as well. Many of you know Glenn
28 Brill. Our forth client is the community as a whole
29 in representing Anderson County. What we went
30 through in the branding process and some of the
31 members here have seen that in the end result which
32 was a name change, and really to better identify our
33 organization. To better identify the niche that we
34 provide to the community. And each one of us,
35 whether it's our organization, the economic
36 development office or the chamber have a unique part
37 in what we provide to the community. And it's not
38 just about who we are and what we do. We all
39 overlap. We're all trying to generate a better
40 quality of place, a better quality of life for the
41 community. And again I would love to have you
42 participate and come and visit with us. And I'm in
43 the same office as Heather Jones. So if you're in,
44 please come by or I will come see you. And thank
45 you. I wasn't expecting to give a presentation but I
46 hope that helps.

47 LARRY GREER: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
48 I'm going to continue for just a moment. It's kind
49 of amusing. I've been at this for sometime now. And
50 this time of year, every two years, this starts to

1 happen. People use council meetings as a campaign
2 platform, as a campaign opportunity. And we're here
3 to do business. We're not here to campaign. We're
4 here to take care of the business of the county.
5 Campaigning is supposed to be done somewhere else.
6 But it's going to happen. Members of council -- I'm
7 guilty of it. I'm truthful. I'm as guilty of it as
8 anybody else. Some of the speakers who come to these
9 microphones are guilty of it. Other members of
10 council are guilty of it. And I'm going to give you
11 my evaluation of what I perceive is the problem in
12 Anderson County. We have two camps. We have one
13 camp who wants to see us grow and prosper. We have
14 one camp who wants to see us bring in these economic
15 development opportunities. We want to see different
16 services available for the people of this county. We
17 want to see things happen that provides opportunities
18 for our young people, provides jobs for our young
19 people. I'm sixty-two years old. I'll start drawing
20 social security this year. My life is pretty much --
21 I've pretty much made my life. What I'm doing now is
22 trying to give something back to my community that's
23 been good to me. But what we should be doing as a
24 people is listening to that camp that wants to take
25 care of our children and our grandchildren and
26 provide opportunities for them. Now the other camp,
27 and I'm going to talk about them and I know I'll
28 ruffle feathers and that's fine, I'll just ruffle
29 them. They'll smooth out when it rains on you. The
30 other camp is made up of a group of people who are
31 comfortable where they're at. Some are wealthy.
32 Some are not wealthy. Some think they're wealthy.
33 But they're comfortable where they're at. They don't
34 think that we need these things. They think that
35 it's okay to roll up the sidewalks at sundown. They
36 think it's okay for the Sheriff to only have one
37 bullet and he has to keep it in his shirt pocket.
38 They think it's okay -- and I read this this week,
39 running EMS on a motorcycle. I just have trouble
40 imagining that, running EMS on a motorcycle. But we
41 -- and I listened to the gentleman who lives in my
42 district. I do listen to you. I heard you. Don't
43 play your violin for me. I know what it means. I
44 know what it means. I listened to you. And I do
45 represent my entire district. I represent all of
46 them. I've got several constituents here tonight.
47 Some of them support me. Some of them don't. And
48 that's the nature of the beast. If I was making
49 everybody happy, I'd be doing something wrong. So as
50 you listen to your constituents, the challenge that

1 every person sitting up here has is to make a
 2 decision on what you think the majority of those
 3 people you represent want. And then you carry out
 4 your actions based on what you perceive. And in
 5 order to do that I move around and do things. And I
 6 listen to people. And I talk to people. And my
 7 phone rings and it jumps up and down. But folks, I'm
 8 going to tell you, if we don't stop, and I've said it
 9 over and over, and I'm going to continue to say it.
 10 If we don't stop this in-fighting and finger pointing
 11 and hunting things that's wrong ... I have six
 12 grandchildren and by the time they're twenty-five
 13 years old the majority of them will be living
 14 somewhere else. That's what it's all about. It's
 15 not about me or you. It's about our children and our
 16 grandchildren who are coming after us. We've got to
 17 take care of them. And we're not doing it with this
 18 in-fighting. We've got to change. Thank you, Mr.
 19 Chairman.

20 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
 21 Just a few things, and I'll try to be brief. I agree
 22 with Mr. Greer and his comments regarding Innovate
 23 Anderson, the Anderson County development partnership
 24 and it fills an important role. I agree with him
 25 that I feel the name change is a mistake and
 26 disservice to Anderson County. One thing I thought
 27 about when Hal Johnson was speaking. We talked about
 28 interstates, the importance of interstate frontage
 29 and how important infrastructure is. We're making
 30 progress in that area. Beaverdam sewer line is now
 31 complete and reaches the interstate at exit 27. And
 32 it has freed up the capacity at the county owned
 33 plant that will make other interstate frontage
 34 available for development. The things that we've
 35 done in this county, perhaps haltingly, sometimes
 36 with fits and starts, we are making the progress.
 37 And we are working for a better Anderson County.
 38 We've spent a lot of time here tonight in discussing
 39 an internal auditor. This conversation, I believe,
 40 started when our auditors returned a report saying we
 41 needed a risk manager slash fraud risk manager that
 42 would oversee the handling of monies internally. Why
 43 is this such a contentious battle now? This was in
 44 our original budget proposal. I remember the
 45 negotiations that took place here on county council
 46 as we were trying to hammer out a budget. And at
 47 that time the councilman from district one, his one
 48 insistence in that budget was that that position be
 49 eliminated. Now it becomes a political football.
 50 And suddenly it's popular for him to support this

1 position. Perhaps doing it during the process of the
2 budget didn't serve him politically. This is more
3 than about politics. It's about doing what's right
4 for Anderson County. It's not about grandstanding.
5 It's not about being funny. But we must move on and
6 we must work for what's best for Anderson County.
7 And with that, good night and thank you all.
8
9

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Special Called Meeting – April 1, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING

APRIL 1, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The special called
2 meeting for April the 1st, 2008 at three p.m. will
3 now come to order. We will now have the invocation
4 and pledge of allegiance by council member Gracie
5 Floyd.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Folks, I am so glad to
7 get this opportunity. I did not look on the agenda
8 to know that I was supposed to do it tonight, but I
9 want to tell you something. This is going to be my
10 offering to you. I went to my new church last
11 Sunday, and my minister was saying that God is in
12 business too. And he asked me, because he was
13 talking straight to me, he asked me did I have God
14 in my business? And I got to thinking about it.
15 And I could think only for Gracie. And I said
16 Gracie is going to do a better job of putting God
17 and keeping God in the business that I do. And the
18 business that I do is for the people of Anderson
19 County and is for the people that voted for me as
20 well as the people who did not. So I am asking you
21 to join with me. My minister said that God is in
22 everything, and God can change everything. And I
23 needed to trust him more to do what needs to be done
24 for this county because he knows. And with that,
25 I'm asking you to please go to your higher power as
26 I go to mine.

27 INVOCATION

28 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We will now have
30 the employee of the month, Mr. Derrick Singleton,
31 human resource committee chairman.

32 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of
33 council, Mr. Preston, citizens, I'm here today on
34 behalf of the Anderson County Human Resource
35 Committee to present the employee of the month for
36 March 2008. I think I'm right. This employee has
37 been here for twenty-eight years. I'm think this is
38 overdue, but Charles Spoon Huggins please come
39 forward.

40 APPLAUSE

41 DERRICK SINGLETON: Spoon, congratulations
42 on behalf of Anderson County for being chosen as
43 employee of the month for the month of April 2008.

44 CHARLES HUGGINS: Thank you so much. I get
45 to talk for about two hours, don't I? I want to
46 thank county council for having a policy like this
47 that recognizes the people. I think Mr. Jordan and
48 Linda and I are about the only people that have been
49 here since I've been here. Believe me. We
50 appreciate y'all having the policy. The employees

1 appreciate being recognized. I work with the best
2 group of people I could possibly work with. They
3 come early and they stay late. This is for them and
4 I really appreciate it. Thank y'all all.

5 CHRISSY ADAMS: Spoon had been -- well
6 you have been -- I have to say a few words. You
7 have been a staple in the Solicitor's Office for
8 nearly twenty-eight years and that is truly amazing.
9 I cannot thank you enough for all you've done for
10 this community. You have been a civil servant and
11 you have devoted your life to the people of the
12 Tenth Circuit. And I thank you. I thank you for
13 all you've done for me and for Anderson and Oconee
14 Counties. Thank you.

15 APPLAUSE

16 CHARLES HUGGINS: Thank you.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Thank you. I
20 cannot let this opportunity pass to honor Spoon.
21 This man has been so good not only to the people he
22 works with and it's impressive that you all came out
23 today to support him. But he's been good personally
24 to me. At the death of my husband, Spoon was there
25 for me. And I just want to thank him and I'm just
26 so glad, Spoon, that I have this opportunity to do
27 it publicly. You've been a good friend. And I just
28 thank you for all you've done.

29 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

30 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

32 BOB WALDREP: I just have to chime in a
33 little bit about Spoon. I've known him a long time
34 too, since -- ever since I've been in Anderson. And
35 he's just been an extraordinary resource for
36 everybody. And he gives his time liberally to the
37 public and to the people he works for. And he's
38 kind of like the Savannah River. He's sort of a
39 treasure in the county. And I want to say this last
40 thing is that you know solicitors come and
41 solicitors go but Spoon stays on forever.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

43 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 I've got to brag on Spoon too. I want everybody to
45 take a look at him. What's he doing right now?
46 He's smiling. Spoon displays a happy attitude.
47 He's an extremely good person. And Spoon, you're
48 just another living proof that Anderson County has
49 some tremendously good employees. Thank you for the
50 job that you do. And good things do come from the

1 Starr-Iva area, don't they Spoon. Thank you.

2 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

4 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 I recognize that I'm not an elected official, but
6 there are two things that I think really need to be
7 said. First of all, for those who don't know where
8 the name Spoon comes from, it's Charles Witherspoon
9 Huggins the somethingth. And so Witherspoon turns
10 into Spoon. The second thing is that there was a
11 particular circuit judge in this state who hailed
12 from the same part of the state that Spoon does, and
13 George Ducworth used to say that when the two of
14 them got together you couldn't understand a word
15 that they said. And I suspect that that is true.
16 Now to brag on Spoon, Spoon set up a computer
17 circuit for the Solicitor's Office that had been in
18 effect when I got here for several years, already by
19 1990. He set it up with old Tandy Radioshack
20 equipment, wired it together with wires between the
21 buildings, and had this circuit literally online at
22 a time where the state just literally provided no
23 resources for doing that. Heaven knows how much
24 money he has saved this county over the years. He
25 is truly a treasure, as Mr. Waldrep said.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it? Okay.

27 Thank you. Next item. Presentation on excess to
28 public facilities, Mr. Bob Waldrep.

29 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30 I guess it was the last couple of weeks when I
31 noticed that there was a new sign up outside that
32 says no public restrooms. I didn't know that
33 council had voted on that or whether this was
34 something that had been delegated to Mr. Preston.
35 But I wanted to ask members of council if they were
36 aware of this new policy. It was somewhat
37 troublesome to me that we have a situation where we
38 have a public building, an historic old courthouse
39 that people would visit form time to time and it
40 says, no public restroom. I haven't researched it
41 desperately, but it troubles me that we have folks
42 that are getting to the, I guess you might say the
43 Avodart section of their lives. They probably need
44 to use the restroom occasionally. And I'm just kind
45 of asking a question. I'm just concerned about it.
46 I thought it was not in keeping with Anderson
47 County's tradition of being a friendly, open city,
48 is to prohibit people from using the restrooms.
49 We're a downtown area. People visit this part of
50 the world. And it's a real problem sometimes. If

1 you look around at the different banks and they'll
2 have signs up to say no public restrooms or
3 different buildings in that. I know that my
4 business is on the square. My office is. And
5 occasionally somebody will just come right into my
6 office. I don't even know who they are, and they'll
7 just kind of head for the restroom. But you know,
8 that's just one of the things that you kind of put
9 up with in life because it's an accommodation. It's
10 just a friendly, open accommodation to the public.
11 And I would ask that we consider reversing that
12 policy and allowing people free and open access to
13 the restroom. I think it might not be a
14 constitutional right. But it certainly is a
15 civilized right that I might ask. So that is my
16 presentation. And I did want to say, I did take a
17 quick little look at the American Disabilities
18 Section of the Code and I didn't find anything in
19 particular on that particular issue. But I would
20 say that someone in need of a facility is a person
21 with a great disability. And I would like for
22 people to consider that. And I hope the council
23 would consider reversing that policy. Thank you.

24 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

26 LARRY GREER: I'm going to weigh in on
27 this just a little bit. And I may make some people
28 happy and I may disappoint some of you. But that
29 was one of the tough issues that I as a teacher
30 dealt with when I was teaching school. When do you
31 know whether someone really needs to use the
32 restroom or they're just using that as an excuse to
33 get out of class. And we learn to deal with those
34 things. I for one disagree with the position that
35 we've taken that we don't have public restrooms in
36 the building. I understand from some of the
37 scuttlebutt in the discussion that I've heard that
38 the restrooms are available if you're in the
39 building and you're actually conducting business in
40 the building. But I would prefer to see the sign
41 gone from the door and if someone truly needs to use
42 the restroom in this building that it be made
43 available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I was at the
47 post office the other day and I noticed a sign in
48 the post office that says no public restroom there.
49 I wonder what people will do if they have to use
50 those facilities. But I understand since 9-11, a

1 lot has changed as far as entering in buildings for
2 the use of public restrooms. One night here after a
3 meeting I was standing on the outside, I think Mr.
4 Waldrep was there, and there were several of us
5 milling around as we do sometimes, and Bill
6 Striewing came out with a lady. She had bags with
7 her. He found her hiding in the bathroom. All
8 right. At that time nobody knew what to do. We
9 didn't know where to send her or anything else. But
10 it was clear, it was clear that this lady was off
11 the streets and she had prepared to spend the night
12 in that bathroom, in our public facilities. Okay?
13 So when we make these type things we have to look at
14 the now. We have to look at the now. Years ago as
15 a principal people could come off the streets and
16 use the public restrooms. But I bet you you can't
17 do it now in a school. You can't do that now. And
18 I don't know about my fellow colleagues, but I
19 sometimes question my safety when I'm here at these
20 meetings with the people coming in and out kind of
21 thing. We're getting security but it isn't ready
22 now. So I can't tell you whether it's a good idea
23 to do it or it's a bad idea. I know that across the
24 street where you take care of business, where
25 business people have to go to take care of business,
26 the restrooms are available over there. But the
27 fact that if you're coming to see me, you can use
28 the bathroom. Anybody in this audience sitting out
29 there can go to the bathroom. You can go to the one
30 on the second floor. You can go here. You can go
31 to any bathroom that's open here for you. But just
32 coming off the street and using the bathrooms, it
33 makes me nervous. I'm not going to say don't do it,
34 but I'm going to say it makes me nervous. Thank
35 you.

36 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: As we have the park
39 police stationed at that only entrance where people
40 can come in and they have a bank of cameras and
41 they're not too far from the restrooms' location, I
42 just find this exceptional that we would deny the
43 public the right to come use the bathroom if they're
44 in dire straits. And I'm opposed to this closing of
45 the public restroom. Thank you.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

47 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I would like
48 to ask Michael Cunningham to come forward and talk.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The time has expired.
50 How much time will you need, Mr. Cunningham? Okay.

1 The chair moves to extend this topic by five
2 minutes. Is there a second?

3 CINDY WILSON: Second.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
5 extending by five minutes, please vote. The vote is
6 unanimous. Mr. Cunningham.

7 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Good afternoon, Mr.
8 Chair and members of council. I just want to try to
9 clear up where I can any misconceptions regarding
10 this issue. The restrooms in this building are open
11 to the public if the public's here for a public
12 meeting such as now. Or if they come to see an
13 employee or either of you in your offices, the
14 restrooms are open to the public. But because of
15 the nature of what we do here, which is mainly
16 internal service, we have departments that are
17 serving the other outlying departments, it's not the
18 same as the new courthouse or some of the other
19 facilities. So if you're just coming in to use the
20 restroom, because we only have one security officer
21 downstairs, a person says I have to use the
22 restroom, well that security officer then really in
23 order to help secure the building needs to accompany
24 that person to the restroom which means his post is
25 now uncovered which is a concern. And I really wish
26 like many of you expressed that we live in a society
27 or at a time where this is not even an issue. But
28 unfortunately where you have people with, I guess,
29 bad intentions and you want to create a policy that
30 can be equally applied to everyone where you don't
31 have but -- let's say me. I show up and the
32 security officer says, well I don't believe you need
33 to use the restroom. And another individual shows
34 up who may be dressed better and says, well, okay, I
35 believe you do have to use the restroom. So if we
36 can come up with a policy as we have -- and the
37 policy has been in place for quite a while. The
38 sign is new. But the policy has been in place for
39 quite a while. As we had the security studies, and
40 that was one of the recommendations. Because if you
41 recall, this building was open at four different
42 entrances, two on Benson Street, two on Whitner.
43 And you had a lot of people coming in and out with
44 the purpose of seeing employees. But with one
45 security officer it was impossible to cover all of
46 those. So the first step to that was to try to
47 secure those entrances. And oddly enough we did
48 that back in 2005. We closed those entrances almost
49 one day after the unfortunate shooting in Fulton
50 County. We had a gentleman who killed a judge and

1 we said, well -- it was in the process, but that was
2 the time frame in which we did it. And since that
3 time what we don't have in this building is a metal
4 detector. The new courthouse has public restrooms,
5 but they also have a metal detector that can screen
6 in case someone comes in with a bad intention. But
7 it's equally applied. Everyone is screened that
8 goes through the medal detector. The restrooms are
9 public because of the nature of what's done there.
10 We don't have the same thing here. And because of
11 the nature of what's done here in this particular
12 building, we've come up with what we think is
13 something that's equally applied to everyone that we
14 don't have a gentleman officer make a judgement call
15 on whether or not someone is acceptable to come into
16 the building. And the issue with people spending
17 the night in the restroom is something that's
18 happened here on more than one occasion and other
19 facilities where if someone gets here early and they
20 encounter someone who is just walking out because
21 they have spent the night in the restroom. So those
22 are all things that we want to take into
23 consideration which is why the no public restroom
24 issue was something that was brought to our
25 attention that we covered. But yes, the sign is new
26 but the action is not.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
28 Cunningham. Item number five, discussion of
29 abilities of other county council members to obtain
30 funding for projects in their districts outside the
31 normal discussion area account use. Ms. Wilson.

32 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33 Each of our council districts are provided a small
34 district recreation fund of thirty thousand per
35 district. And then a variable amount for paving.
36 District seven, for example, has somewhere around
37 two hundred and forty-three thousand annually for
38 paving. But I've noticed over several years that
39 even though the representative from district seven
40 requested funds to supplement projects and needs in
41 district seven, primarily fire departments and
42 waterline needs in the district, district seven has
43 always been denied those access of funds by this
44 administration. I want to point out to you that a
45 number of you have enjoyed funds from that fund. I
46 know district three has had funds for a waterline
47 provided at one point. I think several of the
48 others. I've found where district six was given ten
49 thousand last May for a fire department. And it
50 appears that we may have had money provided for

1 district two for a waterline recently. I began
2 asking in September of 2007 for accounting for this
3 department 5827. Never could get it. I've recently
4 requested again for -- and at that point I asked for
5 a list of payments made from this account and a list
6 of obligations that our administrator referred to in
7 the September 18th meeting. And I requested that
8 the list include the name of the person or
9 organization to whom payments have been made or
10 which are obligated to be made. The date or dates
11 of payment or payments and backup documentation of
12 who requested the payment and for what purpose.
13 Primarily at that point I was seeking funding for
14 the Hopewell and Honea Path fire departments. I was
15 given virtually no information. In our budget for
16 this year, that department was funded a hundred and
17 five thousand four hundred. We have more recently
18 discovered payments to a consulting firm called
19 Palmetto Agriculture Consulting. It appears there
20 have been probably four or five payments, around
21 twenty thousand or a little less, that have been
22 made to that. And that is the daughter of a council
23 member. And I just take exception that -- and I
24 think most of the citizens of this county will too
25 that this has the appearance of being a secret fund
26 for some of the council members without other
27 council members being able to access it. And I just
28 want to request that my most recent letter which was
29 dated March 25th be honored and I'm asking for
30 complete documentation from this account and also
31 some travel and other expenses for a councilman and
32 his appointee and business partner. So I think that
33 our council -- I mean, our citizens in this county
34 basically prefer their council members to be like
35 Caesar's wife and above reproach. And I think that
36 the citizens of this county also believe that all
37 council representatives should be accorded the same
38 opportunity for funding as all the other council
39 members. Thank you.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Response to
41 comments and questions posed by the 3-18-08 county
42 council meeting regarding internal auditor position
43 and other matters related thereto. Mr. Martin.

44 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
45 and members of council. I would request that this
46 matter be withdrawn at this time. I have prepared a
47 response for council that is not ready and not
48 available at this moment. I do hope to have it
49 available for council very shortly. But it's not
50 prepared at this point. And in part this matter has

1 been overtaken by other events. So I would request
2 it be withdrawn.

3 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

5 BOB WALDREP: If I might ask the county
6 attorney a question or two with regard to the status
7 of his correspondence with the Attorney General. I
8 understand -- I believe I received a copy of a
9 letter that you had written to the Attorney General
10 addressing this problem or this situation or this
11 issue. But I don't recall that you had addressed
12 the situation where the council had appointed a
13 previous auditor. Did you, Mr. Martin, did you
14 address that under a different, I guess, situation
15 where the auditor was actually appointed through the
16 Clerk's office in some way. Was that addressed in
17 your letter to the Attorney General?

18 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

20 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, it was. The
21 Attorney General of the State of South Carolina in
22 1996 issued an opinion that that procedure was
23 illegal. And so in my letter to the Attorney
24 General, I referenced that opinion and asked whether
25 that was still the law of the state and the opinion
26 of that office, that a procedure where the county
27 council directly appointed the auditor and
28 supervised the internal auditor was appropriate or
29 inappropriate under state law. In 1996, the Sheriff
30 of Anderson County wrote to the Attorney General
31 specifically stating that the internal auditor was
32 appointed by and reported to the county council.
33 The Attorney General of the state wrote back and
34 said as we have noted on multiple occasions, and
35 cited three specific references, that is an
36 incorrect procedure. The internal auditor has to
37 come under the administrator.

38 BOB WALDREP: So you're saying in
39 effect that it could not be diverted to another
40 venue, I guess you might say, as far as a clerk is
41 concerned to afford the council the opportunity to
42 actually employ and describe the duties and have the
43 internal auditor report to the county council?

44 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
45 Mr. Waldrep, that is my opinion. It's what the
46 Attorney General of the state has stated
47 specifically about Anderson County.

48 BOB WALDREP: Although this is done in
49 several other counties and actively being pursued in
50 several other counties?

1 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. And
2 specifically it is being done, I think Ms. Wilson at
3 the last meeting mentioned, it's being done in
4 Beaufort County. The Attorney General also wrote an
5 opinion to Beaufort County that they could not do
6 that. Beaufort County, interestingly enough, tried
7 to do basically what you're describing, tried to do
8 it indirectly by hiring an outside contracting -- an
9 independent contractor, an audit firm, to perform
10 the services. And in their letter to the Attorney
11 General, I guess probably the most interesting point
12 is that Beaufort County Council actually said we
13 know that we can't hire the internal auditor
14 directly. So can we go out and contract for one?
15 And the Attorney General said, no, you can't do
16 indirectly that which you can't do directly. And so
17 the office of the Attorney General under three
18 separate Attorneys General have ruled that the
19 internal auditor has to work for the administrator
20 in the council administrator form of government.

21 BOB WALDREP: The last question is that
22 you know there's kind of an overall section of the
23 Home Rule Act which sets up the county administrator
24 form of government. And it refers specifically to
25 the liberal construction of the form of government
26 that we have, which would allow the council to enact
27 any ordinances that it felt would be beneficial to
28 the council. And I guess you were saying and you
29 were saying that the Attorney General says that even
30 in the face of this ordinance language in there that
31 still the council does not have the -- we're not
32 empowered to employ the auditor? Is that true
33 again?

34 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

36 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, that is
37 correct. That same section is not actually an
38 ordinance. It's a statute. That same statute says,
39 except where provided otherwise in this title,
40 meaning if there is any other law in the title which
41 supersedes it, that general authority has to yield
42 to the more specific power. The Attorney General of
43 the state in every opinion that they have issued,
44 and it applies to not just the internal auditor, it
45 applies to any position in which the person is
46 subject to the personnel rules of the county. If
47 someone is subject to the personnel rules of the
48 county, in the county administrator form of
49 government, they have to be employed by and report
50 to the administrator. You create the position and

1 you set the framework for that position including
2 the duties. But the actual employment of that
3 person, meaning hiring and supervision, has to fall
4 under the administrator when it says except as
5 otherwise provided in this title. That is what is
6 otherwise provided, that the administrator in the
7 council administrator form of government, and of
8 course it would be the supervisor and the council
9 supervisor or the manager and the council manager
10 form. In any of those forms of government, the
11 council sets the policy. The policy is implemented
12 by their hired administrator, supervisor, or
13 manager. Or in the case a supervisor, the elected.

14 BOB WALDREP: So even if there's a
15 majority of council that would prefer to have an
16 internal auditor, the council still would not have
17 the authority to do that even if a majority of
18 council decided that? Is that what we're saying?

19 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

21 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, let me
22 answer that in two parts. During the very first
23 discussion on this back on March the 4th, I think I
24 noted to council that I know that there are other
25 counties that do it differently. And if you do
26 that, unless somebody challenges it, you can do it.
27 I mean you can get by with it. I think that is what
28 has happened in the other counties. Beaufort County
29 was told you cannot do it. And they did it anyway.
30 And no one has challenged it. Greenville County was
31 told the same thing. You cannot do it. In fact,
32 their opinion from the Attorney General is only a
33 paragraph and a half long. It's very short. So I'm
34 not telling you that you can't do it. I'm simply
35 stating that I do not believe that there's any legal
36 authority for doing so. And every time the Attorney
37 General's office has been asked the question they
38 have stated it is unlawful to do so. You do not
39 have legal authority. So I don't think legal
40 authority is there, but I do know that other
41 counties have done it despite the law.

42 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

43 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

45 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please.

47 Where do we sit on time?

48 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I
49 apologize. I didn't start the clock because I was
50 asking to withdraw the matter.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I understand.

2 TOM MARTIN: But I will be happy to
3 start it now.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. McAbee.

5 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 I'll be brief. If I may ask some questions of Mr.

7 Martin. Now there would be an exception if those

8 counties that have the council form of government.

9 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

11 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. McAbee,

12 that would be correct if there were such counties,

13 but there aren't any because the Supreme Court has

14 ruled that that form of government is unlawful.

15 BILL MCABEE: I see.

16 TOM MARTIN: All counties now either

17 have the council manager, council supervisor, or

18 council administrator forms of government.

19 BILL MCABEE: I see. And Mr. Chairman,

20 one more question. Before the Home Rule Act was

21 standardized by the General Assembly, there are

22 things that counties were doing prior to that date

23 that are now prohibited in the Home Rule Act, but if

24 you were doing it prior to that date, such as for an

25 example, Spartanburg County elects their county

26 council chairman in an at-large election. They're

27 permitted to continue doing that. But if they ever

28 go away from that system they can't go back and no

29 other county can adopt that system. Could this be a

30 case here of where it's something that a county was

31 doing prior to the standardization of Home Rule?

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

33 TOM MARTIN: Mr. McAbee, that is

34 correct. The process that you're referring to is

35 called grandfathering. And if there were a practice

36 in place prior to the Home Rule Act, generally that

37 practice would be allowed so long as it continued

38 without interruption. If the council or the county

39 ever stopped the practice then they normally could

40 not go back to it. I do think Ms. Wilson cited

41 three counties specifically. I believe Beaufort

42 County, Charleston County and Richland County. Each

43 one of those has begun this practice after Home

44 Rule. Richland County, at least in their case, I

45 think had an internal auditor prior to Home Rule.

46 But the current position they instituted after Home

47 Rule. I do not want to put any particular county on

48 the spot. So I will say I've contacted at least

49 some of the counties in question and none of the

50 county attorneys involved can cite legal authority

1 for their having done so.

2 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

3 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

5 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. In that
6 Attorney General's 2002 opinion, it gives the
7 impression that the county council can exercise
8 control over the internal auditor and the county
9 attorney for that matter should it choose to
10 exercise control. If the council decides and passes
11 an ordinance that the internal auditor reports
12 directly to council, that is clearly not prohibited
13 by the law. If the council decides and passes an
14 ordinance that the administrator cannot fire,
15 suspend or cut the funding of the internal auditor
16 without specific approval of the county council,
17 that is clearly allowed. Now the important note
18 here is that that opinion of the Attorney General
19 with respect to the involvement of the county
20 administrator and the hiring and supervision of the
21 internal auditor is based solely upon the fact that
22 Beaufort County must follow the ordinances that it
23 has passed. So had Beaufort County Council passed a
24 different form of ordinances, they could have had
25 more control over their internal auditor. I think
26 we're back to square one. The law does allow for
27 two interpretations for this. And I think it will
28 be up to this council as to which interpretation
29 they choose. And I think that the people
30 predominately in this county do want an internal
31 auditor to be -- to answer to the council. I think
32 it's clear that while personnel policies are such
33 that the administrator would hire the person,
34 council would approve, would set the parameters for
35 the job and vote to approve that hiring. And we
36 would have that supervision. And there are other
37 interpretations than what we've just heard. Thank
38 you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, you have a
40 response to what she said?

41 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
42 members of council. I read the backup material in
43 the agenda packet which was provided by Ms. Wilson
44 which included the document from which she has just
45 quoted, I believe, in that backup material. She did
46 not indicate who had written that document. I don't
47 believe it was written by an attorney. Or if it
48 was, it was certainly one who is not regularly
49 engaged in statutory construction. The particular
50 Attorney General's opinion that's in there does say

1 that the council may prescribe -- in fact I'll quote
2 it -- by the clear and unambiguous language of this
3 statute, the general assembly has authorized a
4 county council to regulate a position which it
5 creates and to prescribe the functions of such
6 position. And it goes on to say prescribing or
7 limiting the functions of a county attorney would be
8 encompassed by this statute. That is precisely what
9 I have just said. County council may describe the
10 position. It may create the position, fund the
11 position and prescribe the duties of the position.
12 That is not the same as supervising the employee in
13 the position. The opinion goes right on following
14 that to specifically state that the internal auditor
15 in that case has to be employed and supervised by
16 the administrator. So the distinction is between
17 actually setting the position and hiring the person
18 who is in the position and supervising them. There
19 is no doubt that this county council has the
20 authority to set the position of internal auditor
21 and to prescribe the duties of the position. But
22 the Attorney General, including in the opinion to
23 which you're referring, clearly states that it is
24 the administrator which has to hire that person
25 filling it. And even in that -- that opinion goes
26 on to state that you can't even get around that by
27 going outside of employment and contracting with an
28 audit firm to perform the function. It says you
29 cannot do indirectly that which you can't do
30 directly. So that's the distinction between the
31 language that Ms. Wilson read and what is in the
32 actual opinion.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
35 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. If I'm not
36 mistaken, Ms. Wilson said that the majority of the
37 people wanted this to take place. I cannot speak
38 for the majority because I believe there is almost a
39 hundred and seventy-five thousand of us here in
40 Anderson. So I cannot speak for the majority. But
41 I know from the people that have talked to me and
42 people from my district have not said anything
43 pertaining to the fact that they want it. What
44 they're wanting is for us to get on some kind of
45 working terms so we can go on with the business. So
46 about the fact that the majority of the people want
47 this, I don't know if I can accept that. Also Mr.
48 Chair, I would like to respectfully ask Ms. Wilson
49 if she would tell me where did this information come
50 from? Who did it?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, what's your
2 source of reference?

3 CINDY WILSON: Mostly the law. And I
4 also want to point out that we had this in effect in
5 '95, but shortly after Mr. Preston came, February
6 4th, was third reading in '97, that we reverted back
7 to the internal auditor coming under the
8 administrator.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And what particular law
10 are you referencing, the statute or an opinion of
11 somebody?

12 CINDY WILSON: Article One of the Home
13 Rule. And that I think is predominately section
14 four. Let me find it. I'm sorry. It's here
15 somewhere. I was prepared for -- okay. It's South
16 Carolina Home Rule Act, Article One, Section 4-9-
17 225, Power of the Counties. It states that all
18 counties of the state, in addition to the powers
19 conferred in their specific form of government, have
20 authority to enact regulations, resolutions, and
21 ordinances not inconsistent with the constitution
22 and general law of the state, including the exercise
23 of these powers in relation to health and order and
24 counties or respecting any subject as appears to
25 them necessary and proper for the security, general
26 welfare, and convenience of counties, reserving
27 health, peace, order and good government in them.
28 The powers of the county must be liberally construed
29 in favor of the county and the specific mention of
30 particular powers may not be construed as limiting
31 in any manner of the general powers of the county.
32 That is our override in this and also we have the
33 precedent set by these other counties. And also the
34 industry precedent where an internal auditor does
35 not -- I mean while it might be hired by the
36 administrator, it's answerable to the board and we
37 are the board.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, did she
39 answer your question?

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes and no. Excuse me.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need a time.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Does anyone wish to
44 extend time on this topic?

45 GRACIE FLOYD: I would like to extend
46 time by two minutes.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second
48 to extend the time for two minutes?

49 RON WILSON: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of

1 extending time by two minutes, please vote. One,
2 two, three, four, five. And Mr. Wilson, how are you
3 voting on that? Abstaining. And Mr. Greer voting
4 no. Anyway, the majority rules to extend the time
5 by two minutes. Ms. Floyd, please continue.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I'm not going to
7 even take two minutes for this. It was Ms. Wilson,
8 Mr. Chair, did explain where she got the information
9 from. But the information is in the form to me of
10 interpretation. And I accept what she gave, but I'm
11 having some difficulty with it. Okay.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

13 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a minute, a
15 minute and a half. Mr. Greer.

16 LARRY GREER: I've listened to Ms.
17 Wilson read this several times and we seem to fluff
18 over or pass over a phrase in there and I don't know
19 that I'll quoted exactly word for word but it says
20 something to the effect not inconsistent with the
21 constitution and laws of the state of South
22 Carolina. That means in my opinion, and I'm not an
23 attorney, I'm not a judge. But in my opinion that
24 says that whatever we're doing has to be consistent
25 with the constitution and laws of the state of South
26 Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
28 Item number seven, administrator report. Anything
29 in particular to point out, Mr. Preston?

30 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone want to comment.
32 Comments. Very good. Citizens' comments other
33 matters. Mr. Martin.

34 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 There are seven citizens under other matters.

36 CITIZENS' COMMENTS - OTHER MATTERS

37 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
38 citizens under other matters, Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Can I go first?

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Remarks from council.
42 Ms. Floyd.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you.
44 Yes. Okay. I want to do something pleasant first
45 before I get to the unpleasant part. Today is Mr.
46 Jordan's birthday. I want you to stand and join me
47 in giving this man, a man that we all know and we
48 all love, let's sing happy birthday to him. Please
49 join me.

50 SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND APPLAUSE

1 GRACIE FLOYD: I think that Mr. Jordan,
2 if he doesn't mind me telling it, Mr. Jordan has
3 been blessed. He has just, he has just celebrated
4 his 95th birthday. Mr. Jordan, we love you. And
5 now, to the man who spoke last, don't do that to me.
6 Don't do that to me. Now, I don't think that you
7 have been coming t+++o county council for a long
8 time. But you don't call me out. What I want you
9 to do is ---

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, no, no. Order.
11 Order.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: If you have a problem
13 with me, then you see me.

14 MALE VOICE: Mr. Chairman, she's out
15 of order.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Please don't do that to
17 me.

18 AUDIENCE: You're out of order.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: I am not out of order.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's everyone please
21 calm down, please.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: I am not out of order.
23 I'm not. He's out of order. I'm not out of order.
24 All I'm saying is that don't do that to me. Don't
25 call me out. If I want to look around this room, I
26 can and I will. So nothing you're going to say
27 that's going to stop that. Now, I did not call your
28 name, but you know who I'm talking to. Number two,
29 for the man that got up and said, trust us, trust
30 us, I'm gonna ask you to trust us. You said that
31 there was a lot of secrecy going on. I disagree
32 with you. We have not had a lot of secrets. We
33 only have what you perceived and what you have been
34 told by other people that there were secrets going
35 on. I'm not buying into that. So just like you
36 stood there and said, trust us, trust us, I'm
37 telling you, you trust us. Also, about the, about
38 the bathroom issues. I'm hoping, I'm hoping that we
39 can work this problem out so that we can all be
40 safe. The lady that stood and said that it's not
41 fair that we can't take care of business and go to
42 the bathroom, you can do that. Nobody told you you
43 could not do that. You can come to this office.
44 You can come see me. You can go to the bathroom.
45 As I said before, if you need to go to the bathroom
46 right now, you can do that right now. Nobody is
47 stopping you from going to the bathroom. But we do
48 need some kind of constraints and some kind of
49 control. I know you don't care about me, but I care
50 about me. And I have two handsome sons who live in

1 Charlotte, North Carolina who cares about me. And I
2 don't want anyone to have the opportunity to come in
3 here to, to bring anything in here with them that we
4 can't know about. And another thing, Mr. Chairman,
5 this is to you. Mr. Chairman, it appears that on
6 county council night, every time I open my mouth we
7 have people in this audience who are doing things
8 like this, as I speak. We have people in this
9 audience who are talking back to me. We have people
10 in this audience who will sit there and laugh at me,
11 no matter what I say. Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't
12 know why they are singling me out to do this, but
13 I'm not taking it anymore. Now, either they're
14 doing it because I'm black or they're doing it
15 because I'm a woman. You see what I mean?

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's please refrain
17 ourselves here. This is a government meeting.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: I notice that they don't
19 do this to other people. I notice that you all can
20 say what you want to say, but they don't do these
21 things to you. They do it to me. And Mr. Chairman,
22 -- please get this. I'm sorry about that, Mr.
23 Chair. But Mr. Chairman, as a bona fide elected
24 official of Anderson County, I don't have to take
25 this. I'm holding you accountable. I'm holding Mr.
26 Preston accountable. And I'm holding Bill Striewing
27 accountable. I want this stuff to stop happening to
28 me. If it's going to happen to everybody else, then
29 I'll accept what you all accept. But I will not
30 accept what you all don't have to accept. And I
31 said it. You can put that in your pipe and smoke it
32 and you can go and tell Rick Driver what I said.
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Floyd.
35 Ms. Wilson.

36 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 I really do find this new format very un-conducive
38 to public input and public participation. I just
39 find it very sad that people who are homebound and
40 taxpayers and voters in this county don't have the
41 opportunity to watch what we're doing at our called
42 meeting at the next evening or even as a live feed.
43 I really think we should have a live feed. So much
44 of the time what is shown on Charter has been edited
45 and a lot of sections missing. And I find that also
46 very sad that public information is not very public.
47 As to the restroom situation, maybe we should all
48 take up some money out of our recreation accounts
49 and have a really nice portable potty put at the
50 front door. Would that solve the problem? I just -

1 - I find it so sad in the United States of America
2 that we've got this kind of lack of access to public
3 information. We see what this is causing. It's
4 causing people to be angry and upset with us. I
5 just find that we need to be so much more civil and
6 courteous and considerate of one another. I'm just
7 astonished. Also, I wanted to point out that there
8 have been a number of attempts to get the
9 administration and people with the environmental
10 services out to Beaverdam Creek, the new sewer line.
11 After we've had some periods of rain, we have
12 several places where water is backing up. I know
13 one place in particular that I've requested that
14 they come and take care of that. All they have to
15 do is dig a little pathway for the water that
16 they're backing up, having created a higher
17 elevation from the pipeline project to let it drain
18 through the pipe that's there for that purpose. The
19 pipe can't serve the purpose of providing the
20 natural drain when it's setting up higher than the
21 bed of the stream and the drain area. And I still
22 think that if we want to really serve the people of
23 this county in the best manner, then we should have
24 workshops where we hash out some of these issues,
25 maybe during the day, make sure that there are
26 public notifications, and have regularly scheduled
27 meeting so those who want to attend can do that. I
28 find it most egregious that the public cannot
29 participate and speak. I think that we're going to
30 have greater anger and less courtesy if we do that.
31 Thank you.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep.
33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, apparently
34 there's a lot of room for improvement. I don't know
35 that the new format, how it's going to work. I'm
36 willing to give anything a try that would expedite
37 things. There's been some comments made here
38 tonight about whether or not we have an open
39 government or we don't have an open government. I
40 introduced an ordinance sometime ago which was
41 heavily criticized which would say that all council,
42 elected council members have access to all public
43 records. I accept any kind of criticism and
44 certainly don't want to be -- I have a lot of pride
45 of authorship and I invited other members of the
46 council to participate in that effort. And as a
47 matter of fact, when I put this issue back on the
48 agenda this time, I was told it was stricken off
49 because it had not been successful at my last
50 effort, although there was several people that said

1 that they were interested in working on this. I
2 think that the fundamental thing that I do as a
3 member of this council is that I have access to all
4 records anytime I want to see them. And if that is
5 not secretive, if I'm blocked and obstructed in
6 doing that, I simply cannot do my job. This goes
7 beyond -- this issue to council investigations, if I
8 wish to speak to a county employee in an
9 investigation of a contract issue having to do with
10 millions of dollars, and I am prohibited from
11 speaking to that employee by the administration, I
12 find that completely unacceptable. That happened in
13 this county. And it's documented. If you want to
14 have a hearing on it, we'll have a hearing on it.
15 But it occurred. That's why I've got this bone in
16 my throat about secrecy and allowing all council
17 members to have access to records. Now I hear on a
18 regular basis many council members say, well, gee, I
19 don't have any trouble getting information out of
20 the administration. Maybe they don't. Those are
21 the favored children of the administrator. Some of
22 us are like the redheaded stepchildren. And I don't
23 like being a redheaded stepchild. I think we should
24 all be treated as equals. Ms. Floyd made --
25 mentioned before, and I would agree with her, I
26 don't think anybody should be singled out one way or
27 the other. We all need to be treated equally.
28 We've got a job to do in this county. We've got an
29 important job to do. We have millions and millions
30 of dollars flow through this county. We've got to
31 read a lot of documents. We've got a lot of
32 departments to look at. And we find out things that
33 are unclear. I want to say one more time at least,
34 when I ran for this council, I said I wanted a
35 transparent government and I wanted clarity. So
36 yes, if this is looked upon as being contentious, if
37 this is looked upon as not playing as one of the
38 team members, then I cannot be a team member under
39 these circumstances. I want to be cooperative,
40 innovative, progressive and all the other adjectives
41 that one would use about a progressive government.
42 But I'm imploring this council, I'm praying that
43 this council, will have a change of mind and a
44 change of heart. I know that my words are going to
45 probably not have that much effect on my fellow
46 members of council. But I'm going to continue to
47 pray that they will think in their own hearts and
48 minds that we can do a much greater job, a much
49 better job, than we're doing and we can have that
50 progressive teamwork. But we've got to do it on a

1 foundation of truth, openness and equal treatment of
2 our council members. Thank you very much.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
4 Mr. Wilson. No comments? Mr. Greer.

5 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't
6 going to make any comments, but I can't sit here and
7 not say what's on my mind. I've been disgusted with
8 the atmosphere that we have in this county for
9 sometime. But my disgust reached a new low today.
10 We're sitting here arguing about who can use the
11 bathroom and when and not worrying about where my
12 grandchildren are going to work when they need a
13 job, where your grandchildren are going to work when
14 they need a job. Folks, it's time we grew up and
15 started looking at what's really important and
16 taking care of the people of this county. Thank
17 you, Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
19 Mr. McAbee.

20 BILL MCABEE: Nothing for this meeting,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. I want to
23 thank everyone for coming out to our special called
24 meeting today. I'm trying to make things more
25 efficient here, the way we operate. There are two
26 counties that I'm using as models, that is
27 Spartanburg County, that is a county larger than
28 Anderson. They meet once per month. They hold
29 their committee meetings prior to their council
30 meeting, starting at three o'clock, and they adjourn
31 for a brief period after they do their committee
32 work, and then they reconvene around six, I believe,
33 and have their, what I'm calling the board meeting
34 where they actually do legislative action. Also,
35 I'm using Greenwood. They do meet twice a month.
36 However, their council meetings last less than an
37 hour. They also have committee work that they do
38 and then they have the council or the board meeting
39 where they take care of legislative action, lasting
40 less than an hour. And I'm hoping that's what we
41 can do here in Anderson County, that this three
42 o'clock meeting will evolve into a committee of the
43 whole where we can talk about things, get things out
44 in the open, and see what is best for Anderson
45 County, come together, and then at six o'clock we're
46 all in one accord and then we're ready to vote and
47 then do the people's business. With that being
48 said, this meeting is adjourned.

49
50

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – April 1, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 1, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular county council
2 meeting of April 1, 2008 will now come to order. I was
3 reviewing our county budget calendar during our break,
4 and on April the 8th, which is next Tuesday, we have a
5 council retreat that will be held at nine o'clock at
6 the museum. And then on the following week, April 16,
7 we have a budget workshop which will also be at nine
8 a.m., and the location is to be determined. So please
9 review your budget calendar that was handed out during
10 the last meeting. Okay. At this time, we're going to
11 have the invocation and pledge of allegiance by council
12 member Larry Greer.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

13
14
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have approval of
16 minutes for March 18, 2008. The chair moves to
17 approve. Is there a second? We have a second from Mr.
18 Wilson. Is there any discussion on the minutes?

19 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

21 LARRY GREER: And the comments that I
22 made, I'm not sure what page it is, It's just a little
23 quick typo error. When I was talking about the mowers
24 that were purchased for Mr. Hopkins, In the minutes
25 it's spelled m-o-r-e and it should be m-o-w-e-r-s. If
26 we could get that correction made.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

28 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On
29 page eleven, line nineteen referring to Home Rule,
30 Article One. Those should be large caps for Article
31 One. And down on line thirty-eight, the same. And
32 then the reference to Section, it should be 4-9-25.
33 That's all.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we're just doing
35 syntax corrections?

36 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. That's all.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman, did you get
38 all that? All right. Very good.

39 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair calls for
41 the vote to approve the minutes. All in favor please
42 raise your hand. Okay. It is unanimous. Thank you.
43 Citizens' comments, agenda matters.

44 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Martin. Thank you, Mr.
45 Chairman. There are several folks signed up under
46 agenda matters. I believe there are ten.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

48 TOM MARTIN: Jimmy Chandler.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me give the
50 instructions please as he comes forward. Meetings of

1 county council are legislative meetings based upon the
2 representative form of government and are regulated by
3 parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings.
4 Accordingly the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of
5 citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a
6 time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each
7 person will be allowed no more than three minutes to
8 address county council. You are asked to please
9 refrain from addressing members of the audience and
10 members of the county council by name. Please direct
11 your comments to the council chair. Please come
12 forward, state your name, your address, the council
13 district in which you live and the agenda item in which
14 you're speaking on.

15 CITIZENS' COMMENTS - AGENDA MATTERS

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution 2008-020, a
17 resolution recognizing and honoring Anderson County
18 resident Judith A. Brown for thirty-seven years of
19 continuous service and dedication to the Anderson
20 County Library in Anderson County, and other matters
21 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there
22 a second?

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from Ms.
25 Wilson. Thank you. Is there any discussion? No
26 discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in
27 favor of resolution R2008-020, please vote. It's
28 unanimous. Thank you. Ms. Brown and Ms. -- I'm having
29 a -- thank you. Ms. Line. And Ms. Brown's family or
30 work associates, everyone is welcome to come to the
31 front please. Whereas, as Judith A. Brown, a native of
32 Anderson County is married to the love of her life, Mr.
33 James Brown, and is the proud mother of four children
34 and six grandchildren that encompass the model of what
35 it means to be a devoted and nurturing friend, employee
36 and mother. Whereas Mrs. Brown began her full-time
37 employment with the Anderson County Library system on
38 November 1, 1971, and since that time Mrs. Brown has
39 continued to work for the Anderson County Library
40 system and has become well known and loved amongst
41 employees and patrons of the Anderson County Library.
42 Whereas Mrs. Brown worked in various capacities for the
43 Anderson County Library system including working in the
44 book mobile, at the circulation desk and as a library
45 assistant in the South Carolina Room. And whereas the
46 Anderson County Library system is an anchor for the
47 entire community and employees such as Mrs. Brown are
48 invaluable in that they provide to residents of all
49 ages a resource for learning about our past, our
50 community and the world around us. Whereas Anderson

1 County, a body politic and corporate and a political
2 subdivision of the state of South Carolina acting by
3 and through its county council desires to honor and
4 recognize Mrs. Brown on her retirement following
5 thirty-seven years of service to the Anderson County
6 Library system and community. Mrs. Brown, thank you
7 for your enthusiasm for the Anderson County Library and
8 its programs and for sharing your knowledge and love of
9 the community and history of Anderson County. You
10 demonstrate to Anderson County residents and others why
11 this community is such a great place to learn, to live
12 and to work. This resolution shall take effect and be
13 in force immediately upon enactment.

14 APPLAUSE

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mrs. Brown.

16 JUDITH BROWN: Well, I thought Sunday was
17 one of the best days of my life, but now I feel like
18 both days -- these are the best days of my life. I
19 never thought I would live to see this happen, but now
20 that I have I can say thank the Lord. Because in 2006
21 I was sick. Ms. Meares there knows how bad it was for
22 me. And I just went on back to work feeling fine. I
23 thought, well I need to go back to work. And really I
24 have enjoyed every minute all these years, all the life
25 that I have been there because it seemed like that was
26 a home away from home. And I've always enjoyed books
27 because I started in high school working in the library
28 and I ended this working in the library. And I've
29 always enjoyed my job. I would say thank you to
30 everyone, Mr. Preston, my director, my co-workers, and
31 to the county council members. And to all of Anderson
32 County I would like to say thank you so very much.
33 Thank you.

34 APPLAUSE

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're down to
36 Ordinances, item number six, third reading. 2008-013,
37 an Ordinance amending the agreement of development of
38 joint county industrial and business park within
39 Abbeville County, South Carolina Enviro Project,
40 executed on January 8, 2008 by and among Abbeville
41 County, South Carolina and Anderson County, South
42 Carolina, and other matters related thereto. The chair
43 moves to approve. Is there a second?

44 BILL MCABEE: Second.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
46 Seeing no discussion, the chair calls for the vote.
47 All in favor of Ordinance 2008-013 please vote. The
48 vote is unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-014, an
49 Ordinance authorizing the transfer of certain Anderson
50 County real property and other matters related thereto.

1 The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?
2 BILL MCABEE: Second.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
4 No discussion. The chair calls for the vote of
5 Ordinance 2008-014. All in favor please vote.
6 Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-015, an Ordinance to
7 establish a committee to oversee expenditures made for
8 certain capital projects in Anderson County, South
9 Carolina and to provide for the appointment,
10 composition, duties and responsibilities of such
11 committee and other matters related thereto. The chair
12 moves to approve. Is there a second?
13 RON WILSON: Second.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
15 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now I want to make
18 sure. This is 2008-015. Am I correct?
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.
20 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good. On the first
21 page, Mr. Chair, on the sixth whereas I was reading
22 what was written here. And I was wondering -- my
23 colleagues may have to help me determine this. Is this
24 in line what we voted for at the last meeting? At that
25 meeting we voted that the commission, after the
26 election, if approved, that the commission will consist
27 of seven members appointed by this council. But that
28 paragraph doesn't seem to relay this message.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
30 LARRY GREER: If I may. It refers to
31 Section 2-351 of our Code of Ordinances. And that's in
32 the backup material to go with this. Paragraph two on
33 page seven says, as of January 1, 2001 each applicable
34 board or committee created under the aforementioned
35 authority shall have seven members with one appointment
36 per council district.
37 GRACIE FLOYD: I understand that, but does
38 that not need to be included in the Ordinance itself
39 rather than this other thing that it includes? You
40 know, shouldn't that be included?
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, can you answer
42 that question, please?
43 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
44 Ms. Floyd, Section 2-351 is the law in South Carolina -
45 - in Anderson County, I'm sorry. Section 2-351 is a
46 part of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances. When
47 that says that the members -- well, maybe I need to
48 start with this. First you're looking at a whereas
49 clause. That is the preamble. That does not have any
50 legislative effect whatsoever. That's simply a finding

1 of the county. The actual action is contained after
2 the ordaining language on the second page, be it
3 ordained. Only the words after that become the law.
4 And it is on that page that says the membership in
5 terms of the capital project sales tax oversight
6 committee shall adhere to Section 2-351 of the Anderson
7 County Code of Ordinances as amended. So basically
8 section 2-351 is already the law. It says members of
9 the committee will be appointed one per council
10 district. And this now says that this committee will
11 be appointed the same way. Everything prior to that is
12 just the preamble leading up to that.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd still has the
15 floor. Are you finished Ms. Floyd?

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I am finished.
17 But I would like to have the right to ask more
18 questions if needed.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
20 Waldrep.

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
22 ask Mr. Martin a question. For purposes of
23 clarification wouldn't it be very simple to simply
24 state the membership of the committee as Ms. Floyd
25 has indicated in the Ordinance rather than refer to
26 another Ordinance? I mean that's no big problem,
27 is it?

28 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

30 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, no,
31 sir, it's not a big problem.

32 BOB WALDREP: I would just simply move
33 that that language be amended in the Ordinance to
34 reflect the actual composition of the oversight
35 committee as being seven members appointed by each
36 individual councilman. And I state that in the form of
37 an amendment.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we're looking at
40 page two of the Ordinance 2008-015, paragraph two, the
41 membership shall consist of seven members, one per
42 council district, appointed by the county council, is
43 basically what we're wanting.

44 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd. Yes? Did we
46 get a second on that?

47 BOB WALDREP: Yes.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any discussion on
49 the amendment as Mr. Waldrep has proposed? Thank you.
50 No discussion. So the chair calls for the vote to

1 amend the Ordinance 2008-015. All in favor of the
2 amendment, please vote. It is unanimous. Okay. So
3 now we're back to the Ordinance as amended. Okay. All
4 in favor of the amended Ordinance 2008-015, please
5 vote. It is unanimous. Okay. As amended.
6 Ordinance's second reading, 2008-017. An Ordinance to
7 impose and post notice of a vehicle weight restriction
8 on Hammond Road, county road 02-0137 between Old
9 Greenville Highway which is SC 88 and the Pickens
10 County boarder and other matters related thereto. We
11 do have a public hearing on this item. Instructions
12 for public hearing are, any person desiring to do so
13 may speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period
14 of time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue
15 under consideration. The chairman exercises control of
16 the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the
17 public hearing process by engaging in unreasonable
18 lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane,
19 abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With
20 this being said the public hearing is now open.
21 Anyone wishing to speak on this Ordinance may come
22 forward. Please state your name and address before
23 speaking on this matter. Anyone wish to speak on this
24 matter? The public hearing is now open.

PUBLIC HEARING

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

26
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak
28 during this public hearing? Going once, twice. The
29 public hearing is now closed. The chair makes the
30 motion to approve Ordinance 2008-017. Is there a
31 second?

32 RON WILSON: Second.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have any discussion?

34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

36 BOB WALDREP: I guess my question is
37 directed to the area that the landfill is supposed to
38 be in. Is this the area that's under proposal now for
39 re-zoning? It's included in that?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ricketson, can you
41 answer that question?

42 BOB WALDREP: It is. So therefore, isn't
43 there somewhat of a moratorium that's placed on any
44 kind of changes in this area, Mr. Ricketson?

45 JEFF RICKETSON: There could be at the end of
46 the night.

47 BOB WALDREP: Oh. You proposed a
48 moratorium on that issue?

49 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct. There's a
50 proposed first reading of a Zoning Ordinance on your

1 agenda later on. I think it's the next item. 9B.

2 BOB WALDREP: So if we, if we -- well, are
3 we going about this backwards or ... Should we have
4 put it on that first and then the other questions
5 become mute, don't they?

6 JEFF RICKETSON: Well, there's two separate
7 issues. I mean, there's the issue of putting weight
8 limitation on the road. And that could be done whether
9 or not zoning is ever considered in the area. We've
10 got data now obviously that we haven't had in the past
11 that shows that the bridge is not capable of supporting
12 heavy duty commercial traffic. And that probably, I
13 think, maybe the transportation division intended for
14 that to be treated as a separate issue to the zoning
15 concern.

16 BOB WALDREP: It's separate but
17 inexplicably linked, is it not?

18 JEFF RICKETSON: I think both -- I think the
19 proposed development out there probably could be
20 affected by both of these.

21 BOB WALDREP: Absolutely. Okay. I guess
22 I'm just trying to understand how we're moving around
23 on this. Can you tell me -- there was a representation
24 made earlier about inducement to put this landfill
25 there. Do you know anything about that or were you
26 privy to that information?

27 JEFF RICKETSON: Inducement like in economic
28 development?

29 BOB WALDREP: Inducement. Yeah. Such as
30 coming to Anderson County. I'm just trying to -- in
31 fairness to the man who proposed it, I just wanted to
32 know if the county was involved in any kind of
33 inducement.

34 JEFF RICKETSON: I don't think we have any
35 records of economic development inducements or fee in
36 lieu of agreements with any landfills in that area that
37 I'm aware of.

38 BOB WALDREP: Okay. That's all I have.
39 Thank you.

40 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

42 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I have followed
43 this landfill process for several years now. I was
44 really shocked that no one in that area seemed to be
45 aware of it or didn't seem to have any objections and
46 so forth. I have a number of comments and questions to
47 make. One is that in my community and now my
48 district's efforts in the comprehensive land use
49 mapping and planning we've had several disappointments.
50 One is that DHEC nor the county notify sufficiently

1 people living in an area of these massive projects that
2 may have negative impacts. The water quality
3 certification process and storm water permit process is
4 a joke. An absolute joke in South Carolina. And what
5 I found when we went to Columbia was that we had McNair
6 Law Firm lawyers first on one side and then on the
7 other. You find them first representing DHEC and then
8 working for McNair. It's just a very strange
9 situation. I, for one, plan to vote in favor of
10 closing this road for truck traffic. But I have some
11 concerns about how this gentleman who came here tonight
12 has been treated. I would like to know what, who --
13 and who the official or officials were that encouraged
14 him to come here and then slammed the door. And I want
15 to know why communities are never notified of these
16 possible projects. I know in the landfill situation in
17 district seven and the sewer situation in district
18 seven, there was insufficient notification. DHEC
19 posted some of their notifications in the most obscure
20 locations online. We had people who were computer
21 experts and they could never find them. We had to
22 finally engage another attorney who was an
23 environmental attorney to guide us through this. And
24 this is just crazy that we have such convoluted
25 procedures in our county. What good can we possibly do
26 for our citizens, the environment and economic
27 development if we don't have a sensible process that's
28 open and some consideration to the people and to the
29 environment? But I would like -- would you be willing
30 to come forward and tell us who these people were that
31 you talked with? Do you mind speaking to this now, who
32 encouraged you?

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, let the -- I
34 will set up a meeting. Mr. Preston, can you meet with
35 this gentleman?

36 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we could probably
37 answer your questions tonight. Let her ---

38 CINDY WILSON: No. I'd like to be present.
39 I think the public ---

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry.

41 JOEY PRESTON: I'd like to hear what he has
42 to say because I believe that I wrote a letter to him
43 telling him that the site did not comply with the
44 county solid waste plan. That's why it was denied.
45 And then he appealed that decision to the state ALJ
46 court. And they overruled that saying that the county,
47 this body plan that was voted on by this county council
48 was not legal. We could not tell DHEC what to do.
49 Therefore, it was overruled.

50 CINDY WILSON: What point ---

1 JOEY PRESTON: Now I think you may be --
2 excuse me, ma'am. He may be referring to planning and
3 zoning issues which there is no zoning at that site
4 right now. And I believe that's what we're going to be
5 discussing later on tonight is moving forward with some
6 type of a Zoning Ordinance which would address the
7 issue. If you don't have the tools to work with at the
8 time you don't have a choice but to follow what rules
9 we have to follow. So I think the comment made about
10 Mr. West, I'm not sure that was absolutely accurate.
11 Jeff, you weren't in here to hear that. But Mr. West
12 had -- explain what happened with that. And Greg, do
13 you want to come forward? You can say a few words too.
14 We don't mind talking about this right now because we
15 certainly don't want this gentleman to mislead the
16 community, because we have told -- our position has
17 been it does not comply with the solid waste plan. If
18 that wasn't our position he wouldn't have appealed it
19 to the ALJ court.

20 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
21 JEFF RICKETSON: The applicant for the
22 landfill came in to land use about three years ago.
23 The planning commission held an advertised public
24 hearing on March 8th, 2005 at which there was no zoning
25 to base a denial on. We didn't have the same data that
26 we have on the roads now because you all only recently
27 established the bridge program, I guess, two or three
28 years ago. So we have new data on roads now that we
29 didn't have at the time. So all we had was a land use
30 ordinance that said basically you could put whatever
31 you want to wherever you want to as long as you buffer
32 it. So the planning commission after that public
33 hearing gave their consent to allow this landfill to
34 develop. But your Ordinance clearly says that a land
35 use permit is only good for a year. And after the year
36 it expires if nothing has been developed and you have
37 to reapply, which is where they are now. They have an
38 expired land use approval from the planning commission.
39 And in order to proceed with the development of a
40 landfill on this property, they have to come back in
41 and apply under whatever rules are in place today. And
42 that's where they are.

43 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I finish
44 my question?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Mr. Smith, do
46 you have anything to add to the subject?

47 MR. SMITH: Basically the permit was
48 applied for with DHEC, April 2005. This plan was
49 already into effect, voted by council on September
50 2004. The plan specifically states, no new C&D or

1 replacement landfills, C&D landfills. In that effect,
2 when DHEC went and all the residents -- when we met at
3 Wren, there's been two meetings up at Wren, DHEC came
4 back. The last meeting, I believe there was probably
5 about nine hundred people up there. The first one was
6 about three fifty. And to address Ms. Wilson on the
7 information that DHEC not getting with everybody, it
8 came out in the meeting that all the residents didn't
9 get the information. Ms. Anne Smith was one of the key
10 figures up there to be honest with you getting
11 information out to residents. DHEC put it in the
12 Anderson Independent and they put it on the website.
13 That was it. DHEC realizes that they have a problem
14 there. It was discussed at the meeting a lot. Okay.
15 I'll definitely say that. It was discussed probably
16 thirty percent of the meeting. But all the residents
17 came in. The concerns were the road, what was a major
18 issue. The solid waste plan. I have found no
19 documentation saying where Anderson County supported
20 Green Pointe Landfill. I have seen documentation where
21 DHEC was -- they had one solid waste plan they were
22 reviewing. They were reviewing the wrong plan. We had
23 to drive down to Columbia to take them the plan. We
24 had sent it twice. And they for some reason didn't
25 have it. So back then Mr. Carpenter had someone drive
26 it down to Columbia so they were reviewing the proper
27 plan. When they reviewed it, like I said, no new C&D,
28 no replacement C&D landfills in Anderson County. They
29 did appeal it after DHEC had said we're not going to do
30 it, which our Ordinance, it was approved. They asked
31 us to write a plan. This comes back from 1991. We
32 were required to write, as always, a management plan.
33 And if you write it, we didn't understand why aren't
34 you going with it? And that's come up in several
35 conversations. And the residents brought it up also.
36 When they approved it it got appealed. Judge McLeod,
37 as he said, took that and said that DHEC could not use
38 that one sentence to make their decision. DHEC is
39 still in the process. The residents have until, or
40 anybody else, until April the 7th to send in their
41 comments whether for or against in any way, shape or
42 form for that landfill. And after that DHEC will make
43 a decision. DHEC has not permitted the landfill yet.

44 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I finish.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

46 CINDY WILSON: May I ask Mr. Brown to
47 please come forward? I've got a question of him
48 please. Who did you talk with when you first ---

49 MR. BROWN: Before we have that question
50 could I say one thing? This is lovely if you want to

1 sit and listen to Anderson and all the reasons that
2 they have. And they do. And these are good points.
3 But to discuss these points and take each issue one at
4 a time and go back and forth and say well that's a good
5 point, but before we go we have to look at the other
6 side. We all don't have time for that tonight. For
7 example, just one minor issue. The solid waste plan.
8 Yes. Anderson does have a solid waste plan. DHEC maps
9 out, here's what you need to do when you set up your
10 solid waste program. Here's the way you go about it.
11 Anderson did not go about their solid waste program by
12 the blue print that DHEC sets up to set up their solid
13 waste program. We could go back and forth all night.
14 And everything that's been said we've got an answer to.
15 We do have letters. We've got a stack of information
16 we would be glad to make available to Anderson County.
17 Letters. Even to the point that they said, well our
18 solid waste program calls for no more landfill and yet
19 at one point we negotiated on the tonnage that was
20 going to come to our landfill. And we said to Anderson
21 how about this amount. Anderson wrote us a letter and
22 said that's not the amount we want. We want this
23 amount. Well why would they negotiate tonnages with us
24 if their position was we weren't supposed to be here
25 all along?

26 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Brown.
27 MR. BROWN: Yes, ma'am.
28 CINDY WILSON: Who did you first talk with
29 that encouraged you to come out and bring a landfill?
30 MR. BROWN: We did most of the original
31 conversation with Vic Carpenter.
32 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston. Mr. Smith.
34 MR. SMITH: Mr. Thompson. Basically the
35 letter he's referring to -- there was a copy of a
36 letter that was sent to Green Pointe. Mr. Preston got
37 a copy of that letter. It was basically saying Green
38 Pointe was going to get their permit. So I guess you
39 could say in a defensive manner, if you're going to get
40 it ---

41 JOEY PRESTON: Who sent that letter?
42 MR. SMITH: Mr. Preston sent that
43 letter?
44 JOEY PRESTON: Who sent the letter to hold
45 us at that ---
46 Mr. Preston: Oh, DHEC.
47 JOEY PRESTON: DHEC told Anderson County
48 that they were going to get that permit. Did everyone
49 understand that?
50 MR. BROWN: That's not what happened?

1 JOEY PRESTON: It is.
2 MR. BROWN: I've got a copy of the
3 letter. Not with me, but I do have a copy of the
4 letter. And basically what was asked for, if you're
5 going to go ahead and approve the permit, I think it
6 was quite a tremendous amount, over two hundred and
7 forty thousand, two hundred and seventy-five thousand
8 tons. It was said that at least if you're going to
9 give it to them at least reduce it to forty thousand in
10 which I think the permit now is like fifty-three
11 thousand.
12 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think Mr. Waldrep ---
14 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to ---
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Time has
16 expired. Does anyone wish to extend time on this
17 issue?
18 BOB WALDREP: I'd like to make a motion to
19 extend it for five minutes.
20 CINDY WILSON: Second.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. We have a second
22 to extend five minutes. All in favor of extending time
23 on this issue for five minutes please vote. Six. Mr.
24 Greer, how are you voting?
25 LARRY GREER: Opposed.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer is opposed, but
27 the majority rules to extend. Mr. Waldrep, please
28 continue.
29 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Five minutes starting
30 now, Mr. Martin. Right? Okay. You're on. Mr.
31 Martin, my question is to you in that if DHEC approves
32 this project, what law trumps as far as Anderson County
33 is concerned, does DHEC's ruling trump Anderson
34 County's zoning in this case or Anderson County's
35 change of the road access? I understand, you know,
36 they say no man is an island. I just wondered if no
37 dump is an island in this case?
38 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.
40 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I
41 understand your question. We do not represent the
42 county on this matter. As the council will recall,
43 solid waste is one of the three matters on which we do
44 not regularly represent the county. And so on the
45 issue of this particular landfill and this permit we
46 have not represented the county and don't. So I want
47 to preface everything that I say by that. If your
48 question is as to general law then DHEC as a state
49 agency and their regulations would trump county law.
50 But I'm stating that as a generality as to the law in

1 general and as to DHEC in general, not as to this
2 particular matter.

3 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. That
4 basically answers my question. I just wonder, you
5 know, are we creating some kind of battlefield here
6 between DHEC and the, you know, the county? That gives
7 me some concern. That's all I have.

8 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

10 RON WILSON: Yes. I asked DHEC officials
11 at the meeting during our last council meeting, that's
12 where I was. They told me that if zoning is in place
13 or if the road thing is in place it stops this. That's
14 what they told me. Not some attorney. And so I'm all
15 for doing this road, the weight limit, and I'm
16 certainly for allowing the citizens of Three and Twenty
17 to vote on this matter. You can talk all day long
18 about whether the county was for it or any other entity
19 was for it. The people in that community that live
20 there was never for it. Period.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's have order please.

22 RON WILSON: And so I'm for doing this
23 thing -- allowing the people to vote on it. And I'm
24 for doing the road. Dan Cooper is doing a lot of other
25 things that can be done at the state level. And I'll
26 be point blank about it. I'm for stopping this
27 landfill, whatever it takes. This thing is going to be
28 ten stories high out there in the middle of nowhere.
29 You'll be able to see it from anywhere in Powersville
30 or across the interstate. So I mean this thing is a
31 disaster and it should be stopped.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

33 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I provided
34 Councilman Waldrep a copy of a document that our
35 attorney that's representing us on this issue who was -
36 - what she had written to DHEC protesting the landfill
37 on behalf of Anderson County.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
39 Preston. The chair calls for the vote on Ordinance
40 2008-017. All in favor please vote. The vote is
41 unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance's first reading, an
42 Ordinance amending Ordinance 99-004, the Anderson
43 County zoning Ordinance as adopted July 20, 1999 by
44 amending the Anderson County official zoning map to
45 adopt the zoning map in the Three and Twenty voting
46 precinct. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
47 second?

48 CINDY WILSON: Second.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
50 No discussion. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor

1 of Ordinance 2008-018, please vote. The vote is
2 unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-022, an
3 Ordinance creating the position of internal auditor for
4 the county of Anderson by amending chapter two of the
5 Anderson Code of Ordinances pertaining to the position.
6 Is there a motion to approve?

7 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Second.
9 We have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

10 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

12 CINDY WILSON: May I present this please?
13 Before you, you have a corrected ordinance. There was
14 a transposition of the page two heading on what's in
15 your agenda packet. And this is the version that has
16 page two on actually page two. I'm very concerned in
17 this regard of the council having an internal auditor.
18 We need checks and balances in our system. Indeed this
19 is the way our United States of America was founded, on
20 a very intricate set of checks and balances. Our own
21 external auditor recommended that we have an internal
22 auditor to deal with concerns of possible fraud and
23 error. All professionals that I've discussed this with
24 regarding an internal auditor said it most correctly
25 should serve at the pleasure of Anderson County Council
26 and report to the council. We have an opinion from the
27 Attorney General that Mr. Martin adheres to. We also
28 have the state law regarding Home Rule dealing with the
29 council administrator form of government. It should be
30 clearly noted that under the council administrator form
31 of government, the council is the stronger arm in this
32 particular form of government. Under Article One, it
33 states clearly that we should -- that we can have
34 legislation for the betterment of the county. I've
35 read that to you in the earlier meeting. It states
36 under South Carolina Home Rule Act, Article One,
37 Section 4-9-25, Power of the Counties. It states that
38 all counties of the state, in addition to the powers
39 conferred to their specific form of government, have
40 authority to enact regulations, resolutions, and
41 ordinances not inconsistent with the constitution and
42 general law of the state, including the exercise of
43 these powers in relation to health and order in
44 counties or respecting any subject as appears to them
45 necessary and proper for the security, general welfare
46 and convenience of counties, reserving health, peace,
47 order and good government in them. The powers of the
48 county must be liberally construed in favor of the
49 county and not the specific mention of particular
50 powers -- may not be construed as limiting in any

1 manner of the general powers of the county. Between
2 that and the precedent and practice of Anderson County
3 previously in 1995 and then other counties, Beaufort,
4 Charleston and Richland Counties which currently have
5 their county internal auditors and county attorneys
6 under the council. We have that possibility for
7 Anderson County. And I want to bring your attention to
8 that and ask for your support. Thank you.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to discuss
10 this?

11 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

13 LARRY GREER: At this time I'd like to
14 call on Mr. Martin to give some legal background as
15 relates to the state law related to this issue and
16 former Attorney Generals' opinions in regard to this
17 matter. One thing that I keep hearing as we go through
18 this is not inconsistent with the constitution and
19 state law. And that rings loud and clear in my mind.
20 I personally have no problem with this internal auditor
21 reporting to council. That's fine with me as long as
22 it's consistent with the state law which we're supposed
23 to operated under. So at this time with council's
24 permission, I'm going to ask Mr. Martin if he would
25 enlighten us somewhat on this.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, enlighten us
27 please.

28 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr.
29 Greer and members of council. Mr. Preston is handing
30 out copies of a letter that I literally drafted today,
31 finished between the two council meetings, and I think
32 you probably saw Mr. Artiglier deliver it during this
33 meeting. It has literally just been handed to me. So
34 that is why you haven't had it ahead of time. And I
35 apologize. I don't expect you to read it or understand
36 it now. I'm simply going to summarize for you what is
37 in the letter. And then at your leisure you can read
38 through the letter. Attached to the letter is all of
39 the backup that I will be referring to, including
40 several opinions of the Attorney General of the state,
41 a Supreme Court ruling based in Anderson County, and
42 then copies of the two statutes in question, the one
43 authorizing the general authority of counties and the
44 one creating the council administrator form of
45 government and denoting the powers that the
46 administrator has in that form of government. In this
47 letter, initially I addressed certain comments that Ms.
48 Wilson made in her comments during the March 18th, 2008
49 meeting concerning this ordinance. That was based upon
50 the minutes of the last meeting that are contained in

1 you agenda booklet. And I would simply ask you to
2 review those minutes and then these comments will make
3 sense. One thing in particular that I want to do is to
4 defend Mr. Artiglier. During the last meeting Ms.
5 Wilson noted that she did not believe he was present.
6 The drafting of this ordinance originally started with
7 the March 4th meeting. And Ms. Wilson contacted us to
8 draft an ordinance doing essentially what Ordinance
9 2008-022 does. And in the time frame in which we had
10 to work, I did not have the time to draft an entire
11 ordinance. I suggested to Ms. Wilson that she
12 introduce it by caption only and I drafted the caption
13 for that purpose. That came to county council on March
14 4th. Mr. Artiglier was not present at that meeting.
15 He does not get paid for attending these meetings. He
16 does not charge Anderson County for the time of being
17 here except for those occasions when he is presenting
18 matters or has a matter on the agenda to present. He
19 was not at that meeting. He did not hear the
20 discussion. What happened at that meeting was the
21 council took that caption and referred it back to me to
22 redraft in a form that was consistent with state law.
23 Following that meeting, Ms. Wilson contacted Mr.
24 Artiglier to draft the ordinance as she had originally
25 requested. He came to me, not knowing what had
26 happened at the meeting, and I told him that the vote
27 of the council, the official act of the council was to
28 send it back to us to draft in accordance with state
29 law. That is what he did. So Mr. Artiglier was
30 completely unaware of any of the discussion. He was
31 following the directions that I gave him. That in turn
32 was based upon the directions that you gave me. There
33 are a couple of other things in here that I would
34 simply ask you to look at and read. With regard to the
35 issue itself, this letter goes through in fairly
36 excruciating detail the basis for my opinion. At
37 neither of those meetings was I really given an
38 opportunity to explain my opinion. I was asked if it
39 was my opinion. I was asked if it were the opinion of
40 McNair Law Firm. And I was told that that opinion was
41 being challenged. And I was told that there was other
42 law that applied that would make my opinion wrong. I
43 understand all of that. I base my opinion upon the law
44 of the state as I interpreted it. I do find some
45 comfort in the fact that multiple Attorneys General
46 over the years from at least 1986 through the present
47 have absolutely uniformly held an opinion identical to
48 mine. Specifically in 1997, an opinion was written to
49 -- I'm sorry, 1996 -- an opinion was written to Sheriff
50 Gene Taylor. And I'll read simply a part of this. You

1 have asked whether Anderson County can hire an internal
2 auditor which is under the direct day to day
3 supervision of the council members. The bottom line is
4 that the Attorney General has previously written three
5 opinions concluding that the reasoning in those two
6 opinions was controlling and thus the appointment of an
7 internal auditor would be within the purview of the
8 county administrator rather than county council. Those
9 three opinions have not been superseded and remain the
10 opinions of this office dictating that if the internal
11 auditor is subject to the personnel rules of the
12 county, that individual would be under the direction
13 and control of the county administrator. So the letter
14 explains the basis for my opinion in state law. I
15 specifically examined the section to which Ms. Wilson
16 refers in the Home Rule Act as well as Section 4-9-30
17 which is the general authority of county council. And
18 note that county council may create the position. You
19 may dictate the terms of the position. You can do
20 everything about the position except hire and fire the
21 individual who fills the position and supervise that
22 individual on a day to day basis. The note -- the
23 letter also goes on to examine the other references
24 that Ms. Wilson has just made to Anderson County
25 previously having the internal auditor under the county
26 council. And she indicated in the comments on March
27 the 18th that that existed until Mr. Preston became
28 county administrator. That is a true statement.
29 However, if you'll examine the facts I think you'll
30 find that it wasn't Mr. Preston who changed. It was
31 the Attorney General. The statute or the ordinance
32 putting the internal auditor under the county council
33 was dated 1995. In 1996, Sheriff Taylor requested an
34 opinion of the Attorney General. The Attorney General
35 said that Anderson County's procedure was incorrect.
36 And so in 1997 that was changed to put the internal
37 auditor under the county administrator. The Attorney
38 General has written multiple other opinions concerning
39 the internal auditor. All of them state exactly the
40 same thing. Not a one has been inconsistent. The
41 latest one that I have is dated August 16th, 2002 to
42 Beaufort County. Beaufort County does have an internal
43 auditor, and it reports to the county council. In this
44 opinion, the Attorney General said that is incorrect.
45 In fact, he specifically says it is contrary to law.
46 It is illegal. Beaufort County, realizing that they
47 were going to be asked the question, stated in their
48 letter to the Attorney General, it is our understanding
49 -- this is the county speaking -- it is our
50 understanding that an internal auditor who is hired as

1 an employee must be under the dominion and control of
2 the county administrator. They then ask, well can we
3 accomplish the same thing by hiring an independent
4 contractor to come in and do the work? And the
5 Attorney General said no. You can't do indirectly that
6 which you cannot do directly. So the opinions of the
7 Attorney Generals of the state -- and I'm noting here
8 multiple Attorneys General of the state have been
9 consistent. Each of them have held that if you have an
10 internal auditor, they have to report to the county
11 administrator in the council administrator form of
12 government or to the supervisor and the council
13 supervisor or to the county manager. There are several
14 other Attorney General opinions that I have included in
15 this pamphlet or in this material I've given to you
16 stating the same thing with regard to other county
17 positions such as a zoning administrator. And of
18 course the original one of these opinions really dealt
19 with the county attorney. And the Attorney General
20 again has offered opinions on multiple occasions that
21 in the council administrator form of government, the
22 county attorney has to be appointed by the county
23 administrator. That is not done also in multiple other
24 counties. There are several counties around the state
25 where the county administrator is -- I'm sorry, the
26 county attorney, is appointed by the county council.
27 The Attorney General has said that is not lawful.
28 Other counties do it. I simply note that to you as a
29 point of fact. And then the final thing I would note
30 is there actually is an opinion of the South Carolina
31 Supreme Court which really bears on this particular
32 matter. That is a case from Anderson County and it
33 relates to the hiring of the county attorney. County
34 council challenged the county supervisor appointing the
35 county attorney, and the Supreme Court said, no, that
36 is to be done by the county supervisor not by the
37 county council. But in their opinion they go far
38 beyond that and note that Section 4-9-420, which is the
39 council supervisor form of government, dealing
40 specifically with the council supervisor form of
41 government, makes the county supervisor responsible for
42 -- and this is the part that gets interesting. You
43 will note that this language is identical to the
44 language in the council administrative form of
45 government -- is responsible for the employment and
46 discharge of personnel subject to the provisions of
47 Subsection Seven of Section 4-9-30 and for which
48 council has appropriated funds. That is county council
49 is empowered to create and fund positions for the
50 operations of county government of personnel to fill

1 such positions shall be appointed by the county
2 supervisor. Those are the bases for my opinion as I've
3 given it to county council. The Attorney General
4 opinions are consistent. The only recorded opinions of
5 the Supreme Court is consistent. And then law is
6 contained in this. This will make some very enjoyable
7 reading matter for you tonight after you get home. And
8 again, I would note that I am well aware that there are
9 other counties that have appointed the county attorney
10 by council and have created the internal auditor by
11 council. I simply do not believe that that is correct
12 law. I shouldn't say have created the position. Have
13 appointed the internal auditor by council. I do not
14 believe that that is consistent with state law nor does
15 the office of the Attorney General or the Supreme
16 Court.

17 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

18 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think Mr. Greer still has
20 the floor. He yielded to Mr. -- and I'm being told
21 time has expired. Does anyone wish to extend time?

22 CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make a motion to
23 extend by ten minutes for more discussion please.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ten minutes. Is there a
25 second?

26 LARRY GREER: Second.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We haven't a second by Mr.
28 Greer. All in favor of extending time by ten minutes
29 please vote. Four, five. And oppose. McAbee, Floyd
30 oppose. Okay. But the majority extends time by ten
31 minutes. Mr. Greer, you yielded to Mr. ---

32 LARRY GREER: No, Mr. Chair. I have
33 another comment.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

35 CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Chairman, please?

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer still has the
37 floor.

38 CINDY WILSON: Oh, I thought he said he had
39 no comments.

40 LARRY GREER: No. I said I have some
41 other comments.

42 CINDY WILSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

43 LARRY GREER: You know, I think we're
44 putting the cart before the horse because we've dealt
45 with this one time and we tabled a similar ordinance
46 from a different direction until we got another
47 Attorney General's opinion. And here we have it before
48 us again going in a little bit different direction.
49 And we still have differences of opinion as to what the
50 legality of this situation is. Mr. Martin went into

1 some depth to explain this. But it seems to me that
2 this is where we need to exercise a little patience and
3 give the Attorney General time to review the
4 information that was submitted to him by our attorney
5 and give him time to respond to us. If the Attorney
6 General's opinion comes back that this council can hire
7 an attorney and it can -- not an attorney, an internal
8 auditor and it can report to the council, I'll support
9 that. But it's important that what we do be consistent
10 with state law. We're supposed to be a nation of laws,
11 a community of laws. And if we start bending them to
12 fit our own wants and wishes and desires, then where do
13 we stop? This nation operates on something called a
14 rule of law. I'm looking around the room. I have an
15 attorney sitting to my right. One in front of me and
16 two or three of them scattered throughout the room.
17 And we operate on something called the rule of law.
18 And we cannot start making up the rules as we go. Just
19 because someone else says it's okay to do it or they're
20 doing it and it violates the law, that's not the oath
21 that we took standing down there with our hands on the
22 Bible. We took an oath to uphold the Constitution and
23 the laws of this state. And I keep referring back to
24 this phrase, not inconsistent with the Constitution and
25 state laws. If the Attorney General says it's okay for
26 us to do it, fine. If he said no, then we've got an up
27 to date opinion. So at this time I move to table this
28 until such time as we get the Attorney General's
29 opinion.

30 RON WILSON: Second.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to table.

32 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
34 floor, Ms. Wilson. We have a motion to table and we
35 have a second by Mr. Wilson.

36 CINDY WILSON: And now discussion?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: There is no discussion on
38 tabling. All in favor of tabling Ordinance 2008-022,
39 please vote. The ordinance is tabled. Thank you.

40 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I have a
41 point of order quickly, please.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you cannot use
43 a point of order to continue discussion.

44 CINDY WILSON: I think this will resolve a
45 lot of ---

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: If it's too hot or it's too
47 cold, or you need a drink of water, that's a point of
48 order. You cannot use a point of order to continue a
49 discussion. With that being said, we're going on to
50 item C. 2008-010, Mr. Waldrep, we do not have a copy

1 of your ordinance. So what are you wanting us to do?
2 BOB WALDREP: First of all I was going to
3 say it's too hot.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And I agree.
5 BILL MCABEE: Second.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And I wish we could do
7 something about the air because I am sweating. But
8 anyway ---
9 BOB WALDREP: My Ordinance is very simple.
10 I think I can state it in just these words. And before
11 I get to it, I wanted to that in listening to all ---
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, we need a
13 motion on the floor so we can do discussion. So give
14 me the heading.
15 BOB WALDREP: My heading would be access
16 to public records. And it says all public records of
17 Anderson County shall be available -- immediately
18 available for inspection by any elected member of
19 Anderson County Council. That's it.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a motion to
21 approve?
22 CINDY WILSON: Second.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. I'm asking the
24 question. Is there a motion to approve?
25 BILL MCABEE: Yes.
26 BOB WALDREP: I move.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Wilson seconds.
28 Now we're in discussion.
29 BOB WALDREP: All right. Okay.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
31 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to say in all
32 the discussion that we had about the internal auditor,
33 uust maybe we might not be in this situation if we had
34 immediate access to our public records. I think that's
35 one of the things that's created such a problem in our
36 county as, for example, when I've had to try to get
37 records, when I go to an office and I'd be obstructed
38 and that the administration decided those records would
39 not be available to me. And while we're on that
40 discussion and that topic, we talk about the rule of
41 law and, you know, sometimes you like the rule of law
42 and sometimes you don't. It just depends on which side
43 you're on ...
44

45 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

46 BOB WALDREP: .. from Charlie Condon and
47 Henry McMaster and what have you. But there's one that
48 goes back to December 3, 2001. And it says that
49 basically we concluded, and that's what -- talking
50 about the Attorney General's office -- that a member of

1 county council had the right to access the personnel
2 records, first of all. You know, and that's been an
3 issue. That the county administrator and the county
4 council form of government is responsible for the
5 actual hiring and firing of county personnel. We agree
6 with that. The county council is the ultimate policy
7 making and ultimate decision making body. And I think
8 we'll agree on that. I don't think anybody is going to
9 fuss about that. But it says, the thing that's true
10 with respect to other various county functions is the
11 performance of an audit authorizes county government to
12 provide for an accounting and reporting system whereby
13 funds are received, safely kept, and allocated and
14 disbursed. But Mr. Condon says, and I don't think he's
15 going to be refuted, in short, a member of county
16 council must have access to all pertinent information
17 regarding the operation of the county government, just
18 as each member of the general assembly has a right to
19 access the information not made privileged by
20 confidential or something of that nature. So this
21 information must be provided according to our Attorney
22 General in a timely manner and easily readable manner.
23 Now my problem with the current administration is I've
24 had to try to use the Freedom of Information Act as if,
25 you know, I am a member of the public. But I feel like
26 I've got an additional responsibility as a member of
27 this council to be able to have immediate access to
28 public records. And I've been denied that. That
29 troubles me. There are other things, of course, that
30 I've expressed to this council and folks here that
31 trying to speak as a council member to personnel
32 whenever I was doing an investigation of a contract
33 matter. And that troubled me a great deal. As you
34 know, we had a million dollar contract and I think
35 everyone here on this council knows that I was blocked
36 from having any kind of conference with one of the
37 members of the, I think, the fire department, emergency
38 department, just to simply get information. When that
39 person called my office and told me that I would be
40 able to meet with them and then that person was then
41 called by the administrator and told that he could not
42 speak with me. That makes me really feel like a red
43 headed stepchild. Now we've been on this council, and
44 gentlemen, and I think things change one way or the
45 other. We never know what's going to happen. We've
46 got an election coming up. And I guess everybody is
47 getting excited about that. But to me, as far as I'm
48 concerned, this is going to be a referendum. A
49 referendum on this issue about open, clear, accessible
50 government. Either we're going to have it or we don't.

1 Now I realize that some of you are the favored children
2 of the administrator. And he likes you better than he
3 likes me or perhaps Ms. Wilson. I keep trying to curry
4 his favor, but I just can't quite get there. I'd love
5 to have his affection, but I don't have it. So I have
6 to go back to what? The law. The rule of law that we
7 have heard about spoken so eloquently by a member of
8 council. We must follow it. We must. But are we
9 following this law? If we would follow this law maybe
10 wouldn't be in trouble with the other law. So again,
11 you heard this in the first section of what we were
12 talking about earlier. So this is just part two and
13 maybe a little revision. But I earnestly plead with my
14 fellow council members to allow this simple ordinance
15 to go through. I even considered trying to put it in a
16 more concise way, a more simple way. I even thought
17 about the King James version of the Bible, the thou
18 shalt. And I decided, I said, thou shalt not prevent
19 an elected council member from immediate access to all
20 public records. Maybe that could be the eleventh
21 commandment. So I just pray that you would consider
22 this as an opportunity. If everybody wants kumbaya and
23 everybody wants all this peace and positive atmosphere
24 out there, I submit to you this is a first step. Take
25 away the layer of secrecy out there. Award the elected
26 officials the opportunity to look at these records
27 immediately. If there's no foul, you know, there's no
28 penalty. But it's created a problem, I think, that we
29 should deal with. I'm asking you to please consider
30 this. And I think we will have made a major step. And
31 I think that people of Anderson County will love you
32 for doing this. So I thank you.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, my concern is
34 you have not given us any -- you have not given us a
35 document to read. So I really don't know what I'm
36 voting on. I've heard what you said the last few
37 minutes and all that. But I would prefer myself,
38 speaking for myself, to see something in writing before
39 I vote on it.

40 BOB WALDREP: Well, I could hand it to you
41 right now. It's so simple. All public records of
42 Anderson County shall be immediately available for
43 inspection and copying by any elected member of
44 Anderson County council. I can write that down for the
45 next meeting, if you want. And I would be glad to
46 carry this over until the next meeting where I can
47 write that. But you might prefer, thou shalt not
48 prevent an elected official ---

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So are you saying
50 that you want to table this until the next ---

1 BOB WALDREP: Not table. I would want to
2 postpone it. And I think we could postpone it and
3 carry it over to the next meeting. And that is within
4 the purview of the rules of Robert's Rules of Order.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is postponing tabling, Mr.
6 Martin? I mean are we semantics here?
7 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to
8 check Robert's Rules. I do not believe that there is a
9 motion to carry over. I think the proper motion would
10 be to table until a time certain.
11 BOB WALDREP: Or let me mention this, in
12 the alternative to postpone until a day certain. I
13 know that that's in Robert's Rules of Order.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So can we just say table
15 this until the April -- next meeting.
16 TOM MARTIN: April 15th.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: April 15th meeting. Can we
18 -- is that good? Is that good?
19 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are we in a motion, Mr. ---
21 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion to
23 table this until the April 15th meeting. Is there a
24 second to Mr. Waldrep's motion to table?
25 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to table.
27 All in favor of tabling 2008-010 until the April 15th
28 meeting please vote. We have six. Ms. Floyd, how do
29 you vote?
30 GRACIE FLOYD: In the opposition.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson -- I'm sorry.
32 Ms. Floyd votes no. but the ordinance is tabled until
33 the next meeting so that Mr. Waldrep can put his
34 ordinance in writing. Resolutions R2008-015, a
35 resolution ---
36 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, at this time
37 ---
38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're so close, Mr. McAbee.
39 BILL MCABEE: I know, but I must excuse
40 myself per the ---
41 * MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I jumped
42 the gun on you. Yes. Mr. McAbee has a conflict of
43 interest so he is excusing himself. Resolution 2008-
44 015, a resolution and inducement agreement, economic
45 development announcement. The chair moves to approve.
46 Is there a second?
47 LARRY GREER: Second.
48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion. Mr.
49 Preston.
50 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, the county

* Mr. McAbee's recusal form is
attached and marked Exhibit "A."

1 council has been provided with documents related to
2 what is referred to as Project Shutter. It's a
3 proposed operation in Anderson County. In that
4 resolution, the minimum expected investment will be ten
5 million dollars and the company's business plan
6 outlines opportunities for vast growth. Project
7 Shutter has been determined to provide a minimum of
8 five direct jobs for the project with several indirect
9 positions being created as well. The potential impact
10 for this project goes far beyond the aforementioned
11 investment of jobs. The viability of this community,
12 Cheddar, as a location for this facility is emphatic
13 endorsement of Cheddar as a place for companies to
14 successfully operate their businesses and industries.
15 The upgrades associated with this project to the rail
16 infrastructure will allow future rail intensive
17 companies looking to expand, relocate excellent
18 opportunities within Anderson County. And of paramount
19 importance, the impact of this project will have on the
20 schools, which is school district one, an estimated
21 amount of five hundred and forty-five thousand four
22 hundred and forty-six dollars over the incentive
23 period. Of course that is an estimate. In outlining
24 the benefits for the project, staff and I recommend a
25 fee in lieu of six percent with a twenty year term with
26 locked millage. Equally, we recommend a twenty percent
27 special source revenue credit and designation into a
28 multi-county industrial park. Our attorney, Robert
29 Galloway, who is with us tonight, has reviewed the
30 documents. You all have a letter. He's reviewed the
31 documents and he's approved them or included them.
32 We'd like to recommend approval of this project. We
33 have representing the company tonight Mr. Jim Price,
34 who can of course answer questions concerning that you
35 may have tonight.

36 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: I have several questions.
39 What role or roles do Amy Plummer and Bill McAbee play
40 in this proposed purchase?

41 JOEY PRESTON: I can't answer that. I
42 don't know that.

43 CINDY WILSON: What is this property
44 currently paying in taxes?

45 JOEY PRESTON: I believe it -- Jim, do you
46 want come to the mic here? I believe it's agriculture.

47 CINDY WILSON: So this is not already the
48 tank farm?

49 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am.

50 CINDY WILSON: This is just vacant land.

1 Okay. What are the five jobs? What pay scales and
2 descriptions roughly?

3 JIM PRICE: Unfortunately, I do not have
4 that information. Five jobs. This would be basically
5 a distribution center. They would be involved in
6 unloading a product to the tanks.

7 CINDY WILSON: It would be like oil and
8 gas?

9 JIM PRICE: Yes, ma'am.

10 CINDY WILSON: So there would be hourly
11 workers or higher paid positions?

12 JIM PRICE: Unfortunately, I cannot
13 answer that.

14 CINDY WILSON: Pardon.

15 JIM PRICE: Unfortunately, I cannot
16 answer that.

17 CINDY WILSON: I would like to make a
18 motion to table this until we could get the answers for
19 next meeting. And I would be inclined to favor this if
20 we just had the answers now. I'd do anything to help
21 with economic development. But these are very
22 legitimate questions that we should have had answers
23 for tonight.

24 JIM PRICE: Ms. Wilson, are there any
25 other questions that you had that we could prepare for?

26 CINDY WILSON: Well my other question, was
27 this an already existing business in the tank farm
28 that's just subject to buy-out. But you've said it's
29 unimproved land.

30 JIM PRICE: That's correct.

31 CINDY WILSON: Okay. So my questions are
32 what role or roles do Amy Plummer and Bill McAbee play
33 in this proposed purchase? What is this property
34 currently paying in taxes? And I think you said that
35 was residential agriculture?

36 JOEY PRESTON: It's agriculture.

37 CINDY WILSON: Agriculture. Okay. And
38 then just a brief description of the five jobs, if
39 they're hourly workers or if they are higher paying.

40 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston. Ms. Wilson
42 made a motion to table. Is there a second to her
43 table?

44 BOB WALDREP: Second.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep tabled. All in
46 favor of tabling Resolution 2008-015, please vote. Mr.
47 Waldrep and Ms. Wilson, I'm sorry, and Ms. Wilson voted
48 yea. Opposing are Ron Wilson, Gracie Floyd, Michael
49 Thompson, Larry Greer. So the motion to table dies.
50 We are back in discussion. Any discussion.

1 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you've already
3 ---
4 CINDY WILSON: Just very briefly may we
5 have the answers next meeting?
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, please let
7 someone else talk.
8 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
10 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. What county district
11 is this new industry coming in, for lack of a better
12 word.
13 JOEY PRESTON: I believe it's at the border
14 of district seven and district three. Somewhere in
15 that area right there.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: The council member is from
17 district seven. And more of it is in district ---
18 JOEY PRESTON: District seven.
19 GRACIE FLOYD: Most of it is in district
20 seven, right? All right. Is there a future outlook on
21 this particular entity growing in the future or, you
22 know, we have five jobs now. Mr. Chair, I'm asking you
23 to please, I'm asking you to please -- excuse me. I'm
24 asking you to please do not disregard my concerns that
25 I spoke of earlier today.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Okay.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Now what was I
28 saying? Is there a possibility that this entity will
29 grow in the future with five jobs now but maybe more
30 jobs later on?
31 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. That's what the
32 company is saying.
33 GRACIE FLOYD: That's what they are saying?
34 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am.
35 GRACIE FLOYD: It has growth potential?
36 JOEY PRESTON: That's right, with several
37 indirect positions being created as well.
38 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. In the next five
39 years maybe? Or do they put a time on this?
40 JOEY PRESTON: Their business plan calls
41 for opportunities of growth. I want to let council
42 know too that, you know, we're the number one site for
43 this project. We're in competition right now with two
44 other states. South Carolina is number one, Anderson
45 County. The second is North Carolina and the third is
46 Georgia. And the company is not going to go anywhere
47 they're not wanted.
48 GRACIE FLOYD: They're not going to what?
49 JOEY PRESTON: They're not going to go
50 anywhere they're not wanted. And it's important --

1 this is major capital investment that's going to
2 generate over a half a million dollars in taxes just
3 for the schools.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh.

5 JOEY PRESTON: And it's a great
6 opportunity. Sometimes when you have a lot of jobs,
7 that creates issues within the school districts because
8 they don't want the houses, the growth that will come
9 along with that. This is a pure investment that we
10 want to see move forward.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Preston, Mr.
12 Preston, that's the way district two is looking at
13 this. It may be five jobs now. But we're hoping that
14 in the future it will develop itself into more jobs for
15 more other people in the county. And I'm talking about
16 high paying jobs. You can tell the company, that
17 speaking for district two, that we welcome them to our
18 county. I thank you.

19 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

21 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 Mr. Price, maybe you can answer this question. It's my
23 understanding from some information that I have that
24 this will be an ethanol facility. I'm not sure if it's
25 a blending facility or a shipping point. But it will
26 deal in ethanol. And if my information is correct then
27 that opens up another avenue of economic development
28 for Anderson County that we have not had up to this
29 point in time. Is my information correct?

30 JIM PRICE: That is correct. The
31 primary focus is on ethanol, bringing it in from the
32 Midwest. Mr. Preston is correct. There are three
33 other sites in the Southeast that are possibilities.
34 This is probably the number one site because the
35 headquarters of the company is over in Greenville.
36 They'd like to be close to where this terminal is. But
37 they have to look at a potential distribution that's
38 over in eastern North Carolina more for the military
39 purposes. There's another distribution point in
40 Georgia, north Georgia they're also looking at. When I
41 say primarily ethanol, there is the opportunity to
42 bring in other fuels. But the focus is on ethanol.
43 This is the only real distribution site for ethanol
44 that would be coming in by rail. The other ethanol
45 that's coming into the state is coming in by truck.
46 This is a more effective way.

47 LARRY GREER: Okay. Mr. Price, maybe you
48 or Mr. Preston could answer this next question or line
49 of thought. Since this would increase the rail traffic
50 on this rail line that CSX wanted to abandon and we now

1 have an independent railroad, a short line railroad, I
2 think is the correct term, that's operating over there,
3 this increased traffic would strengthen this rail
4 service in that area and as the price of diesel fuel
5 and trucking continues to escalate, I firmly believe
6 that the sites on rail lines are going to become more
7 attractive for industrial growth and development. So
8 the fact that this is taking place in this community on
9 this rail line, in my opinion, and you correct me if
10 I'm wrong, strengthens this railroad, strengthens the
11 rail service in this county and provides us with even
12 greater opportunities in the future.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer still has the
15 floor and I believe he's asking Mr. Price a question.

16 JIM PRICE: We would certainly agree
17 with that. Part of the way the deal is structured is
18 that the net proceeds for the purchase of the property
19 go back into the improvement of the rail itself. So
20 that is the focus of the company. My client basically
21 got their start as a trucker. I mean his company
22 started out just simply fuel distributions using tanker
23 trucks moving from point A to point B. His focus now
24 is on the rail. One of the reasons that rail is much
25 more effective for this is fuel is very heavy. So it's
26 very expensive to truck this type of product because of
27 the weight and the volume. What we are looking at is
28 the potential of bringing in cars on the order of
29 eighty-five to a hundred cars per trip. And so that is
30 -- they call unit cars in the business. It'll be cars
31 dedicated to delivering that fuel to a particular site.
32 It's the quickest way to get it down to the Midwest
33 which is of course where all the corn is grown. That
34 is the focus from as far as nation of ethanol, this is
35 the way to strengthen your system as far as the rail to
36 try to move product in. The short line itself is about
37 twelve miles. We are certainly focused on our section
38 of it. But again, the short line itself, I believe,
39 connect CSX and Norfolk Southern. So it would make it
40 critical for you guys to have within your county so
41 that you continue the traffic in and across the major
42 carriers.

43 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
44 yield the floor.

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, how much time
47 is remaining? Mr. Waldrep, three and half minutes.

48 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. Just a couple of
49 things. It sounds like a pretty positive overall
50 program from what you told me. I think before the

1 meeting you explained to me something that I did not
2 know. I'm always amazed when I don't know something.
3 But you explained, I think, that jobs are not really a
4 criterion for the fee in lieu of, the number of jobs.
5 And that was my initial concern that we're only talking
6 about five jobs, you know, that sort of thing. But
7 you're telling me now that as far as the structure of
8 the fee in lieu of is concerned that's really not an
9 absolute essential element of fee in lieu of.

10 JIM PRICE: As far as a little fee under
11 the statute, we're simplified fee, jobs are not a
12 statutory requirement as part of the incentive. But
13 what has occurred, Mr. Galloway can certainly respond
14 to that, is that this has been negotiated with the
15 county. So it's coming in as a contractual obligation.

16
17 BOB WALDREP: And so this is going to be
18 six percent of a ten million dollar investment. Is
19 that correct?

20 JIM PRICE: At least.

21 BOB WALDREP: At least. Over a twenty
22 year period.

23 JIM PRICE: What we have to do is we
24 have minimums established in this resolution. We have
25 to meet at least a ten million dollar investment.

26 BOB WALDREP: Right.

27 JIM PRICE: You have an extended time
28 period so we can keep adding. We would like to keep
29 adding. We have to meet a minimum of five jobs. Not
30 that either one of those minimums lose incentives. So
31 the county has -- there's plenty of people that have
32 been involved in economic development projects around
33 the state. Frequently jobs are not part of the
34 required minimum for a fee in lieu of tax arrangement.
35 There are some others that are. The big fees have some
36 job requirements. But I think as ---

37 BOB WALDREP: The state has a different
38 criterion; is that correct, South Carolina, for
39 eligibility and grants and tax incentives and ---

40 JIM PRICE: There are other programs. I
41 mean there are job development credits which are based
42 on employees that you're committed to bring or some
43 other credits.

44 BOB WALDREP: Okay. All right. Well
45 thank you very much. That's what I have.

46 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I believe time is about to
48 expire. Mr. Martin. Fifteen seconds.

49 CINDY WILSON: All right. Very quickly.
50 This has my support. I do request the answers to the

1 questions and also enlist this company's help with the
2 fire and HAZMAT issues. The Cheddar Fire Department
3 needs a new foam truck. And we're trying to get a
4 grant for that. And this would be in that area. So we
5 would gratefully enlist the company's help in that
6 regard too. And I'm glad to know about this. Thank
7 you.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair calls for the
9 vote. All in favor of resolution R2008-015, please
10 vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. With Mr.
13 McAbee absent, I was hoping we could go through the
14 whole agenda without taking a break. But however, it's
15 not possible. So at this time we'll take a quick ten
16 minute break.

17 BREAK

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is everyone seated? Okay.
19 We are on item 9B, R2008-021, a resolution imposing a
20 building permit moratorium in Three and Twenty
21 Precinct, Anderson County, South Carolina and other
22 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
23 Is there a second?

24 RON WILSON: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
26 The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
27 resolution 2008-021 please vote. How do you vote, Ms.
28 Floyd? In favor. The vote is unanimous. Resolution
29 R2008-022, a resolution requesting the state to impose
30 a prohibition on certain truck traffic on Smythe
31 Street, Pelzer. Ms. Wilson, I have the same problem
32 with this. There is no resolution in the book to vote
33 on. So Ms. Wilson, all I have is the petition. Your
34 mic, Ms. Wilson.

35 CINDY WILSON: ... and withdraw this until
36 the next meeting. And there would be an amendment to
37 that.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You can do that at
39 one step.

40 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Well I'll bring it up
41 at the next meeting then. Thank you.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item ten, appointments.
43 Ms. Wilson, any appointments?

44 CINDY WILSON: None. Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep. Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: None.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for me. Ms. Floyd.
48 Mr. McAbee. Mr. Wilson.

49 RON WILSON: None.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Requests by council. Mr.

1 Waldrep.

2 BOB WALDREP: I have a request for a

3 thousand dollars for the airport. I've forgotten

4 exactly. What's the name of that?

5 JOEY PRESTON: The Snowbirds.

6 BOB WALDREP: The Snowbirds. They're

7 Canadian pilots that are coming to Anderson County to

8 perform there. They're the Canadian equivalent of like

9 the Blue Angels.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Out of your

11 recreation fund.

12 BOB WALDREP: Recreation fun. Right.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I second. Any discussion?

14 All in favor vote. The vote is unanimous. Anything

15 else, Mr. Waldrep? Is that it?

16 BOB WALDREP: That's it. Thank you.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

19 have several. Would you like that I ---

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Bundle?

21 GRACIE FLOYD: -- bundle?

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. All of

24 this will come out of district two's recreational fund.

25 It's time now to get the children busy for the summer.

26 But first I'd like to appropriate a thousand dollars to

27 the Homeland Park fire district. I have a piece of

28 that in my area. I don't usually do this, but there's

29 a great need for it. Fifteen hundred dollars for the

30 Toxoway Summer Youth Program. This is the Toxoway

31 United Methodist Church. But they have a 501(C)3 to do

32 the community portion of this. Fifteen hundred dollars

33 to Broadway Lake for their family day activities which

34 is going to be held this June. I'm hoping that you all

35 can make it this time and see a really good show. I

36 have twelve hundred dollars to go to the Men of -- I

37 think it's Men of Vision Summer Youth Program being

38 held over the Westside extension. I'm not sure about

39 that name but twelve hundred dollars to go to them.

40 One thousand dollars to the Broadway Moss and JEBCO for

41 their summer youth program for the children on that

42 side of the town. Okay. And for Fusion I would like

43 to appropriate two thousand dollars to Fusion. Part of

44 it is to go into their general account because they

45 have some needs they need -- that they have to take

46 care of. And a thousand dollars will go for

47 scholarships for children who cannot afford to go to

48 the Fusion summer program. And this is all in the form

49 of a motion.

50 RON WILSON: Second.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
2 discussion? All in favor, please vote. The vote is
3 unanimous. Is that it?
4 GRACIE FLOYD: That's it. Thank you.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
6 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 have three tonight and they will all be from the
8 district three recreation account. And this is in the
9 form of a motion to appropriate two thousand dollars to
10 the Rock Springs Fire Department for a fire hydrant,
11 seven hundred and fifty dollars to the Rock Springs
12 Fire Department for operational activities and five
13 hundred dollars to the Homeland Park Fire Department
14 for their operational activities.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?
16 BILL MCABEE: Second.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Discussion. All in favor
18 please vote. The vote is unanimous. Anything else?
19 LARRY GREER: That's it. Thank you.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
21 BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr.
22 Chairman.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Just want to let Homeland
24 Park Fire Department know that I'm at the end of my
25 barrels, but I have been supporting them the whole year
26 and will continue when additional funds are available.
27 Mr. Ron Wilson.
28 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
29 have a request from the Williamston Emergency Medical
30 Service Group for some paving out on Cherokee Road
31 around their station. And if council will remember I
32 pulled back twenty-five thousand out of the Spearman
33 Road account a couple of months ago. I'd like for
34 fourteen of that to be used for the Williamston
35 Emergency Medical Service for the paving around station
36 number two.
37 CINDY WILSON: Second.
38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any discussion. All
39 in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else, Mr.
40 Wilson?
41 RON WILSON: That is it, Mr. Chairman.
42 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, any
44 appropriations?
45 BOB WALDREP: I'm sorry.
46 CINDY WILSON: I have no appropriations at
47 the moment, but I do have some requests. And one of
48 these has to do with economic development.
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are we appropriating money?
50 CINDY WILSON: Well appropriating hopefully

1 money coming back into the county. I've asked for a
2 letter to be sent to the Board of Realtors along with
3 forms for all the Realtors that might have industrial
4 sites and existing buildings to get them to our county
5 economic development department and the State
6 Department of Commerce so that that can go into the
7 database. Since we had the twenty-one prospects, he
8 said we didn't have the product here. It seems like
9 there are a lot of properties available. And surely
10 some of those properties would be good for our
11 prospects.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ...

15 BOB WALDREP: I overlooked an
16 appropriation I wanted to request out of my recreation
17 account.

18 Micheal Thompson: Yes, sir. Go right ahead,
19 please.

20 BOB WALDREP: It is a thousand dollars
21 from district one's recreation account for Odyssey of
22 the Mind. That is a school project.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. 501(C)3.

24 BOB WALDREP: 501(C)3. If it's not then
25 it won't be. But I thought it was appropriate. It
26 sounded a little bit like county council.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I will second. Any
28 discussion. All in favor please vote. Unanimous.
29 This meeting is adjourned.

30
31

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Making News.
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Exhibit "A"

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, ANDERSON COUNTY
FROM: Bill McAbee
DATE: April 1, 2008
RE: Recusal from County Council participation due to potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety

Pursuant to Section 8-13-700, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, I am hereby giving notice of my abstention from the matter regarding the issue of Item 9.a. R2008-015 a Resolution and Inducement Agreement as it appears before Anderson County Council on April 1, 2008

The potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety for which I am recusing myself and abstaining from participation is: Property owner is a customer of McAbee and Company
(for example: a personal or financial interest in the matter in question; a conflict or appearance of impropriety due to business or other relationships with one or more of the parties involved; and so forth).

This document is to be filed as a matter of public record, and is to be included with the official minutes of the County Council meeting at which the matter in question was brought before Anderson County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. McAbee



Post Office Box 8002 • Anderson, S.C. 29622-8002
(864) 260-4000

www.andersoncountysc.org

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – April 15, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

M I N U T E S

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

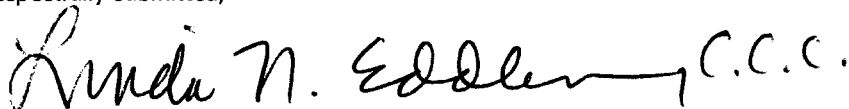
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Adam Artigliere – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda N. Eddleman", followed by the letters "C.C.C." in a similar script.

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 15, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The April 15, 2008 county
2 council meeting will now come to order. Council
3 member, Bill McAbee, will give the invocation and
4 Pledge of Allegiance.

5 INVOCATION BY BILL MCABEE

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Approval of the
8 minutes. If there's no objection, I want to take
9 both of these at the same time. So at this time I
10 move to approve the minutes, April 1, 2008, the
11 special called meeting and the regular meeting. Is
12 there a second to approve? We have a second from Mr.
13 Wilson. Are we -- any discussion? No discussion.
14 All in favor of approving the minutes please vote.
15 The vote is unanimous to approve both of those.

16 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

18 LARRY GREER: I call for a point of
19 order.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of
21 order, Mr. Greer?

22 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Section 2-37, Paragraph F, Subsection Seven of the
24 Code dealing with the agenda for county council
25 meetings says that the agenda shall equally -- shall
26 normally consist of at least the following categories
27 of business to be taken up generally in the order
28 listed. And it does list public comments pertaining
29 to other matters and comments by council members.
30 And it's my opinion that the agenda tonight violates
31 the procedures ordinance as established in our county
32 code book. And at this time I move to add citizens'
33 comments on other matters and council members remarks
34 to the agenda and to allow citizens to sign up for
35 other remarks during the first recess.

36 CINDY WILSON: Second.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
38 on the floor to add citizens' comments other matters
39 and council comments. Is that right?

40 LARRY GREER: That's right.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To the agenda. We have a
42 second. Do we have any discussion on that?

43 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. Very quickly,
44 may I?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

46 CINDY WILSON: We're also missing the
47 administrator's report, and that's usually in every
48 council agenda packet for regularly scheduled
49 meetings.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

1 CINDY WILSON: So may I make an amendment
2 to that that henceforth we'll be sure to have that in
3 our packet as well.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second
5 to Ms. Wilson's amendment to the amendment?

6 BOB WALDREP: Second.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to the
8 amendment to the amendment. Any more discussion?

9 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

11 LARRY GREER: I want to reiterate
12 something I've said in the past. I for one defend
13 our people's right to be heard even when I disagree
14 with them. I don't agree with the manner in which
15 some folks speak. I don't necessarily agree with the
16 tone that they use. I don't necessarily agree with
17 the comments that I hear sometimes. But I will
18 defend their right to speak and be heard. And that's
19 what this is an effort to do tonight to make sure
20 that we protect that freedom to be heard by your
21 governing body. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.

23 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

25 BILL MCABEE: One of the things, I
26 supported this change in our agenda and I have liked
27 having the three o'clock meeting to dispense with
28 business that doesn't necessarily require a vote. My
29 concern is that if we have an ordinance in place,
30 what is the actual procedure then for changing the
31 order of the agenda? Is this -- I mean do we have to
32 amend the -- change the order of the agenda by
33 ordinance? I recall that when citizens' comments
34 other matters were moved from the beginning of the
35 meeting to the end of the meeting it was done by
36 ordinance with three readings. That really is a
37 question that -- aren't we compelled to follow our --
38 are we compelled to follow our own ordinance amended
39 through the ordinance process?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me give
41 everyone my thinking. The county ordinance states
42 that it is at the chairman's discretion to allow for
43 citizens' comments other matters. Okay. The county
44 ordinance also states that the chairman has the right
45 to called meetings. And as chair I was seeing a lot
46 of negativity. People just basically want to get
47 their face before the camera and it was having a
48 negative impact on the county. I was hearing rumors
49 and talk of us losing opportunities in economic
50 development because of the goings on, to put it

1 politely, here at the county council. Now I have
2 spoken with two attorneys, and they both said that
3 this is not a right, it is a privilege. And I am not
4 taking anyone's rights away. I do not want to take
5 anyone's rights away. But I do want to put Anderson
6 County in a position for us to grow and for us to
7 prosper. Now as I have said before in numerous
8 times, I have two models that I am using as examples.
9 Spartanburg County is a county much larger than
10 Anderson. They meet once a month. They meet at
11 three o'clock to do basically their committee work.
12 And then they meet at six o'clock to do their
13 legislative work. Greenwood, which is maybe a little
14 smaller than Anderson County, they meet twice a
15 month. But yet they meet at three o'clock to do
16 their committee work. And then they meet at six
17 o'clock to do their legislative work. And they are
18 prospering. They are getting things done. And that
19 is what I want Anderson County to do. I have no
20 desire to take anyone's rights away. But as I said
21 the county ordinance gives the chairman the authority
22 at his discretion to remove citizens' comments other
23 matters and to call meetings. But nevertheless, we
24 have a motion on the floor and we have a second.
25 Does anyone else wish to speak on this?

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: I need some clarification.
29 If our ordinance gives you the right to do what has
30 been done and if -- I don't understand why we are
31 voting if you already was given the authority to do
32 it.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Artigliere, are you
34 prepared to answer that question?

35 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair, members of
36 council, I believe that you can amend the agenda via
37 vote by council and it doesn't take three readings
38 and a public hearing to amend just the agenda itself.
39 So I believe that the initial motion was proper and
40 that it's fine to hear this particular question right
41 now.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So what he said basically
43 is Mr. Greer is just amending this particular agenda.
44 Right?

45 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: I believe that was the
46 motion that he made. Yes, sir.

47 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

49 CINDY WILSON: Another problem that arose
50 in this particular agenda configuration is I had

1 requested some time for some financial discussion.
2 And I found that not only -- it was just totally
3 ignored. It was -- it's not on the agenda tonight.
4 I did not receive anything in writing as to why my
5 item would not be on the agenda. And yet I sent my
6 request in writing.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand.

8 CINDY WILSON: And I know that I don't
9 have the Codes of Ordinances in front of me, but it
10 also states that our chairman has no greater
11 authority than any individual member of council. And
12 then when we change -- I guess it was you that
13 changed our agenda and we had the special called
14 meeting. It was out of sequence. And this meeting
15 is not following the format that's in our Code of
16 Ordinances too.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
18 So we're going to -- the chair calls for the vote.
19 The amendment to the amend -- well, first of all Ms.
20 Wilson's amendment was to add the administrator
21 report. And that is not ready tonight; is it.

22 CINDY WILSON: No. I said henceforth. I
23 understood ---

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: At the next meeting.
25 Okay. At the next meeting.

26 CINDY WILSON: And henceforth.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. On the next
28 meeting the agenda -- the administrator report would
29 be on the agenda at the next meeting. All in favor
30 of Ms. Wilson's motion, please vote. Three. All
31 oppose. Mr. Wilson, Mr. McAbee, Ms. Floyd and Mr.
32 Thompson oppose. Now we're to the original motion to
33 amend the agenda by adding citizens' comments other
34 matters and council member comments on the agenda.
35 All in favor please vote. Four. All oppose.
36 Opposing is Mr. Wilson, Ms. Floyd and Mr. Thompson.
37 So we will be adding to the agenda citizens' comments
38 other matters and council members' comments. And
39 that will come after item number ten. Okay. Very
40 good. Moving on. Mr. Greer has informed me that the
41 Resolution R2008-016 has been taken off. The family
42 could not be here. So we are at Ordinance's third
43 reading, 2008-017.

44 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we have
45 citizens' comments agenda matters.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh. I'm sorry. I'm
47 sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself. Citizens'
48 comments agenda matters. And I do understand a lot
49 of people who have signed up under agenda matters
50 really want to speak to the public hearing. You can

1 speak at both if you wish or just speak at the agenda
2 matters, whichever you prefer. It's up to you. But
3 I have instructions to read. Meetings of county
4 council are legislative meetings based upon
5 representative form of government and are regulated
6 by parliamentary procedures and are not town
7 meetings. Accordingly, the citizens agenda is for
8 the receipt of citizens' opinion, comments and input.
9 It is not a time for debate, question and answer or
10 dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than
11 three minutes to address county council. You are
12 asked to please refrain from addressing members of
13 the audience by name. Please direct your comments to
14 the council chair and only to the council chair. Mr.
15 Artigliere.

16 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair, there are ten
17 citizens signed up for agenda matters.

18 CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA MATTERS

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: As I previously stated,
20 Resolution 2008-016 has been pulled by Mr. Greer. So
21 we're going to move on to the next item. Ordinance's
22 third reading, 2008-017, an ordinance to impose and
23 post notice of a vehicle weight restriction of
24 Hammond Road between Old Greenville Highway and the
25 Pickens County border and other matters related
26 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
27 second?

28 RON WILSON: Second.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion.

30 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman. Just very
31 quickly, I have ---

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

33 CINDY WILSON: I certainly understand the
34 need of the folks of that area to need the weight
35 restriction in that road and I hope that council will
36 see fit for my district too. Thank you.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

38 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

40 RON WILSON: Late today the DOT sent an
41 e-mail to Mr. Hopkins saying they were okay with
42 these restrictions to be put on Hammond Road. And
43 we've had a good delegation from Three and Twenty
44 precinct for all of these readings. And I just want
45 to point out that nothing is more widely discussed in
46 that area than this landfill. And not one citizen
47 from the Three and Twenty precinct has showed up here
48 to speak for the landfill or against the weight
49 restrictions on this road. So I urge the council to
50 give this third and final reading tonight. And I

1 call for the question.

2 BILL MCABEE: Second.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
4 question and a second. All in favor of call for the
5 question please vote. The vote is unanimous. All in
6 favor of Ordinance 2008-017 please vote. The vote is
7 unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance's first reading,
8 Ordinance 2008-010, access to public records, Mr. Bob
9 Waldrep? Is there a motion to approve? Is there a
10 second?

11 CINDY WILSON: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
13 second. Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

14 BOB WALDREP: I've got the mic on now.
15 I think everyone is pretty familiar with my attempts
16 in the past to try to satisfy council that there was
17 a need for open access to public records by elected
18 officials. And I'm very mindful of the history that
19 the council has gone through and pending litigation
20 that's gone through and some of the discontent with
21 some of the requests for information in the past.
22 However, I was not a party to the problems that
23 occurred before. And so when I got on council I was
24 surprised to find out that there was still some
25 rationale. I don't think that council ever voted for
26 me not to have access to public records. I know that
27 they did vote at one time to keep another council
28 member from having access to public records. So I'm
29 just kind of hoping that we could get on past that.
30 The issue came up, I think, a couple of times when I
31 would try to get access to public records in the
32 finance department particularly dealing with the
33 credit card situation. And it really became a
34 concern to me. And I think the Attorney General is
35 weighed in on this matter. I don't think even the
36 county attorney in this case would be able to say
37 that members of this council should not have
38 immediate access to these records. Now I guess I
39 could go into a long-winded explanation about duties
40 and things of that nature that all of us have. But I
41 think that it's so apparent to all of us through
42 common sense that we just simply can't do our duty
43 unless we have an opportunity to look at these
44 records. And we're getting ready to go through a
45 budget process right now. I think we're meeting
46 tomorrow at nine o'clock. If we can't see the way
47 that money is being spent in this county openly,
48 honestly, and I think that's shared with not only us
49 but with the public and the press, I don't see how we
50 can possibly do what we're called upon to do as our

1 sworn duty. So with that in mind, I'm asking this
2 council if you would reconsider your posture on this
3 matter. I realized that when it was first brought up
4 that it felt like it had some personal direction to
5 it, some personal agenda. But frankly, it does not.
6 It's a question of process. I don't know that I know
7 the answer to all of the legal implication of this.
8 But I can assure you that if I were a betting man and
9 we had to go through a long process for this issue
10 that it would be prevailed upon this council that
11 they would have to do this. I don't want to talk too
12 long, but again I was privy to that meeting in
13 Columbia before the Supreme Court when this issue
14 came up. And I think the only thing that changed or
15 rather bogged the court down that I could see was
16 that the county council was not made party to that
17 lawsuit. That was the question that was asked
18 several times, I think, from the bench. Nobody wants
19 to involve themselves in contention or needless
20 litigation. And for that reason I hope that we can
21 use our minds and look toward resolving this issue.
22 Now I think one of the constituents brought up the
23 fact that there could be an issue involved in this
24 regarding what is confidential. What is privileged?
25 I think those are going to be questions that are
26 going to come up from time to time. There's a long
27 line of cases about personnel matters. And we can
28 argue about that or we can amend this ordinance in
29 some way or we can look at those on a case by case
30 basis. But there are definitions as to what is
31 confidential and what is privileged. And sometimes
32 that has to be explored through a court action. I
33 know that I get copies of letters from attorneys in
34 Charleston that have been hired by the administrator.
35 And in her mind everything is privileged. Everything
36 is confidential. And that's been a real difficulty.
37 And of course I strongly disagree with that. And I
38 think even our local county attorney would disagree
39 with that. But those are things we're going to have
40 to face. But the simple truth is I want to be able
41 to walk into that finance department, look at that
42 file and say I want to see those records. I want to
43 see what is verified, what is documented and where
44 the money is going. And then I can take that
45 information with me to the budget meeting and I'll be
46 able to kind of make sense about how this money is
47 being spent. I think that's the biggest reason that
48 I've introduced this. I welcome any amendments, any
49 thoughts, any criticisms. Again, there's no pride of
50 authorship in this. I think it's a rather simple

1 ordinance. And for that reason I would ask that the
2 council consider it. Thank you very much.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time left, Mr.
4 Artigliere?

5 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: I believe we have about
6 fourteen minutes left.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Anyone else
8 wish to ---

9 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

11 BILL MCABEE: This is essentially the
12 same ordinance that was presented to us previously
13 and raises some of the same concerns it raised
14 previously. Much has been made of the attorney
15 general's opinion issued on -- regarding public
16 record. And the people that refer to it always
17 forget to turn to the second page where it says
18 referring access to information. And it grants
19 access to information but not information that is
20 made privileged or confidential by law such as with
21 the lawyer, client privilege. As I read item -- part
22 seven of this ordinance it would -- we would be
23 signing away our lawyer, client confidentiality.
24 Each member of council would have that. And it was
25 essentially defeat the county's position in the court
26 -- in the case before the State Supreme Court. The
27 court could in fact perhaps rule this case moot. I
28 would urge the council to take into consideration
29 that this could be detrimental to the county's
30 position in that action if we were to pass this
31 ordinance. The -- I see that it really doesn't
32 provide a definition for privileged or confidential.
33 It makes it the burden of the administrator and then
34 provides for legal fees for anyone who brings action.
35 I see that this is a -- seems to be an ordinance that
36 is intended to open the county coffers to anyone who
37 wishes to sue the county. Mr. Chairman, this is --
38 this remains a deeply, deeply flawed document. It
39 doesn't serve the public interest. It will end up
40 costing the taxpayers hundreds of thousands if not
41 millions of dollars if it is passed. And I would
42 urge the council that we should not take any action
43 along these lines until the South Carolina Supreme
44 Court has ruled on the case involving Anderson
45 County. I move to table, Mr. Chairman.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
48 table Ordinance 2008-010. Is that to a definite
49 period of time or indefinite?

50 BILL MCABEE: Indefinite.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Indefinite period of time
2 and second by Ms. Floyd. All in favor of tabling
3 Ordinance 2008-010 please vote. All oppose. Mr.
4 Greer, Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson oppose. The motion
5 to table is carried. Ordinance 2008-019, a re-zoning
6 request from R20 to C1N of four properties on the
7 northeast and southeast quadrants at the intersection
8 of Middleton Court and Clemson Boulevard and other
9 matters related thereto. There is a public hearing
10 on this. Instructions for public hearing. Any
11 person desiring to do so may speak at a public
12 hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he
13 or she is speaking to the issue under consideration.
14 The chairman exercises control of the public hearing
15 to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing
16 process by engaging in unreasonable or lengthy
17 comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane,
18 abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With
19 this being said, the public hearing is now open.
20 Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance may come
21 forward. Please state your name and address before
22 speaking. Public hearing is now open. Anyone wish
23 to speak on this ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
25 speak? Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing
26 is now closed. Is there a motion to approve
27 Ordinance 2008-19?
28

29 BILL MCABEE: So moved.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

31 LARRY GREER: Second.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?

33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

35 BOB WALDREP: What's the background of
36 the zoning?

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ricketson, what's the
38 background?

39 JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Waldrep,
40 this property was -- when Edgewood precinct was
41 initially zoned back in 2000, this was one the hand
42 fulls of properties on Clemson Boulevard ...

43 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

44 JEFF RICKETSON: ... Given the fact that
45 we've had some re-zoning since 2000, this is the only
46 remaining property on Clemson Boulevard that's not
47 zoned commercial. The guy has come in once before
48 and asked for, I think, C2 which is highway
49 commercial, and was turned down because of some
50 concerns expressed by people in the neighborhood. He

1 came back again recently to the planning commission,
2 asked for C1. That's one clarification I would like
3 to point out here. Through the planning commission,
4 his request to C1 was amended. The planning
5 commission wanted to compromise and ask him if he
6 would accept or change his request from C1 to C1N
7 which is much more restricted. He did agree to that
8 and the planning commission unanimously voted to
9 recommend to you that this property be re-zoned for
10 C1N which is limited commercial.

11 BOB WALDREP: Thank you. That's all.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I too am
16 concerned, Mr. Ricketson, about the traffic on this
17 road. I'm sure that all of us have had the
18 opportunity to experience some form of that traffic
19 around peak hours. Now I don't think that we can put
20 any kind of condition into this re-zoning request
21 that a traffic light would be established there. But
22 how do we go about doing something to that effect?
23 We have to grant the re-zoning permit first after
24 three readings. And then what can be done to ensure
25 that the safety of the people up and down that
26 highway would be considered?

27 JEFF RICKETSON: We have to work with the
28 Department of Transportation. That's a state highway
29 and there are at least two other intersections along
30 that stretch that are also problematic. So I know
31 DOT has already been working on trying to address the
32 other two intersections. And this may be one that
33 needs to be added to that list.

34
35 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But there's no
36 guarantee that it will be.

37 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

38 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

40 CINDY WILSON: May I ask Mr. Ricketson a
41 question?

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

43 CINDY WILSON: What are the arrangements
44 for accel, decel and turn lanes? Are there already
45 turn lanes there? Or what about accel, decel for
46 this proposed re-zoning site?

47 Jeff Ricketson: It's an existing road. I
48 think it's Middleton Court. It's an existing road.
49 There aren't currently any accel, decel lanes there.
50 That would have to be decided at the plan review

1 stage. This is just for the re-zoning. They'll have
2 to come back in at some point before they develop the
3 property and submit a site plan. At that point we've
4 got to make that determination about whether an accel,
5 decel lane would be required.

6 CINDY WILSON: Well, I certainly will not
7 oppose this re-zoning. But I agree with Ms. Floyd.
8 This has been a pet peeve of mine since I came on
9 council. Every other county or state that I've been
10 involved in with real estate, they require the
11 developers to do that. And it's so sensible because
12 it saves the public a lot of money and not to mention
13 the human life and the efficiency of the roads. So I
14 just took the opportunity to point that out again.
15 Thank you.

16 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

17 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

19 RON WILSON: Yes. Mr. Ricketson, you
20 said that the planning commission had passed this?

21 Jeff Ricketson: They unanimously
22 recommended that it be, that it be approved as C1N.

23 RON WILSON: And how about the
24 advisory?

25 Jeff Ricketson: They unanimously
26 recommended that it be approved as well.

27 RON WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

28 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: I call for the question.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A call for the question
32 and a second. All in favor of call for the question
33 please vote. It's unanimous to call for the
34 question. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-019 please
35 vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance
36 2008-020, a re-zoning request from R20 to RD, plus or
37 minus point six acres, of property on the corner of
38 Dixon Road and Don Hill Road. There is a public
39 hearing. The same rules apply. The public hearing
40 is now open. Who wants to speak on Ordinance 2008-
41 020 please come forward. Give your name, address and
42 your comments. And speak only to the chair. The
43 public hearing is open. Hearing and seeing no one
44 the public hearing is closed. The chair moves to
45 approve.

46 LARRY GREER: Second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We've got a second. Any
48 discussion?

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Ricketson, we are in
2 the habit of advertising these changes in the
3 community to give the neighbors a chance to come in
4 to refute it or -- okay good.

5 JEFF RICKETSON: We're required by
6 ordinance to send out a direct mail to everybody
7 within a thousand feet of these properties. And we
8 also advertise in the paper.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. And it has
10 been done?

11 Jeff Ricketson: It has been done.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Thank you.
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

15 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chair.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

17 BILL MCABEE: The neighborhood
18 surrounding this, is it primarily mixed use or is it
19 strictly residential?

20 JEFF RICKETSON: It's predominately
21 residential. The one commercial property that's in
22 the middle of these three parcels here is an old
23 commercial building that was there when we initially
24 zoned the Centerville precinct back in 2003. Given
25 the fact that it was an existing commercial business,
26 we zoned that area C1N which is neighborhood
27 commercial which is the most restricted commercial.
28 And the other properties had duplexes on them, but
29 they were zoned with a large area of R20. What
30 they're trying to do now is just make those duplexes
31 conforming and they're asking for duplexes on either
32 side of this commercial building to be zoned RD which
33 is the duplex zoning category. So it's not really
34 going to change anything. It's just going to make
35 what's there ---

36 BILL MCABEE: Conforming.

37 JEFF RICKETSON: Right.

38 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

40 BOB WALDREP: I just had a quick
41 question, Jeff. And that is in all these I think
42 council wants to know whether or not the advisory
43 board coincides with what the planning and zoning
44 commission has done. And virtually in all these
45 they've been ---

46 JEFF RICKETSON: Unanimous.

47 BOB WALDREP: -- compatible and
48 agreeable? Okay. Thank you. That's all.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair calls for the
50 vote on Ordinance 2008-020. All in favor please

1 vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance
2 2008-021, a re-zoning request from R20 to C1N and C1N
3 to RD plus or minus point six nine acres of property
4 on Dixon Road. Again, there is a public hearing on
5 this item. The same rules apply. Anyone wishing to
6 speak on this issue during the public hearing please
7 come forward. Give your name and address. Public
8 hearing is open. Hearing and seeing none, the public
9 hearing is closed. The chair moves to approve.

10 LARRY GREER: Second.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
12 discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in
13 favor of Ordinance 2008-021 please vote. The vote is
14 unanimous. Ordinance 2008-024, an ordinance to amend
15 Ordinances 98-019 as previously amended by Ordinance
16 99-29 and others relating to the industrial business
17 park of Anderson County and Greenville County so as
18 to enlarge the park. The chair moves to approve. Is
19 there a second?

20 RON WILSON: Second.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
22 Mr. Preston or someone, can you basically tell us
23 what
24 ---

25 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, this was
26 requested by Greenville County. They want to add a
27 project to the park. I believe they're referring to
28 it as Project Apple in Greenville County.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And our documents need to
30 reflect theirs and that's what we're doing. Right?

31 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. It has been
32 reviewed by our legal counsel. Recommends approval.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. The chair
34 calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-
35 024 please vote. It is unanimous. Thank you.
36 Ordinance 2008-025, an ordinance to impose a one
37 percent capital sales tax, capital project sales tax
38 subject to a referendum within Anderson County, South
39 Carolina pursuant to the capital Project Sales Tax
40 Act as codified in 4-10-300 and others of the South
41 Carolina Code of Laws and other matters related
42 thereto. The chair moves to approve.

43 LARRY GREER: Second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

47 BOB WALDREP: This has been a very
48 mighty effort by a lot of people to review what some
49 of our needs are in the county. I just wanted to
50 express my appreciation for all those folks that work

1 very hard to go around the county and assess the
2 needs. I know that there's some disagreement about
3 the money in my particular district that I put down
4 which is east west connector which eats up probably a
5 vast majority of the approximately twenty-two million
6 dollars that would be allotted to district one. But
7 nevertheless, the process of going through this
8 capital sales project tax has been very educational
9 to me and I think to a lot of other people. And it's
10 raised a lot of questions, of course, as to what can
11 be done with this money. The questions, so many of
12 them were, as the committees were heard around the
13 county, was what hand does county council have in the
14 expenditure of this money once the list has been
15 determined. And we've been assured that this council
16 would have no hand. The only thing we would do is
17 just vote for the oversight committee. I think when
18 people heard that they felt a sigh of relief that
19 this council would not be interfering with this money
20 and it would be expended as indicated. When I first
21 looked at this idea, I was not very warm to it.
22 However, as I've seen the list of projects and needs
23 that we have in the county and know that our roads
24 and bridges are in such dire need, it's really
25 changed my opinion. I just wanted to say that. And
26 some of the questions that have come over the radio
27 and the press and personal meetings about the one
28 cent sales tax, it's been promoted very strongly that
29 a lot of this money, as much as forty percent, would
30 be coming from outside sources outside the county.
31 Georgia. Bless their heart. They come over and they
32 shop here. And occasionally you'll find a
33 Greenvillian over here that gets lost on the way to
34 Atlanta and they will shop here. So that's such a
35 plus. Someone asked an interesting question, I
36 thought, the other day about how regressive this tax
37 is. You know, we always get into this issue about
38 whether this is a progressive tax or regressive tax.
39 Well, I guess we'd say generally speaking you would
40 look at it as a regressive tax. However, maybe
41 somebody can answer this question for me here to make
42 sure. But it was presented that the one cent sales
43 tax would not apply to groceries.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins, can you
45 answer that question?

46 HOLT HOPKINS: Whatever sales tax you pay
47 currently in groceries is not included in that.
48 Anything you pay sales tax on you'd pay this tax.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So groceries would be
50 excluded since we have zero tax on groceries.

1 Mr. Hopkins: That is correct.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Unprepared food, to be
3 more specific.

4 Mr. Hopkins: Correct.

5 BOB WALDREP: So that was something that
6 was a little attractive to me because you do become
7 concerned in an economy like we're in now when people
8 are having a hard time. But the great thing about
9 this is it's going to be up to the people of Anderson
10 County to make that determination. This council does
11 not decide whether you have that tax or not. This is
12 going to be entirely up to you. And so with that
13 thought I was just pleased to say that my vote to
14 have this and to put this before the people will be
15 affirmative tonight.

16 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I wish to speak at this
18 time. We have Mr. Burris in the audience here who is
19 the vice chairman of the capital sales tax
20 commission. I want to relay my regards. I think you
21 guys did an excellent job going around this county
22 getting input not only from council members but from
23 citizens, from staff, from whoever. You guys did a
24 great job. People came in. I don't want no tax.
25 And they at least left the meeting willing to think
26 about it with an open mind. Mr. Clinkscale is here
27 too. So to Mr. Jones, David Jones, Bob Burris, Dick
28 Bailes, Rusty Burns, Vince Clinkscale and Kurt
29 Oglesby, I thank you very much for serving Anderson
30 County and for the great job you guys did on this
31 project. I thank you very much. Anyone else wish to
32 speak?

33 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

35 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36 I want to add my two cents to this one cent. I
37 attended several of the community meetings that they
38 held and actually sat in on one or two of the
39 commission meetings. And I was thoroughly impressed
40 with the dedication of those six people as they
41 worked diligently to try to do something very
42 positive and progressive for Anderson County and the
43 people of Anderson County. They spent a lot of time.
44 They spent a lot of their own money. They didn't
45 receive any milage or anything for the travel that
46 they did. So they deserve a lot of thanks from the
47 people of Anderson County for the time that they
48 spent in pursuing putting this capital project sales
49 tax list and the referendum together. I want to
50 share something with the audience and the council

1 tonight. I have here a letter from the City of
2 Belton signed by the mayor and the city administrator
3 in support of the capital projects sales tax. I also
4 have a resolution from the Iva town council in
5 support of the capital project sales tax and the
6 projects that it will fund. I opposed the capital
7 project sales tax for a good number of years. But
8 I've come to the decision and I watched this group as
9 they put this list of projects together. They really
10 and truly made a concerted effort to make sure that
11 all areas of Anderson County fared equally. And
12 that's been one of the cornerstones in my service on
13 council. I believe that everybody needs to be
14 treated as fairly and as equally as we can humanly
15 possibly do. And I believe that this commission has
16 truly put a list together that fairly and equally
17 benefits this entire county and not just certain
18 areas of the county. And I for one plan to vote to
19 allow the people of this county to make the decision
20 on whether they want this or not. This council is
21 not going to impose this tax. The people of Anderson
22 County will make that decision. Before I yield the
23 floor, I want to offer Mr. Burris and Mr. Clinkscales
24 an opportunity to come forward and to say anything as
25 members of the commission if they would like. Mr.
26 Burris.

27 BOB BURRIS: Mr. Chairman, Bob Burris,
28 vice chair of the capital sales tax commission. I
29 have been privileged for the last several months to
30 travel Anderson County and to talk with the people
31 and view their thoughts and their desires for our
32 people in this county to move forward. We have tried
33 very diligently to make sure it was equitably
34 distributed. And I think we've done that. A lot of
35 great projects on this list of over a hundred, almost
36 a hundred and fifty projects. The more paving miles
37 will be done under this six tenths of one percent
38 that will come from Anderson County and the other
39 almost four percent of that one cents will come from
40 those that come to our county. But this is going to
41 be a great project. It's going to be something I
42 think that Anderson County can be proud of. We'll be
43 able to pave more roads than we've ever seen before
44 in the history of Anderson County. We'll be able to
45 do things for the people of Anderson County that they
46 will not be able to do for themselves. For instance,
47 we have a fire department that's being planned under
48 the funding for this up in Townsville which is
49 desperately needed. We have West Pelzer that
50 desperately needs sewer rehab projects. And this

1 will allow that to occur. But primarily, there will
2 be a lot of roads and a lot of bridges fixed. And
3 this hundred and forty-eight million dollars will go
4 a long way. It's indeed a project that we believe is
5 fair and equitable. Because the county council will
6 not have any authority whatsoever into it other than
7 to vote it up or down. And once that occurs it'll be
8 up to our people to make that decision. And I think
9 our people can be trusted to do the right thing. If
10 they see this as some kind of encouragement to make
11 our county a better place to live, work and to play,
12 I think they will vote for it. If they think
13 otherwise, they'll vote against it. But I think the
14 commission is entirely in agreement that the people
15 of Anderson County should make this decision. And
16 once they do it then we will follow their decision to
17 move forward. I think for one thing this has been a
18 wonderful commission. We've worked hard. We tried
19 to make every part of Anderson County available to a
20 public hearing. We've had a few chuckles along the
21 way. We've had a few people that looked at us sort
22 of strangely. But through it all it's been a good
23 venture. And I'm proud to be a part of it. And I
24 want to encourage you for your encouragement and your
25 endorsement of this project. I think it's the fair
26 thing to do. And I think when the evening is over
27 and done you can say it was the right thing to do.
28 Thank you.

29 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
30 Clinkscales, would you like to come forward?

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr.
32 Artigliere?

33 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair, you have eight
34 minutes.

35 VANCE CLINKSCALES: Mr. Chairman, I'm Vance
36 Clinkscales. I truly learned a lot by serving on
37 that commission. I served with a group of fine men.
38 We didn't have any women so I'm not discriminatory.
39 But it was all men. And I enjoyed really going to
40 those different communities and listening to the
41 response of the people to that. You know, we had it
42 once before trying to get the penny and I really
43 wasn't in favor of it. But since I've been on that
44 commission I've been impressed with the need that we
45 have here in Anderson County with roads and bridges
46 and sewer and water problems. So I'm all for it
47 myself. When I was asked to serve I wasn't all that
48 enthused about it. But now that I've served and all
49 of those guys worked hard with me. And I'm very,
50 very proud of what we accomplished in there. But one

1 of the first things I said in the meeting --
2 sometimes you try to keep your mouth shut. But I
3 made one statement in there. But I don't know -- I
4 imagine Mr. Burris probably remembers. I said one
5 thing about it, if you put that before the people and
6 they don't see something in there that's going to
7 benefit every single area you might as well forget
8 the vote. So I said I think it needs to be --
9 whatever the penny is spent for needs to be
10 distributed pretty well equally. You can't be
11 perfect. But I'll add one more to yours, Mr. Burris.
12 You ever driven down south Main trying to go get out
13 of town and saw the light poles and stuff? That's
14 going to be improved down through there. You ever
15 been over to Church's Chicken and Burger King trying
16 to come from 81 back toward town and you know where
17 the bank is and you wait three traffic lights before
18 you get to the light. It's a mess. That's going to
19 be improved with that. And a lot of other things. I
20 think ten years from today if we're still around, I
21 think we're going to be looking at things that we're
22 going to be very, very proud of if it passes. Thank
23 you.

24 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I wanted to
27 send a message to the people of my district. Last
28 year or whenever it was that we tried to do this, I
29 was adamantly against it. It wasn't done properly
30 and it was not fair. The only thing district two was
31 going to get out it was a, and you've heard me say
32 this before, a little tiny road. Half of a road. I
33 keep forgetting that. The other half belongs to him.
34 The road went from that one to that one. And we were
35 only going to get half of it. And I did not like it.
36 I talked to my people about it and they didn't like
37 it either. We didn't think it was fair. All the
38 money was going to go up in district three, I think,
39 for industrial parks and this and that. So I
40 adamantly fought against it. But district two folks,
41 it's a good thing now. It's a good thing. We are
42 going to get some work done in our area as the others
43 will too. The money is split equally. We're going
44 to have an opportunity to get things done in our
45 district that really, really we need. South Main
46 Street is one of it. The Old Williamston Highway
47 from the fairgrounds to the intersection right there
48 will be another, as well as some road paving and
49 everything else. I'm proud of it. I'm very proud of
50 it. You said two or three times the county council

1 don't have anything to do with it. Well you're
2 wrong. We're going to have a lot to do with it.
3 It's not all about money all the time. We're going
4 to have to be the ones to get out there and help our
5 people see how this is going to benefit all of us.
6 We're going to have to get out there and talk about
7 this. We're going to have to show people through
8 meetings what will be there, what they will be
9 getting, how it would look like. So county council
10 members, you know, don't feel badly. You know, we
11 have a lot of work to do to get this thing passed.
12 And I think everybody is going to be a winner in this
13 situation. And I thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

15 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 I want to commend Mr. Burris and his entire committee
17 for magnificent work. I spent a day out there at the
18 civic center with them and I decided not to leave
19 because Larry Greer was there. And we were given so
20 much -- to give you an idea that the -- you know,
21 when Larry submitted his list -- and this nothing
22 against Larry. It just shows you how well kept his
23 roads are compared to ours. The thing looked like a
24 booklet. It was about ten pages and he must be
25 paving ---

26 LARRY GREER: Thirty-five.

27 RON WILSON: Thirty-five roads. Well,
28 all of ours was soaked up in four projects. And it
29 doesn't include a bridge that a car and a bicycle can
30 pass on. It's not on that list either. So that's
31 the difference in the areas of this county. But I'm
32 happy that we're making progress. I mean we're on a
33 sixty year paving cycle. If you're lucky enough to
34 have your road paved you won't live to see it paved
35 again, likely. And this is going to be something for
36 the people to decide. Nobody likes tax increases but
37 we're in a situation in my area where our roads are
38 all to pieces. And unless we do something we're in
39 big trouble. And so when this comes up here in a few
40 minutes I plan on voting it and supporting it and I
41 plan on getting out and doing what Ms. Floyd said, I
42 think, with -- there's a lot of people that's against
43 it no matter what. But unless we get this passed in
44 Powersville it's going to be terrible. Because I
45 mean Hamlin Road, we'll be weight limiting everything
46 up there. That's how bad it is. So thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman. I plan on supporting it. And again I
48 commend Mr. Burris and his committee for the fine
49 work they've done.

50 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

2 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
3 As Mr. Greer said, I too have been an opponent of
4 this local option sales tax in the past. But as we
5 look at this infrastructure situation and our roads
6 in Anderson County, there were things that had to be
7 addressed. And this has come before us before and
8 this capital project sales tax was rejected
9 principally because council saw it as being
10 inequitable. But I commend the committee. They all
11 worked diligently and came back with a list that I
12 think we can live with and will be -- and will serve
13 all areas of Anderson County. I intend to vote for
14 it and support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

16 CINDY WILSON: Just a quick thank you for
17 the commission that did such an extraordinary job of
18 inviting, listening and then incorporating the public
19 input. After they've done such a great job of
20 formulating the question and removing a lot of doubts
21 among those who participated, it'll now be up to our
22 citizens to vote for or against. Thank you.

23 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time has expired. Chair
25 calls for the vote. All in favor of 2008-025 please
26 vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you. At this
27 time we'll take a fifteen minute break.

28 BREAK

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are now on item eight
30 A, Resolution 2008-22, a resolution requesting the
31 state of South Carolina to impose a prohibition on
32 certain truck traffic on Smythe Street designated as
33 secondary state road S-04-0303 and other matters
34 related thereto. Is there a motion to approve?

35 CINDY WILSON: So moved.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? We
37 have a motion and a second. Any discussion?

38 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

40 CINDY WILSON: This is a street that is
41 in the unincorporated area between Pelzer and West
42 Pelzer. And it's not a street built for heavy truck
43 traffic. A very similar situation to what the folks
44 over on Hamlin Road have gone through. The trucks
45 are cutting through there, the big eighteen wheel
46 trucks. And we've determined the reason they're
47 doing it as stated by SCDOT is that it's a shortcut
48 because it's hard for them to turn just a few blocks
49 up to make a right hand turn. The radius is not
50 adequate enough. So this resolution is contingent on

1 SCDOT working on the radius to make it work, make it
2 so that the trucks can turn. So the street would not
3 be posted by SCDOT until the radius work is complete.
4 SCDOT is in agreement with this. In fact, Mr. Bobbie
5 Patterson called me again this afternoon. They had
6 gotten backed up and had not been able to get the
7 estimate. But he said that there should be no
8 problem, that they're going to get started on it
9 right away. So I am making a request that we support
10 the people who've gotten petitions up and have really
11 worked for several years to get this accomplished.
12 And of course I've stated that the street won't be
13 posted until the radius is widened and that work is
14 complete. The folks who live on this street have
15 issues of not only the weight of the traffic with
16 water and gas lines going under the street on a
17 street not built to accommodate that type of traffic,
18 but also there are a number of elderly and a lot of
19 small children. And the road just is not
20 appropriate. So this is contingent on the work being
21 done. And I request respectfully that y'all support
22 me as I've done on street postings in your district.
23 Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
25 calls for the vote. All in favor of resolution 2008-
26 022 please vote. All oppose. Mr. McAbee opposes.
27 It passes. Thank you. Resolution 2008-023, a
28 resolution recognizing and honoring the businesses
29 and individuals who recently donated food and
30 supplies to the Anderson County Animal Shelter and
31 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
32 approve. Is there a second?

33 BILL MCABEE: Second.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
35 second. Any discussion? The chair calls for the
36 vote. All in favor please vote. Unanimous.
37 Resolution 2008-024, a resolution showing support for
38 an amendment to the rescue squad amendments between
39 Anderson County and the non-profit rescue squads and
40 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
41 approve. Is there a second? Any discussion?

42 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

44 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45 I've discussed these issues with some of our EMS
46 providers, with my EMS commission member appointee
47 and some of my squad people, some of the members of
48 the board. And they do have a problem in dealing
49 with the increased fuel costs that they've had. What
50 this resolution would do is it would take effect on

1 passage of the next year's budget and it would
2 allocate two thousand dollars per zone, EMS zone, for
3 the next twelve months. And this would be a one time
4 allocation. And it could be revisited again after
5 the initial twelve months. And this would provide
6 the EMS providers with some relief with their
7 increased fuel costs.

8 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

10 CINDY WILSON: I too have talked with my
11 commissioner and various people and I'm concerned
12 that this is not going to be adequate enough because
13 the squads have come under a lot of pressure, not
14 just from fuel and so forth. And I understand that
15 our EMS commission will be coming before us at the
16 next meeting to bring us an update and request. So
17 I'll certainly vote for this tonight, but with the
18 caveat that they're probably going to need a great
19 deal more of our help. Thank you.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just
22 wondered if this same issue doesn't apply to the
23 volunteer fire departments as well as to the EMS and
24 volunteer rescue squad. Anybody on council share
25 some ---

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, if I could
27 respond to that.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

29 LARRY GREER: Mr. Waldrep, the fire
30 department operates under a different tax structure
31 than what Anderson County does. It actually operates
32 under the control of the Anderson County fire
33 commission that's appointed by the legislative
34 delegation. The legislative delegation is the
35 governing body that has the authority to levy taxes
36 to support the county fire system. But also Ms.
37 Floyd and I both have spoken with our administrator
38 as we've gone into the budget process. And I believe
39 that there is a movement through the budget process
40 to create an account that would grant the twenty-
41 seven fire departments two thousand dollars per year
42 to help them with this. And that's, I think, the way
43 we're moving in the direction of this.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you done, Mr.
46 Waldrep?

47 BOB WALDREP: Well, I would just about
48 to finish up, Ms. Floyd. I just thought that, you
49 know, although it's a different structure there's
50 still apparently a need. And I just like the idea of

1 being able to fairly allocate this money, I think
2 this is a start to the fire departments so that when
3 it comes election time we won't be going around like
4 here comes Santa Claus, you know, and just give them
5 something that they could rely on. So I just thought
6 that would be a positive thing to consider as we go
7 through the budget process. That's all. Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 was hoping that I would get a chance to talk about
12 the accommodations we're trying to make to the fire
13 department. But I have talked to -- first, I talked
14 to Mr. Greer about it and then I talked to Mr.
15 Preston about it. And this is something that we're
16 going to try to do on the next budget. But the most
17 important thing that we have to do is to work with
18 the fire officials and the legislative body in trying
19 to get them to put the money that needs to be there
20 for the fire people. Folks, they're working on the
21 same money that they were working on, what, six or
22 seven years. It's longer than that? How long now,
23 Mr. Preston? You remember?

24 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Jones might could
25 better answer that. I think since they started
26 really. Same levy. Did they have an increase maybe
27 one time?

28 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

29 GRACIE FLOYD: I still have the floor.
30 Do what ---

31 JOEY PRESTON: We don't have anything to
32 do with ---

33 GRACIE FLOYD: But it's been a long time
34 since they've had any new money put in their budgets.
35 Everything has gone up as I am sure that you already
36 know. But the little band-aid we're going to give
37 them will have to be turned over and discussed with
38 the people who can really meet their needs. Our fire
39 people are important to us, folks. ...

40 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

41 RON WILSON: ... concerned with EMS and
42 fire department and the Sheriff's office. And a few
43 months ago when we had a chance to support them with
44 a vote for the 800 megahertz we had two people on
45 this council that refused to do it, not one time but
46 three times, and for three different reasons. So I
47 plan on supporting this, just like I did the 800
48 megahertz. And I'll be sticking with the police and
49 fire department, EMS, all along. And thank you, Mr.
50 Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time, Mr.
2 Artigliere?

3 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair, you have,
4 excuse me, seven minutes.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

6 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

8 BILL MCABEE: Thank you. I have to echo
9 what Mr. Wilson said that it must be election year.
10 But I too support this as I have supported our law
11 enforcement, our EMS and fire departments in the
12 past. I supported 800 megahertz. And I've always
13 believe in giving those agencies the tools they need
14 to do their job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Ms. Floyd.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
18 it's important. It's important that my name goes
19 down on the book for supporting the Sheriff's
20 department when nobody else did. Okay. I'd like
21 that to be known. When everybody else was turning
22 him down and I can only give you one percent or I'm
23 not going to give you anything. I just want the
24 public to know I was there. I was there when we gave
25 EMS what they needed to operate. I was there. All
26 right. And I'm going to be there for any other
27 public official, especially if you carry a gun or a
28 water hose or a net, I'm going to be there for you.
29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. The chair
31 calls for the vote, Resolution 2008-024. All in
32 favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you.
33 Resolution 2008-025, a resolution setting a
34 referendum in Three and Twenty precinct, Anderson
35 County, South Carolina and other matters related
36 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
37 second?

38 RON WILSON: Second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The
40 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Resolution
41 2008-025 please vote. Mr. Waldrep, how are you
42 voting, sir? Unanimous. Thank you. Appointments.
43 Does anyone have any appointments? Ms. Floyd.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
45 would like to appoint Mr. Eric Bradshaw to -- oops.
46 I would like to appoint him to a committee. And the
47 committee I will appoint him to will be the -- tell
48 them Linda. That's it. The land use and zoning
49 committee. Mr. Bradshaw will serve district two and
50 he will serve us well. I have the address and his

1 phone number to give to the secretary. Thank you.
2 And I put that in the form of a motion.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
4 favor of this nomination please vote. Unanimous. Is
5 that it, Ms. Floyd? Does anyone else have any
6 appointments? Mr. Waldrep.

7 BOB WALDREP: Looking over some matters
8 last week, I was looking at the bidding process that
9 goes on in Anderson County and that there's a board
10 of appeals in the bidding process. In talking to the
11 clerk I asked, you know, who my representative was.
12 And she told me that he had expired, his term. And
13 that, I think, all the other members of that
14 particular board have expired. Is that correct? So
15 I just thought that we might just take note that we
16 might reappoint or fulfill that particular body.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.

18 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chair.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

20 LARRY GREER: Just as a matter for the
21 record addressing what Mr. Waldrep just said, the
22 code of ordinance as it pertains to the boards and
23 commissions and so forth does have a clause in it
24 that says that those members whose terms have expired
25 continue to serve until their replacement is
26 appointed. So even though their terms have expired,
27 they're still supposed to be serving until there is a
28 reappointment.

29 BOB WALDREP: I think some of them have
30 really expired though.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you both.
32 Moving on to item number ten. Requests by council
33 members. Mr. Waldrep, any appropriations?

34 BOB WALDREP: None, Mr. Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
37 would like to appropriate out of district two's
38 recreational fund one thousand dollars to the South
39 Fant Street rec program so that they can start up
40 their summer youth program.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: The form of a motion.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
44 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

45 GRACIE FLOYD: That's it. Thank you.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

47 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 I have about four appropriations tonight.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can you bundle them?

50 LARRY GREER: I will try to bundle them.

1 These are all in the form of a motion. Two thousand
2 dollars to Crescent High School for the Crescent
3 Young Farmer chapter for some activities that they're
4 conducting. Five hundred dollars to the Iva rescue
5 squad for some operational activities. Five hundred
6 dollars to the town of Iva for their senior citizen
7 building. And I may have to change the name of this
8 one at a later date but it's seven hundred and fifty
9 dollars to the Crime Stoppers, I believe it is. Is
10 that correct?

11 GRACIE FLOYD: It's Crime Stopper, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 LARRY GREER: It's Crime Stoppers. I
14 think I'm correct on that. So that's seven hundred
15 and fifty dollars.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair seconds.
17 Any discussion? All in favor of Mr. Greer's
18 appropriations please vote. Unanimous. Anything
19 else, Mr. Greer.

20 LARRY GREER: That's all. Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

22 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 At this time I move to appropriate one thousand five
24 hundred dollars from the district four recreation
25 account to Mt. Lebanon Elementary School for their
26 trip to the Atlanta Aquarium.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
28 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

29 BILL MCABEE: That will be all, Mr.
30 Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I move to appropriate one
32 thousand dollars out of the district five recreation
33 account to Homeland Park Elementary PTO for their
34 field day T-shirts. Is there a second?

35 RON WILSON: Second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
37 favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. That is
38 all for me. Mr. Wilson.

39 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 A few years back councilman Bill Dees appropriated
41 five thousand dollars to the restoration of the depot
42 in Pelzer. And that ceased to function or to go to
43 that end. And I want to redirect that money to the
44 restoration of the Town Hall in Pelzer. And so
45 that's my proposal here tonight.

46 LARRY GREER: Second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
48 favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else, Mr.
49 Wilson? Ms. Wilson, any appropriations?

50 CINDY WILSON: (Inaudible).

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. At this time
2 we will have citizens' comments other matters. Mr.
3 Artigliere.

4 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 There are five citizens signed up for other matters.

6 CITIZENS' COMMENTS OTHER MATTERS

7 ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair, those are all
8 of the citizens signed up for other matters.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
10 Artigliere. At this time we will have council
11 members' comments. Mr. Greer.

12 LARRY GREER:

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be fairly brief
14 tonight. I appreciate some of my fellow council
15 members' compliments tonight on how well I'm
16 representing my district and how hard I work for
17 them. But I feel like I need to make a couple of
18 corrections. In the previous capital project sales
19 tax, district three was not the one that was
20 receiving the majority of the funds. It was district
21 seven, district five and district four. District
22 seven was getting two major roads done. District
23 five and four was getting the double bridges done,
24 24. That's where the majority of the money was going
25 in the last capital project sales tax. So district
26 three was not the one that was receiving the majority
27 of the funding. And I think Mr. Wilson was in jest
28 when he said I had a ten page list. It was only two
29 pages. But the capital project sales tax commission
30 did an excellent job in fairly and equitably dividing
31 the funds. But I'm of the opinion, and I'm sure
32 there are those who may disagree with me, that we did
33 the right thing by putting the citizens' comments
34 back on the agenda and also the council members'
35 remarks. That's what the ordinance says. And I
36 think that's what we should be doing. I'll restate
37 this one more time. A lot of times I don't agree
38 with what I hear. I don't agree with the manner in
39 which it's presented sometimes. But I will defend
40 your right to say it and to be heard by your
41 governing body. And I'll do everything I can to see
42 that that continues to happen. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

45 BOB WALDREP: Well, I was delighted to
46 see that there was a turnaround on this issue of
47 allowing citizens' comments. I think there's been
48 kind of a change in philosophy, I know. And I'm not
49 wanting to point out anybody in particular, but some
50 member of the council know that there's been a real

1 turnaround. Sometimes when you're running for office
2 you've got a lot of criticisms to make about the
3 current council. And so you say a lot of things that
4 maybe make you change your mind when you get in
5 office. So having said that I would also like to
6 mention that I would hope that some of the council
7 members would try to refrain from making comments
8 about votes that have been made on this council and
9 questioning the motivation of those who vote. Maybe
10 I'm a little unusual, but I have never liked to try
11 to question the motivation of someone's vote. I've
12 always felt like it was within their conscience and
13 their information as to how they voted and that they
14 rise or fall on that. I don't think we need to
15 mention to each other in some way, you voted this way
16 and so consequently you must be political or
17 something of that nature. I think that's really
18 unnecessary. You know when I first got on this
19 council we had some discussions about trying to be as
20 polite and diplomatic as we possibly could, as civil,
21 you know, to each other. And I would hope that that
22 practice would stop. I don't intend to engage in it
23 and would hope that people would refrain from doing
24 that. We can debate those issues maybe when we get
25 on the tour so to speak and we're out debating in the
26 public sector with other councilmen or contenders.
27 And that will be coming up pretty shortly. Isn't it
28 exciting, we're coming up on June the 10th and we'll
29 have that opportunity once again to have our pictures
30 taken by the public, you know, to see how we really
31 look to the public. Right now I don't know if
32 anybody really knows. That old expression of how you
33 never know how you look until your picture is took.
34 So we're going to have that chance to see that. I
35 had an opportunity to look at the credit card policy
36 that's in vote, the policy of the city of Anderson.
37 And I think I passed that out to most of you in your
38 packet. You've probably had a chance to look at it.
39 And I wrote a letter to you that stated pretty much
40 that this policy manual does reflect the thinking of
41 the South Carolina Municipal Association. And I
42 think that's correct. I don't know whether the
43 Association of Counties has such a policy or not.
44 But in reviewing the purchasing card program which is
45 the credit card program, I thought it would be
46 instructional to the council to have an opportunity
47 to see how the city conducts its credit card
48 operation. I am requesting the county attorney to
49 see if they could review this and make a change in
50 the language of this to make it conform to Anderson

1 County since I think that it's worthy of review. It
2 provides a system of documenting the expenditures,
3 itemizing those expenditures and turning that
4 information over to the body politic, to the
5 administrator in the case -- that's John Moore in the
6 city. I guess it'd be to the administrator here.
7 And it's got a way of accounting for these credit
8 cards. I just happened to pick up something from the
9 Anderson Independent which referred to -- and this
10 was something Monday speaking about spending sprees
11 of federal employees credit cards habits. It's
12 something, I've got to tell you, a little bit
13 addictive about a credit card. As you know credit
14 card debt in this country has just gone out of the
15 roof and people are going bankrupt left and right you
16 just find from credit card debt. In the federal
17 investigation they found that some forty percent of
18 the credit card expenditures were not justified at
19 all. There was a lot of abuse. And I'm just saying
20 that this is an opportunity that we have of not
21 accusing anyone of anything but just an opportunity
22 that we have to keep up with our money. I know that
23 if it was in our family in some way you'd want to
24 document when your kid came home from school with a
25 credit card bill, you'd want to know how that money
26 was spent. It's the same here. We're talking about
27 public money. We're not talking about our money.
28 We're talking about the public's money. And so I
29 want us to look very seriously at this credit card
30 situation. You know we live in an age now, it's
31 highly computerized. We have all this equipment that
32 we can very easily file this information and keep up
33 with this information. I know that I look at that
34 box over there of credit card information that I
35 requested back in February of this year. February
36 the 6th. It was delivered to me tonight. Now it's
37 not in any kind of classified form. It's not
38 indexed. But I will go through it and I will look at
39 it. And I will try to deal with it. But I think
40 that there's been some complaints about that this has
41 been a burden to the people, a burden to the
42 administration to get this information. I say, well
43 if it's such a burden we're going to have to redo the
44 way that we process our information because it
45 shouldn't be that much of a burden to be able to give
46 the public and to give council members that
47 information. It shouldn't take two months to be able
48 to do that. So having said that, thank you very
49 much, Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

1 CINDY WILSON: Oh thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman. Very quickly. We've gotten our copy of
3 our proposed budget and the workshop of course is
4 tomorrow. In making a quick tour through this I
5 found that we've had more than six hundred and fifty-
6 two thousand dollars in legal expenses in the
7 administrator's department. And this does not count
8 legal expenses in other departments. I know that
9 there are some FOIs going forth primarily related to
10 the cost of FOI processing in the county. That's a
11 good place to start. The other issue is that on
12 September 19th I requested for information regarding
13 the funds that are in department 5827, this is the
14 county council matching grant fund special projects.
15 I've yet to get that accounting. I've pieced
16 together a bit of information, I was seeking funding
17 for fire departments in district seven or partly
18 shared with other districts and I was never given any
19 information on what was spent. I requested on
20 September 25th to look at the credit cards. And of
21 course my colleague to my left just mentioned that we
22 began requesting to look at this and finally got to
23 look at it February 6th. And we found some very
24 troubling issues. We found that a councilman's
25 daughter has a contract now with the county for
26 consulting. I've requested a copy of that contract.
27 I can't seem to get it. Can't seem to get the
28 information for this department from which it appears
29 that person's being paid. On February 5th I
30 requested accounting for all monies paid to and
31 expenses paid for three individuals. I got the
32 information on our reporter who does a lot of work
33 for the county. I did not get information concerning
34 the other two people. And one was a business
35 associate to a councilman and one was the daughter of
36 a councilman. I also requested information
37 pertaining to any funds paid to businesses that these
38 two individuals were associated with or principals
39 in. Nothing. But I've pieced together some
40 troubling information. And I still think that we
41 need to have some accounting for that. I hope that
42 when we go through our budget workshops that there's
43 actually time to receive information and discuss
44 information. I think that's the only way we can have
45 a really bonafide discussion of the needs of this
46 county. And hopefully the public will weigh in at
47 some point or the other before the final vote on the
48 budget and it will be more of an open process. Thank
49 you.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 have enjoyed one of the best meetings that I have
3 enjoyed in a long time. Some of the comments made at
4 the meeting at the end to the citizens' comment
5 really were good. Really were good. And I want to
6 thank you. I think we had five people and two of the
7 five or was it three of the five did an excellent job
8 in conveying your concerns and your thoughts. And I
9 thank you for them. I have two of my buddies that
10 are here tonight. I don't think that -- I know one
11 is not in my district, but I'm not sure about the
12 other. And I would like to thank them for coming.
13 They're with In the Cut Barber Shop. I go there
14 every now and then to get the news. But guys, thank
15 you so much for coming. It was really good to have
16 you here tonight. Sorry I didn't get a chance to
17 speak to you earlier. We do have the budget workshop
18 coming up. And I want to make a public apology to
19 our chairman, Mr. Thompson, because at the last
20 meeting I just dreaded it. I just dreaded having to
21 sit up there from eight thirty in the morning 'til
22 three. And I told him so. And you know I did. That
23 this was too long and I didn't see why we had to be
24 up here all this time cause we wasn't going to agree
25 on anything anyway and da, da, da. It turned out to
26 be one of the best budget meetings I have ever
27 attended. The thing ran over until three thirty and
28 I could have stayed there for more because it was so
29 good. It was so good. He didn't allow a lot of that
30 ya-ya and petty stuff to take place. So we got
31 things done. And tomorrow I'm looking forward again
32 -- I'm looking forward to the meeting this time
33 tomorrow and I sure hope I'm not going to be
34 disappointed. Okay. But I wanted to publicly
35 apologize to him about all the noise that I made and
36 all the fussing that I did. But it was a good
37 meeting. I wish that you all had been there with us.
38 And yes, it's election time. It's election time.
39 And the stuff has already started. I think we all
40 are up for election one way or the other. I'm going
41 to let the work I've done speak for me. All right.
42 That's all I've got to say. I'm going to let the
43 work I've done, you know, speak for me. Again, those
44 of you who came to the mic tonight, now you guys and
45 the lady, I need to talk to the lady because you
46 leave, okay. That was the three out of five. But
47 the rest of you, you know, you guys made my day.
48 Thank you.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

50 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I'm reminded of a time when I spoke in defense of a
2 high school classmate here when he was coming under
3 attack by a couple members of council. Well, I'm
4 going to speak of another high school friend tonight
5 who has received some praise. It seems that the
6 South Carolina Department of Transportation has been
7 to Anderson County and reviewed our transportation
8 department, their handling of state money for C fund
9 projects, their procedure for procuring road
10 contracts and doing the work in a timely and
11 efficient manner. They said that Anderson County's
12 transportation department is a good steward of the
13 taxpayer dollars. It seeks efficiency and operates
14 in an above standard manner. And Holt Hopkins,
15 another proud graduate of Pendleton High School. And
16 congratulations, Holt. That was a well deserved
17 commendation from the South Carolina Department of
18 Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

20 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 One member of the council here always says they never
22 get information, but she rattles off all the
23 statistics that she got so she got them somewhere or
24 she made them up. And her family has benefitted
25 unbelievably from the information that she has
26 gleamed. One other member talked about the votes.
27 It's election time and people are going to make their
28 decision on us based on how we voted, not in the last
29 few months but the whole two years or year and a half
30 that we've been here. And if you're not able to
31 explain those votes then you might be in some
32 trouble. It is election time. I love it. Nothing
33 excites me more than this. And I am engaged all the
34 way and plan to be right on up to June the 10th. And
35 so with that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. I
37 want to remind everyone nine a.m. in the morning, we
38 will have another budget workshop at the Anderson
39 County museum. Then the following week on -- yes.
40 Did I make a mistake? Then on the following
41 Saturday, which is April the 19th has already been
42 mentioned, we're having a cleanup day in Homeland
43 Park. I will be there and I invite everyone to come
44 out with their gloves and pickup stick that has been
45 provided by KAB through the years, come out and help
46 us pick up trash and debree in Homeland Park. And I
47 understand they're even going to put me at a grill
48 trying to cook some hamburgers. So you've got to
49 pray before you come. Then on the 24th, which is
50 Thursday of next week, there is another budget

1 workshop, nine a.m., museum. Does that sound good?
2 Nine a.m., museum. And then on May the 6th, which is
3 the first Tuesday in May, we have a special called
4 meeting at three p.m. in this chamber. That all
5 being said, Ms. Floyd forgot to appropriate some
6 funds. Does anyone object to her doing that? Go
7 right ahead, Ms. Floyd.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I was supposed
9 to have appropriated a hundred dollars out of my
10 district's rec fund for the cleanup on Saturday.
11 Part of that district is mine and I wanted to provide
12 sodas and stuff for everybody who's going to come out
13 there. So I'm asking to appropriate a hundred
14 dollars out of district two's rec fund for this
15 purpose.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I second. Any
17 discussion? All in favor please vote. Very good.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: And fellow council
19 members, I really thank you for that one.

20 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

22 JOEY PRESTON: I just want to clarify
23 something. Ms. Wilson said that was the proposed
24 budget. That what you have in front of you is not
25 the proposed budget. Those are the departmental
26 requests. It's clearly stated in that, just to let
27 you know.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. Yes, I understand.
29 As I was speaking with Mr. Preston about this he
30 conveyed he wanted us to feel the pain. So I
31 understand that. Yes, sir.

32 JOEY PRESTON: Also, Mr. Chair. Mr.
33 Waldrep, that's an excellent program that the city
34 has. That is a -- that's not a credit card policy.
35 That is a small purchase order -- purchasing system
36 that the city has where they utilize a bank card for
37 small purchase orders. And it's excellent because it
38 takes away a lot of the unnecessary paperwork that we
39 have to do. I think the city has about a hundred and
40 fifty-five of these cards that they utilize with
41 their budget. If we were to -- I think in a letter I
42 gave to council a while back we were telling you we
43 were meeting with the city and we were looking at
44 perhaps recommending this type of program to be
45 considered by the county council. And it's a great
46 program. But that's a little bit different than a
47 credit card program. It eliminates the small
48 purchase orders.

49 BOB WALDREP: Well, I do understand that
50 those are credit cards incorporated in the use of

1 that program. So consequently the documentation, Mr.
2 Preston, is what I'm looking for, is verified by the
3 city's program. So that's what I'm looking for. Any
4 kind of template that we can use to have, who's using
5 it, how much money, and where it's spent and what it
6 is. Okay. Thank you.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it? This meeting
8 is adjourned.

9
10 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:25 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Special Called Meeting – May 6, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL CALLED MEETING

MAY 6, 2008

3:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The special called meeting
2 for May 6th, 2008, three p.m., will now come to order.
3 We have Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by council
4 member Cindy Wilson.

5 CINDY WILSON: Let us pray.

6 INVOCATION BY CINDY WILSON

7 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We will now have employee
9 of the month, Mr. Derrick Singleton. Can you grab a
10 mic so we can hear you?

11 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of
12 council, Mr. Preston, on behalf of the Anderson County
13 Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present the
14 employee of the month for April, Jana Pressley.

15 APPLAUSE

16 DERRICK SINGLETON: If Jana's family would
17 come -- her parents and Stacy and Gina. On behalf of
18 the Anderson County Human Resource Committee, I'd like
19 to present you a chamber check. Congratulations, Jana
20 Pressley, employee of the month, Anderson County,
21 April 2008. Congratulations.

22 APPLAUSE

23 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well normally we would get
24 up here and we would talk about a lot of things and I
25 might talk about the two thousand one hundred and
26 ninety-five accounts that Jana keeps up with. And I
27 might talk about sixty-nine funds that Jana Pressley
28 keeps up with or I might talk about the one hundred
29 and thirty-six departmental budgets that Jana Pressley
30 keeps up with. But I thought I'd have a little visual
31 for everyone tonight as opposed to a lot of talk. So
32 if my computer is going to work, I want to share with
33 you -- and Jana knows nothing about this -- I want to
34 share with you a couple of little pictures. This is
35 Jana right before she came to work for the county.
36 And as you can see, even as a young lasse, she
37 couldn't wait to get here. And here she is pictured
38 as a junior accountant. Next slide, please. Uh-oh,
39 we might not have another slide.

40 JANA PRESSLEY: Good.

41 GINA HUMPHRIES: Oh yes. There's more.
42 There's more. Trust me. Oh no. Don't tell me I'm
43 having technical difficulties. Okay. This next slide
44 if we can get there. I know you can't see this this
45 good. I'm very disappointed. My slide show is
46 messing up. But the second slide I wanted to show you
47 is Jana in her graduation cap and gown. And even back
48 then she was thinking about what she was going to do
49 when she grew up. And here she is with a cap and gown
50 in hand. And I did want to let you know that Jana

1 came to work for the county in 1987. That's a good
2 twenty-one years ago. And she's still just as young
3 and beautiful looking as she was back then. This next
4 slide down with her standing in front of the fireplace
5 is another young picture of Jana. And she has a
6 statement she's making there, and I want to read that.
7 Jana said that she decided to become an accountant
8 because she realized she did not have the charisma to
9 succeed as an undertaker. And then in this slide in
10 the upper right hand corner, this is her husband,
11 Stan, which I don't suppose Stan is with us tonight.
12 But Jana is telling Stan, she says, Stan, you know I
13 married you, but the county is my first love. And the
14 slide down here in the bottom portion is Jana with her
15 crown on her head. We like to refer to her as the
16 budget queen. And Jana wanted to explain to everybody
17 about the laws, Newton's Laws of Accountants. And for
18 every accountant, there's an opposite and equal
19 accountant and both of them are wrong. So if you say
20 we don't have a sense of humor, you're wrong. But
21 evidently we do have problems with our technical
22 shows. But anyway, I wanted to share that with you.
23 And I did want to say in all seriousness that Jana
24 does work diligently and she is truly deserving of an
25 employee of the month. She's dedicated. I can call
26 her anytime of the day and ask her to look at
27 something in the budget, to analyze something in the
28 budget, and she readily does it and she never
29 complains, at least within earshot. So thank you,
30 Jana.

31 APPLAUSE

32 JANA PRESSLEY: All I want to say is I
33 thank everyone for this. But it's not an award that
34 is deserved by any one person in the finance office.
35 Our whole office works as a team. And we get our
36 tasks done by the teamwork that's down there.

37 APPLAUSE

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

39 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

41 LARRY GREER: If I may before we move on,
42 Jana, before you go, I'm going into my tenth year on
43 council and I've had the pleasure of working with Jana
44 and the other members of the finance department during
45 those ten years and I have found her to be very
46 helpful. She works with you in any way she can to
47 help you get the information that you request. So she
48 is one of those finance department members that has
49 helped to supply me with the financial information I
50 need to make the decisions I need to make. Thank you,

1 Jana.

2 APPLAUSE

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Next item is
4 continue discussions of county financial matters. Ms.
5 Wilson, you have ten minutes.

6 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 My concern in this particular item was it was
8 requested to be on the last agenda for the county.
9 And I'm very concerned that we have a situation now
10 where our agenda is split up into portions that don't
11 follow our county ordinance. And I do request that we
12 adhere to our county ordinance that we've sworn an
13 oath to uphold the laws in this county. And I do
14 believe this would be the first order. The other item
15 is that I've asked for a number of items since
16 September. One was an item dealing with the
17 accounting for department 5827 which is the special
18 accounts matching grant funds for county council.
19 There have been many situations over the past seven or
20 eight years where I requested funds for waterline and
21 fire department needs in district seven. I've never
22 been honored with those requests being met. And we
23 found where we have a council member's daughter being
24 paid a consulting fee out of that account. I began
25 asking for accounting for that department in mid-
26 September. I still have yet to get it. I asked again
27 face to face with Mr. Preston Thursday after many
28 written requests and verbal requests in this meeting
29 to have a copy of the contract and also to have the
30 GLR153 which would show all the revenues and expenses
31 by account and sub-account. It wouldn't take ten
32 minutes to fax those items to me as they're not
33 lengthy items. They're still not being provided. We
34 have probably my fellow councilman and his item will
35 bring up some more situations. But I want to point
36 out that our credit card expenses that we began to ask
37 for in September -- just the opportunity to go look at
38 them. And at this point we have not gotten all of the
39 expenses. We finally got to look at credit card
40 billing statements, some of them, February the 6th
41 after the written request was made that was initially
42 September 25th. When we got in, we had Paul Brown who
43 is a reporter locally, and he's paid a fair amount
44 every year by Anderson County to film various videos,
45 and he was there to film us in our review. And it
46 should be noted that in those piles of paper there was
47 very little order. Sometimes one credit card expense
48 from one company would be with another one. There was
49 very little backup. I still continue to request that
50 we have a proper process in Anderson County concerning

1 credit card use. All businesses that I've been
2 acquainted with required their employees when they did
3 have the use of a credit card to provide the backup
4 expenses like expense reports, copies of receipts. We
5 found in those credit card statements that we have
6 another councilman and his business associate
7 traveling at great expense to the county. There were
8 instances where there were no receipts available, even
9 notes where this councilman had been requested to
10 provide such. There were other items that indicated
11 that billing statements had been requested the second
12 time from the company and perhaps maybe in a different
13 format. The credit card numbers were supposed to have
14 been redacted. Instead, what we got in addition to
15 the credit card numbers being redacted was like a lot
16 of times the actual department number or an employee
17 who used it. There was very little order in there.
18 There's enormous amounts of money spent there, and I
19 think that we now definitely need to formulate a
20 stronger policy, seeing as how the current policy we
21 have which is fairly clear is not being followed.
22 There are many, many issues where I've requested
23 copies of the GLR110. That's the weekly check
24 register for the county. I don't get them until five
25 or six months later. Sometimes I'll be lucky enough
26 to get them in two or three months. The concern there
27 is that are we sure we're getting the original GLR110.
28 Has anyone deleted expenses and re-mixed the numbers?
29 It would be nice if I could just get them weekly as
30 they're being printed out for other county employees.
31 I just -- I know we have some really, really fine
32 employees in this county. They work really hard. And
33 a lot of them go without the recognition of salary
34 increases and such that they deserve, while some
35 department heads are very well compensated. They get
36 to drive luxury SUVs home and have access to the
37 credit card and it just seems like there should be
38 some fairness and equatability there. I just request
39 again that I be provided the GLR110 weekly as they are
40 printed. And that our administrator will honor these
41 requests for a copy of the contract and the other
42 items requested, the GLR153 for that particular
43 department. And I do appreciated our administrator
44 going to visit our mayors. I had originally requested
45 that all the mayors and some of the entities that have
46 requested matching funds get those requests in and I
47 understand that Mr. Preston was kind enough to go see
48 my mayors this week and make that request in person.
49 So I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

1 Item five. Mr. Waldrep has asked to be removed from
2 the agenda.

3 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

5 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to say that -
6 - I wanted to give the reason for that was that I'm
7 still working, hopefully, with the county attorneys
8 with regard to a policy regarding a purchase policy
9 that's patterned on the city of Anderson which I think
10 we can coincide with some other information that would
11 be helpful in itemizing expenditures through credit
12 cards. And so that's the reason. Hopefully we can
13 get together and try to do that by next council
14 meeting. That doesn't mean this afternoon.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

16 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Okay. Update
18 on home consortium. Mr. Michael Cunningham.

19 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, members of
20 council, thank you for this opportunity. I just
21 wanted to take just a few minutes to talk with you a
22 little bit about the home consortium. It was an
23 initiative that has been worked on for quite some --
24 I'm sorry. Okay. I just wanted to give you an update
25 on where we are right now with the idea of a home
26 consortium. And I have some abbreviations in my
27 presentation. In working and becoming familiar with
28 this process, a lot of federal agencies have a lot of
29 abbreviations for things that if you sit there long
30 enough you'll get a little dizzy by -- HUD of course
31 is the Federal Housing and Urban Development
32 Department. CHDO is a term that I'll use just very
33 briefly. C-H-D-O. That is a Community Housing
34 Development Organization. PJ, which is a term I
35 learned is a participating jurisdiction. This is a
36 few of them. The Home Investment Partnership Program,
37 HOME thankfully, and I asked, does not stand for
38 anything. It's simply a program offered through HUD
39 that has a focus, the providing of safe, affordable
40 housing for citizens. Now through this program -- it
41 is a fairly large block grant program -- money can be
42 sent to states. And money can also be sent to
43 designated participating jurisdictions. If those
44 participating jurisdictions either by virtue of their
45 own population or if they can combine together to form
46 a consortium to have certain population and income
47 triggers that allow them to become a participating
48 jurisdiction and receive direct funding from HUD.
49 Anderson County, the city of Anderson, and then
50 eventually the town of Belton, work together to create

1 the Anderson County/City home consortium which allows
2 us to receive direct federal appropriations from HUD
3 through their home program for housing, housing
4 related issues. We've been working on this probably
5 since 2005. In 2006 we really got a chance to apply
6 to HUD to become that participating jurisdiction and
7 have them recognize our consortium. Eventually that
8 happened. We were notified late 2006, early 2007 that
9 we were recognized as a consortium. And also that
10 there was the idea that there was a hurdle that we had
11 to overcome which was to have a certain amount of
12 funding for the first year. HUD says that in order to
13 get your first year of funding you have to have seven
14 hundred and fifty thousand dollars. HUD approved six
15 hundred thousand dollars for the consortium. We then
16 approached the state housing authority for the
17 additional hundred and fifty thousand dollars to reach
18 that first year's funding goal. After doing that,, of
19 course the federal budget year is on October 1,
20 September 30, we received notification that we had
21 been recognized and there was funds that were
22 available. But there was a lot of other things that
23 we had to do and we've been working on doing. One is
24 of course trading agreements between the different
25 entities, between the city of Anderson, county of
26 Anderson, the town of Belton. We've also reached out
27 to some partners. And our partner is the Appalachian
28 Council of Government. And we had to have an
29 agreement between them as well as to how we would do
30 all the things that we needed to do to meet the
31 guidelines of being a home consortium. And it was
32 very much like peeling the onion. You get through one
33 layer and there's kind of something else, kind of
34 something else with the actual documents. And we were
35 working on intergovernmental agreements. We asked is
36 there a template we should use, and HUD says, well,
37 not really a template. Come up with something that's
38 going to work for your community. Recently this
39 spring, HUD says, well there are some things that you
40 should involve -- including those in a
41 intergovernmental agreements. So we're going back
42 through now making sure the things that we've come up
43 with meet those guidelines and meet those
44 designations. In the meantime we received word that
45 for the next federal fiscal year there's approximately
46 five hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars
47 allocated to the consortium which thankfully we have
48 two years from 2007 to begin allocating the funds.
49 And we have five years to expend the funds. We're
50 okay on the time frame. But what we wanted to do --

1 the staffs working for the different areas, we want to
2 make sure that we have a program. We want to work a
3 program that would be well thought out, well
4 structured, how we handle every little thing. And
5 with us being new to it that is taking a little bit
6 longer than all of us would have liked. But we think
7 what we've done is hopefully approached a good process
8 that we can be proud of that will work. For the
9 county, what we are hoping to have happen is to use
10 our allocation of those home funds for rehab. In the
11 past the county has applied through HUD again, through
12 community development block grant funds for -- in a
13 competitive basis for housing rehab funds. And those
14 monies through CDBG have to be used in a very defined
15 geographic area. And if you fall outside of that
16 geographic area then you don't get to get your home
17 renovated. With HOME you're allowed a little bit more
18 flexibility. You're allowed to look outside certain
19 geographic areas, or you define those boundaries that
20 you want to use. And that's a plus. By us receiving
21 HOME funds, as a consortium, we are not prevented from
22 applying on a competitive basis for the CDBG funds.
23 So we can continue to do that. But the HOME funds is
24 just now a stabilized source of funding. And I say
25 stabilized for three years is what the agreement
26 period is for HUD. And then they reevaluate after
27 three years. And each year your funding is simply
28 based on the amount of money that the federal
29 government appropriates. This again for the upcoming
30 fiscal year is less than what they appropriated last
31 year. But each year that number will move. And the
32 other thing that will impact that number is that if
33 other communities decide to create consortiums or
34 become participating jurisdictions then they simply
35 divide that pie up among those other communities. So
36 that is where we are. The reason I brought the map is
37 to show you just a distribution. I asked our GIS
38 department to look at the percentage of households
39 that make under twenty-five, twenty-five thousand and
40 less in Anderson County. And that map -- and I have
41 copies here for you. That map is broken down by
42 council district. And it gives the percentage of
43 households that earn twenty-five thousand or less in
44 those council districts. I thought it was good
45 information. One thing that as we discussed this
46 process was how do we define that area in which we
47 take applications and then begin to focus our efforts
48 of rehab. And one of those was looking at those
49 districts that had the highest concentration of
50 households that were making under twenty-five, twenty-

1 five thousand dollars or less. The income threshold -
2 - HOME funds are for low income or low to moderate
3 income families or persons. And that threshold for
4 the county for a family of one is thirty thousand
5 seven hundred and fifty dollars. And then as your
6 family size increases that number moves up to a four
7 person family for this year's income threshold is
8 forty-three thousand nine hundred dollars. But we
9 thought twenty-five thousand dollars was a good
10 starting place to look at. What does that
11 distribution look like because those folks fall into
12 the very low income category? All right, one other
13 aspect of the home consortium is that fifteen percent
14 of that allocation by statute has to go to a community
15 housing development organization. And what we didn't
16 want to do was to arbitrarily select one of those
17 because they get fifteen percent of that money that
18 they get to use for redevelopment purposes. We didn't
19 want to arbitrarily select one. So what we've asked
20 COG to do is to develop an RFP and submit that to the
21 different community housing development organizations
22 in Anderson County and in the upstate to allow them to
23 send to the COG an estimation of how they have the
24 capacity to do community housing development. Of
25 course they would end up doing that project or those
26 projects inside Anderson County and getting that
27 fifteen percent allocation of the consortium money to
28 do that. So it was not a requirement that HUD had in
29 place, but it was one that we thought would be
30 important to engage in just to make sure that we've
31 collected good information and hopefully make good
32 decisions. Lastly, I'll just say that it's something
33 that we are very excited about on the staff side.
34 None of us -- the county doesn't have a housing
35 department. The city does, so we've all been working
36 on this kind of in addition to our other duties and
37 other responsibilities. But we've gladly done so
38 because it is an important issue. Providing safe and
39 affordable housing is something important, something
40 that I hope we'll continue to engage in. Last fiscal
41 year you appropriated matching money for that. And I
42 hope you will consider to do the same this year so
43 that we can begin addressing some of the needs that
44 are out there. And the last thing I would say is that
45 even though the HOME program is income based, we would
46 like to look at some other things. Definitely if
47 there are two people who fall into the low income
48 category, if one is sixty-five and older we would like
49 that person to get precedence. If the person is
50 sixty-five and older and disabled, we'd like that

1 person to get precedence, so that we make sure that we
2 help people who absolutely need the most help first.
3 And with that I'll be happy to try to answer any type
4 of questions you have, but I just wanted to give you
5 that update to let you know this is where we are so
6 far on that project.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Time has
9 expired. Are you available -- you're available after
10 this meeting so we can just follow up with questions?

11 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, sir.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Instead of extending time
13 we can ask questions after the meeting.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I would like to
15 ask my question.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go ahead. Go
17 ahead.

18 GRACIE FLOYD:

19 Do we need to extend time?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Technically yes. The
21 chair moves to extend time by two minutes.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: So moved.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending
24 time by two minutes. Go ahead, Ms. Floyd.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Cunningham,
26 I thank you for the map. I thank you for this because
27 it answers the question that I was asked this week.
28 What was the most concern in my district? What were
29 the people in my district most concerned with? And
30 they were talking to the probe that's going on with
31 the budget and all that. And I told them that the
32 people in my district were more concerned with
33 economic development and housing as well. And your
34 report today just mimicked what I said. It just
35 proved whether -- what I said. As you can see, my
36 district is district two and it has the highest number
37 of homes under twenty-five thousand dollars a year.
38 With that said, I wanted to ask you about your
39 statistics. It came -- where did you get this? Did
40 it come off our last census?

41 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: That's correct.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. And the last census,
43 Mr. Cunningham, did we have problems with it in this
44 area about not everybody getting counted or not
45 everybody getting the information as they did in some
46 areas?

47 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I think our community
48 was not unique in that, yeah, there were people who
49 were not counted in the last census. I think we did a
50 good job locally trying, but there were people who
were not counted and not accounted for. In 2010, when

1 the census rolls around again, it will become very,
2 very -- increasingly important to make sure that
3 people are counted. But this is of course data that
4 was done in 2000 based on those people who responded.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. My
6 constituents are well aware of the HOME project
7 because you have been out to several of the community
8 meetings explaining to them. So we are waiting,
9 waiting very impatiently for -- to be told when we can
10 start that process. And I just thank you. Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
13 Cunningham. Next item, number seven, highlights and
14 concerns. 2008 and 2009 proposed budget and other
15 matters related thereto. Ms. Wilson, you have ten
16 minutes.

17 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Here again, I had requested that this item be on the
19 regularly scheduled meeting agenda. There's a serious
20 concern that we were unable to get Charter
21 Communications here tonight -- I mean this afternoon
22 so that the citizens who are unable to be with us
23 would have the opportunity to see more of what was
24 discussed. I would certainly recommend that we have
25 them here to record our discussions and so forth. In
26 reviewing the proposed budget, the first item that we
27 received was what we normally received all together
28 which was the recommendations from the departments and
29 the administrator. We've now gotten department
30 requests and then a separate package with the
31 administrator's recommendations which makes it a
32 little more difficult to refer back and forth. We
33 need to have available very quickly a draft of our
34 budget ordinance. The budget ordinance is the
35 enabling feature of the budget. And last year we had
36 radical changes in our budget ordinance which
37 reflected some fairly radical changes in the numbers
38 part. So I would request that we have the rough draft
39 of that made available very quickly. Some of the
40 things that I've noticed, and I'll run through them
41 quickly, and this was another item that I requested
42 recently, is out of 5013, the administrator's account.
43 I requested to know what legal settlement did we pay
44 last year. And it's been noted that there were legal
45 settlements paid along the same lines for at least a
46 year or two or three previously to that. We need to
47 know who was settled -- the settlement was paid to and
48 for what and the date and any case -- court case
49 information. It's also very compelling that we saw
50 where the administrator's legal expense budget

1 including settlements is a little bit less than four
2 hundred thousand dollars. Yet last year we spend I
3 think somewhere around six hundred and fifty thousand.
4 And now in this proposed budget, all the legal
5 expenses will be shifted from that particular
6 department to the county memberships department which
7 had been mostly just memberships. And now we have the
8 added heading of contractual services. When I added
9 up the legal expenses scattered throughout the budget,
10 I found somewhere over nine hundred thousand dollars
11 in legal expenses, but there are also legal expenses
12 that can be found under other headings besides legal.
13 And that would be management consulting, professional
14 services and now contractual services and service
15 contracts. And I would request that we have some
16 information on the totals that are paid out of those
17 other categories to give a full picture of what we're
18 actually spending with attorneys in Anderson County.
19 And some other questions that I have is out of what
20 department or account are we paying for the ongoing
21 repairs for Michelin Boulevard? And would also
22 request to know a total across all the related
23 departments for expenses relating to asphalt. It
24 seems like that in looking over these numbers for
25 several years that we spent maybe more money on
26 asphalt in 1999-2000 than we're actually spending
27 currently. And that's a big concern. We have a lot
28 of street and road needs and yet asphalt has tripled
29 and yet we appear to be spending less. And it may be
30 that I'm just not looking at the records accurately
31 and would seek some guidance on that. It would be
32 very helpful to all of us prior to first reading of
33 the budget to be provided a presentation on the
34 revenue streams and debt service and other expenses in
35 the enterprise funds. For example, in the new package
36 we were given, it looks like under waste water that we
37 have insufficient revenues or maybe a reduction in
38 revenues and a raise in expenses. We have in solid
39 waste an increase in revenues and also at the airport.
40 And it just would be helpful for us to have some
41 guidance on how all of that plays out. And also
42 regarding our employees' cost of living and merit
43 raises, we've heard a little bit of information from
44 our finance department because it was noted that our
45 current budget for cost of living merit raises in four
46 hundred and twenty-two thousand five hundred and
47 eighty dollars. The budget that we were reviewing and
48 I believe was passed for last year which we're in
49 currently, it was like six hundred and ten thousand.
50 And we'd only spend about forty-five thousand at six

1 months into this budget year. I understand that some
2 of these monies are now being transferred to the
3 related departments and that we will have a proposed
4 raise of one million three hundred and ten thousand
5 one hundred and forty-five dollars. Last year we only
6 spend sixty-four thousand seven hundred and seventy-
7 one dollars on cost of living merit raises. That
8 concerns me because if that's true then our rank and
9 file employees have not been provided compensation
10 that would be commensurate to the hard work they've
11 performed. I also needed some information on the
12 accommodations taxes. It looks like we may be
13 collecting lower revenues from accommodation fees for
14 this coming year. And could we get some kind of
15 reading on that? It looks like we'll be spending
16 around six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars in
17 Celebrate Anderson which I believe also includes the
18 Balloon Festival. Anyway, there are a lot of
19 questions, and it's so important for all of us to
20 engage in a lot of discourse and research on this
21 because with our economy being in a bit of a strain
22 it's really important that we stretch every dollar of
23 revenue that we have coming in to meet the needs of
24 our real citizens. Thank you so much.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
26 Administrator's report. Mr. Preston, anything you
27 want to highlight?

28 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions regarding
30 the report? Moving on. Item number nine, citizens'
31 comments other matters. Mr. Martin, I need to give
32 some instructions. I'm sorry. Citizens' comments.
33 Meetings of county council are legislative meetings
34 based upon the representative form of government and
35 are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
36 town meetings. Accordingly the citizens' agenda is
37 for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and
38 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
39 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
40 more than three minutes to address county council.
41 You are asked to please refrain from addressing
42 members of the audience by name. Direct your comments
43 to the council chair and only to the council chair.
44 And that being said, Mr. Martin.

45 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 There are eight citizens signed under other matters.

47 CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA MATTERS

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Remarks from council. Mr.
49 Waldrep. Any comments?

50 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 It looks like we're going to be through in about an
2 hour. I just wanted to ask a question. I guess maybe
3 I can ask those at the next council meeting about some
4 of the items that we have. But one question I was
5 going to ask was the situation about the sewer system.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: They brought up?

7 BOB WALDREP: Yeah.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, can you give
9 us any answers?

10 JOEY PRESTON: Get Mr. Ricketson to come
11 forward. He knows more about this. It's an issue
12 before the planning commission.

13 BOB WALDREP: One reason I was interested
14 was that there seems to be a process for approval of
15 these. It goes through DHEC. Is that correct? And I
16 just want to know where that was.

17 JEFF RICKETSON: They do have an application
18 in to DHEC for approval of this land application sewer
19 treatment plan. There's no approved plan or body of
20 order out there to receive it. So they're looking at
21 this type of system which treats the water and then
22 sprays that on to the land in a controlled way. And
23 they have an application with DHEC for that. But in
24 addition to that our county land use ordinance
25 requires that the planning commission have a hearing
26 and take public comment. But our ordinance doesn't
27 really give us a whole lot of guidance or really the
28 authority to turn one down as long as DHEC will
29 approve it as being safe and sanitary. We can look at
30 the site plan and the planning commission can consider
31 things that might mitigate the impact on the
32 surrounding neighborhood. But I don't think the
33 planning commission under the ordinance that we have
34 really has the authority to turn down such a thing.
35 And the approval authority is delegated by the council
36 to the planning commission. So this is not something
37 that's going to be coming to you. Planning commission
38 had a public hearing at their April meeting. They're
39 going to have another public hearing. They tabled it
40 at that meeting. They're going to have another public
41 meeting a week from tonight which they will make a --
42 they should make a decision on it.

43 BOB WALDREP: They notify all the folks
44 that live in that area? They give them an opportunity
45 to come out and be heard?

46 JEFF RICKETSON: They do.

47 BOB WALDREP: Last question. Is there an
48 alternative to this? If this is -- is this in Oconee
49 County or ---

50 JEFF RICKETSON: This project is located in

1 Anderson County, but I think there's an opportunity to
2 pipe some affluent from businesses that might be
3 located in Oconee County in the future into this
4 plant.

5 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I thought that
6 Oconee County had sewage facilities that came down to
7 the Fairplay area. Am I wrong in that?

8 JEFF RICKETSON: They do not.

9 BOB WALDREP: They do not. Do they have
10 -- I mean do they have any plans to do that though?

11 JEFF RICKETSON: I think they do have some
12 plans, but I don't think they have any immediate plans
13 as far as -- I don't think they have any projects that
14 are on the books that are ready to go. There's been a
15 lot of discussion about providing sewer from Oconee
16 County to the interstate. But I don't think they have
17 any defined plans from at this point to do that.

18 BOB WALDREP: Do we coordinate with those
19 folks up there? Do we stay abreast of what Oconee
20 County is doing?

21 JEFF RICKETSON: I think our sewer
22 department has had meetings with Oconee County to talk
23 about possible joint ventures. But I know that we
24 don't have any defined project at this point.

25 BOB WALDREP: Well I just think that's
26 very important that we work with our sister county and
27 see if we don't either duplicate and see ways that we
28 can serve. Okay. Thank you. That's all.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

30 CINDY WILSON: I'm very, very concerned
31 about this sewer situation. There's another big
32 Beaverdam Creek in the county too. And I can tell
33 these poor folks they're in for a terrible, terrible
34 lack of process, lack of honesty, lack of adhering to
35 the law. We went through the gambit of it. Goldie &
36 Associates is paid by the county for consulting.
37 They're also proposing the same type of configuration
38 over in part of my district. The spray fields appears
39 to me to be an ancient way to deal with this. And we
40 have new diseases, new toxins to deal with that we
41 didn't have years ago. I think that it's an obsolete
42 proposal from the get-go. I would like to ask Mr.
43 Ricketson to please fax to me a copy of whom I write
44 or contact regarding this. Because I feel like that I
45 -- I think that while we need to work with Oconee
46 County, I don't think that spray fields is the answer.
47 I think that we need to look at something that's
48 considerably more modern and less likely to be
49 obsolete. And then we have this entire area having to
50 go to a new method very quickly because it's -- in my

1 book it's obsolete. While DHEC will still allow it
2 right now, how much longer will they? And then you
3 look at the pollution of a waterway that feeds into
4 probably the main body of the lake. I think this is
5 something that we should look at with great concern.
6 I still deplore the fact that our citizens are denied
7 participation by way of having this meeting recorded
8 via camera so they can see tomorrow night what they
9 see on the other meeting, our regularly scheduled
10 meeting. I continue to deplore the fact that we are
11 violating our own ordinance dealing with the formation
12 of our ordinance. And I thank those folks who came
13 this afternoon because it's not real convenient to
14 come at three o'clock especially for folks who have
15 work obligations and family obligations. And I hope
16 that by the next called meeting, if there is such a
17 thing, which I don't think we need, that we will have
18 gotten in touch with Charter and they will make
19 arrangements. I know that our clerk to council
20 started making arrangements prior to this meeting
21 weeks ago and finally reached someone with Charter
22 today. So I just don't think this is right to treat
23 our citizens like this. Anyway, thank you very much.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
25 Mr. Greer.

26 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
27 will try to be as brief as I can. I'm going to
28 address an ongoing issue that several people have
29 spoke on and that several of us are trying to come to
30 grips with and deal with. And that's this phrase open
31 and honest government. I have had no problem in
32 securing information. I think the problem that we
33 really and truly have is not in getting information.
34 I think the problem is really in how we ask for the
35 information, how we request the information. And I
36 also think the problem is how we -- and sometimes it's
37 in how we respond to the request for information. And
38 some people are not going to like this and they'll
39 going to blast me. I'll be talked about on the radio
40 in the morning. And that's all right. I've been
41 talked about on there before. But it's my opinion
42 that all of this talk that we hear about the inability
43 to get information is a contrived and calculated
44 campaign to discredit this council and this government
45 and to influence the direction that the government in
46 this county goes. And I hope that the people of
47 Anderson County are wise enough to see through this.
48 I have never been denied any information that I
49 requested. Never. There were times that I didn't get
50 it quite as quick as I would like to have got it. But

1 I always get the information that I request. My
2 manner in requesting is different. I believe in
3 acting like a gentleman and not like a bull in a china
4 shop. I believe there's an appropriate way to ask for
5 something and there's an inappropriate way to ask for
6 something. And I'm going to use an example. Credit
7 card information was supplied and made available to
8 council members in the large conference room. A date
9 and time was set up. I chose not to go on that day
10 because the atmosphere that I thought was going to be
11 there. And my expectations proved to be correct.
12 Rather than going there to look at and secure
13 information, a media circus ensued where the whole
14 purpose of what was going on was not to get
15 information, it was to create a media event. Now the
16 opposite, what took place on that day is I came to
17 this building unannounced on a different day not long
18 after this took place and I requested -- I went to Mr.
19 Preston's office first and he happened to be out. And
20 I went down to see Ms. Humphries and she happened to
21 be out. And then I went to Ms. Davis's office and I
22 knocked on the door. I knocked on the door like a
23 gentleman. And I asked in a very polite manner to
24 speak to Ms. Davis in her office. I went into her
25 office, we closed the door and I told her that I would
26 like to see the credit card information. She asked me
27 if it would be all right to call Mr. Preston. I said
28 I have no problem with that calling. She called him.
29 Mr. Preston and I spoke on the phone. And Ms. Davis
30 was instructed to show me the credit card information.
31 I reviewed the information that I asked to see. There
32 was two or three things that threw up flags that I
33 raised questions about. Before I left her office that
34 day I had answers to those questions and I was
35 satisfied. The point I'm trying to make is there's a
36 right way and a wrong way to do anything. If you
37 really and truly want information, ask for it in the
38 right manner. If you're giving information -- and I'm
39 directing this directly to Mr. Preston. If you're
40 giving information, give it in the right manner and
41 the right spirit. Now I read with interest an e-mail,
42 not an e-mail but a comment that was made by a
43 reporter from the Anderson Independent and a request
44 for some FOI information. And the person to whom this
45 request was made was asking a question something to
46 the effect, well why are you asking for this? What's
47 the purpose? What are you after? What are you
48 looking for? Something along that line. The comment
49 came back, because we can. Because we can. Now my
50 comment is this or my thoughts are this. Are we going

1 out of our way to embattle our county government to
2 put it in a position to where it can't carry out its
3 day to day activities and do what needs to be done.
4 Or are we truly trying to do what's right for the
5 people of this county? I think some people need to
6 examine their motives. I know there's a group of
7 people that want me gone and they don't agree with how
8 I see things and how I say things and the things that
9 I do. But there's another group that equally want me
10 to stay here and do what I'm doing. So my comments
11 are this. Is all this talk about the inability to get
12 information a created, contrived campaign platform? I
13 think it is. I'm going to say it. I think it is. I
14 think it's been fostered and festered by some people
15 who want to turn this county back on its heels and set
16 it back in the dark ages. That's not what I want. I
17 want us to move and go forward. Now I'm going to make
18 a motion tonight. And I'm going to put it on the
19 floor and this council can do what it wants to with
20 it. But I'm going to make a motion that Mr. Preston
21 continue to provide council members with information
22 in an expeditiously manner as possible and to continue
23 to answer all freedom of information requests in a
24 manner as reflected by current state law that pertains
25 to FOI requests. That's in the form of a motion.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
27 floor. Is there a second? Made a motion on the
28 floor.

29 RON WILSON: Second.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
31 floor and a second. We are in discussion on his
32 motion.

33 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chair.

34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Basically this
36 is what you're already doing. Right, Mr. Preston? Am
37 I understanding this right? He's asking you to do
38 what you're already doing?

39 JOEY PRESTON: I think council has an
40 ordinance they passed that requires that.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Say that again. I didn't
42 hear you.

43 JOEY PRESTON: I think council has an
44 ordinance that requires that. I believe it was passed
45 by this council.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we're making a motion
47 on an ordinance that already exists?

48 JOEY PRESTON: I can show you a copy of
49 it. I have to find it.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we're making a

1 motion on an ordinance that already exist. Okay.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, point of order.

3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I had ---

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wait. Hold up. Ms.

5 Floyd.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I
7 thought that this session was for business that did
8 not require a vote. And I thought that the next
9 session was when we were supposed to do our ordinances
10 for voting purposes.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. You're
12 correct. But Mr. ---

13 BOB WALDREP: Greer.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah, him. Made a motion
15 and I have to deal with it.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But Mr. Chair, may I
17 ask Mr. Greer if he would withdraw his motion and
18 let's wait until this afternoon to do it if it's
19 possible at the next meeting?

20 LARRY GREER: I withdraw it.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. He withdraws his
22 motion. Do you withdraw your second, Mr. Wilson?

23 RON WILSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

25 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I had asked
26 for the floor.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you don't have
28 the floor.

29 CINDY WILSON: I did and you gave it to
30 someone else.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you don't have
32 the floor. Mr. Greer, have you relinquished the
33 floor?

34 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
35 listened with interest as Mr. Pope made his comments.
36 And I'm going to close my remarks with this. Folks,
37 we can either learn to live together or we can defeat
38 our own self with our divisiveness. Thank you, Mr.
39 Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer. Ms.
41 Floyd, your turn.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chair. It's time for a breath of fresh air. Good
44 news, good news, good news. I don't know if you had a
45 chance to see the newspaper or what. But I would like
46 to announce that district two was the recipient of a
47 grant for four hundred thousand dollars for our mill
48 site cleanup. There was not one grant but two grants
49 that we did this. I know there was some concerns or
50 some discussion about taking trips and da, da, da.

1 But that's the trip that we took. And that's the trip
2 I'll take again. And that's the trip I took any and
3 everybody with me who had a stake in us getting that
4 money. And we did it. District two received four
5 hundred thousand dollars for our mill sites cleanup.
6 And am I proud? Yes, I am. We are hoping and praying
7 that other things will develop in our area as we do
8 have some more things going on. In district two we
9 have been working. I have some more announcements
10 that I'll be making later on. But folks, I'm just
11 proud. I'm just proud. Because it shows that the
12 work we do, the work we've done is important. I'm not
13 one of the ones who continuously bother Mr. -- not
14 bother but I don't ask Mr. Preston for a whole lot of
15 this and a whole lot of that because I get the
16 information he gives me. I go through the
17 information. I call the people I need to call, poor
18 Gina, and I get my questions answered. And then I go
19 on about the work that I was elected to do. I wasn't
20 elected to be a finance director. Thank God. Nor was
21 I elected to be the money police. I was elected to
22 serve the people of district two. But Mr. Preston,
23 please know that I have never asked you for anything I
24 didn't get. What Mr. Greer said was not just privy to
25 him. It was not him getting special favors or what.
26 I've been on council now going on, I think it's almost
27 nine years now. And the only thing that I didn't get
28 -- that I say I didn't get -- Mr. Preston and I are
29 still arguing about it. He said I got it and I said I
30 didn't. But even that was -- we made amends on that
31 one. Folks, I'm proud. I'm proud of my county. And
32 every time I hear somebody say something about open
33 government and dishonesty, I cringe. I cringe. I
34 cringe. I don't have a thing to be dishonest about.
35 I don't think there's anyone out there with this
36 council or with this county that has something to be
37 dishonest about. And it hurts. And if enough people
38 who cannot think for themselves hear it over and over
39 and they hear it long enough then these poor souls
40 will start believing this. They'll start believing
41 it. You've got to kind of be strong. Be able to
42 think for yourself. You've got to be able to cut that
43 radio off. And you've got to be able to read that
44 newspaper through the lines. And then you've got to
45 be able to go out and get you another newspaper. And
46 then you've got to be willing to talk to people. It
47 bothers me. I don't know of a dishonest soul up here.
48 I think Larry owes me a dollar. Don't you, Larry? I
49 don't think I know of a dishonest soul up here. But I
50 just want you to know that I'm proud. I am proud to

1 be a member of the Anderson County Council,
2 representative for district two. And I thank you.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd. Mr.
4 Wilson, any comments?

5 RON WILSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. I'll say this about the waste water
7 treatment plant out there. I'm also very concerned
8 with that. And I have a similar quality of life issue
9 in my district. So when citizens show up like we've
10 seen here today to speak on this. I think we ought to
11 all pay attention. And so I don't know what the
12 process is but I'm for engaging it and doing something
13 here. We also today have heard numerous questions and
14 remarks made about not getting material and so forth.
15 Well, the individual that requests this material has
16 received more material than anybody on the council.
17 Still has not made the first proposal about changing
18 anything or finding anything that's wrong. She also
19 said today that she wanted to have a budget very
20 quickly but didn't say what quickly meant. What's
21 quick to one person is not quick to another. So again
22 we have no date. It's just something else we can
23 ramble on about endlessly. Made quite a bit of a talk
24 about legal expenses. I'd like to know how much of
25 those legal expenses we paid are attribute to her. I
26 thought -- the last thing, talked about employee
27 raises and everything. And of course it's election
28 time so we've got -- this individual has to sound like
29 she's very pro-county now all of a sudden. Yet, she's
30 never voted for a budget that had those raises in it.
31 You talk about hypocrisy. That's it. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.
34 Mr. McAbee.

35 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
36 have been talking with Oconee County and Bob
37 Winchester of the Oconee County Sewer Authority. And
38 I've spoken with their administrator and members of
39 their council to try to work on this issue. I feel
40 like I was -- in a way Goldie & Associates surprised
41 me. They had told me they would not pursue this
42 project until we had had a meeting. I talked with
43 them and they outlined at that time what was just a
44 concept. And I said, well, but if it's going to
45 involve Anderson County, and if it's going to involve
46 district four, I want you to meet with me first. I'm
47 not opposed to having sewer on our interstate
48 interchanges. I think having sewer at the inter -- at
49 exit four could actually be an asset to the county.
50 However, I want it to be something that is beneficial

1 to Anderson County, beneficial to district four where
2 we are not just the recipient of the waste water
3 generated principally by exits in Oconee County and
4 their new industrial park, which for whatever reason
5 they opened an industrial park without a sewer. And -
6 - pardon?

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Planning is everything.

8 BILL MCABEE: Planning is everything. So
9 now they're in a situation where they really need to
10 find a place to treat the sewer from that industrial
11 park. And I had tried to work with Oconee County and
12 come to something that was mutually satisfactory that
13 was not just simply a burden on Anderson County. And
14 at this time I am disappointed in Goldie & Associates
15 that they did not live up to their word to me that they
16 would meet with me and present this plan in full prior
17 to submitting it to Anderson County and to DHEC. And I
18 wanted -- and I can't express strongly enough my issue
19 with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McAbee.
21 That's it for comments. This meeting is adjourned.
22
23

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

1

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting - May 6, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep - District #1
Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson - District #7
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman - Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 6, 2008

6:00 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... Anderson County
2 Council, May 6, six p.m. will now come to order. We
3 will have the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by
4 council member, Bob Waldrep.

5 INVOCATION BY BOB WALDREP

6 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of the minutes
8 for April 15th, 2008. The chair moves to approve. Is
9 there a second?

10 RON WILSON: Second.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
12 The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
13 approving the minutes for April 15, 2008 please vote.
14 The vote is unanimous. Thank you. Citizens'
15 comments, agenda matters. I have instructions.
16 Meetings of county council are legislative meetings
17 based upon the representative form of government and
18 are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
19 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is
20 for the receipt of citizens' opinion, comments and
21 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
22 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
23 more than three minutes to address county council.
24 You are asked to please refrain from addressing
25 members of the audience by name. Please direct your
26 comments to the council chair and only to the council
27 chair. When you come forward give your name, address
28 and which council district you reside. Mr. Martin.

29 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 There is one citizen under agenda matters.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolutions, R2008-016, a
32 resolution recognizing Anderson County resident Walter
33 Thomas for his courage, perseverance and inspiration
34 to the Anderson County community and other matters
35 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is
36 there a second? Any discussion?

37 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

39 LARRY GREER: I spoke with the Thomas
40 family this morning and Mr. Thomas was unable to be
41 here tonight. I'm asking council to approve this
42 resolution and I'll present the resolution to them at
43 a later date.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. The chair
45 calls for the vote on resolution R2008-016. All in
46 favor please vote. The vote is unanimous. R2008-026,
47 a resolution recognizing and honoring those
48 individuals from Anderson County who participated in
49 4-H competitions and other matters related thereto.
50 The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

1 LARRY GREER: Second.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
3 discussion. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor
4 of resolution R2008-026 please vote. The vote is
5 unanimous.

6 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 At this time if I could get those 4-H members and
8 their coaches to come forward and line up across the
9 front and Ms. Stringer to come up and assist me with
10 this presentation. Can everybody hear me? Very good.
11 You see a fantastic group of young people assembled
12 across the front. The resolution is fairly long and
13 the certificates to be presented are lengthy because
14 of the exceptionally good participation of this fine
15 group of young people. So I'm going to begin and move
16 in to the reading of the resolution and pass out some
17 certificates as we go through the reading of the
18 resolution. A resolution recognizing and honoring
19 those individuals from Anderson County who
20 participated in 4-H competitions and events as well as
21 the dedicated leaders who volunteered their time and
22 energy to make the participants' involvement with 4-H
23 possible and other matters related thereto. Whereas
24 Anderson County council recognizes that young people
25 are the future leaders of Anderson County, South
26 Carolina and the United States and with that
27 recognition comes the responsibility to encourage
28 initiatives, activities and programs that foster
29 leadership, citizenship, and life skills. And whereas
30 4-H is a youth education branch of the cooperative
31 extension service, a program of the United States
32 Department of Agriculture that strives to make a
33 positive difference in the lives of young people by
34 developing their potential for leadership, personal
35 growth and career success through agricultural
36 education and competition. And whereas 4-H clubs
37 nationwide enable millions of young people to have
38 fun, meet new people, develop friendships, learn new
39 skills, develop techniques of logical, accurate
40 decision making and communication, build self-
41 confidence and set and achieve goals utilizing the
42 knowledge and resources gained through participation
43 in 4-H. And whereas the members of Anderson County 4-
44 H clubs deserve honor and recognition for their active
45 participation and personal achievements in various
46 state competitions and for being a shining example of
47 leadership, dedication and responsible citizenship to
48 the youth of Anderson County. And whereas Anderson
49 County further wishes to recognize and honor those
50 individual parents, teachers and other volunteers who

1 enable the youth of Anderson County to participate in
2 such worthwhile activities. Whereas Anderson County,
3 a body politic and corporate and political subdivision
4 of the state of South Carolina acting by and through
5 its county council is proud to encourage participation
6 and worthwhile youth programs that build life skills
7 and foster community values and to honor these young
8 people for their dedication, hard work and commitment
9 to excellence. Now therefore it is hereby resolved by
10 Anderson County council in meeting duly assembled that
11 Anderson County acting by and through its county
12 council hereby honors the following individuals for
13 their hard work and dedication to the values of the 4-
14 H and their pursuit of excellence. The first group is
15 the Anderson County Cloverbud, five to eight years
16 old, Megan Booty, Joel McCann, Malina McCann, Sam
17 Talley. Sam participated in ecology conservation and
18 healthy lifestyles. The next group is the Anderson
19 County Cloverleaf, nine to eleven years. Brandon
20 Booty. Brandon. Stone Grant, Julia Hiner, Isaiah
21 Holcombe, Sawyer Holcombe, Marti Leake, Dillion
22 Porter, and I'm going to mispronounce this one. Say
23 it for me. Jarid Prahl. Jarid, I'm sorry, buddy.
24 Haley Schvaneveldt, Ben Tinsley, Samuel Whitledge. I
25 want you to listen to this. Samuel participated in
26 poultry, shooting sports, swine, rabbit, wildlife,
27 dairy goat, community service, compact tractor and
28 livestock judging. This is an active ... The next
29 group is the Juniors, twelve to thirteen years old.
30 Dallas Porter, Clay Tinsley, Michaela Whitledge.
31 Mikayla participated in poultry, shooting sports,
32 swine, rabbit, wildlife, dairy goat, community
33 service, compact tractor and livestock judging also.
34 Ashlen Erskin. Ashlen participated in showmanship,
35 hunter walk trot. Kelly McNair, Hunter Burns, Taryn
36 Lorey, Anna Burns. Now listen to this. Anna
37 participated in the horse project, showmanship, hunter
38 equitation and fences, second place, eighteen inch
39 cross rail walk trot, sixth place, creative recycling
40 contest, first place, creative contests, second
41 overall. Lane Keasler. Cade Keasler. The next group
42 is the Senior 4-H, fourteen to eighteen years old.
43 Savanna Gambrell, Lindsey Dobbins, Neely Morgan, Denae
44 Hicks, Keisey Dollarhyde, Tina Marie Hardy, Ashley
45 Holcombe. Ashley participated in sewing and community
46 service. I pronounced her name wrong. She said it
47 was Ansley. I'm sorry. The next one is Brandon
48 Hiner, Jake Hiner, Alex McNair. The next group is
49 Competitors of the national 4-H BB gun competition in
50 Bowling Green, Kentucky. And we have two groups, the

1 Grove Gunners 4-H and the Anderson Aces 4-H. And I
2 actually went out Saturday is a week ago I believe it
3 was when they were doing some of the range work. And
4 I was thoroughly impressed with the level of
5 instruction that they were getting, the safety of gun
6 handling tips that they were being taught and the
7 folks doing this program are doing an exceptionally
8 good job. I had the opportunity to witness what was
9 going -- I believe Mr. Wilson went later on in the day
10 and observed some of the same things. Brandon
11 Buffington from the Grove Gunners 4-H. Brandon. Chip
12 Langford, Dustin Popham, Brandon Popham, Hannah
13 Richey, Kaitlin Richey. The next group is the
14 Anderson Aces 4-H club. Kevin Tuten. Okay. I
15 understand there's none of those here. So there's
16 one, two, three. Let me call their names. Kevin
17 Tuten, Scooter Barnwell, Adam Willey, Ian Cummings,
18 Will Meyer, Joey McCannon. The next group is the
19 volunteers. The Grove Gunners. Marty Richie. Marty
20 is coaching tonight. Randall Grant. The Anderson
21 Aces, Davis Barnwell and John Cummings. They're
22 coaching as well I believe. All right. The next
23 special recognitions are Sterlin Blakley, President of
24 Anderson County 4-H Youth Council. He attended the
25 national 4-H conference in Washington, D.C. for
26 outstanding community services. Stanley Blakley.
27 Sterlin. I'm sorry. I can't read tonight. Melody
28 Williams, Vice President of the Anderson County 4-H
29 council. She attended the national 4-H conference in
30 Washington, D.C. for outstanding community service.
31 Melody. Jakiaya Groves, outstanding participation.
32 Vice President of the Anderson County 4-H Youth
33 Council, attended national 4-H conference in
34 Washington D.C. for outstanding community service. To
35 all those who participated, we're proud of you all --
36 you and all of your achievements. You have brought
37 great credit on yourself, your family and your
38 community. Thank you for representing Anderson County
39 so well. Anderson County further honors and
40 recognizes all parents, teachers and volunteers who
41 enable the youth of Anderson County to participate in
42 worthwhile events such as 4-H and hereby encourages
43 the citizens of Anderson County, 4-H and other similar
44 organizations. Kathy Wright, if you could come
45 forward, I'll present you with this resolution. Okay.
46 We have one person that missed the list and that's
47 Montana Day with the horse project. And Montana,
48 we'll make sure that you get your certificate. Okay?
49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Greer? Mr. Greer, I
50 think one of the young ladies has a prepared statement

1 to make. Yes. Okay. Thank you.

2 LARRY GREER: Ms. Wright.

3 KATHY WRIGHT: Thank you so much.

4 Councilman Greer, I prepared an overview or sort of an
5 annual report from the ... It is my pleasure to be
6 here. Councilman Thompson, thank you for the
7 opportunity to be here. Councilman Greer, thank you
8 so much for the resolution and for helping us with our
9 program. Thank you also for your personal interest
10 that you have given us. And Cindy, thank you as well
11 for the personal interest you have given us in the
12 past year. They have truly gone out of their way to
13 help ---

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, we need to
15 extend time. How much more time would you need?

16 LARRY GREER: I move to extend by three
17 minutes. That should be enough.

18 RON WILSON: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
20 second. All in favor to extend by three minutes,
21 please vote. It's unanimous. Please continue.

22 KATHY WRIGHT: Thank you so much. I will
23 talk very quickly. I'm famous for that. We want to
24 let you know so we provided an annual report for you
25 to let you know where 4-H is in South Carolina. As
26 you can see by the size of our plaque we started three
27 years ago with a small one. Last year it was two
28 sizes, now it's three sizes larger. One of the things
29 we're very proud of is moving by fifty percent leaps
30 over the past three years with our participation and
31 our youth. Our kids are some of the best and the
32 brightest in South Carolina. They're some of the best
33 and brightest in Anderson County for sure. We have
34 about fifty percent of them here tonight. And I
35 apologize for not having a hundred percent. But when
36 you have busy engaged citizens like we have, you can
37 see they're always on the move. We have troops
38 meeting tonight getting ready for competitions. We
39 have a lot of other things going on. So we're very
40 pleased to be here. We're also pleased to work with a
41 partnership with South Carolina State University. And
42 three of our young people tonight are here from South
43 Carolina State. And we will give them a minute or so
44 to prepare a couple of words with you. If you will
45 turn to page eleven in your booklet, I do want to take
46 the opportunity to let you know that 4-H is
47 highlighted on page eleven of your booklet. If you
48 look further through you'll see that through about
49 page fourteen. And then if you'll flip to the back on
50 page sixteen you'll see some photographs. And from my

1 point of view a picture is worth a thousand words. So
2 we wanted to show you some of our 4-H volunteers and
3 our 4-H'ers in action tonight. We have a young lady
4 from South Carolina State. She's representing Boyd
5 Owens tonight and she's going to just give a couple of
6 brief remarks. Sterling.

7 STERLIN BLAKLEY: To the Anderson County
8 council chairman, council members, county staff,
9 family and friends, I bring you greetings on behalf of
10 the Anderson County 1890 extension office. Boyd Owens
11 could not be here tonight because of a previous
12 engagement and did not ask, but told me to speak on
13 behalf of the agency. The Anderson County extension
14 office is committed to providing youth and individuals
15 from Anderson County with programs and options to
16 assist them in improving their quality of life.
17 Through leadership classes, hands-on learning
18 experiences and research based activities, individuals
19 are presented with a multitude of opportunities to
20 learn ways in which they can positively express
21 themselves. Through our 4-H program youth have become
22 more involved in playing an active role in their
23 surrounding communities. It is through community
24 service and service learning projects that these youth
25 learn the true meaning of civic responsibility, civic
26 engagement and the importance of strong communities.
27 4-H is an organization where young people are given
28 many opportunities to develop and utilize skills that
29 will last them a lifetime. The Anderson County
30 extension office would like to extend our hand in
31 welcoming you to stop by our office to learn more
32 about other opportunities and activities available to
33 the community. Our contact information is presented
34 on the report and business cards that have been made
35 available to each council member. Thank you.

36 KATHY WRIGHT: I believe you have a set of
37 documents for county council as well. Councilman
38 Wilson, do you mind passing some of those down for us?
39 She's going to give you some bags and let you start
40 passing. In my last thirty seconds -- you can tell
41 I'm pretty informal. In my last thirty seconds let me
42 introduce Marty Watt. I expect almost all of you know
43 Marty. Marty is the lead agent here in Anderson
44 County. He takes care of all of us. As well, let me
45 introduce Jessica Simpson. Jessica is a 4-H agent.
46 She has a special relationship with the youth down in
47 the Starr-Iva area. She works through the school
48 district part-time facilitating 4-H and science and
49 technology in that area. As well, let me introduce to
50 you Chris Tally. Chris is the Ag agent in Anderson

1 County. It's been our pleasure to introduce to you
2 many of 4-H'ers tonight and to introduce to you some
3 of the opportunities that we have available for youth.
4 Thank you again, Councilman Greer.

5 APPLAUSE

6 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
8 Resolution R2008-027, a resolution honoring Jean Marie
9 Stutler for being awarded the South Carolina
10 Department of Probation Parole and Pardon agent of the
11 year, region one, and honoring Will Freestate as
12 rookie of the year and other matters related thereto.
13 Ms. Floyd.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 Oh yeah. I'm getting ready to do that.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I'm sorry.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: That's all right. Mr.
18 Chairman, I move now to approve this resolution 2008-
19 027.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. We're in
21 discussion. All in favor please vote. Unanimous.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. All right. I'm
23 going to ask Ms. Stutler and Mr. Freestate to please
24 join me down at the mic. Folks, anytime something
25 happens in Anderson County or through the state of
26 South Carolina that brings positive recognition to our
27 county, to our area, I am very, very proud. Tonight
28 I'd like to honor these two people. We'll start with
29 the young man, Mr. Freestate for being named as the
30 South Carolina State rookie of the year of the -- for
31 the selection as the South Carolina Department of
32 Probation, Parol, and Pardon rookie agent of the year.
33 It didn't come easily. It didn't come easily. That
34 means he was up against all of the other people who
35 did his job across the state of South Carolina. And
36 yet he brought this home to us. It reads, Anderson
37 County, acting by an through the Anderson County
38 council and Gracie S. Floyd, district two, in grateful
39 recognition of your contributions and commitment to
40 Anderson County and its people hereby confers upon you
41 William M. Freestate, I, the Anderson County pride
42 award for selection as a South Carolina Department of
43 Probation, Parol and Pardon rookie agent of the year.
44 So proud of you.

45 APPLAUSE

46 GRACIE FLOYD: He's a fine example of our
47 young people moving up in our county. Now it gives me
48 great pleasure to recognize Jean Marie Stutler for
49 being awarded the South Carolina Department of
50 Probation, Parol and Pardon agent of the year, region

1 one, recognizing her for selfishless service and
2 loyalty to the citizens of Anderson County and other
3 matters related thereto. Mrs. Jean Stutler was born
4 on December 15, 1958 in Arkansas, spending her early
5 years in Denver, Colorado before accompanying her
6 family to Anderson, South Carolina at the age of
7 nineteen. And whereas Ms. Jean Marie Stutler married
8 the love of her life, Reverend Kurt Stutler in 1989
9 and she has two sons, Michael and David, and a
10 beautiful granddaughter, Olivia. And whereas, Mrs.
11 Stutler is an eight year colon cancer survivor and
12 along with Catherine Smith and Karla Heritage founded
13 the annual concert of hope and remembrance which in
14 turn gave rise to the Cancer Association of Anderson.
15 She continues to be an advocate in promotion of cancer
16 awareness in early detection through her involvement.
17 Whereas in her career with the South Carolina
18 Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon, Mrs.
19 Stutler has utilized her knowledge of the community,
20 active membership in various community organizations
21 and tireless work ethics to improve the Anderson
22 County community. Whereas, she has been an invaluable
23 resource for the community not only through her career
24 but also through her selfless dedication to various
25 charities and organizations throughout the county.
26 Now therefore, it is hereby resolved by Anderson
27 County in a meeting duly assembled that Anderson
28 County, acting by and through its county council,
29 hereby honors and recognizes Mrs. Jean Stutler for her
30 dedication, loyal, and commitment to Anderson County
31 and its citizens. Mrs. Stutler, Jean, thank you for
32 your tireless efforts to protect the health, safety
33 and welfare of Anderson County and its residents.
34 Congratulations on your recent award. In every facet
35 of your life you are an exemplary model for the
36 Department of Probation, Parole, their motto - facing
37 the challenges. Prepare, provide and protect. And I
38 just want you to know how happy, how proud I am to
39 present this to you.

40 APPLAUSE

41 GRACIE FLOYD: I want to tell you a quick
42 story and then Jean -- I want Jean to introduce her
43 family. And her supervisor is here with us today.
44 But I did not know that Jean is doing the type work
45 that she's doing. I was attending her church with
46 Reverend Stutler and I got to church and I was getting
47 out of my car. I was picking up my bible and my
48 pocketbook and trying to rush to the church and there
49 was Jean. I knew her as the pastor's wife. But she
50 was pulling off a gun. And she had on combat boots.

1 She had on a pair of black pants and shirt that said
2 police. And there she was standing outside of her
3 car. I didn't know whether she was putting on the gun
4 or taking it off. But anyway, I took a chance and I
5 went in. And after church that's when I discovered
6 what she did for a living and she does it so well.
7 Please welcome my friend, Jean.

8 JEAN STUTLER: Well, thank you. This is a
9 real honor. I love Anderson, South Carolina. And I
10 want you to know that for our office of Anderson
11 Probation, Parole and Pardon Services to get two of
12 these state awards really says a lot for our
13 supervisor and as we in probation talk call him our
14 AIC, agent in charge, Mr. Gerald Black, and our other
15 agents here in this county. I'd like to say that
16 probation is the best kept secret in Anderson County.
17 We're out there, and we're here to serve you. So just
18 come by and see us and tell you what you need us to
19 do. My family is here. You met my husband and my
20 granddaughter, Olivia. My mom is back here, Jane
21 Barnes. She's a longtime resident of Anderson. My
22 brother is a lieutenant with the police department,
23 city police department, Wes Barnes and his wife,
24 Karen, and my nephews Nate and Christian. And so I'd
25 like to say thank you again to my good friend, Gracie,
26 to my partner Will Freestate who covers my back and
27 runs much faster than I do. And thank you for this
28 award. Thank you.

29 APPLAUSE

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you all very much.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution, R2008-028, a
32 resolution recognizing Anderson County resident, Doris
33 Cole, for being selected as the 2008 rural educator of
34 the year by the South Carolina Department of Commerce
35 and other matters related thereto. Ms. Wilson.

36 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
37 would ask our council's approval on resolution R2008-
38 028.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's a motion to
40 approve. The second -- the chair seconds. Any
41 discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in
42 favor of resolution R2008-028 please vote. It is
43 unanimous. Ms. Wilson.

44 CINDY WILSON: I would like to ask Ms.
45 Cole and any family members to come forward please.
46 Aren't we blessed in Anderson County to have such
47 wonderful generous people and brilliant involved young
48 people. This is a resolution recognizing Anderson
49 County resident Doris Cole for being selected as the
50 2008 rural educator of the year by the South Carolina

1 Department of Commerce and honoring her significant
2 contributions to Anderson County and rural South
3 Carolina and other matters related thereto. Whereas
4 Mrs. Doris Cole, a native of Williamston was named the
5 2008 South Carolina rural educator of the year by the
6 Department of Commerce for her daily commitment and
7 volunteer efforts to improve South Carolina's rural
8 education system. And whereas Mrs. Cole has served in
9 many capacities during her year as educator, including
10 teacher, principal and child development center
11 director. And Mrs. Cole continues her service to
12 Anderson County education as an outreach worker and
13 liaison to Anderson County School District One for the
14 Strong Communities Initiative which desires to foster
15 a strong support system for children and parents and
16 thereby reduce child abuse and neglect. And whereas
17 Mrs. Cole's endeavors as a community leader include
18 initiating a literacy program, raising funds for the
19 renovation of Williamston's Caroline Community Center
20 and her current work as a research assistant professor
21 at the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, a
22 public service organization at Clemson University that
23 promotes a model of positive change that begins with
24 local involvement. And whereas Anderson County, a
25 body politic and corporate and a political subdivision
26 of the state of South Carolina, acting by and through
27 its county council, desires to honor and recognize
28 Mrs. Cole for being selected as the 2008 South
29 Carolina rule educator of the year. Now therefore it
30 is hereby resolved by Anderson County council in
31 meeting duly assembled that Anderson County acting by
32 and through its county council hereby honors and
33 recognizes Mrs. Doris Cole for her outstanding
34 citizenship, commitment to the residents of Anderson
35 County and her significant contributions to the
36 development of South Carolina's rural communities.
37 Mrs. Cole, for your continuous efforts to improve your
38 community, you have impacted all of Anderson County.
39 You have brought positive statewide recognition to
40 Anderson County. Your lifelong commitment to your
41 community has impacted and benefitted everyone around
42 you and will be an inspiration to generations to come.
43 This resolution shall take effect and be in force
44 immediately upon enactment. Resolved in meeting duly
45 assembled the 6th day of May, 2008. Thank you so
46 much.

47 APPLAUSE

48 DORIS COLE: I really only have one word
49 and I want to thank you very much.

50 APPLAUSE

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution R2008-029, a
2 resolution honoring and recognizing the employees,
3 businesses and other individuals responsible for
4 creating and implementing the billboard emergency
5 alert system in Anderson County and other matters
6 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is
7 there a second?

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
10 discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in
11 favor of resolution R2008-029 please vote. Unanimous.
12 Did you want to present this or ...

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Yes, I do. Is Mr.
14 Kappler here tonight with us? Okay. He's not here
15 tonight. Mr. Chair, I would like to remove this from
16 the agenda at this time and present it at a time when
17 he can join us.

18
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's already been voted
20 on.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: It's been voted on. Yes.
22 But may I present it at another time?

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah. Sure.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Very good. Ordinance's
26 second reading, 2008-019 an ordinance amending
27 ordinance 99-04, the Anderson County zoning ordinance
28 as adopted July 20, 1999 by amending the Anderson
29 County official zoning map to rezone from R20 to C1N
30 that parcel of land consisting of approximately one
31 point six five acres in the Edgewood B precinct on the
32 northeast and southeast quadrants of US 76 and
33 Middleton Court and other matters related thereto.
34 The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

35 RON WILSON: Second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a motion and a
37 second. Any discussion? No discussion. The chair
38 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
39 019 please vote. It is unanimous. Ordinance 2008-
40 020, an ordinance amending ordinance 99-004, the
41 Anderson County zoning ordinance as adopted July 20,
42 1999 amending the Anderson County official zoning map
43 to rezone from R20 to RD, that parcel of land
44 consisting of approximately point zero six acres in
45 the Centerville A precinct on the northeast corner of
46 Dixon Road and Donhill Road and other matters related
47 thereto. The chair moves to approve.

48 BILL MCABEE: Second.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a second. Any
50 discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for the

1 vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-020 please vote.
2 Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-021, an
3 ordinance amending ordinance 99-004, the Anderson
4 County zoning ordinance as adopted July 20, 1999 by
5 amending the Anderson County official zoning map to
6 rezone from R20 and C1N to RD, that parcel of land
7 consisting of approximately point six nine acres in
8 the Centerville A precinct on the east side of Dixon
9 Road and other -- I'm sorry -- the east side of Dixon
10 Road identified as lot A and lot A-2 and other matters
11 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Second?

12 BILL MCABEE: Second.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
14 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
15 021 please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance
16 2008-024, an ordinance to amend ordinance numbers 98-
17 019 as previously amended by ordinance 99-029 and
18 other ...

19 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... Anderson County and
21 Greenville County so as to enlarge the park. The
22 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

23 BILL MCABEE: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
25 calls for the vote. All in favor please vote.
26 Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-0 ---

27 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, could I just
28 ask a quick question?

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

30 BOB WALDREP: The industrial park, is
31 that mostly in Anderson County or is it mostly in
32 Greenville County.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

34 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Mr. Waldrep, I don't know the exact acreage, but it is
36 completely in both counties. In other words, there
37 are probably a roughly equal number of parcels in each
38 county. It is not exclusively in Anderson County.
39 The last several years there have been probably more
40 Greenville parcels placed into the park than Anderson.
41 It's called the Greenville-Anderson multi-county park
42 simply because the counties have to be contiguous.
43 But any parcel of land in either county can be placed
44 there. And I actually had just flipped open to see
45 how many different amendments there have been. I
46 think this -- it looks like at least a dozen
47 amendments over the last couple of years. And I can
48 get the exact acreage for you.

49 BOB WALDREP: I was just trying to get a
50 geographical picture of that in my mind. But these

1 are just pieces and parcels in both counties that
2 aren't necessarily contiguous.

3 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. That is
4 absolutely correct.

5 BOB WALDREP: Okay. All right. Okay.
6 Thank you. That's all.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. We're on item
8 E, ordinance 2008-025, an ordinance to impose a one
9 percent capital project sales tax subject to a
10 referendum within Anderson County, South Carolina
11 pursuant to the capital project sales tax act as
12 codified in statute 4-10-300 and others of the South
13 Carolina code of laws and other matters related
14 thereto. There is a public hearing tonight for this.
15 Instructions for a public hearing. Any person
16 desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing for a
17 reasonable period of time as long as he or she is
18 speaking to the issue under consideration. The
19 chairman exercises control of the public hearing to
20 ensure that no one abuses the public hearing process
21 by engaging in unreasonable lengthy comments, fairly
22 repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or
23 inappropriate comments. With this being said the
24 public hearing is now open. Anyone wishes to speak on
25 this ordinance may come forward. Please state your
26 name, address, council district in which you reside.
27 And speak to the chair and only to the chair. That
28 being said this public hearing is now open. Anyone
29 wishing to speak on this please come forward.

30 PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2008-025

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and
32 hearing no one, this public hearing is now closed.
33 The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-025. Is
34 there a second? We have a second. We are now in
35 discussion.

36 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

38 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to make very
39 sure that none of the projects that have been approved
40 by everybody are subject to any kind of change. That
41 is my understanding that they cannot -- so they're
42 kind of fixed in stone, ---

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

44 BOB WALDREP: -- Mr. Martin, as far as
45 the referendum is concerned?

46 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

48 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep,
49 that is absolutely precisely correct. State law gives
50 absolutely zero wiggle room on this at all. You can't

1 change the projects as a council, nor can anyone else.
2 It's a vote up or down on the projects as they are
3 given. Now they are listed in order so that if the
4 funding is not sufficient for all, they have to be
5 taken in the order in which they are listed. But they
6 cannot be changed. Can't be added to nor taken from
7 nor the priority changed. That is state law, and it's
8 not subject to any local control at all.

9 BOB WALDREP: Is the public going to be
10 advised or informed in any way in the ballot process
11 about what they're voting for on this one cent tax? I
12 mean is it going to be outlined, Mr. Chairman, to Mr.
13 Martin, back to me?

14 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

16 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep,
17 yes, sir. The referendum question is actually set
18 forth in the ordinance. It lists what the projects
19 are and the priority. So the people will be voting
20 for a specific list. The question is posed to them,
21 do you support the one percent and the bonds to pay
22 for the projects? But it then lists all of the
23 projects in the order. So they're voting on a
24 question, but they also know what the result of the
25 question is, that is what the projects are.

26 BOB WALDREP: It's going to be kind of a
27 lengthy ballot then; isn't it?

28 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. It is indeed a
29 truly lengthy ballot.

30 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. Thank
31 you, Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
33 calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-025. All in
34 favor please vote. It is unanimous. Thank you very
35 much. I have been given a request to take a break for
36 fifteen minutes.

37 BREAK

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance's first reading,
39 ordinance 2008-028, an ordinance to amend ordinance
40 2007-035 of Anderson County, South Carolina relating
41 to the issuance and sale of not exceeding two point
42 eight million special source revenue bonds of the
43 county and other matters related thereto. The chair
44 moves to approve. Is there a second? Mr. Greer
45 seconds. We are in discussion. Any discussion?

46 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. May I?

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

48 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49 When we did recently the lease purchase contract, I
50 asked for an itemized statement of those items that we

1 were going to buy with that money. Never got it.
2 Then the backup information for two point eight
3 million dollars, I find some things that are just
4 very, very troubling. For example, there's already
5 been a hundred and five thousand dollars in legal and
6 engineering costs for the Flatrock Road school
7 project, the sewer line. I didn't know how you'd run
8 up that much when it had never been passed in the bond
9 issuance to really begin the project. But a hundred
10 and five thousand of the six hundred thousand for
11 legal and engineering is a bit of a stretch. The
12 other issue is I called today requesting information
13 for the waste water collection improvements at I-85
14 and Highway 81 because we've already spent millions of
15 dollars on sewer infrastructure up there. We already
16 have the only waste water treatment plant at an
17 interchange, I think, in the state. And then I found
18 out that this five hundred and twenty thousand dollar
19 project apparently goes to a private landowner's
20 property at public expense. Are we really in the
21 business of improving private owners' properties at
22 public expense to enrich them further?

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, point of
24 order.

25 CINDY WILSON: Excuse me. I have the
26 floor please.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson ---

28 CINDY WILSON: But anyway ---

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, she has a
30 point of order.

31 CINDY WILSON: You've always ignored me on
32 mine.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Ms. Floyd,
34 what is your point of order?

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, are we on the
36 topic of 2008-028, ordinance first reading which is to
37 amend the ordinance 2007-035 related to the interest
38 and sales of the special source revenue bonds of the
39 county?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, are you
41 talking on the topic?

42 CINDY WILSON: I surely am. This is the
43 information that was hand delivered to us late
44 yesterday and faxed today.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Please continue.

46 CINDY WILSON: Anyway, I think this is
47 pretty much indicative of the way we handle our money
48 in this county. And this is really of grave concern
49 to me because we certainly need infrastructure at
50 strategic places and for the greater public good. But

1 are we really in the business in Anderson County of
2 improving private property for private gain at public
3 expense? And are we really keeping a better tab on
4 how we're running up our legal and engineering costs
5 on projects that have not even been approved? Thank
6 you.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, can you tell
8 us what this ordinance is all about, please?

9 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. Council has
10 already approved this one time. If you remember,
11 we're having to bring it back before council because
12 school district three decided to move in another
13 direction concerning their sewer.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. They were in and
15 out, in and out. I understand.

16 JOEY PRESTON: And the recommended change
17 in this SSRB is to provide funding for the hangar and
18 -- the construction of a new hangar at the county
19 airport.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So instead of going to the
21 school, it's going to the hangar?

22 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. And the
23 engineering funding and the other professional fees,
24 those were spent for the project because, remember, we
25 signed an agreement with school district three to move
26 forward with that. And then they came back at the
27 last -- a few weeks back and said, no, we're going to
28 go a different route. So that's to allow us to
29 reimburse ourselves for that money that was expended.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we're getting the money
31 back?

32 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. And it's --
33 reimbursement resolution letter that follows this
34 letter on is also attached to that which allows us to
35 move forward with some of these projects and pay
36 ourselves back. Because it's going to take a period
37 of time to get the three readings of the ordinance and
38 then to actually sell the bonds.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Preston.

40 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

42 LARRY GREER: Let me shed just a little
43 bit more light on this. Everything Mr. Preston has
44 said in regard to the project associated with the
45 school district is true. We were pursuing that as
46 fast as we possibly could because it was a very time
47 sensitive matter because the school district plans to
48 open that school in August of this year. So
49 everything had to be in place in time for them to open
50 the school. And as we pursued implementation of this

1 project to serve that school, we ran into a property
2 owner who was uncooperative who delayed the project to
3 the point that it would not have been possible to have
4 gotten the sewer in place to the school in time for
5 the school opening in August. And the school made a
6 decision to go with the septic system instead of the
7 sewer system. And basically that's the reason for the
8 change in this ordinance.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
10 Anyone else.

11 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: I'm just trying to
14 understand this handout that was handed out. Was this
15 -- Mr. Preston, is this your handout?

16 JOEY PRESTON: I'm going to ask Ms.
17 Humphries. Ms. Humphries. That's a detail which
18 describes how the funding will be spent.

19 BOB WALDREP: Well, I have like the pump
20 station, waste water collection, Flatrock School
21 project, airport property, costs and contingencies and
22 all this. This is -- Ms. Humphries, is this your ---

23 GINA HUMPHRIES: That is my work. Yes, sir.
24 And that is just a summarization just to help us to
25 kind of understand the lists of projects that went
26 along with the first SSRB that was approved.

27 JOEY PRESTON: And you see if you go to
28 page one of the ordinance you'll see where it says
29 2008 projects. This is just a much greater detail and
30 description of what those projects are in the
31 ordinance.

32 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So the original two
33 point eight million in other words was supposed to --
34 I for some reason thought that this had to do with
35 just that sewer line to ---

36 GINA HUMPHRIES: No, sir. It was several
37 projects.

38 JOEY PRESTON: You were specific in the
39 ordinance that said the money had to be spent this
40 way. So when the school district pulled out of it we
41 had to come back and we have to bring it back before
42 you for approval again.

43 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I guess I just
44 didn't realize. Have we had this? Did you hand this
45 out before?

46 JOEY PRESTON: You've seen that first
47 list, estimated cost original, at one time. This is a
48 comparison. I asked Gina to do this to compare it for
49 you, the differences.

50 BOB WALDREP: I just didn't -- was not

1 aware that there was going to be a pump station and
2 force main at 81 and 86 up there. Is that new or is
3 that ---

4 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir.

5 BOB WALDREP: That's been on the drawing
6 board for a while?

7 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. It's part of our
8 sewer plan.

9 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

10 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

12 LARRY GREER: Mr. Preston, to make this
13 real simple for everybody. Basically, all we're doing
14 is redirecting the money that was a part of the
15 original ordinance as pertaining to the Flatrock
16 School sewer line.

17 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. That's right.

18 LARRY GREER: Thank you. I call for the
19 question.

20 BILL MCABEE: Second.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
22 question and a second. All in favor of the call for
23 the question please vote. Okay. Five. Oppose. One.
24 Mr. Waldrep, how do you vote?

25 BOB WALDREP: Abstain, Mr. Chairman,
26 until I can take another look at this. I'm a little
27 bit unclear.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Five in favor. Mr.
29 Waldrep abstains and Ms. Wilson votes no. Anyway, we
30 call for the question. All in favor of ordinance
31 2008-028 please vote. Five. Oppose. Abstain.

32 BOB WALDREP: I'm abstaining.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson
34 abstains. Five in favor. It passes. Ordinance 2008-
35 026, an ordinance authorizing the execution and
36 delivery of an option to purchase certain Anderson
37 County real property and other matters related
38 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
39 second?

40 CINDY WILSON: Second.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
42 in discussion. Any discussion? No discussion. The
43 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
44 2008-026 please vote. Unanimous. Resolutions. A
45 resolution relating to the declaration of intent by
46 Anderson County, South Carolina to reimburse certain
47 expenditures prior to the issuance by the county of
48 its 2008 special source revenue bonds. Chair moves to
49 approve. Is there a second?

50 RON WILSON: Second.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're in discussion. Any
2 discussion?

3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

5 CINDY WILSON: To clarify further what I
6 stated in the measure a while ago. It seems to me
7 that I recall that when I inquired about the 81/I-85
8 sewer improvements that that related to the Webb Road
9 addition. And then I found out today that it was
10 another project entirely different. So that's one
11 reason I was pretty puzzled by that.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done?

13 CINDY WILSON: Yes. Thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? All in favor
15 of -- the chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
16 resolution 2008-030 please vote. Five, six. Oppose.
17 Abstain. One abstain. Ms. Wilson abstains.
18 Resolution 2008-031, a resolution approving an
19 agreement relating to the downtown redevelopment plan
20 parking deck. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
21 second?

22 RON WILSON: Second.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're in discussion. Any
24 discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

25 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I was
26 interested in this because I've been living in the
27 proximity of all this improvement for about two years.
28 I don't know if I can stand any more improvement in
29 that area right now. But nevertheless, I wanted to be
30 assured as we pass this that there is no increase in
31 taxation in that particular district, but this is just
32 -- but it does protract and extend the time for the
33 current assessments and taxation collection. And Mr.
34 Chairman, to Mr. Martin, back to me.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

36 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
37 Mr. Waldrep. First let me clarify for council. I nor
38 McNair Law Firm represent the county on this
39 particular matter. We represent the city and the
40 county on bond issues. So we would have a conflict in
41 representing the county's interest. The county's
42 interest in this particular matter were reviewed for
43 the county by Mr. Ray Jones of Parker, Poe which is a
44 regional law firm in this particular case in Columbia
45 because I believe Mr. Galloway who normally would also
46 review for the county also had a conflict on this one.
47 So it has been reviewed for the county purposes by Mr.
48 Jones. I'm going to answer Mr. Waldrep's questions
49 and I'm glad to do so. But I just wanted to make
50 clear that it is not as a legal representative of the

1 county. Mr. Waldrep, it is my firm belief and
2 understanding that your statement is correct. This
3 does not change any of the existing tax structure
4 other than to extend the length of the arrangement or
5 of the TIF district. There is a tax increment
6 financing district in place to finance certain
7 downtown development or redevelopment. The new
8 parking deck is obviously a part of that. In order to
9 issue bonds for that parking deck it is necessary to
10 extend the length of the existing TIF, not to change
11 it otherwise. Just to extend the length of it. So
12 that is ---

13 BOB WALDREP: Do you know how much longer
14 it's going to be?

15 TOM MARTIN: I don't, but ---

16 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Moore.

17 CINDY WILSON: 2021.

18 LARRY GREER: December 16th, 2021.

19 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
20 council for considering this. The current TIF and
21 bond goes through the 2015-14. So it's six years
22 basically that the county's peace along with the
23 school district's and the city's go to make all these
24 improvements. And that's what you're extending. So
25 it is not a tax increase, just an extension for this
26 particular improvement on this bond issue for the
27 deck. Thank you.

28 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you very much.

29
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Ms. Floyd.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have been in
32 favor of the changes that's taking place downtown. I
33 think it's wonderful. The parking deck, I know that
34 we really do need that. So it's with great
35 anticipation and happily that I raise my hand to vote
36 for that. But I have a message for Mr. Mayor. I have
37 a message from the people downtown on Main Street.
38 They would like for me to please tell you, please move
39 the trash bins in front of the parking space down
40 there. It's taking up their parking and they're
41 losing business today. I almost missed it because I
42 couldn't find a park. But they asked me -- they knew
43 I was going to see you tonight. And they asked me to
44 tell you to please hurry and move that trash bin
45 across the street. Okay. So the message has been
46 delivered. I'm glad to be working with the city on
47 this endeavor.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

49 BOB WALDREP: One more time, Mr.
50 Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

2 BOB WALDREP: Now that we have Mr. Moore
3 here. Hey John. I know this is a delicate question,
4 but do you think that maybe in the next few months
5 that they'll be through with the front of the
6 Chiquola? Do you know -- do you have any kind of
7 estimated time on that?

8 JOHN MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Waldrep.
9 Yes. The plan is now to have down at least to your
10 office and that top section down by May 21st.
11 Fountains that are there should be operational and the
12 road. Now unfortunately the parking deck lasts till
13 probably the end of the year before it will be
14 completed.

15 BOB WALDREP: John, when you say May
16 21st, you're talking about this year. Right? Okay.

17 JOHN MOORE: Yes, sir. That's the plan.

18 BOB WALDREP: Thank you.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair calls for the vote
20 on resolution R2008-031. All in favor please vote.
21 Unanimous. Thank you.

22 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, can I point out
23 something that was not mentioned earlier as a part of
24 this agreement?

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Go right ahead
26 please.

27 JOEY PRESTON: When communicating with you
28 and Ms. Floyd, is that the city graciously agreed to
29 study the extension of the TIF district down South
30 Main Street all the way to the city limits. They also
31 agreed to do that from where it ends on River Street
32 all the way down to Shockley Ferry. They're going to
33 do a study in that area and the old Anderson mill
34 site. I think it's Exhibit B. And they also agreed
35 to provide us with a study on how to best create a
36 pedestrian walkway that will tie the county courthouse
37 annex with the Kroger building back into downtown as a
38 part of this agreement. And I know that was important
39 to y'all and that wasn't discussed.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It was very
43 important to me since that's my district. Our city
44 folks, thank you. Thank you. It's good to know that
45 you have the same vision that we have for our county.
46 And I just thank you.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Proclamation
48 proclaiming May 2008 as mental health month. Is there
49 someone here from the health department on this
50 regard? No? Okay. The chair moves to approve the

1 proclamation.

2 LARRY GREER: Second.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
4 discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for the
5 vote of the proclamation proclaiming May 2008 as
6 mental health month. All in favor please vote.
7 Unanimous. Thank you. Proclamation proclaiming May
8 13th, 2008 as Livestrong Day. And I am told I am to
9 give this to Catherine Smith. Is Catherine here?
10 Okay. Everyone please come forward. The chair moves
11 to approve the proclamation.

12 LARRY GREER: Second.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
14 discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for the
15 vote. All in favor. Unanimous. Proclamation,
16 Livestrong Day 2008. Whereas according to the State
17 Cancer Registry and the National Program of Cancer
18 Registries, Cancer Surveillance System -- that's a
19 mouth full -- and the Center for Disease Control,
20 cancer is the second leading cause of death in South
21 Carolina and has the twentieth overall cancer incident
22 rate among the fifty states and the District of
23 Columbia. Whereas South Carolina has an annual
24 incident rate of four hundred and sixty-seven point
25 eight per one hundred thousand and an annual reported
26 two hundred and three point seven deaths due to cancer
27 per one hundred thousand. And whereas three out of
28 four people in their lifetime will have a family
29 member diagnosed with cancer -- I've already been
30 there, my dad -- one in three women and one in two men
31 will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. And
32 one point four million people will be diagnosed this
33 year. Whereas, it was estimated that in 2006 the
34 United States would have one million three hundred and
35 ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and ninety new
36 cancer cases, and twenty-two thousand five hundred and
37 thirty of those cases would be in South Carolina.
38 Whereas more than five hundred and sixty-five thousand
39 Americans are expected to die from cancer this year.
40 African American men and women have the highest
41 mortality rates for all cancer sites combined. And
42 cancer is the number one killer of those under age
43 eighty-five. Whereas the cost of cancer last year was
44 two hundred and ten billion dollars. Wow! Whereas
45 the state of South Carolina cares for people affected
46 by cancer and whereas by uniting people affected by
47 cancer to raise awareness through education,
48 prevention, screening and early detection efforts, we
49 gain strength in the fight against cancer in South
50 Carolina. Whereas we are committed to ensure all

1 cancer patients are treated with compassion and
2 respect and are provided with the tools and resources
3 necessary to battle the physical, emotional and
4 practical challenges of cancer diagnosis. Whereas
5 Anderson County is the home to both inpatient and
6 outpatient cancer facilities operated by AnMed Health
7 which diagnosed one thousand twenty-five patients in
8 2007, as well as the Cancer Association of Anderson, a
9 non-profit organization that helps these local cancer
10 patients. And whereas Livestrong Day exemplifies the
11 spirit of people affected by cancer, survivors, care
12 givers, friends, family, physicians, nurses, social
13 workers and researchers throughout South Carolina.
14 Now therefore be it proclaimed by the Anderson County
15 council to proclaim May 13th, 2008 as Livestrong Day
16 in Anderson County and commend this observance to all
17 citizens.

18 CATHERINE SMITH: This may be a little
19 unusual, but could I ask for the cancer survivors in
20 the audience to stand please and be recognized.

21 APPLAUSE

22 CATHERINE SMITH: If you have a loved one in
23 your family who's had cancer, would you stand? I'd
24 like to -- thank you very much. And I think that
25 illustrates what Chairman Thompson was saying. I'd
26 like to ask Angie Suttles and Emily Bohachic who are
27 very heavily involved in the Livestrong Day planning
28 to say a few words please.

29 ANGIE SUTTLES: I am a two time survivor of
30 two different cancers while I was in my thirties, both
31 stage four. And that's how I got involved with Lance
32 Armstrong Foundation. Lance Armstrong Foundation says
33 that there's gaps between what we know and what we do.
34 And it's unacceptable gaps. And we believe we can
35 close those gaps. They want to do this on a local
36 level. And right now there's a hundred and fifteen
37 armies that's been formed all over the country. And
38 the upstate was actually one of the first thirty-four
39 armies. So we believe we can close those gaps
40 together. And we're doing that with the -- what we
41 are is we're the Livestrong Army Upstate South
42 Carolina. And when you see the yellow and you see
43 Livestrong, we're just asking for support. And the
44 Livestrong Day is May 13th from two to five at AnMed.
45 And it's a one day initiative to raise awareness and
46 funds for the cancer fight.

47 EMILY BOHACHIC: I work at AnMed Health
48 Cancer Center and I see people everyday who fight this
49 battle. My own family members have fought. Some have
50 won and some have not. This is a passion of mine to

1 spread the word locally so we can make it a national
2 priority with our elected officials. I just wanted to
3 say thank you very, very much for the council for
4 their approval of this proclamation. And I just would
5 like to invite each and every one of you to Livestrong
6 Day. There are lots of fun events planned and
7 entertainment. It is a fund-raiser, however the event
8 is free. It will be from two to five p.m. next
9 Tuesday, May 13th, on the AnMed Health Campus -- North
10 Campus, excuse me, right outside the cancer center.
11 And once again, thank you.

12 CATHERINE SMITH: I believe that Emily and
13 Angie have brought Livestrong bands for all the
14 council if we are allowed to give you these items.
15 Thank you.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Appointments. Does
17 anyone have any appointments?

18 BILL MCABEE: I do, Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

20 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep.

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just had
22 someone call me about the planning board, and I'm
23 going to have to put Ms. Eddleman on the spot for a
24 second if you don't mind. Mr. Herdick called me and
25 said that there was a lack of people being appointed
26 to that planning board. Do you ---

27 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Waldrep.

28 BOB WALDREP: Yes.

29 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Ricketson can answer
30 that.

31 JEFF RICKETSON: It's the citizens advisory
32 board for district one. There may be some vacancies
33 on there, but the planning commission is full.

34 BOB WALDREP: Well, I thought they were
35 full and then -- so it's the citizens advisory board
36 that -- okay. So have I got a vacancy on ---

37 JEFF RICKETSON: I can check. I wasn't
38 aware, but ---

39 BOB WALDREP: If we could just kind of
40 get checked up on that. This guy was little bit out
41 of joint about the board. Okay. Thank you.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

43 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

45 BILL MCABEE: I have one appointment to
46 make. At this time I move that Mr. Mike McIntosh be
47 appointed to the Anderson County Economic Development
48 Board. I'll supply the information to the clerk after
49 the meeting. Mike's in the audience if you'd stand.
50 I make that in the form of a motion.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A motion and a second.
3 Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in
4 favor please vote. Unanimous. Is that it, Mr.
5 McAbee?

6 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? That's it
8 for appointments then. Moving on. Requests by
9 council members. Mr. Waldrep.

10 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 There is a situation that's developed in my district
12 having to do with about fifty thousand dollars of
13 appropriated funds for, I think, it's Tolly Street; is
14 that correct? It appears that there was a project at
15 one time which was going to require a companion amount
16 of money of around seven hundred thousand dollars to
17 widen this particular street and that that project
18 looks like it has more or less evaporated. For that
19 reason I'd like to reallocate that fifty thousand
20 dollars back to the city of Anderson so that they'd be
21 able to use that money. So if I may. Mr. Hopkins can
22 provide you with a more full explanation since I see a
23 look of puzzlement from some of the council members.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins, do you want
25 to explain further?

26 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

27 HOLT HOPKINS: ... He and Ms. Floyd both
28 set aside fifty thousand each for this project. But
29 the more we dug into it the more expensive it got and
30 Ms. Floyd reallocated her funds. And he's doing it
31 now. The project is really not going nowhere. I
32 doubt it ever will. And we were just hoping to just
33 turn that money loose for more paving in the city.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So this is fifty thousand
35 for the city to paving ---

36 BOB WALDREP: If you go back to Mr. Moore
37 -- I'm sorry Mr. Moore left before he got fifty
38 thousand dollars.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion.
40 Do we have a second?

41 RON WILSON: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? Mr.
43 Greer.

44 LARRY GREER: I'm assuming that this is
45 an appropriation from the district ---

46 BOB WALDREP: District one.

47 LARRY GREER: --- one paving account for
48 paving, grading, and drainage for the city of
49 Anderson. Is that what your motion is actually
50 stating?

1 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. And a little bit out
2 of district three, I think.

3 LARRY GREER: Not this time.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of Mr.
5 Waldrep's motion please vote -- appropriation please
6 vote. Unanimous. Is that it, Mr. Waldrep?

7 BOB WALDREP: No. I have one more. I
8 have the thousand dollars out of my recreation account
9 to go to the Foothill Alliance. And I understand, is
10 that for battered women?

11 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. And children
12 too.

13 BOB WALDREP: Okay. One thousand dollars
14 out of recreation.

15 LARRY GREER: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
17 second. Any discussion? All in favor please vote.
18 Unanimous. Is that it, Mr. Waldrep?

19 BOB WALDREP: That's it. Thank you.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I would like to
22 appropriate one thousand -- no, one hundred and fifty
23 thousand dollars to the city of Anderson for paving
24 and road maintenance. This is to come from district
25 two's transportation money.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Transportation? Paving
27 account.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, whatever. Paving
29 account. Yeah.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Second. Any
31 discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: I have one more. And this
33 is the last of the funds for the children -- for the
34 youth of Anderson County in district two for their
35 summer programs. I would like to appropriate one
36 thousand dollars of district two's recreational money
37 to the Hampton Street Youth Organization. This money
38 is to be used to provide -- to keep the doors open for
39 the children during the summer and to provide trips
40 and other summer activities. That's in the form of a
41 motion.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
43 All in favor please vote. Unanimous.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it? Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 have three. I'd like to do them one at the time. The
48 first one is to appropriate five hundred dollars from
49 the district three recreation account for operation of
50 the Belton Farmer's Market.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
2 All in favor please vote. Unanimous.

3 LARRY GREER: The second one is to
4 appropriate -- a motion to appropriate five hundred
5 dollars from the district three recreation account to
6 the Creightonville Fire Department to assist them with
7 some station renovations.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
9 Please vote. All in favor. Unanimous.

10 LARRY GREER: And the last one is to
11 appropriate, a motion to appropriate five hundred
12 dollars from the district three recreation account to
13 the Williford Fire Department to assist them with
14 station operations.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
16 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you, Mr.
17 Greer. Mr. McAbee.

18 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 At this time I move that one thousand dollars be
20 appropriated from the district four recreation account
21 to the Anderson County airport for the Snowbird event.
22

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
24 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. That's it?

25 BILL MCABEE: That's it.

26 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I was going
27 to ask when are the Snowbirds flying?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: There's a show tomorrow at
29 four?

30 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. They flew over
31 downtown today. You probably heard that.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And admission is free.

33 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. Well,
34 you could see them anyway, couldn't you?

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. If you want to go to
36 the airport. None for me. Mr. Wilson, any
37 appropriations? None for Mr. Wilson. Ms. Wilson.

38 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would
39 like to request in the form of a motion from the
40 district seven paving account ten thousand five
41 hundred and forty-two dollars to be used for the
42 walking track at the Honea Path Elementary School.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
44 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Is that it, Ms.
45 Wilson? That's all. We are adjourned.
46

47 Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Special Called Meeting – May 20, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

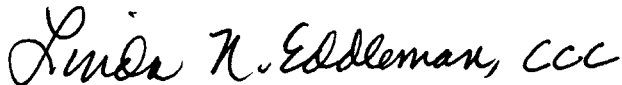
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

CALLED MEETING

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The special called meeting
2 for May 20, 2008, three p.m. will now come to order.
3 Council member, Gracie Floyd will give the invocation.

4 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Budget discussion.
6 Ms. Cindy Wilson, ten minutes. Ms. Wilson.

7 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 Unlike in the past, we were given a large looseleaf
9 budget workbook or budget proposal. This year we've
10 been given two different looseleaf budget books. The
11 first one was dated 4/14, and it had the departmental
12 requests labeled grand total of the annual budget for
13 Anderson County for fiscal year '08-'09, one hundred
14 and thirty-one million seven hundred and sixty-four
15 thousand nine hundred and five dollars. The second
16 looseleaf budget book had revenue summaries,
17 personnel, capital budget added to it and the
18 administrator's recommendation. The total of the
19 projected revenues of all funds was one hundred and
20 thirty-nine million two hundred and sixty-two thousand
21 three hundred and thirty dollars. In today's paper,
22 the public hearing notice states revenues of one
23 hundred and forty-nine million forty-five thousand
24 four hundred and ninety-five dollars. And the same in
25 expenditures. The big difference -- there's a big
26 difference between the three different documents. The
27 finance division director predicts a mil to have the
28 value of approximately five hundred and sixty-five
29 thousand dollars in the fiscal year '08-'09 budget
30 year. The auditor anticipates a mil of a value of
31 approximately five hundred and twenty-six thousand
32 dollars. Our economy has slowed down. I don't think
33 there's much doubt that we have these issues to deal
34 with. Yesterday I asked state representative, Michael
35 Thompson, how the accommodation tax revenues were
36 coming along. And he said that he understood that
37 they were going to be down. Where does this leave our
38 six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollar budget for
39 the balloon festival. Where will the difference
40 between accommodation tax revenues, projections for
41 sponsorships and contributions, and what will probably
42 actually be collected come from? What will our policy
43 be for the use of credit cards in this coming budget
44 year? And what about more than nine hundred thousand
45 dollars labeled legal for this current fiscal year,
46 and yet we found more than a hundred thousand dollars
47 paid to attorneys under labels of professional
48 services, management consulting. And more recently
49 service contracts and contractual services. Out of
50 what account are we paying for the ongoing repairs for

1 Michelin Boulevard since South Carolina Department of
2 Transportation refuses to accept it? Where is the
3 rough draft of our budget ordinance which should be
4 before us now? It's an integral part of the budget.
5 And it's the enabling part of the actual budget. I'm
6 just going to quickly close by saying there are so
7 many questions and so many differences in numbers.
8 Even though there are many, many elements of the
9 budget I do support and can support. Until we have
10 all the information before us and sufficient time to
11 go over the numbers and have public, real public
12 discourse, it's going to be really tough for any
13 sensible councilman to support what we have in front
14 of us. Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
16 Administrator proposed 2008-2009 fiscal year budget
17 presentation. Mr. Preston.

18 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we're going to
19 pass out some copies of the proposed budget. And Rita
20 and Jana, would y'all please come up and help out with
21 this please. Give us just a minute to set up. And I
22 think we're going to answer a lot of Ms. Wilson's
23 questions through the budget presentation. I think
24 many of them have already been answered in our budget
25 workshops. I would like to thank council for the
26 opportunity to present the fiscal year '08-'09 budget.
27 I was telling my assistant just a few minutes ago this
28 is the twenty-third year in my career that I've
29 actually presented a county budget. Thirteen for
30 Anderson and ten in the county I worked at prior. So
31 this a -- it's hard to believe it's been that many,
32 but it's been quite a few. This presentation is
33 rather lengthy. It's over one hundred slides. So I'm
34 going to take you through it. I'm going to try to
35 address as many of Ms. Wilson's issues that she
36 brought up today as possible. I think council members
37 are aware, this process started several months ago.
38 Mr. Thompson, thanks to you and your leadership and
39 suggesting that we have these work meetings. I think
40 that's kind of help the process go along here. I will
41 state that I've had numerous discussions with many of
42 you concerning the budget, of course, at our workshops
43 both privately in meetings and over the phone. And I
44 appreciate the opportunity for you to sit down with me
45 and to have your questions or to ask questions of the
46 staff and to have your answers. I just passed out to
47 you a list of questions that were presented to my
48 finance staff and myself. I could attend half the
49 meeting that day. Mr. Cunningham attended the other
50 half. The meeting was asked for Mr. Waldrep and by

1 Ms. Wilson. These are the questions that were asked
2 at that meeting. These are the answers and the
3 responses. And I'll have copies printed for the
4 audience after the meeting if you'd like to have one.
5 But let's go on through here. All right. This is the
6 outline of the presentation. You've got the budget
7 calendar, the overview of funds, budget challenges,
8 highlights, the building plan, the detail by fund and
9 the wrap up. This is the budget calendar. Of course,
10 we started the process back in February. I see that
11 our first county council workshop, April. And since
12 that time that the very first document that Ms. Wilson
13 referred to was the departmental requests. Now, up
14 until this year county council members have never seen
15 departmental requests before. You would see the
16 administrator's recommended budget and see what they -
17 - she recommended maybe in a column next to that. But
18 at that particular moment, at that time that's when we
19 presented -- we wanted to show you what we were having
20 to look at, what we started to refine and to go
21 through each one of these budgets. It's a very
22 complicated process and there are many, many different
23 departments and line items and funds that we have to
24 go through and analyze and it's a very difficult task
25 to do that. But thanks to a good finance staff, we're
26 working very hard in departments and elected officials
27 working very well, we've been able to put this
28 documents together and to stay on this time frame.
29 Now I'm going to present to you an overview of funds
30 101 just to remind you of the different funds that we
31 have with the county. This is for you and of course
32 it's for the audience too. I'm sure everyone in the
33 room will learn something today. I learn something
34 every time I do this. The budget is composed of
35 funds, the general fund, special revenue fund, the
36 enterprise fund, debt service fund, the capital
37 projects fund. I just want to remind council that up
38 until ten years ago these were not broken down this
39 particular way. Okay. We broke them down this way
40 for transparency reasons to show council members at
41 that particular time and forward the different funds
42 and how they're structured. The general fund -- of
43 course this is the -- I'm going to jump into this
44 slide and I'm going to do the general fund. Gina,
45 would you stand up please if you don't mind. This is
46 Gina's slide. We're going to tag team here back and
47 forth. This proposed budget does in fact have no tax
48 increase and provides the rollback that we're
49 projecting with the reassessment.

50 GINA HUMPHRIES: All during the budget

1 workshops you've heard me talk about Act 388, and I
2 just wanted to state that these levies that are before
3 you and comprise this budget are in compliance with
4 Act 388 and are in compliance with the rollback levy
5 limitations that we have to go through during a
6 reassessment year. In fact, we are under -- over
7 compliance I guess you could say. Our levies could
8 have actually been larger than what we have in this
9 budget. And I have calculated each one of these
10 levies. I have worksheets on them. And if anybody
11 chooses to sit down with me I'll be glad to walk you
12 through those.

13 JOEY PRESTON: Just for pure information,
14 I don't think, and this could be the very first year,
15 Ms. Humphries, but I believe in the last twelve,
16 thirteen years, I don't think we've ever been wrong in
17 projecting what the value of a mil is. We've always
18 been right on target. Now this is a different year.
19 We've got different rules to follow, but we've had
20 different rules to follow in the past also. But I
21 have faith in my finance staff and in my division
22 director. The budget is composed of sixty-nine
23 different funds that comprise the Anderson County
24 budget. Within these sixty-nine funds there are one
25 hundred and thirty-six departments and fifty sub-
26 departments. There are two thousand one hundred and
27 ninety-five accounts that are often called line item
28 expenses. The general fund. The general fund is the
29 fund used to account for resources and expenditures
30 traditionally associated with the government that you
31 recognize that you think of everyday that you interact
32 with. This is the general fund. This is what's
33 funded in that. Of course you -- I'm going to hand
34 you a hard copy after the presentation. You can take
35 this and look at it and study it. This is what the
36 general fund is. This is how it's broken down.
37 What's not in the general fund. Remember we pulled
38 out the Sheriff's Department and set it up on its on.
39 Anderson County Detention Center which is a part of
40 the Sheriff's Department. Environmental Services,
41 which is Sewer and Solid Waste, Airport, special
42 revenue funds such as Tri-County Tech, EMS and
43 Library. What's a special revenue fund? They're used
44 to account for specific revenues that are legally or
45 contractually restricted for expenditures for that
46 particular purpose. For example, the Sheriff's
47 Department fund, Tri-County Tech, the Library. The
48 enterprise fund. It's used to account for operations
49 that are financed and operated in a manner similar to
50 private businesses or enterprises. For example, sewer

1 and solid waste. Debt service. I think you're all
2 familiar with debt service. You understand that.
3 They're used to account for the resources to pay on
4 our general obligation bonds and other special
5 assessment. Capital projects funds are used to
6 account for the acquisition and construction of
7 capital projects other than those finances by
8 proprietary. Now, those are the different funds and
9 that's how the budget is broken down. Some of the
10 budget challenges we had this year. You probably --
11 I've had many discussions with, discussions with many
12 of you concerning what other government entities are
13 going through. This red for Lexington County this
14 year as a result of what we're also experiences here
15 in Anderson. Lexington County is having to raise
16 taxes this year, I think for the first time in a long
17 time. We've got many of our local municipalities in
18 Anderson County that are being confronted with that
19 because of changes, rules and regs, GASBY and of
20 course the issues concerning fuel. Inflationary
21 increases to the costs of providing government
22 services like fuel and asphalt is a challenge for all
23 government entities today and us personally and
24 individually. Population growth increases the demand
25 and the need for government services. All local
26 government entities continue to face complex rules and
27 regulations governing operations like GASBY. Gina
28 will talk about that later on. Many local government
29 entities are being forced to have to raise taxes.
30 Anderson County has got to provide a multitude of
31 diverse services. I know that because just about all
32 of you call me daily and ask me to try to deal with
33 some diverse issue that's out there. Of course, our
34 employees combined with the proper equipment and
35 tools, the engine for our progress and to maintain
36 those services. Some of the budget highlights in this
37 year's budget. Personnel, new positions and employee
38 raises. That's a highlight. Pretty much those new
39 positions are being driven by the increased population
40 and demand for services. And of course, as directed
41 by county council we have provided for employee
42 raises. The number of employees that we have, and
43 this is as of May 2008. This fluctuates daily. One
44 day we may have nine hundred and twenty-four. The
45 next day we may have nine hundred or the next day we
46 may have nine hundred and twenty-five. It just
47 depends. These are full-time and part-time positions.
48 All funds nine twenty-four. We're proposing twenty-
49 five new positions. I've gone through these with
50 county council members at our last budget workshop.

1 We're proposing, of course, the six new communications
2 operators as a result of the increase in call volume.
3 I've got my division heads here who can answer
4 specific questions if you have any of those later on.
5 New tech service positions to repair and service all
6 county communications equipment which is a big
7 business now. New call operators for the new 2-1-1
8 call center which is, of course, those are being
9 reimbursed to the county, paid for by another source.
10 Three tech support specialists and MIS replacing the
11 three part-time folks that we have there. And I think
12 we all use our county computers and understand how
13 important technology is right now in today's
14 environment and today's business. One public safety
15 officer for the Powdersville library or for really any
16 library that can float being funded by the county
17 library system. One registrations clerk for the
18 registration and elections office. Two animal shelter
19 employees that we -- we have not adequately funded our
20 animal shelter for the last few years, I don't
21 believe. We've got an issue there and we have to
22 address it. Coroner's office, secretary that
23 proposed. I think the coroner came before you all at
24 the last meeting and talked about it. A compliance
25 officer. Ms. Floyd, that was very important to you in
26 dealing with our litter situation. Two fleet
27 maintenance shop mechanics to help maintain our
28 equipment. Environmental enforcement officer. Ms.
29 Floyd, again that was something that you had an
30 interest in. FEMA regional planner which is actually
31 a grant that's funding that position which we're
32 fortunate to have that person here working in
33 Anderson. Because that allows us to be able to
34 hopefully secure more grant money and you're going to
35 hear about a great opportunity that's before us into
36 the week. Two waste water technicians. That added
37 eighteen new pump stations since 2005. And when a
38 pump station goes out you expect them to be fixed.
39 Employee raises. Also these raises are needed to help
40 keep up with inflation. CPI was four point one
41 percent in 2007. Area increases are needed to retain
42 and motivate, train inexperienced personnel. By the
43 way, we have a very low -- despite what most people
44 may think or believe, we have a very low turnover than
45 the general fund of Anderson County government. I
46 can't say that for the elected officials, for example
47 like the Sheriff's Department. But for our operations
48 we have a very low turnover. Proposing a three
49 percent cost of living increase, one percent merit
50 increase. Proposing to continue the county's

1 longevity program which is very important. We had
2 over, it may addressed later on, a hundred employees
3 that will benefit from the longevity program next
4 year. And for each one percent pay increase -- this
5 is just for your number, for your information, a
6 number for you to take in, it's four hundred thousand
7 additional dollars. And we're proposing those raises
8 be effective January 2009 as they were this year,
9 January 2008. By doing it that way too it also help
10 with cash flow too because that's when we help collect
11 most of our money is that time period. The longevity
12 program receives -- of course the employee receives an
13 increase based on the years of service, five years,
14 ten years, fifteen years, twenty years, twenty-five
15 years, and thirty years. And we may at some point in
16 time need to go to another category and say thirty-
17 five years. As the work force is getting older we
18 actually have some employees that are over that thirty
19 year mark. It's something we may want to consider in
20 the future. We have ninety-eight as I mentioned
21 earlier that will be receiving longevity next year.
22 And that's usually -- that's about on average. That's
23 about a hundred a year.

24 CINDY WILSON: Could you go back to that
25 please?

26 JOEY PRESTON: Capital equipment. This is
27 -- of course, this is the highlight part of our
28 budget. It's time to replace capital. We're able to
29 do this with -- of course with the lease arrangements.
30 Because we can -- right now with our good credit
31 rating and with of course our sound financial
32 position, we're able to actually go and to borrow that
33 money to replace equipment that we could not afford of
34 course to raise taxes to pay a hundred percent cash.
35 And you'll see some of the interest rates that we've
36 getting in just a few minutes as a result of many
37 factors. We have -- we can purchase them two
38 different ways. One is through the lease program and
39 the other is through the cash purchase program.
40 Capital proposed. We're proposing to purchase six
41 million three sixty-five of equipment and rolling
42 stock. A lot of this is heavy equipment and we'll get
43 into the details in just a minute. Five point four of
44 that will be purchase program and about nine hundred
45 thousand with actual cash. Major areas. Of course,
46 now because we broke out the transportation department
47 last year and when we had that levy that's assigned to
48 that, that money goes right back into that
49 transportation department and it provides that revenue
50 source that we need in order to repay this. That was

1 very wise to do that last year. You can keep putting
2 that money back into transportation. It doesn't go
3 anywhere else. Major areas. Of course roads and
4 bridges, one point five million dollars. Solid waste,
5 a million. Sheriff's Department, five hundred and
6 sixty-five thousand. EMS, four hundred and thirty-
7 nine thousand. Waste water management, three seventy-
8 nine. Technology, computers and computer equipment,
9 three hundred and seventy-two. The detail. Two motor
10 graders. You can see that those are very expensive.
11 One excavator. One asphalt paver. Two mowing
12 tractors. Two flatbeds or trailers. Boom mowing
13 tractor. Our equipment is wearing out and we have to
14 replace it. One dump truck. Of course, any other
15 equipment which is detailed in your budget. Solid
16 waste, bulldozer, roll off truck, two compactors, skid
17 loaders, fork lift and other equipment detailed in
18 your budget. EMS. You can see that the fire response
19 vehicle -- now let me explain that to you. That boat
20 vehicle. That's something that Mr. Thompson, I think,
21 and Mr. McAbee have been working with for a while.
22 That is actually a match to a grant. If we budget for
23 this then we'll be able to get a grant to purchase
24 another one. And this is actually a fire boat that
25 we'll actually be able to locate on Lake Hartwell on
26 either ends of the lake and help to reduce, to lower,
27 insurance ratings for the folks that are out there and
28 provide as emergency services. And Ms. Floyd, we're
29 working on getting one for Broadway Lake too.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: You knew I was going to ask
31 about that.

32 JOEY PRESTON: I know you're going there.
33 I know you're going there. One mobile data computer.
34 The EMS grant in aid equipment and other equipment
35 detail. Waste water management. One pump and vac
36 truck. One backhoe, roto mat, one generator and other
37 equipment. I'm not going to repeat these. You can
38 read them. It's MIS technology. Okay. This is the
39 capital building plan that was proposed at the last
40 meeting. We wanted to put it in this part of the
41 budget so you could see the areas that we're
42 addressing right now. This is an itemized detail of
43 the projects that you're familiar with. The
44 department of social services for renovation. At the
45 last meeting we had someone come before us with the
46 federal program, food stamp program. They've outgrown
47 where they are right now. We need to finish out that
48 third floor that was of course built for expansion.
49 You can see the county portion of that is about half
50 of that. The federal government repays the rest of

1 it. The animal shelter and the spay and neuter
2 clinic, three point two million. Special population
3 is at McCants School, one point five. The council and
4 government building renovations, one point two. Of
5 course Broadway Lake community center, Parker Bowie
6 Park, Dolly Cooper Park, Corner Road Park, Fire
7 Training Class A burn building. That's a six hundred
8 and sixty thousand dollar project with the county
9 putting up about half of that. And of course since
10 the last meeting, I met with the mayor of Honea Path
11 and he has requested and we've looking at sharing --
12 being able to share some space down there too, but the
13 community room and the Watkins Community Center at a
14 cost of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars easily
15 include a bond document. I'd remind council this is
16 -- we've had people look at this and say, oh look at
17 this, the dogs are happy. They're not happy. They're
18 on top of each other. And we actually go out
19 sometimes and arrest people because they have animals
20 living in this kind of condition. And that's exactly
21 what we have. It's time to address this issue.
22 Anderson County Animal Shelter received almost
23 thirteen thousand animals in 2007 and each year we
24 receive around (tape faded) ... thousand were
25 euthanized last year. Proposing to construct a new
26 facility, twenty thousand square feet, combined with a
27 shelter and a low cost spay and neuter clinic.
28 Estimated cost of three point two million. Dr. Burris
29 informed me today that of course the non-profit
30 organization has been formed. And on top of that many
31 of the local vets will be -- I guess they'll be vets -
32 - we'll have a lot of the equipment donated for the
33 spay and neuter clinic. That means the county will
34 not have to pay for it. As a matter of fact, I heard
35 him say all of it. I hope I heard him right. The
36 special populations program. I don't need to explain
37 to you all what that program is. I think you
38 understand it. They're located on Main Street in the
39 1950 building -- building built in the 1950s owned by
40 School District Five. We're proposing to move forward
41 with continuing the renovations of the McCants
42 building. Townsend Building that was purchased with a
43 state grant, proposing to move on with the renovations
44 there and relocate our magistrate's office and those
45 offices that are affiliated or associated with the, of
46 course, the delegation. Broadway Lake Community
47 Center. That's just a photograph of what you actually
48 see from ... The Burn Building, presentation on that
49 from the county and that committee. Of course, the
50 ... Letter from Mayor Myers. The county -- of course

1 the proposal is to -- without a tax increase to issue
2 the bond at nine point five million to schedule the
3 issuance of payment ... principal and interest to
4 coincide with the old debt coming off the books
5 maintains a flat debt service levy in the future.
6 Convenience centers. Of course, seeing this we're
7 proposing to move forward with the renovation and
8 construction of several new convenience centers. Most
9 of our convenience centers were built back in the
10 seventies. They've outlived that twenty-five year
11 life span. Each site is listed according to priority.
12 There are five sites totaling three point two million.
13 I'll go through these. Harris Bridge Road sight,
14 Slabtown Three and Twenty, Friendship, Craytonville
15 and Agnew, is the ones we're going to address this
16 year. Of course, this is information -- we won't have
17 to take you through that, but you've already seen this
18 about Harris Bridge, inadequate collection capacity,
19 structural issues, low sight visibility. Slabtown.
20 There's Friendship. Craytonville. Agnew. I think
21 the pictures speak for themselves. The detail by
22 fund, the general fund budget. Of course the 2-1-1
23 center. This is the partnership with United Way. Ms.
24 Jones got into great detail about this at our
25 workshop. It's funded by the United Way. It provides
26 assistance, health and human services assistance,
27 managed by emergency services, it's a direct service.
28 Technical services. Mission is to reduce expenditures
29 from the existing communication services. Of course I
30 mentioned hiring the full-time technicians. We're
31 going to eliminate equipment maintenance all together
32 and provide a fee based service to other public
33 service and safety agencies. And our municipalities
34 and other public service agencies are very happy that
35 we're moving in this direction. Proposing to use four
36 point three million of our fund balance. Since I've
37 been here we've never used much of our fund balance as
38 we're going through the budget year, but we've had to
39 address the GASBY forty-five issue, one point one
40 million of that. You all are aware of that, but we're
41 hoping there might be some other scenario that may
42 come out of Association of Counties or some other way
43 of dealing with it in the fall. But we need to
44 address this at this particular time and that's how
45 we're proposing to address it. We're fortunate we're
46 in a position to be able to address it because of the
47 fund balance. We don't like budgeting for fund
48 balance, but we're primarily having to do that in
49 order to move forward with our GASBY Regs. Special
50 revenue funds. Of course you were explained that

1 earlier. Sheriff's fund, Tri-County Tech, EMS,
2 Library system. Our infrastructure reserve fund for
3 the Palmetto 800 system. Sheriff's fund. It consists
4 of the Sheriff's Department, detention center, school
5 resource offices, forensics lab, victims bill of
6 rights and ... Of course you can see the '08 budget
7 and what was proposed. We're able to do this because
8 of the value of the mil that was projected. Of
9 course, she has a contribution too for his law
10 enforcement officers to GASBY. The operating expenses
11 increased by five hundred thousand dollars. Fuel
12 alone is three hundred and six of that. Personnel
13 costs increasing. That's due to worker's comp
14 insurance, health insurance. See his total budget
15 there. No tax ... Gina, do you want to come up for
16 this one?

17 GINA HUMPHRIES: I wanted to put this slide
18 in because we had given this discussion for the past
19 year about the fact that the general fund loaned or
20 advanced the Sheriff's fund some operating capital.
21 And I just wanted you to know where we stand with that
22 repayment. Because as you know we did put on a one
23 time four and a half mil tax levy on the 2007 tax
24 notices. And the purpose of that was to garner tax
25 revenue to pay back the general fund. And the total
26 amount that was owed as of June 30, '07 was two point
27 nine million. And as of to date, as of this week, one
28 point nine of that has been repaid. And that leaves a
29 balance of almost a million dollars. Nine hundred and
30 forty-five thousand. Now that four and a half mils
31 will continue to generate some property tax revenue
32 for vehicles all the way through December of 2008. So
33 even in the budget year '08-'09, there will be a
34 little bit of tax revenue coming in off that four and
35 half mils even though the four and a half mils does go
36 away. It's just vehicle tax revenue.

37
38 JOEY PRESTON: See the other special
39 revenue funds. Tri-County Tech. What was proposed as
40 of course a slight increase. Library. Of course,
41 Tri-County Tech, that's not everything they asked for.
42 The library, we were able to fund them one hundred
43 percent of what they were asking for. But Tri-County
44 Tech, we were not, but they did see an increase. The
45 current budget increase. So eight-six thousand dollar
46 increase for Tri-County Tech is what they're getting
47 over the current year. Another special revenue fund
48 is EMS. They're going. Gina, do you want to talk
49 about the 800 system?

50 GINA HUMPHRIES: We're proposing to

1 establish a reserve fund. We want to call it the
2 infrastructure reserve fund. And the purpose of this
3 is to pay the annual lease payment on the Motorola
4 lease. And that amount is as you can see seven
5 hundred and ninety-six thousand for FY09. That
6 payment will be due April 1, 2009. And one thing I
7 wanted to point out, by establishing this reserve
8 fund, over time if there are any additional funds, any
9 additional tax funds that accrue to that account that
10 we don't need to pay the lease payment, we can use
11 those amounts for matching grants for EMS. So it sort
12 of serves a dual purpose.

13 JOEY PRESTON: She said proposing. We
14 really don't have a choice. Council has approved
15 this. And it's the way we have to address the issue.

16 GINA HUMPHRIES: Okay. Following through
17 with the debt service funds of which the Palmetto 800
18 payment will be a part of. Just wanted to kind of run
19 you through the different types of debt that we do
20 have. We have general obligation bonds, revenue
21 bonds, our lease purchase and other. This is the
22 whole fund. This is what the totals look like. For
23 FY08, our total debt service was eight point one
24 million. And FY09 it will be eight point nine
25 million. That is an increase. But again, that
26 increase is solely due to the Palmetto 800 lease. And
27 you can find the detail for all of these funds in your
28 budget binder. These are the five GO bonds that the
29 county currently has on the books that we're making
30 debt service payments on. '94 detention center, '8
31 library, 2003 detention center and library. Then in
32 2005 GO bond for the Pendleton and Powdersville
33 libraries and then the 2007 courthouse annex and
34 courthouse security. And we always like to kind of
35 talk about why do we have to borrow money? Why issue
36 bonds? A couple of reasons. It spreads the cost of
37 these large capital projects over a period of time
38 instead of having to pay for them out at one time.
39 And it allows the projects to be completed sooner than
40 if the county did pay cash. And it gives us the
41 ability to match the payments to the useful life of
42 that project. And in the end what we strive to
43 achieve is a predictable and consistent tax rate. Do
44 you want to talk about the credit rating? Okay.
45 Local governments do certify their credit quality
46 which is defined as the ability and the willingness to
47 repay debt. We certify that to potential bond
48 investors by going through what we call a bond rating
49 process. And I know some members of council have
50 attended those where we've been very successful in

1 making these presentations and asking for and
2 receiving credit upgrades. The two services that we
3 normally go to are Moody's Investor Service and
4 Standard and Poor's. And basically they seek to
5 answer a simple question of what is the probability of
6 being paid back? That's what they want to know. This
7 is a chart which lays out the county's bond rating
8 improvements. And this is something all the staff has
9 worked diligently at since I've been here anyway for
10 the past ten to twelve years. And you can see that
11 overtime we have garnered some major upgrades. Our
12 current rating for Standard and Poor's in AA and then
13 AA3 for Moody's. And those were reaffirmed when we
14 issued the 2007 GO bond. And the end result of all
15 that of course is that at the end of the day you can
16 borrow money for less. And that's what it's all
17 about. This is just a little history I put together
18 to show you over time how our interest rates have
19 decreased. And we should all hope to borrow money at
20 those rates. As you can see, this slide is the lease
21 purchase. And the last one we did was two point six
22 four percent. These are the general obligation bonds
23 that we have issued over a period of time. And I
24 could find information going all the back to 1994 with
25 the detention center bond. And that one ranged from
26 five point seven five to seven point five percent.
27 And then coming forward you can see how when we did
28 the sports complex bond in 1997, the rate on that was
29 four point six eight two percent. We received six
30 bids. And then coming on down to say the 2005, the
31 seven point three million dollar library bond. We
32 have ten bids at three point four percent. And then
33 the very latest one we actually had eleven bids which
34 was to my knowledge a record. Three point seven nine
35 six percent. So not only are the interest rates
36 declining, but the interest in the market is
37 increasing which is a real good sign. Okay. He says
38 I'm doing good. So I'm going to keep on going.
39 Enterprise funds, again, are funds where the intention
40 is to provide a service and to recover the cost of
41 that service through user charges. The county has
42 three enterprise funds. I'm sorry. We have four --
43 well two funds in four departments. The airport and
44 then environmental services. Environmental services
45 consists of waste water treatment, storm water
46 management, and solid waste. Here's the airport's
47 budget. As you can see for FY08, it's one point two
48 million dollars. And proposed FY09 is one point six.
49 And that's mainly due to increase of revenues which is
50 a real good thing. The airport continues to grow and

1 to be self-sustaining. The revenues are increasing
2 primarily due to fuel cells, building leases and
3 hangar rent. And I think it's important for us to
4 know that this is a positive sign. And that tells me
5 that the business plan is working. The future fiscal
6 security of the airport is dependent upon continuing
7 to build out the airport, to build hangars and other
8 facilities that can be leased and rented out. These
9 are just some snapshots of a box hangar. This is a
10 DC9 which to me looks bigger than the building. I
11 don't know if John Ferguson enlarged that to make it
12 look that way. Here are the Snowbirds which we all
13 enjoyed the last couple of weeks. We've been talking
14 about this for a couple of years, and we've finally
15 reached the point where I think we can put some legs
16 on it. We are looking to issue what is called an
17 airport facilities revenue bond. And that will be a
18 revenue bond that will be paid back strictly from
19 revenues of the airport. Strictly from revenues of
20 the airport. Not taxes. We would like to use this
21 bond to construct various types of T-hangars and
22 corporate hangar space. And this will further
23 establish our regional airport as just that, as a
24 premiere regional airport. And also should enhance
25 economic development for the county as a whole.
26 Environmental services. This chart shows you the
27 total budget of sewer, solid waste. And there are
28 really not any big changes in there in terms of
29 dollars. But sewer actually went down three hundred
30 and fourteen thousand. Solid waste went up by eighty-
31 three thousand. These are a couple of projects that
32 are on the horizon, on the radar screen, upcoming
33 sewer projects. And just put the kind of years of
34 when we would project. Yeah. That's in accordance
35 with the ten year sewer plan. Wrap it up. Okay.
36 Again, I just wanted to point out the -- look at the
37 subtotal there of the levy. The current year we're in
38 right now, the total levy is seventy-nine point nine
39 mils. And the proposed FY09 budget, the levy will be
40 seventy-nine point four. A couple of things to note.
41 You'll note some of these levies went down. And that
42 is because when I did the rollback levy calculations
43 which again at this point is an estimate. We talked
44 about this at the budget workshops. But when I run
45 the numbers, some of these levies actually come out to
46 be smaller. Tri-County Tech is an example of that.
47 And the EMS levy is an example of that as well.

48 JOEY PRESTON: Of course this budget was
49 formulated to accomplish division goals and objectives
50 set forth by this council. Staff appreciates that you

1 had that retreat to direct us to address your goals
2 and objectives. This year we met with all the
3 departments, different divisions, elected officials
4 and went over their budgets with them. And they've
5 all -- all the departments and divisions have signed
6 off that work for me of course. Then we've got the
7 elected officials. The only one that didn't sign was
8 the Sheriff. And the reason he didn't sign was
9 because he wanted us to increasing the millage by one
10 mil in order to have the cash in order to pay cash for
11 the vehicles. We've included those vehicles in the
12 lease purchase plan. I was directed to prepare a
13 budget without a tax increase. We can put it back in
14 there if you'd like for a tax increase. Of course,
15 then our appointed officials. Judge Divine is out of
16 town. Well, she's unavailable. I don't know if she's
17 out of town or not, but I got an e-mail from her. But
18 I believe she's pretty satisfied with her budget. Of
19 course, this is the GF08 award for the current year
20 operating budget that we presented to council. At
21 this time that's all that we have. That's the budget
22 presentation for today, and we'll do our best to
23 answer any questions.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, can you tell
25 me the estimate of the mil for this budget?

26 GINA HUMPHRIES: Total, eventy-five point
27 four. And it's ---

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. The value. The value
29 of.

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: Oh. I'm sorry. I used
31 five hundred and sixty-five thousand.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And what was it for the
33 last budget?

34 GINA HUMPHRIES: Five hundred and eleven
35 thousand.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And can you go back over
37 the Sheriff's increase. Just give me a nutshell.

38 GINA HUMPHRIES: Basically, the Sheriff's
39 levy that we're proposing is at thirty point eight
40 mils which is what it is currently. Let me find that.

41
42 GRACIE FLOYD: It's on page ninety-six, I
43 believe it was.

44 GINA HUMPHRIES: Thank you. Okay. This is
45 the beginning. Total budget, we're asking for an
46 increase of two point one million dollars. And of
47 that two point one, the bulk of it is just purely
48 because the value of that mil has gone up. Instead of
49 five hundred and eleven thousand, the value of a mil,
50 at least in my estimate, will be five hundred and

1 sixty-five thousand. So the thirty point eight mils
2 will generate approximately one point six million
3 dollars more.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So he is getting an
5 increase, however, even though he didn't get exactly
6 what he wanted.

7 GINA HUMPHRIES: Uh-huh (affirmative).
8 That's correct.

9 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Gina, would you
13 please go to slide ninety-six.

14 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, ma'am.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now I know that last
16 year we looked at the Sheriff's budget, and we loaned
17 him -- the money was loaned to him. Now if I
18 understood it correctly this will be done in December.

19 GINA HUMPHRIES: Correct.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Now that money that we did
21 then will roll off. Right? We did a -- did we do an
22 increase for him to have that money?

23 GINA HUMPHRIES: We did a one time tax levy.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

25 GINA HUMPHRIES: Four point five mils.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. For him to have
27 that money. But now, what's going to happen in
28 January 1, '09? That tax level increase will roll
29 off?

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: Actually, we've got two
31 different tax years. Your real property tax year
32 begins October 1.

33 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

34 GINA HUMPHRIES: ... vehicles run on a
35 calendar year basis. So the last vehicle notice that
36 goes out of here in December, that will be the last
37 date that has the four and a half mils on it. So as
38 of January 1, it's gone for all properties.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Good. So we will have kept
40 our promise to the citizens of Anderson County that
41 this would be a one year thing only. Am I correct?

42 GINA HUMPHRIES: You're absolutely correct.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm just kind
46 of following up with what Ms. Floyd was talking about.
47 I want to make sure when we say no tax increase that
48 that means that this millage absolutely comes off on a
49 property tax year and a calendar year. So our tax
50 levy now is how much?

1 GINA HUMPHRIES: Seventy-nine point nine.
2 BOB WALDREP: Seventy-nine.
3 GINA HUMPHRIES: Let me go back. I think
4 it's the very last slide or so. We can look at it
5 again. But it's seventy-nine point nine. Oops.
6 There we go.
7 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So that means that
8 that seventy-nine point nine will be reduced to
9 seventy -- what, seventy-seven ---
10 GINA HUMPHRIES: Seventy-five point four.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's the sub-total, Mr.
12 Waldrep.
13 BOB WALDREP: Beg your pardon.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The sub-total on your
15 screen.
16 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Oh, I see. I see.
17 Seventy-five point four.
18 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir. I wish I had put
19 a column on here for FY07. Because that is the levy
20 as it was in FY07, seventy-five point four. So we're
21 basically setting it back to '07 levies.
22 BOB WALDREP: All right. Okay. Then the
23 other question I had and I wasn't quite clear about
24 the Tri-County Tech issue. Let's see, what ---
25 GINA HUMPHRIES: Have you got a page number
26 ---
27 BOB WALDREP: Go to that one, please.
28 GINA HUMPHRIES: Have you got a page number
29 I can ---
30 BOB WALDREP: Go to that one, please.
31 GINA HUMPHRIES: Here we go.
32 BOB WALDREP: So there was a request of
33 two million four ninety-six. I think Mr. Preston made
34 a statement that they were getting all that they asked
35 for. Is that not correct?
36 GINA HUMPHRIES: They're getting part of
37 what they asked for. This slide shows the current
38 year's budget, two million seventy thousand. And then
39 their request for '09 was two million four hundred and
40 ninety-six. So as you can see that's an increase of
41 four hundred and twenty-six. Of that four twenty-six,
42 three thirty-nine is a reinstatement of what their
43 levy did not produce for them last year. And the
44 remaining eighty-six thousand is an increase over the
45 current year budget. And if you go to the next slide,
46 the bottom line is, of the four hundred and twenty-six
47 thousand additional that they have asked for, their
48 levy at least in my estimate will produce a hundred
49 and fifty-five thousand five hundred and thirty
50 dollars of that. So in essence they receive part of

1 what they ask for. Now I will say that when you study
2 the budget ordinance, we put language in there which
3 states that if this levy produces more then they get
4 it. Which is good, which is what -- which is language
5 that they should want. Because again a budget is an
6 estimate. And if their levy produces more than this
7 one hundred and fifty-five thousand, they're going to
8 get it.

9 BOB WALDREP: So, bottom line is they're
10 short four hundred and twenty-six thousand. Is that
11 not correct? I'm getting confused here.

12 GINA HUMPHRIES: They're short two hundred
13 and seventy thousand.

14 BOB WALDREP: Two hundred and seventy
15 thousand. That's what they would like to have?

16 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir.

17 BOB WALDREP: And so we have the option
18 of dealing with that by increasing their budget.

19 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, actually we don't
20 have a whole lot of options on that because their levy
21 is subject to the rollback levy limitations which the
22 estimates that I have done actually shows their levy
23 decreasing from three point eight to three point seven
24 mils. Now that's an estimate. The fall can roll
25 around, assessments can be different. And so that can
26 change.

27 BOB WALDREP: So if the -- I guess I was
28 just kind of surprised that with the millage increase
29 that they did not achieve their budget amount.

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, that's a pretty good
31 little increase, four hundred and twenty-six thousand.
32 That's a -- I don't do math very well in my head, but
33 that's a pretty good high percentage increase even
34 despite having an increase of a value of a mil.

35 BOB WALDREP: How much were they short
36 last year? Do you know?

37 GINA HUMPHRIES: Seventy-eight dollars per
38 student.

39 BOB WALDREP: So all the students had to
40 ---

41 GINA HUMPHRIES: I know that because my
42 daughter just signed up for some summer classes.

43 BOB WALDREP: Students had to pay more
44 tuition.

45 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir.

46 BOB WALDREP: The only source of income
47 they had on that. Right?

48 GINA HUMPHRIES: Uh-huh (affirmative).

49 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Let's see, I think
50 I'm -- I did want to ask about the animal shelter,

1 that three point two million. Does that take into
2 consideration the real estate?

3 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. That real estate,
4 I think at tonight's six o'clock meeting Glen is going
5 to stand up and announce something to us tonight.

6 BOB WALDREP: So that ---

7 JOEY PRESTON: We don't have to take that
8 into consideration.

9 BOB WALDREP: So that -- so the animal
10 shelter would be three point two million without the
11 real estate?

12 JOEY PRESTON: Yeah. Along with the free
13 clinic too. That's rolled in with that too. It's in
14 the same building.

15 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. That's
16 all I have.

17 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

19 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I always have
20 to be reminded every year. How do we arrive at the
21 value of the mil? Is this the reassessment for this
22 year plus the growth, or what components actually
23 compose that?

24 GINA HUMPHRIES: Typically what I do is I
25 run a report which shows me what the assessment is
26 right now. And from there I build. I either add to
27 or take away based on what I think may happen. And
28 this is reassessment year. So obviously there will be
29 an increase. I looked at prior reassessment years.
30 And that information tells me that on average in
31 Anderson County, our assessed values increase about
32 twenty, twenty-one percent for reassessment. And
33 that's just the real estate portion of it. That has
34 nothing to do with the vehicles. Just the real
35 property. So I look at that and I spend a lot of time
36 with Mike Freeman. I know he's in the audience
37 tonight. We probably spend more time than he cares
38 to. But we talk about trends. We look at building
39 permits. We look at the values of those building
40 permits to try to kind of get our hands around what
41 kind of growth factor we think we will have. So I
42 build in an increase for reassessment. And I also
43 build in an increase for any new construction. And
44 then I look for decreases because that happens too.
45 Vehicles actually depreciate every year typically
46 around the five percent range. It depends on the
47 vehicle. So this year I built zero growth for
48 vehicles. In fact, I took vehicles down by five
49 percent because the things I read tell me that we're
50 having one of the worst years for vehicle sales in the

1 past decade. You know, different publications you can
2 read will tell you that. So I just sort of take where
3 we are and add to it what I think growth will be, add
4 to what I think reassessment and then making any
5 subtractions. And then you use a collection rate.
6 That's always a big factor. I use ninety-five and a
7 half percent for real estate, and I use ninety-eight
8 percent for vehicles.

9 CINDY WILSON: Well in my real estate
10 practice I can tell you that prices are plummeting
11 across the board. I've not seen any increases in
12 about a year and a half, almost two years. So I mean
13 what ---

14 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, the interesting thing
15 about that is -- I understand what you're saying
16 because I see those same numbers. But our
17 reassessment is based on 2006 sales. And I don't
18 think that's a fact that most people really realize.
19 And so when we put our values on the year 2007-2008
20 won't impact our reassessment values because we're
21 going to take the sales as of 12-31-2006. So in a way
22 that sort of helps the county because we're going to
23 be ahead of the dip, if you will.

24 CINDY WILSON: Well, in 2006 the values
25 had already escalated. And now they're subsiding. I
26 don't know how we can further burden our taxpayers
27 without making an adjustment for the change and
28 circumstances now.

29 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, that's one reason we
30 have the rollback levy limitations because the
31 legislatures saw that there was an opportunity for
32 counties or municipalities to have sort of this
33 windfall, if you will, from increasing values. So
34 that is one reason that we have to follow the Act 388
35 and the levy limitations.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The time has expired. Do
37 we need to extend time, anyone?

38 BOB WALDREP: Just one thing, Mr.
39 Chairman, I have a question with regard to
40 reassessment.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you need to extend
42 time?

43 BOB WALDREP: For just two minutes.

44 LARRY GREER: Ten minutes.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ten minutes.

46 CINDY WILSON: Second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to extend
48 time for ten minutes. All in favor please vote.
49 Unanimous.

50 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman ---

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, I think Ms.
2 Wilson had the floor. Are you done, Ms. Wilson?

3 CINDY WILSON: I've got plenty more, but I
4 yield.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Waldrep. Go
6 ahead, please.

7 BOB WALDREP: My question probably to the
8 chair to ask Mr. Martin and then back to me with
9 regard to something that I just picked up the other
10 day and I didn't really fully absorb it about this
11 reassessment issue. Was there anything pending in the
12 general assembly that allowed the counties an
13 additional year to go through reassessment?

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

15 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Mr. Waldrep, there is a bill pending. I'm not a good
17 prognosticator of legislation. I don't believe that
18 one is going to make it. I don't recall the exact
19 status, but I think it's in conference and it does not
20 have the free conference capability attached to it.
21 So I don't think that one is going to make it, but
22 there is indeed one act pending that would allow an
23 additional year extension for reassessment.

24 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

28 LARRY GREER: I'd like to go back to
29 slide ninety-eight please. Where you have there
30 listed of this four hundred and twenty-six thousand
31 two hundred and forty dollars, three hundred and
32 thirty-nine thousand is reinstatement of what the
33 county could not provide for them in FY08. It's my
34 understanding that a good portion of what they
35 requested in '08 was for some capital improvements
36 that they were making at the Tri-County Tech campus.
37 And those funds were to be used for funding those
38 capital improvements. Well, in my opinion, my mind,
39 capital improvements are one time expenditures. And
40 what I'm looking at is they're trying to recoup three
41 hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars from the
42 people of Anderson County that they have already
43 recouped from the students who attend Tri-County Tech.
44 So in my way of looking at this, they've already
45 recouped that three hundred and thirty-nine thousand
46 from students. And I don't see them as having a
47 shortfall. I see them as being fully funded.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, if I can tag
49 onto that if he's finished.

50 LARRY GREER: I'm done.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. If Tri-County Tech
2 is going to give the students a break on the money
3 that they paid last year, I can understand this. But
4 I too was going to, you know, to bring that up. But
5 Mr. Preston, we need to talk more about this. Also
6 Mr. Preston, I have one other thing, from this point
7 forward may we call the addition to Broadway Lake not
8 the Broadway Lake Community Center, but can it be
9 called the Broadway Lake Anderson County Complex or
10 the Broadway Lake County Center or something to that
11 effect. Because it's important to me that people
12 realize this is going to be for all of Anderson County
13 and not just for the community of Broadway Lake.

14 JOEY PRESTON: Actually we named it the
15 Gracie Floyd facility.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: I hope you didn't. I
17 really hope you didn't. I hope you're just kidding
18 me. Okay. And I can take a joke. Okay. I can give
19 it too. But I think the Anderson ---

20 JOEY PRESTON: I'll change it.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you so much. Okay.

22 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

24 CINDY WILSON: Regarding that proposed
25 building, at twenty-six hundred square feet even with
26 stacked stone, glass and a metal roof, every builder
27 I've mentioned that to says there is no way in
28 tarnation you could spend nine hundred and fifteen
29 thousand dollars without, you know, really going way
30 overboard. A twenty-six hundred square foot house
31 which would probably be more expensive to build with
32 all the bells and whistles, you could build that
33 easily for less than three hundred thousand and
34 furnish it, is what citizens in district seven are
35 saying. Thank you.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Floyd.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Citizens in
39 district two are saying and especially the Broadway
40 Lake area that we approve this, we need this for this
41 area, and we like it and we don't want you to change a
42 thing.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

44 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

46 LARRY GREER: Thank you. I understand
47 the millage as it relates to the total budget,
48 seventy-nine point nine going to seventy-five point
49 four. I'm with you there. The one thing that I want
50 to make clear and Mr. Preston kind of went over this

1 rather quickly. The other factor that affects
2 property taxes for the people of Anderson County is
3 our bond millage, our debt millage. And what I heard
4 Mr. Preston say and I want him to say it a little more
5 clear, is that this budget as proposed does not call
6 for an increase in that bond millage, debt millage.
7 And would you elaborate on that.

8 GINA HUMPHRIES: On, it must be slide one
9 hundred and four is where we looked at the total of
10 the debt service. Let me get there. I'm sorry. What
11 management strives to do, Mr. Greer and council, is to
12 keep that total debt service number relatively the
13 same from year to year. Our plan is to as old debt is
14 retired and paid off, that's when we look to issue a
15 new debt so that we have a relatively stable and
16 consistent tax levy rate for that fund. So the short
17 answer to your question is yes. With the exception of
18 Palmetto 800, and it has its own special levy, we're
19 establishing an infrastructure fund just for that.

20 LARRY GREER: I'm understanding that you
21 have stated that the mil is going from five eleven to
22 five sixty-five thousand, five hundred and eleven
23 thousand to five hundred and sixty-five thousand. We
24 met and talked briefly this morning. And based on
25 those projections that you have made, it is actually
26 conceivable if those projections hold up and the
27 auditor uses those projects in setting the millage
28 required to pay those bonds that the bond millage
29 could actually go down. Is that a fair assumption?

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: That's a reasonable
31 probability.

32 LARRY GREER: Thank you.

33 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

35 RON WILSON: Can you go over the slide
36 that shows the bonds and the rate we're paying?

37 GINA HUMPHRIES: The interest rates?

38 RON WILSON: Yes.

39 GINA HUMPHRIES: Okay. Sure. Here's the
40 lease purchase bonds and then -- I mean our lease
41 purchase transactions. And here are the GO bonds.

42 RON WILSON: That 1994 bond, I know
43 we're paying seven point five or at least it has that
44 range. Can those be called in and refinanced?

45 GINA HUMPHRIES: That one is almost paid off
46 to tell you the truth. Don't know if those are
47 callable or not. We just have to look at the bond
48 document.

49 RON WILSON: It's old enough. There's
50 probably no penalty.

1 GINA HUMPHRIES: We can take a look at that.
2 RON WILSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman.
4 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
6 LARRY GREER: This is not so much a
7 question as it is a request. Sometime back I did a
8 fairly indepth study of the CAFRs all the way back to
9 1989. And if my memory serves me correct, in 1992 I
10 believe it was. I may be wrong. It could have been
11 '91 or '93. I believe it was '92 though. Anderson
12 County had to do a tax anticipation note in order to
13 prevent Anderson County from ending up in the red
14 during that particular budget year. I would be
15 interested in knowing what the interest rate was for
16 Anderson County at that point in time if you could do
17 some research and find that out.
18 GINA HUMPHRIES: I'll be happy to do that.
19 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
21 CINDY WILSON: Just for clarification, on
22 page fifteen of the proposed budget ordinance, I see
23 that our solid -- residential solid waste recycling
24 fee has gone to sixty-two forty-six from sixty. Is
25 that correct? So we've gone up?
26 JOEY PRESTON: That's the CPI that you all
27 approved.
28 CINDY WILSON: Well, I don't know if I
29 approved it, but anyway it's gone up. Thank you.
30 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman. If Mr.
31 Preston could please elaborate on that. I think that
32 we're going to need to -- would you mind elaborating
33 on that please because I think we're going to -- we
34 want to make sure that all of our citizens understand.
35
36 JOEY PRESTON: Right. That's just the CPI
37 that's in the existing ordinance that you all approved
38 in this current budget every year. It would be a CPI
39 increase based on what the CPI is.
40 GRACIE FLOYD: In other words, at the time
41 we voted on this we set a fee, and I think it was Mr.
42 Greer who made sure that it was covered in the CPI.
43 That is each year the cost of living goes up. And
44 every time it goes up he brought it to our attention
45 that we needed to have that piece of work done so that
46 the fee would go up as well. Am I correct?
47 JOEY PRESTON: Yes. Yes, ma'am.
48 GRACIE FLOYD: So every year that we see
49 the cost of living go up, that little fee is going to
50 go up as well. Nobody is raising anything.

1 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. And you all --
2 -
3 GRACIE FLOYD: We voted.
4 JOEY PRESTON: To remind you all too, you
5 also put several different individuals out there in
6 the community that do not have to pay that.
7 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Yes.
8 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Thompson, do you want
9 to elaborate? I think you ---
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. I amended the
11 ordinance to include disabled firefighters, police
12 officers because there was a -- the way the definition
13 was it had to be specific.
14 GRACIE FLOYD: Well see, that's important
15 to me because sometimes the wrong news can get out and
16 the wrong things can be said and the next thing you
17 know it's saying that we went ahead and raised that
18 fee and we have not. But I wanted to make sure I
19 understood it as well as my constituents and as well
20 as the people of Anderson County.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.
22 Time has expired once again. Let's move on to
23 citizens' comments other matters. Do we have anybody
24 signed up, Mr. Martin?
25 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 There are four citizens.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me give
28 instructions. Citizens' comments is a time to receive
29 citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a
30 time for debate, question and answer or dialogue.
31 Each person will be allowed no more than three minutes
32 to address county council. You are asked to please
33 refrain from addressing members of the audience by
34 name. Speak to the chair and only to the chair. That
35 being said, Mr. Martin.
36 CITIZENS' COMMENTS OTHER MATTERS
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Remarks from council
38 members. Ms. Wilson.
39 CINDY WILSON: Oh, thank you. First of
40 all, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Glenn for such a generous
41 gift to Anderson County people and animals. And
42 another point, people in district seven call me and
43 come out to visit me, and I see them out and about and
44 there's a lot of discussion. They want to know where
45 the difference between what a building as proposed at
46 Broadway would cost and what it's being proposed to
47 cost. Just for the record, I lose hundreds of dollars
48 of signs every election cycle. I put mine out late
49 this year and I've still lost I don't know how many.
50 In fact, my real estate signs seem to be fair game. I

1 have two sites that I've lost three or four hundred
2 dollars of signs on. Continuing on what was handed to
3 me earlier regarding questions asked of Mr. Preston
4 recently regarding budgetary matters, one is the
5 department 5013 which is the administrator's
6 department, the legal settlement, which I asked what
7 has the thirty thousand dollars paid for over the last
8 several years? The answer was this account is used to
9 settle matters in lieu of going to trial. Thirty-
10 seven thousand five hundred and twenty-five dollars
11 was budgeted in fiscal year '07. And thirty thousand
12 was spent. Thirty-nine thousand nine hundred was
13 budgeted in fiscal year '08. Nothing has been spent
14 to date. I would like to know what was the nature of
15 the legal matter the settlement was paid on? Was this
16 one of those rumored sexual harassment suits that we
17 keep hearing about. On the matching grants, I asked
18 in department 5827 who are the vendors paid? How do
19 council members receive these matching funds? And why
20 is Palmetto Agriculture paid from this account?
21 Request accounting of all funds spent from this line
22 item. I've not gotten the accounting for that line --
23 you know, all the line items from that. Your answer
24 was these funds are traditionally used to match grants
25 received during the year of which we were unaware
26 during the budgeting process. The administrator and
27 county council members work together to allocate these
28 funds such as to secure matching funds for the farm to
29 school program. Name which grants were funded, please
30 sir. And which county council members voted for the
31 engagement of Palmetto Agriculture Consulting. Also,
32 I've requested matching grants from this many times
33 during the year during budget planning and so forth
34 and still have gotten nothing for district seven. In
35 5013 administration I asked why did part-time dollars
36 increase. And the response was part-time interns with
37 no benefits utilized to process tremendous amount of
38 work in the administrator's office. Well, my question
39 was why did we run over the five thousand dollar
40 budget by approximately forty-seven thousand five
41 hundred? It was over fifty-two thousand dollars and a
42 five thousand dollar budget. Under the finance
43 division director ... I explained an increase in a
44 salary line item, and you stated a vacant position has
45 been moved to this department. From where and which
46 department? And public information, I want it noted
47 that the total proposed budget for advertising for all
48 funds for fiscal year '09 is two hundred and two
49 thousand one hundred and ninety dollars. And we're
50 being told that this is due to the increased

1 advertising cost, primarily the local newspaper.
2 Farmer's market, program expenditure, I asked a number
3 of questions about the farmer's market because of
4 increased cost for advertising and so forth. And I'll
5 get back with you on that. Okay. And the animal
6 shelter and account 304, I asked how much has been
7 paid to American Security and what was the bid
8 procedure to have the services of American Security?
9 And you've responded to which fiscal year are you
10 inquiring? I wrote a letter and I alluded to
11 requesting information for fiscal year '06-'07 and
12 '07-'08 to date. Surely we would be bidding out
13 something that cost around sixty thousand or more a
14 year. In emergency preparedness, I asked why so much
15 of an increase in salary and you responded three
16 percent cost of living increase approved by county
17 council plus an existing position from another
18 department was moved into this department. Which
19 department? And I want to point out that a lot of the
20 cost of living increases that our hardworking
21 employees deserve to get, it doesn't seem like they
22 get that. And it would be good to get maybe the GLR65
23 or GL65 on that for the month of May. Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

25 BOB WALDREP: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I
26 have a couple of things I wanted to mention with
27 regard to the budget. And this is kind of in the form
28 of a question. Are we going to be able to vote
29 against particular portions of this budget, or we
30 would have to swallow the whole enchilada or either we
31 can't ---

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Whole.

33 BOB WALDREP: Well, I just wanted to say
34 that, you know, a budget document is somewhat of a
35 moral statement in that it addresses exactly what our
36 priorities are in this county. I see the Sheriff
37 sitting back there. He's involved with public safety,
38 and of course we all know that public safety is one of
39 the number one obligations that we have, you know, in
40 this county. I see Mr. Hopkins sitting there with the
41 responsibility of the roads. And then I see a lot of
42 recreational matters in here which is all well and
43 good when you can have recreation it's fine. But I am
44 concerned with priorities in this county. And this
45 budget certainly reflects perhaps the thinking of this
46 council one way or the other, not unanimously, I'd
47 like to say, about what our priorities are in the
48 county. I'd like for us to consider that. Next, I
49 wanted to say that there's some issues that, Mr.
50 Chairman, you and I have discussed with regard to a

1 problem we have. I hope that I'm not talking out of
2 school, and I hope that this is appropriate. But we
3 do have some situations with roads in our counties
4 that are not in the county system, but people are
5 paying rather hefty taxes for their property tax. And
6 they're not getting any kind of update on their roads
7 because they are private roads. And these were roads
8 that these people purchased -- or rather homes they
9 purchased sometime ago without knowing really that
10 these were not county roads. And we've gotten into
11 the situation of trying to get those roads updated.
12 They would have to be updated according to our rules
13 and regulations before they could even be taken into
14 the system. So it's somewhat of a dilemma that we're
15 going to be faced with. And I'm hoping that you and I
16 and anybody else on this council could weigh in on
17 this problem. Your thoughts would certainly be
18 welcome. Is there any way out of this particular
19 problem? Because we have so many roads like that in
20 our county. And these folks have been paying taxes
21 like anyone else, and that's something we need to
22 consider. Last matter I wanted to address was, we're
23 now in a situation where we're having, I think, very
24 constructive talks with the City of Anderson regarding
25 our mutual interest in water rates. That comes up.
26 Double water rates as well as an issue of double
27 taxation for emergency services for I think the E9
28 area. And I have contacted the Strom Thurmond
29 Institute. And they have agreed that they would
30 provide someone to assist us with trying to deliberate
31 over these problems that we have of trying to come up
32 with an equitable solution. We know that everyone on
33 the county side is not a hundred percent right, and we
34 don't feel like that the city is a hundred percent
35 right. And hopefully through this process that they
36 have some expertise that gets into sources of revenue,
37 statistics, services, costs, expenses and these kind
38 of things that would help us achieve an equitable
39 solution to maybe some of these problems and reduce a
40 lot of friction that's out there. So I just wanted to
41 mention that. And that's all. Thank you.

42 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

43 LARRY GREER: ... the public comment related
44 to the disappearance of those signs. I have always
45 taken it as part of the cost of doing business so to
46 speak because it happens. For what it's worth,
47 whoever wants to listen, my policy in regards to signs
48 of any other political candidate other than myself is
49 if they're up they stay up, if they're down they stay
50 down. Neither I nor anyone that I am associated with

1 is to bother those signs. Not even touch them. I'm
2 asking anyone if you're supporting me, leave the signs
3 alone. I don't condone that type of behavior. And
4 that's all I've got to say, as Forest Gump would say,
5 on that matter. But I do have another comment that I
6 want to -- another comment that I want to talk about.
7 And this is kind of along the lines of what Mr. Brown
8 talked about. One of the thoughts behind these three
9 o'clock meetings was to expedite things and move them
10 along a little faster. Well, this is the like third,
11 fourth one that we've had at three o'clock. My
12 opinion is we haven't saved any time. We've just
13 divided it up into two different time brackets. I see
14 no problem with going back to everything being handled
15 at the six o'clock meeting as we used to do. And the
16 fact that the budget presentation was handled at the
17 three o'clock meeting today greatly disturbs me. It's
18 my opinion that the budget presentation should more
19 appropriately have been presented at the six o'clock
20 meeting and not at a special called meeting in the
21 afternoon. I think it's a disservice to our citizens.
22 I think it's a disservice to our people to do the
23 budget presentation for this county in a special
24 called meeting. And I totally disagree with this
25 budget presentation being presented at three o'clock.
26 More appropriately, it should have been presented at
27 six. Now, I'm calling for an end to these three
28 o'clock called meetings. Let's do our business at six
29 the way we always have. If it takes two hours, it
30 takes two hours. If it takes six hours and fifteen
31 minutes like it did one night, it'll take six hours
32 and fifteen minutes. But I think the three o'clock
33 meetings were an experiment. And in my opinion, the
34 experiment has not met the expectations and we need to
35 go back to what we were doing. Thank you.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have several
38 things. Number one, Mr. Glenn, thank you so much and
39 thank your lovely wife. You are a true Andersonian.
40 You not only talk the talk, but you have done more
41 than walk the walk. And we thank you. This is the
42 kind of input that we're so lacking here in Anderson
43 County. And words will never be able to express how
44 grateful I am to you and your family. One day your
45 son will be able to talk about you as you did your
46 father. Thank you. District two was supposed to have
47 made an announcement this last Wednesday. But we had
48 one of the principals of the company fell ill. So we
49 postponed it. But we have an important announcement
50 that's coming up soon. I'm really excited about it.

1 Especially this day of mortgages problems that people
2 are having. But we're going to announce affordable
3 homes in district two. And I am so proud and so
4 pleased of it. So please listen for this. And I
5 invite all of you to come out and share with me, share
6 with me my happiness of being able to do this in
7 Anderson County. About the meetings, I remember
8 sitting here one night until twelve thirty or was it
9 one o'clock. Who are the oldies on this thing here?
10 Okay. Yeah. It was almost one o'clock one night we
11 got out of here. Everybody's head was down on the
12 table. I was propping mine up trying to stay awake
13 trying to get it. And decision we made that night I
14 would not put any kind of money on it. We have people
15 who are missing meetings, the three o'clock meetings.
16 But these are the people who voted us in so that we
17 can make the better decisions. We can't do it at one
18 o'clock in the middle of the night when everybody is
19 tired, just worn out. Nobody can make decisions like
20 that. If we're going to accommodate everybody then
21 we're going to have to start having meetings on
22 Sundays if nobody is working on second shifts. We
23 have people who are working second shift who would
24 like to be here at these meetings too. You can't
25 please everybody. You have to do what's best for the
26 whole. I have to do what's best for me in making
27 decisions. And folks, you can sit there and say well
28 nine o'clock. If you have to stay here 'til nine
29 o'clock, or if you have to stay here 'til six. Some
30 of us are still working. We work all day long and we
31 have to come here at night. And when we leave here
32 you expect good, well thought out decisions. I can
33 meet anytime. I can meet in the middle of the day
34 which I didn't like doing. I wanted to stay to the
35 six o'clock meeting. But my chair said to me, let's
36 try it. At least let's try it. And it's not a bad
37 thing. We vote on nothing here. We do a lot of our
38 honoring presentations. We take care of a lot of the
39 business that really doesn't lend itself to being
40 county business. Okay. There's a man out there with
41 a tape recorder. He records this stuff and put it on
42 the radio if you'd like to hear it. Maybe we can get
43 the cameras back or something. But I think that we
44 make better decisions when we're able to make them in
45 a reasonable time length. Okay. I just, I just -- I
46 think that's it tonight. Thank you.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

48 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
49 have been giving this a lot of thought and the three
50 o'clock meetings as I've understood them have had some

1 benefits. It was my understanding that we would do a
2 lot of our housekeeping stuff, presentations, things
3 that really weren't part of the ordinary order of
4 business of the council. And I've liked that. It
5 allows us when we meet at six o'clock to go ahead and
6 proceed with the things we actually vote on, the
7 business of Anderson County. My biggest concern about
8 the budget meeting presentation being at three o'clock
9 is with that being as important a presentation as it
10 was, perhaps it should have been scheduled at the six
11 o'clock meeting rather than at a three o'clock
12 meeting. I know in many cases we get up and when
13 we've had just six o'clock meetings we've been accused
14 of having fluff, that we have a lot of things at the
15 beginning of the meeting that people say, well that's
16 not really the business of the council. And I think
17 it's good that we could handle some of those things at
18 an earlier meeting. But I feel perhaps that the
19 budget presentation would have been better served
20 being presented at the six o'clock meeting. However,
21 I will also say that I do like having council comments
22 even at the six o'clock meeting. Because a lot of
23 times at the end of the meeting when the councilmen
24 get to speak it's an opportunity to purpose smooth
25 ruffled feathers, explain some of the things you might
26 not have been clear on earlier. And to me it's an
27 opportunity to perhaps in some cases mend fences and
28 make peace. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson. No comments.
30 Thank you very much. I want to thank everyone that
31 came out this past Saturday to my shred day. We had
32 shred day two at the civic center. And we did thirty-
33 three thousand pounds this past Saturday that will not
34 end up in the landfills or be burned into pollution in
35 our air. This is three thousand pounds more than we
36 did on shred day one. Regarding the meetings, I've
37 been open and straight forward from day one. I'm
38 using two counties as models, Spartanburg and
39 Greenwood. Three o'clock meetings are not a problem
40 there. But for some reason it's a problem here in
41 Anderson County. It was suggested that, yeah, I do
42 take out the fluff and put it somewhere else which is
43 basically what I've done. So I can't please all the
44 people all the time. Or anyway, I suppose I can use
45 Allendale and Florence as models. They hold their
46 meetings at 9 a.m. So I'm trying. With that being
47 said this meeting is adjourned.

48
49 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:40 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – May 20, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

M I N U T E S

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 20, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... six p.m. will now come
2 to order. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by
3 council member, Larry E. Greer.

4 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of minutes. And
6 I'm going to take these both together unless there's
7 any objections. The chair moves to approve the
8 minutes for May 6, 2008 called meeting and May 6, 2008
9 regular meeting. Is there a second?

10 RON WILSON: Second.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any discussion?
12 No discussion. The chair calls for the vote to
13 approve the minutes, May 6, 2008, the called and the
14 regular meeting. Please vote. The vote is unanimous.
15 Citizens' comments agenda matters. Mr. Martin, do we
16 have people signed up?

17 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Yes, sir. You have six individuals signed.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And let me give
20 instructions. Meetings of county council are
21 legislative meetings based upon the representative
22 form of government and are regulated by parliamentary
23 procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly,
24 the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens'
25 opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for
26 debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person
27 will be allowed not more than three minutes to address
28 county council. You are asked to please refrain from
29 addressing members of the audience by name. Please
30 direct your comments to the council chair and only to
31 the council chair. When you come forward give your
32 name, address and the county council district in which
33 you live. Mr. Martin.

34 CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA MATTERS

35 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, those are the
36 only citizens under agenda matters.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. And Mrs.
40 Glenn, every time you say it we're going to do the
41 same thing that we do, salute you the best we know how
42 at this time. And we thank you. I'd like for all of
43 the people who are here today for the animals, please
44 stand. Because I know there are several of you out
45 there. If you're here today to support the animals --
46 okay. Now still stand, still stand. All right. If
47 you are here today, you didn't come to support the
48 animals, but you're going to support them anyway
49 please stand. All right. I'll stand to that too. I
50 thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Item number
2 5A, ordinance 2008-019, an ordinance amending
3 ordinance 99-004, the Anderson County zoning ordinance
4 as adopted July 20, 1999 by amending the Anderson
5 County official zoning map to re-zone from R20 to C1N
6 that parcel of land consisting of approximately one
7 point six five acres in the Edgewood B precinct on the
8 northeast and southeast quadrants of US 76 and
9 Middleton Court and other matters related thereto.
10 The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

11 BILL MCABEE: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
13 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
14 019, please vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you.
15 Ordinance 2008-020, an ordinance amending ordinance
16 99-004, the Anderson County zoning ordinance as
17 adopted July 20, 1999 amending the Anderson County
18 official zoning map to re-zone from R20 to RD that
19 parcel of land consisting of approximately point zero
20 six acres in the Centerville A precinct on the
21 northeast corner of Dixon and Donhill Road and other
22 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
23 Is there a second?

24 BILL MCABEE: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

26 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

28 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to check with
29 the planning folks once again that the advisory board
30 has already met, and Mr. Chairman, that this was
31 advisable, approved.

32 JEFF RICKETSON: Yes, sir. This came with a
33 recommendation of approval from the district five
34 citizens' advisory board and the planning commission.

35 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Are all of the
36 proposed ordinances approved by the advisory board?

37 JEFF RICKETSON: They are. All three that
38 are on the agenda tonight were.

39 BOB WALDREP: Well, I just wanted to
40 remark that some folks think that they don't have any
41 hand or any kind of a say in the zoning proposal. And
42 I think this is the best we can do is to go through a
43 process of having hearings that are held by citizens
44 that we appoint to this board for that purpose.

45 JEFF RICKETSON: Three levels of review.
46 Citizens or planning commission, and then you all have
47 the final review.

48 BOB WALDREP: Three levels. Thank you,
49 Mr. Chair.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?

1 The chair calls for the vote of ordinance 2008-020.
2 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-
3 021, an ordinance amending ordinance 99-004, the
4 Anderson County zoning ordinance as adopted July 20,
5 1999 by amending the Anderson County official zoning
6 map to re-zone from R20 and C1N to RD that parcel of
7 land consisting of approximately point six nine acres
8 in the Centerville A precinct on the eastside of Dixon
9 Road and other matters related thereto. The chair
10 moves to approve. Is there a second?

11 BILL MCABEE: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
13 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
14 021, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-025, an
15 ordinance to impose a one percent capital project
16 sales tax subject to a referendum within Anderson
17 County, South Carolina pursuant to the Capital Project
18 Sales Tax Act as codified in State Statute 4-10-300
19 and others of the South Carolina Code of Laws and
20 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
21 approve. Is there a second? Second. Any discussion?
22 The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
23 ordinance 2008-025, please vote. Unanimous. Thank
24 you. Ordinance 2008-028, an ordinance to amend
25 ordinance 2007-035 of Anderson County, South Carolina
26 relating to the issuance and sale of not exceeding two
27 point eight million special source revenue bonds of
28 the county and other matters related thereto. We have
29 a public hearing. Public hearing instructions. Any
30 person desiring to do so may speak at public hearings
31 for a reasonable period of time as long as he or she
32 is speaking to the issue under consideration. The
33 chairman exercises control of the public hearing to
34 ensure that no person abuses the public hearing
35 process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments,
36 clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive,
37 offensive or inappropriate comments. With this being
38 said, the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing
39 to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
40 state your name and address before speaking and speak
41 to the chair and only to the chair and not to members
42 of the audience. That being said the public hearing
43 is now open. Anyone wishing to speak on ordinance
44 2008-028.

45 PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE 2008-028

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak?
47 Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing is now
48 closed. The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-
49 028. Is there a second? We have a second. Any
50 discussion?

1 CINDY WILSON: Please. May I?

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Yes.

3 CINDY WILSON: I have two issues with this
4 two point eight million dollars special source revenue
5 bond. The first one is that in the original
6 discussion prior to this change, it was my
7 understanding that the waste water collection
8 improvements near the intersection of I-85 and Highway
9 81 dealt with Webb Road access. Since then I've found
10 out that the three hundred and twenty thousand dollars
11 has now been increased to five hundred and twenty
12 thousand dollars. And it goes to improve property
13 that belongs to a private landowner. And it's for
14 sale. And I think that that's debatable. I just
15 don't think that the county should be in the business
16 of enriching developers. The second issue is an item
17 that was brought up at the earlier presentation. It's
18 a shame we didn't have that presentation for this
19 meeting so it would be more in context so everyone
20 would understand. But our finance division director
21 advocated a building program at the airport and to
22 establish a special source revenue bond to accommodate
23 the building program there. And therefore I would
24 like to make the amendment that we remove the new
25 hangar for the Anderson Regional Airport from this
26 particular special source revenue bond and put it on a
27 special revenue bond that would be directly related to
28 the airport which I'm sure would be done pretty
29 shortly. And that way I think it would keep it more
30 comprehensible for most folks. And I'd like to put
31 that in the form of a motion and also that we would
32 delete the improvements for the Tucker tract, the
33 sewer tract. So that would be a total of one million
34 and twenty thousand dollars.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson, you're
36 moving to amend the ordinance to remove the hangar and
37 the sewer line on Tucker?

38 CINDY WILSON: The hangar would go to
39 another special source revenue bond that would be part
40 of the Anderson County Airport building program and
41 that we would delete this sewer line to a private
42 piece of property. There's some question that maybe
43 some of our county council members might be involved
44 in a deal there. I'm not sure. But I don't think
45 we're really in the business of improving private
46 property.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Remove the hangar
48 and remove the sewer line.

49 CINDY WILSON: Yes.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second

1 on Ms. Wilson's amendment to the ordinance? No one
2 seconds, so it dies for lack of a second. So we're
3 back in discussion of the ordinance. Anymore
4 discussion?

5 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted
6 to ask a question about the hangar project. I
7 understand there was a half a million dollars of this
8 is dedicated to the renovation or is it the
9 construction of a new hangar at the airport? Is that
10 Mr. Hopkins?

11 JOEY PRESTON: That's Mr. Hopkins' stuff.
12 Start with the answer.

13 BOB WALDREP: You're out of roads?

14 HOLT HOPKINS: I'm in anything that moves,
15 sir.

16 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Anything that flies.
17 Okay.

18 HOLT HOPKINS: That is the construction of
19 a new hangar.

20 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

21 HOLT HOPKINS: We have several folks
22 needing more space.

23 BOB WALDREP: And rental income. Is the
24 rental income going to be dedicated to the repayment
25 of this money?

26 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

27 BOB WALDREP: Is that correct?

28 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

29 BOB WALDREP: So everything in here is
30 more or less, I think as Mr. Brown said, paying for
31 itself. Okay. Is that correct, Mr. Preston?

32 JOEY PRESTON: You see, what happens is
33 you have to have this before you can do the second
34 because this actually will provide that rental income
35 that will allow us to be able to move into the part
36 that was recommended during the budget process
37 earlier.

38 BOB WALDREP: Do you have any idea what
39 that rental income would be?

40 JOEY PRESTON: Yeah. We do. Holt, what
41 is the rental income? What would be projected? Give
42 it your best guesstimate.

43 HOLT HOPKINS: It's going to be probably
44 twenty thousand a year, fifteen to twenty thousand a
45 year. It depends on exactly what kind we built.

46 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Not holding you
47 exactly to that, but one thing that I do think we need
48 to at least acknowledge and that is the property tax
49 for the airplanes that land. These are jets. Some of
50 them are more than ten million or so.

1 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir. I mean we had a
2 chance of getting a three million dollar plane a
3 couple of years ago. He flew away. But just from
4 that one -- at that time he paid like eighty thousand
5 dollars in taxes.

6 BOB WALDREP: I see. So that's an
7 additional factor. Is that income also dedicated to
8 the repayment or is this ---

9 HOLT HOPKINS: No. That goes to the
10 general fund.

11 BOB WALDREP: Well, it'd be nice to get a
12 picture of how much income we're actually getting from
13 that airport out there. Okay. Thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

15 RON WILSON: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

17 RON WILSON: I think the councilwoman is
18 implying that something is going on in my district.

19 CINDY WILSON: No. That's ---

20 RON WILSON: Just wait a second. I've
21 got the floor. And you always make these reckless,
22 irresponsible statements and they go unchallenged.
23 Unlike you, I don't have a real estate license, and I
24 don't deal in this kind of stuff. You would know all
25 about that I suppose.

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

28 LARRY GREER: I want to explore this
29 sewer line, and I'm reading the ordinance in our
30 agenda book. There's waste water collection system
31 improvements near the intersection of interstate I-85
32 and Highway 81. A pump station at intersection of
33 Highway 81 and Highway 86. I'm assuming that's up in
34 the Powdersville area. But if I remember, and I'm
35 going to ask Mr. Preston and whoever needs to
36 elaborate on this to do so. If I remember correctly,
37 when we had Upstate Alliance here one of the things
38 that we were told that we need to be looking at was
39 improving infrastructure along the interstate. And
40 from what I see from reading this and what I
41 understand, this is an effort to provide additional
42 infrastructure along the interstate. So I'd like some
43 more explanation of what's going on here. Mr.
44 Preston.

45 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. You're exactly
46 right, correct, in that we've been attempting trying
47 to make as many advances in the area of providing
48 sewer infrastructure to sites along the interstate.
49 And this is the -- this project has been in the making
50 for a long time and we've got -- it's a project that

1 we talk about a product to sell. You recall, we
2 missed out on twenty opportunities for industrial
3 economic development a while back. You've got to have
4 a site ready that has the infrastructure on site. The
5 next part of this probably will be moving towards some
6 type of a spec building. And without the
7 infrastructure at the most sought after site right now
8 in Anderson County, it's not going to happen. Right
9 now we have companies that are coming to us. They
10 want to move forward, but they will not make that
11 commitment because we don't have infrastructure at
12 that site. And I hope I ---

13 LARRY GREER: Okay. One follow-up
14 question, Mr. Preston.

15 JOEY PRESTON: Yeah.

16 LARRY GREER: So if I'm understanding
17 this correctly, if a council member votes to approve
18 this ordinance with these infrastructure improvements
19 in it, then that council member is voting to improve
20 the infrastructure along the interstate and assist us
21 with economic development.

22 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

23 LARRY GREER: If you vote to oppose it
24 then you're discouraging economic development.

25 JOEY PRESTON: That's a matter of opinion,
26 but I would agree with that.

27 LARRY GREER: All right. Thank you.

28 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

30 CINDY WILSON: There's only one of the
31 sewer projects of the three listed here that I have an
32 issue with. And that's in an area where there's
33 already a sewer plant. There's no other sewer
34 intersection interchange area that I know of in the
35 state that has its own water system, water treatment
36 plant, and that's one of them. But there were some
37 questions about this because originally I thought it
38 was the Webb Road area. But it's this other parcel.
39 And there's sewer already there. There are two issues
40 here that if there were some way to do a line item
41 veto, I would vote for everything else but these two
42 items. So that -- you cannot use a blanket label for
43 me voting against economic development when I would
44 vote for all the other items. So I just want to make
45 that clear. I think one of the items clearly enriches
46 someone that may not be the intent of the rest of the
47 county taxpayers. And the other item is that the
48 hangar at the Anderson Regional Airport I believe to
49 be best served going into a building program with its
50 own special source revenue bond. Thank you.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. The chair
2 calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-028. All in
3 favor please vote. Call for the vote. Yeah. Six.
4 Oppose. Abstain. The vote is six, zero and one with
5 Ms. Wilson abstaining. Ordinance 2008-026, an
6 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an
7 option to purchase certain Anderson County real
8 property and other matters related thereto. There is
9 a public hearing on this ordinance. The same
10 instructions apply. The public hearing is now open.
11 Anyone wanting to speak on this ordinance please come
12 forward now. Hearing and seeing none the public
13 hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve
14 ordinance 2008-026. Is there a second?

15 CINDY WILSON: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Do we
17 have any discussion? No discussion. The chair calls
18 for the vote for ordinance 2008-026. All in favor
19 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-027, an
20 ordinance to approve the administrator's recommended
21 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. The chair moves to
22 approve. Is there a second? Do we have a second on
23 the budget?

24 LARRY GREER: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second on the
26 budget. We are in discussion. Do we have any
27 discussion?

28 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

30 CINDY WILSON: It would be highly
31 appropriate if we could have an advance extension on
32 the time for this one in order that it can be
33 represented as it was in an earlier meeting so those
34 at home and those who've come from a long distance to
35 watch this tonight. And I would be glad to make a
36 motion to extend the time so that we can go back
37 through that as we did earlier.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, you're going
39 to give us our basic recap, right?

40 JOEY PRESTON: The last recap was two
41 hours. If you want me to I will.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. Okay.

43 CINDY WILSON: Well, twenty-one minutes is
44 hardly sufficient for a huge increase in a budget from
45 last year. So it would be wise if we went ahead and
46 extended time now.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Hearing no
48 one, the chair calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-
49 027.

50 BOB WALDREP: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

1 Mr. Chairman, are we voting to approve the ordinance?
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. No one seconded
3 Ms. Wilson's motion. So we're calling for the vote on
4 first reading.

5 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted the
6 opportunity to make an amendment.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I'm sorry. Mr.
8 Waldrep, please go for it.

9 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Mr. Chairman, at the
10 earlier meeting as we went through page by page the
11 ordinance of the budget and different matters funding
12 everything from roads to public safety to so many
13 matters. And I wanted to discuss a little bit about
14 my belief about priorities in the budget. And I find
15 that there are a lot of good things that are being
16 done in the budget. But when I got to the section,
17 and that would be page forty-four of your budget
18 presentation as well as page thirty-six, it was just
19 my belief that these items of recreation in particular
20 could be deferred to another time. We've got for
21 example on page thirty-six we have the Parker Bowie
22 Park, the Dolly Cooper Park, the Warner Road Park,
23 we've got a total there of about -- well and also the
24 Honea Path Community Room. There's a little something
25 in there for everybody on the council, except me I
26 don't think. And it's not because of that let me say
27 that I bring this to your attention. But with the
28 fact that we are not absolutely sure where we are
29 going in this economy, I think it's a little bit
30 presumptuous for us to continue to fund all of these
31 recreation matters. I like the fire training
32 building. I think that makes sense. But another
33 recreation building down on Broadway Lake and these
34 other matters, I'm concerned about. I would like to
35 amend the budget to delete these items.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Specifically which ones,
37 Mr. ---

38 BOB WALDREP: Parker Bowie Park, Dolly
39 Cooper Park, Warner Road Park, Honea Path Community
40 Room, as well as the Broadway Lake Recreation Center.
41 And in lieu of those I would like to fully fund the
42 request from Tri-County Tech. And let me say this,
43 that we talk an awful lot about the economic
44 development. I'd like to say that our Tri-County Tech
45 is really the seed corn of our economic development in
46 this county. Tri-County Tech has been the real source
47 of why people come to Anderson County. Although we
48 have beautiful lakes and beautiful people, they want
49 to come here because they have trained people. And
50 anytime we can encourage our students and help our

1 students to become that economic foundation, I think
2 we should do so. I just think that these matters that
3 are related to all these recreation things, and I'm
4 sure that it'll be nice to have a lot of these things
5 and it would be, you know, very popular in those
6 areas, you know, once you got that. But we already
7 have something on the horizon which is an opportunity
8 to vote for capital improvements. I think that's
9 another opportunity that we have to look at these, all
10 these recreation projects. And then also as you know
11 that this council is being lobbied very strongly by
12 many interests with the accommodation tax that will be
13 coming up. That's the next little tax that would tax
14 the restaurants and so that we would have recreation.
15 I just feel like the timing is not very good for these
16 projects. And I would ask the council if you would
17 consider deleting these projects that I've enumerated
18 and fully funding Tri-County Tech.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay, Gina. Can you go to
20 the Tri-County Tech page, please? Okay. So fully
21 funding -- you want to fund the full four hundred and
22 twenty-six thousand two hundred and forty dollars on
23 page ninety-eight. Look on your screen, your monitor,
24 Mr. Waldrep. Right here.

25 BOB WALDREP: Oh yeah. I've got it. I
26 think that's correct. Isn't that the full request,
27 Mr. Preston?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: To fully fund Tri-County -
29 --

30 JOEY PRESTON: Let me have Gina -- let's
31 go back to these slides and let her explain these
32 slides again. Also too, you're talking about two
33 different funds too. You're talking about a special
34 revenue fund. You're talking about debt service. You
35 can't take money from debt services and fund special
36 revenue.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The mic. Speak into the
38 mic.

39 JOEY PRESTON: You can't take money from
40 debt service and use it to fund special revenue, a
41 special revenue fund. You don't want to do the
42 projects, you would just reduce it. You would still
43 have -- because you're doing a bond issue on this.
44 And what you would end up doing is -- you would have
45 to either raise that tax, I guess or hopefully as Gina
46 is going to explain, the value of a mil is
47 unpredictable.

48 GINA HUMPHRIES: You know, no one more than
49 I would love to see Tri-County Tech be fully funded.
50 That may happen. It may not happen. And as you know

1 when we prepare a budget we set these figures based on
2 what we think the value of a mil is going to be. And
3 when we prepared these revenues my value came up to be
4 five hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. If I'm
5 going to be wrong I'm going to be wrong
6 conservatively. I'm not going to over-estimate the
7 value of a mil because quite frankly my job depends on
8 that. Okay. So what I do is try to err on the side
9 of being conservative. And if I do my job well then
10 that's a good outcome to have. You want that. If you
11 -- when you study your budget books, you will actually
12 see that this full amount, the two million four
13 hundred ninety-six thousand, that's in your budget as
14 the amount, the most amount this council, we're asking
15 them to fund. And we put that in there because there
16 is a reasonable probability that the levy will produce
17 that amount. It could happen. It could not happen.
18 But no one here tonight knows. What we have laid out
19 is what we, our best thoughts about what will happen.
20 And Mr. Preston is certainly right. You could not
21 take debt service funds and supplement a special
22 revenue fund with that. And then on another note, by
23 law ...

24 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

25 GINA HUMPHRIES: ... how much we can
26 increase the Tri-County Tech levy, and we've taken it
27 to the max.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're maxed out.

29 GINA HUMPHRIES: Absolutely. And you know
30 that's not a county rule, that's a state law which we
31 intent to follow. At least I do.

32 BOB WALDREP: Well Mr. Chairman, I am
33 absolutely astonished with the artistry that's gone on
34 in the budget and financial process that I've
35 witnessed in the last couple of years that we cannot
36 give some assurance to Tri-County Tech that these
37 students are not going to have an increase in their
38 tuition because of the needs of that school. I could
39 be wrong, naturally, you know, and I think you could
40 probably find a lot of ways and a lot of excuses that
41 you can't do something. I would simply say that I'm
42 surprised that we cannot deal with this problem.

43 GINA HUMPHRIES: If I might add something.
44 I am associated with technical schools on a real
45 personal level in not only Anderson County but other
46 counties as well. And what Tri-County Tech does in
47 Anderson County is not unusual. Piedmont Technical
48 College in Greenwood County has been assessing
49 students for many, many years an additional fee.
50 Piedmont Tech is funded by seven different counties.

1 And some of them quite frankly can't fully fund their
2 requests some years. And so they tack on this fee if
3 you will. I know that to be a fact. They've done it
4 for years. So it's not unusual.

5 BOB WALDREP: Well, my last question, is
6 there no solution to this dilemma? I'd ask you and
7 Ms. Humphries, is there no solution to fully funding
8 Tri-County Tech under these circumstances. I realize
9 that you have said that there could be more money
10 coming in through the millage evaluation. There could
11 be less money coming in. I don't guess anybody knows
12 the answer to that.

13 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, my thinking is this.
14 We're dealing with unknowns today and tonight. But in
15 the fall when we know what the value of a mil is, you
16 know, we may be standing up here talking about
17 something tonight that's not going to be a problem in
18 the fall. Let's say the value of a mil comes in at
19 five hundred and eighty thousand dollars. And that'll
20 be a good thing. If that happens then Tri-County Tech
21 will more closely approximate full funding. So that
22 would be my approach.

23 BOB WALDREP: Okay. But to cover
24 yourself completely, would it be possible to have some
25 language that in the event that does not occur that
26 you would be able to appropriate that money? You see
27 no way of doing that?

28 GINA HUMPHRIES: State law prohibits us from
29 doing that?

30 BOB WALDREP: Which law?

31 GINA HUMPHRIES: The Act 388 and the
32 rollback levy limitations.

33 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Mr. Waldrep, so
35 what is the status of your amendment? Withdraw it?

36 BOB WALDREP: I would -- give me a
37 minute.

38 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So I'm going to take that
40 as being withdrawn.

41 BOB WALDREP: One second. No. I'm just
42 simply saying that I would withdraw the funding issue
43 with Tri-County Tech at this time but continue with my
44 motion, the other deletions that I had ---

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So the Tri-County funding
46 is off the table, but you still want to remove from
47 the budget Parker Bowie, Dolly Cooper Park, Warner
48 Road Park, and Honea Path Community Room and Broadway
49 Lake Anderson County Community Center. Is that
50 correct?

1 BOB WALDREP: That's correct.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion on
3 the floor. Is there a second to Mr. Waldrep's
4 amendment?

5 CINDY WILSON: I'll second it and join in
6 to the discussion.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
8 Wilson. So now we are in discussion about the
9 amendments.

10 CINDY WILSON: Yes sir, Mr. Chairman.
11 There are some other issues in this laundry list of
12 projects and I think they warrant putting a pencil to
13 paper. I have no question about the Department of
14 Social Services. I think they made a very sensible
15 presentation. I have no doubt that we need a new
16 animal shelter spay neuter clinic. However, does it
17 really have to cost three point two million as we have
18 been given a very valuable piece of property. And the
19 three point two million dollars initially included the
20 prospect of purchasing a property. And in the special
21 populations, do we really anticipate that we can only
22 spend a million and a half dollars revamping McCants
23 to accommodate them. Is there any way to do more with
24 less? On the Ronald Townsend government building, the
25 renovations were originally -- it seems to me the
26 magistrates were telling me somewhere around half a
27 million dollars. And they sounded like they were very
28 surprised that it came in at one point two million.
29 These are some issues. And I think when you have --
30 when we're presented a budget that goes from like one
31 hundred and twenty-four thousand seven hundred and
32 ninety thousand dollars all the way up to a hundred
33 and forty-nine thousand, that's a nineteen percent
34 increase. And we find other things where things have
35 gone up. And we -- I would like to see us to put
36 pencil to paper on this and put real money towards the
37 roads issues in the county. If we can't work with the
38 Tri-County and assure them of the appropriate adequate
39 funding then we need to revamp this list. We're
40 moving some of them and deferring them 'til next year.
41 And then we need to cut down the cost of some of the
42 others. And I'll give you another example and it's
43 still part of the same budget concern. Our
44 accommodations tax for some of the recreational
45 functions that we use, I've been told by one of our
46 state representatives that that's down. We're looking
47 at revenue streams that are on the state level, they
48 already acknowledge that they've been reduced. And
49 how's that going to impact us here? Is this a good
50 year to be taking on all of these really big projects

1 when we have a stressed population of taxpayers? And
2 that's why I think we just need to really discuss this
3 and cut back and eliminate and defer wherever we can.

4 JOEY PRESTON: Just a note -- just a quick
5 little note. Our accommodations tax here in Anderson
6 County has actually been going up. And it's projected
7 to go up again next year because of the new hotels
8 that are being built here. That may be true across
9 the state, but not in Anderson County.

10 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion with
12 Mr. Waldrep's amendment. Mr. McAbee.

13 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
14 move to amend Mr. Waldrep's amendment. And from his
15 amendment I wish to strike Broadway Lake Community
16 Center, Parker Bowie Park, Dolly Cooper Park, Warner
17 Road Park. The effect of that would be to restore
18 those to the budget. And if this amendment passes,
19 only the Honea Path community room would be deleted
20 from the budget upon approval of his amendment.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you're putting
23 everything back except the Honea Path community room.

24 BILL MCABEE: Yes. That's my amendment.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And we have a second by
26 Ms. Floyd.

27 CINDY WILSON: Well, if we're going to do
28 that we ---

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please. Hold up, hold up.
30 Okay. So now we're in discussion of the amendment to
31 the amendment where only Honea Path does not survive.

32 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson was wanting the
34 floor.

35 CINDY WILSON: Yes. Thank you, sir. You
36 know some of these figures that are set out before us
37 in this presentation from recently, the Broadway Lake
38 community center, nine hundred and fifteen thousand.
39 I would suggest that we put out a bid for a request
40 for proposals because I promise you if we're to do
41 that it can be done for two hundred and fifty to three
42 hundred thousand dollars. The question that a lot of
43 people have is where does the difference go. These
44 are things that I think that should be deferred 'til
45 next year. And even my friends in Honea Path would
46 understand deferring until next year these expenses
47 when they look at a budget that has increased by
48 nineteen percent.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

50 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

1 finally have gotten the floor. Thank you. I want to
2 call your attention to something and this kind of ties
3 in with Mr. McAbee's amendment and the amendment that
4 Mr. Waldrep made. And it's going back to the original
5 discussion concerning Tri-County Tech. We have not
6 had an opportunity to fully read through probably and
7 digest the budget ordinance in its entirety. But I
8 did take some time to scan through it and look at some
9 of the items. And one of the things I remembered
10 looking at was the Tri-County Technical College
11 appropriations in the budget ordinance. And I'm
12 looking at slide ninety-nine, Ms. Humphries. Slide
13 ninety-nine says their request, Tri-County Tech's
14 request was two million four hundred and ninety-six
15 thousand five hundred and seventy dollars. Is that
16 Tri-County Technical College's total request for
17 funding from Anderson County for the coming budget
18 year? Okay. I would call council members' attentions
19 and anyone else who is interested to page fourteen of
20 the budget ordinance, which says the total Tri-County
21 Technical College appropriations is two million four
22 hundred and ninety-six thousand five hundred and ten
23 dollars. Actually that's three dollars more than what
24 they asked for.

25 GINA HUMPHRIES: We round up to the nearest
26 five dollars.

27 LARRY GREER: I understand that. So the
28 budget ordinance as it is written fully funds Tri-
29 County Tech. Do I understand that correctly?

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: That is correct.

31 LARRY GREER: Now, so that we don't
32 repeat past mistakes that we may have made in looking
33 at Mr. McAbee's amendment, I'm going to move to amend
34 the amendment to the amendment ---

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're not going to make
36 this easy, are you?

37 LARRY GREER: No, sir. I'm not. You
38 asked for the job and you got it. To amend the
39 amendment to the amendment to include the Honea Path
40 appropriations as well.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we're back to
43 basically square one.

44 LARRY GREER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

45 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second on Mr.
47 Greer's ---

48 LARRY GREER: Ms. Floyd seconded it.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd did. Okay.

50 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

2 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, the point I
3 was trying to make when the councilman from district
4 one made his motion and the councilwoman from district
5 seven seconded it was that there may be nothing in
6 here for district one. On this project list there's
7 nothing in here for district four. But we -- you
8 know, besides just thinking about your districts we
9 have to think about the county as a whole. And I
10 support these projects. I think they're good for
11 Anderson County. But if we start picking them apart,
12 you know, more than one person -- more than one can
13 play that game. And you know we could go here and at
14 some point we would end up not doing anything in
15 anyone's district. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman

17 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

19 LARRY GREER: Time has expired. I move
20 that we extend by ten minutes.

21 CINDY WILSON: Second.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending
23 time by ten minutes, please vote. Unanimous.

24 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

26 LARRY GREER: I understand somewhat, I
27 believe, where Mr. Waldrep is coming from because
28 there are those who consider things like these
29 facilities as fluff, unneeded things, things that we
30 could do without, things that we could tighten our
31 belt on. But at the same time I hear loud and clear
32 the call for this council and this government to
33 continue to move forward and to attract economic
34 growth in Anderson County. And I've been here
35 sometime now, and I have met with numerous industrial
36 prospects over the course of the time I've been here.
37 And folks, when you're recruiting an industrial
38 prospect or a economic development client, they don't
39 just look at roads. They don't just look at water.
40 They don't just look at sewer. They don't just look
41 at gas. They don't just look at electricity. All
42 these other communities have those things as well.
43 Sometimes when they get down to making the final
44 decision it's made on what you have to offer them
45 after working hours. Do you have quality of life
46 issues? Do you have a good library system for
47 instance? Do you have somewhere for their people to
48 go for entertainment after working hours? Do you have
49 somewhere for their children to participate in? So
50 instead of looking at these recreation projects as

1 fluff and something that we could do without, we need
2 to be looking at them as something that aids us in our
3 economic development potential. I have ridden around
4 with some of these potential economic development
5 clients. They want to see these recreation
6 facilities. They want to ride by and they want to
7 take a look at them. And when they make their final
8 decision a lot of times it's made on several things.
9 It's made on the infrastructure that you have and
10 that's all the water and sewer and the gas and the
11 electricity and all of that. But it's also made on
12 what you've got to offer them for their standard of
13 living. I've had them ask to see these recreation
14 facilities. I've ridden them out and shown them to
15 them. And folks I'm telling you they're just an
16 important an aspect of our community as good roads,
17 and good sewer and good water. And if we're going to
18 have economic development in this county we cannot be
19 shortsighted and not do these type of things to
20 improve our communities. But the bottom line is this.
21 If we don't take care of those children and provide
22 activities for them, we can either provide positive
23 activities for them or we can build jails to hold
24 them. And that's the bottom line. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.

27 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

29 CINDY WILSON: I agree that we need
30 recreational facilities. And we already have these
31 facilities. We just don't have quite the extent of
32 the facilities just yet. What I'm concerned about
33 because the council district that I represent and in
34 talking with those constituents and people across the
35 county, it appears that we're only spending about two
36 million a hundred and eight thousand five hundred and
37 ninety dollars on paving. That's not county the C
38 Fund. It would seem that with our roads totally
39 disintegrating that we could reduce those big projects
40 for this year or defer them until next year and focus
41 on our roads. I think we're spending less for asphalt
42 now even with the price having tripled than we did ten
43 years ago. At least that's what it looks like in the
44 paperwork I've seen. And where do we all stand on
45 that? We have disintegrating roads. We look like a
46 third world country in lots of roads around this
47 county. Why don't we defer or should say transfer
48 some of the money that we were looking at for the
49 extended recreational facilities to the roads. I'd
50 like to make that in the form of a motion to the

1 amendment.

2 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, can you be
4 more specific, please?

5 CINDY WILSON: All right. You're wanting
6 me to be specific when I don't have specific estimates
7 to work with. But I'm here to say that based on what
8 Mr. Waldrep has said we could take a lot of these
9 items out, defer them 'til next year, put that money
10 toward the roads and several of the items on here we
11 could look at like the animal shelter, whatever the
12 value of the property that's been contributed. The
13 three point two million dollars was initially
14 estimated including the purchase of a new tract of
15 land. We could defer or reduce the one point five
16 million dollars to be spent at McCants this year. We
17 could probably reduce the one point two million that
18 we were spending on a one point six million dollar
19 building. The magistrates told me they thought only
20 about half a million was needed there. The Broadway
21 Lake Community Center I believe could be done for
22 three hundred thousand or less. That's savings of six
23 hundred and fifteen thousand right there. Maybe
24 reduce the improvements for the Parker Bowie, Dolly
25 Cooper, Warner Road, and Honea Path Centers down to a
26 fair amount. And take the money that we would derive
27 from those efforts and put it toward pavement. Our
28 county council paving account for all seven districts
29 combined is one million six hundred and sixty-two
30 thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars. The
31 asphalt category in the roads and bridges account is
32 only five hundred and eighteen thousand dollars.
33 That's not enough to begin to pave what we've got to
34 do now that asphalt has tripled in price. I don't
35 think we're making common sense judgements here.

36 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

37 CINDY WILSON: Excuse me. I did have the
38 floor and Mr. Thompson is pondering what I'm saying.
39 I'd like to make the motion that we table the budget
40 tonight, really sit down and look at all of this and
41 come up with something that's more sensible.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson has moved to
43 table. Is there a second to her table. No second.
44 It dies. Mr. McAbee.

45 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 You know, I think we've sort of made our points
47 regarding these projects. And as I said I support
48 these projects that are included in the budget. If
49 perhaps if Mr. Greer and Mr. Waldrep would be willing
50 to withdraw their amendments I'd be willing to

1 withdraw mine. And we could perhaps ---

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I was wondering how we
3 were going to figure this out.

4 BILL MCABEE: Right. Well, perhaps if
5 Mr. Greer would agree to withdraw his, I could
6 withdraw mine and then we could vote on Mr. Waldrep's
7 original motion.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

9 LARRY GREER: I withdraw mine contingent
10 on the other two being withdrawn.

11 BILL MCABEE: I withdraw mine.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So the Greer
13 amendment is withdrawn. The McAbee amendment is
14 withdrawn. So we're back to the Waldrep amendment
15 which is to remove Parker Bowie -- can we go to page
16 thirty-six please of the slides? The Waldrep
17 amendment is to remove Parker Bowie, Dolly Cooper,
18 Warner Park, you're leaving in the burning building;
19 right? But you're taking out Honea Path. Is that
20 correct?

21 LARRY GREER: Broadway Lake.

22 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thirty-six. Page thirty-
24 six. One more. There we go. And Broadway Lake
25 Community, Anderson County. Mr. Waldrep.

26 BOB WALDREP: Just had one kind of
27 closing remark on all this. Hopefully we can get past
28 it. But I wanted to say that my address of this issue
29 has nothing to do with what's in or not in my
30 particular district. I do realize and I like to think
31 that we all try to address problems in the county not
32 so much as to the kind of the bacon that's being
33 brought home so to speak to a particular district, but
34 there's another issue here that I thought was relevant
35 and that was the committee or the efforts that were
36 made between the city and the county in dealing with
37 an assessment of our recreational needs. I just
38 didn't know that there was this kind of real need and
39 maybe I certainly would defer to people in their own
40 district about how desperately certain recreation
41 needs are being done. I do get a concern about the
42 schools participating, the city participating and when
43 we go out and decide that we're going to do things
44 either alone or in a major way. I just felt like all
45 in all we're talking about spending a couple of a
46 million bucks here for recreation and we get back to
47 the roads and water and public safety. You know, the
48 Sheriff's only asking for another million I think.
49 And again it gets back to priorities. And everybody
50 feels a little bit differently about these things.

1 And I certainly appreciate the arguments of the
2 councilmen here on this and what they consider to be
3 their needs. Having said that I will not withdraw my
4 motion. I only ask that we defer it at least until
5 next year's budget to really review these matters more
6 closely.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You don't withdraw. So
8 your motion, your amendment -- so we have to vote on
9 it.

10 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All ---

12 CINDY WILSON: May I ---

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The time has expired. All
14 in favor of the Waldrep amendment to ordinance 2008-
15 027 which removes Parker Bowie, Dolly Parton -- Dolly
16 Parton -- Dolly Cooper, Warner Park, and Honea Path
17 and Broadway Lake. All in favor of Mr. Waldrep's
18 amendment ---

19 CINDY WILSON: Wait a minute. Wait a
20 minute. It was deferred to next year. Is that correct?

21 BOB WALDREP: Yes.

22 CINDY WILSON: Deferred it to next year.
23 That was the clarification.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He does not withdraw his
25 amendment. Therefore we have to vote on it.

26 CINDY WILSON: He said deferred 'til next
27 year.

28 BILL MCABEE: No.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He said he does not withdraw
30 his amendment. Therefore we have to vote on it. Am I
31 correct, Mr. Martin?

32 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to
33 explain it a little bit further and I would like for it
34 to be couched in such a way as a deferral 'til next
35 year. If you persist in formulating my own motion,
36 there's nothing I can do about it. But I would think
37 that would be the appropriate intent of my motion, that
38 we defer it at least until next year.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So he essentially withdraws
40 it. Is that correct, Mr. Martin?

41 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
42 ruling of the chair is correct. The motion as made was
43 to strike those items and to add money to Tri-County
44 Tech. The second half was withdrawn which left on the
45 floor as seconded a motion to strike the five
46 recreational projects. That was the motion that was
47 made and debated. In order to change that at this
48 point, that motion would have to be acted upon or
49 withdrawn and a separate motion made to defer.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So he would have to withdraw

1 it if he wants to take it up next year.

2 TOM MARTIN: Correct.

3 BOB WALDREP: Well, Mr. Chairman, in light
4 of that, having followed the technical rules that the
5 county attorney has outlined, I would amend my motion or
6 make a motion to amend it for deferral and so that that
7 would coincide more appropriately with what my intent
8 would be on this. I would make that in the form of a
9 motion.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you're amending your
11 amendment to ---

12 BOB WALDREP: That's correct.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you can defer it until
14 next year.

15 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. That's correct.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor.

17 CINDY WILSON: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And we have a second. All
19 in favor to defer the Waldrep amendment until next year
20 -- Mr. Martin.

21 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, at this point
22 you have the amendment to the amendment. So all you're
23 voting on at this point is to add the deferral to the
24 original amendment.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So basically we want
26 to defer these projects until next year. All in favor
27 to defer the projects until next year, please vote. We
28 have two. All oppose. We have five with Mr. Wilson,
29 Mr. McAbee, Ms. Floyd, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Greer in
30 the opposition. So the deferral fails. So now we're
31 back to the amendment which is to just plain out take
32 out these projects. All in favor of the Waldrep
33 amendment, please vote. We have one. All opposed to
34 the Waldrep amendment, please vote. And Ms. Wilson, you
35 abstain. Is that correct?

36 CINDY WILSON: Yes. Correct, in this
37 matter.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So Mr. Wilson, Mr.
39 McAbee, Ms. Floyd, and Mr. Thompson, Mr. Greer oppose,
40 and Ms. Wilson abstains. So that motion dies.

41 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are voting. All in favor
43 of ordinance 2008-027 ---

44 CINDY WILSON: We still have discussion.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- please vote. I'm calling
46 for the vote on the budget ordinance. Okay. One, two,
47 three, four, five, six. Ms. Wilson, how do you vote?

48 CINDY WILSON: I'm opposing because you
49 haven't put enough priority on roads and other
50 necessities.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So the vote is six
2 and one with Ms. Wilson opposing. Thank you.
3 Proclamation. A proclamation proclaiming May 18th
4 through 24th, 2008 as emergency medical services week in
5 Anderson County. The chair moves to approve. Is there
6 a second?

7 LARRY GREER: Second.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
9 discussion. The chair calls for the vote for the
10 proclamation. All in favor please vote. Unanimous.
11 Will all the EMS workers please come forward, please?

12 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, are we allowing
13 them to make their presentation that they brought? I
14 would like to make a motion to amend that they make
15 their presentation that they carefully prepared.

16 LARRY GREER: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: They want us to ... for lack
18 of a better work so they can get a picture of all of us.
19 Anderson County EMS week, proclamation 2008. Whereas
20 each year residents and visitors to Anderson County may
21 require emergency medical care for traumatic injuries,
22 burns, poisonings, spinal cord injuries, heart attacks,
23 and other critical medical emergencies. And whereas
24 emergency care personnel, including emergency medical
25 dispatchers, first responders, emergency medical
26 technicians, emergency medical technicians, paramedics,
27 nurses and physicians, whether volunteers or paid
28 personnel, give selflessly of themselves for the welfare
29 of others. And whereas the citizens of Anderson County
30 benefit from the knowledge, skills, and dedication of
31 these emergency medical services specialists as they
32 work together to ensure prompt and appropriate treatment
33 at the scene, on the way to the hospital and in the
34 emergency department. And whereas South Carolina has a
35 wide range of emergency medical providers including
36 local first responder units, ambulance services,
37 helicopter, EMS response services, poison control
38 services, hospital emergency departments, designated
39 trauma centers and other vital services that save lives
40 and reduce disabilities of the critically ill or injured
41 in our community. And whereas advances in emergency
42 medical care have increased the number of lives saved
43 every year in South Carolina and in Anderson County.
44 Whereas it is important for the citizens of Anderson
45 County to know about our emergency medical services
46 system including what to do in a medical emergency and
47 whom to call and to benefit from reminders about ways to
48 prevent emergencies from happening. And whereas
49 Anderson County desires to continue to improve upon its
50 emergency medical services system in order to assure all

1 citizens the highest standards of emergency medical
2 care. Now therefore Anderson County council does hereby
3 proclaim May 18th through the 24th, 2009 as Emergency
4 Medical Services week in Anderson County in recognition
5 of all those engaged in Emergency Medical Services
6 activities and encourages the community to observe this
7 week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and
8 activities adopted today.

9

10

APPLAUSE

11

MALE:

12

I'd like to thank everyone,
citizens, the council, Mr. Preston. My boss, the
director, Taylor Jones of Emergency Services public
Safety Division, The EMS commission, Chiefs Advisory
Board and all the other EMS and first responder
providers throughout the county. It's not one person.
It's all of us working together from the citizens on up
to get the job done. That's what we do. We work to get
the job done. I'd like to introduce Dr. Barnes,
Chairman of the EMS advisory commission.

20

DR. BARNES:

21

I'd just like to point out to
everyone a number of people here tonight represented
before you are members of the various emergency medical
services, members of the EMS commission, the Department
of Public Safety and the Medical Director of the EMS
system. We have a group of people who are highly
trained, highly dedicated. They're responding twenty-
four, seven, three sixty-five, this year three sixty-
six. They are there for you. I would say also that due
to the amount of teamwork and cooperation between all
the people involved, Anderson County has developed a
performance record that is the envy of the Upstate. We
could go into more figures later, but I assure you that
they are the best around. They're here to help you.
Thank you.

35

GRACIE FLOYD:

Mr. Chairman.

36

MICHAEL THOMPSON:

37

We have a motion on the
floor to amend the agenda to allow the EMS to present
their video. It was seconded by Mr. Greer. All in
favor of the EMS personnel presenting their video --
it's about, what four minutes? Please vote. The vote
is unanimous. Whoever is in charge of the video over
there, could we lower ---

43

GRACIE FLOYD:

44

Mr. Chairman, before they

45

leave ---

46

MICHAEL THOMPSON:

47

Yes, ma'am.

48

GRACIE FLOYD:

49

Before they leave ---

50

MICHAEL THOMPSON:

Yes ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD:

And before we show the video

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: I'd like for each of you to
3 introduce yourselves. And I'd like for you to face the
4 camera when you do it. Over there. So folks can know
5 who you are. But before we do that, I want to introduce
6 my appointee to the EMS committee, and that's Mr. Bobby
7 Mack. Bobby, raise your hand so everybody can see.
8 Okay. This is Mr. Mack. He's my appointee. Other
9 council members, are your appointees here as well?
10 Please tell us who they are.

11 CINDY WILSON: District seven's appointee is
12 Mrs. Teresa Locke Morgan.

13 LARRY GREER: District three is Rodney
14 Gilmer. I don't believe Rodney is here tonight.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Now will you please
16 introduce yourselves, and as I said, look into the
17 camera because I want folks to know who you are. Start
18 on the end with this gentleman there.

19 SCOTT STOHLER: I guess I got skipped on my
20 introduction. Scott Stohler. I'm the EMS coordinator
21 for the county. Also we have Dr. John Kathaglus
22 (phonics).

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Is that everybody? Okay.
24 Roy. I'm sorry. Okay. Good. Roy, thank you so much.
25 Folks, you have to know, you have to know how much we
26 appreciate you and that living here in Anderson without
27 you would be hard. It would be something I don't even
28 want to have to think about. But we may not say it
29 everyday, but we see you almost everyday as you're out
30 there helping somebody. And every time I see you I say
31 a prayer, not only for the person that you're picking up
32 or the person that you're going to help but for you.
33 And we thank God that you're there. Mr. Chairman, I
34 thank you for this opportunity.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, do you want to
36 comment.

37 CINDY WILSON: Well, I understand that our
38 Williamston EMS set a record in a response recently.
39 And I wanted to make sure that they were acknowledged.
40 And I really appreciate each and every one of you. We
41 hope that we never have to call you. But it's really a
42 real blessing to know that you're there. Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Okay. Now we're
44 going to show the video. Lights, camera.

45 SCOTT STOHLER: Mr. Chairman, if I could add
46 one more ---

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure, Scott.

48 SCOTT STOHLER: On the wall there by the
49 clerk's desk there, there's a banner. And the banner
50 has been signed by several EMS providers, doctors,

1 nurses, technicians at the hospital. And what that is,
2 the EMS community, the AnMed Hospital System, and
3 several other health providers, American Heart
4 Association, Red Cross, Partners for a Healthy
5 Community, got together to bring awareness to stroke and
6 heart safety and are doing public safety ...

7 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

8 SCOTT STOHLER: One of the things that we're
9 doing this week and it may be on the video that's coming
10 up there. But just to let you know so that you can let
11 any of your family know, any of your friends know, any
12 of that. For EMS week, instead of you giving back to
13 us, what we're doing is we're going to be setting up at
14 Liberty Anderson Wal-Mart and at the Wal-Mart on 28
15 Bypass starting Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This was
16 a joint effort that was brought up between the Chief's
17 Advisory Commission. They got together with each of the
18 services. We're going to have an ambulance out there.
19 It'll start, I think, at nine o'clock in the morning and
20 will go throughout the day. There'll be representatives
21 from Belton EMS, Honea Path, Williamston, MedShore. All
22 the agencies through the county will be there. Bring
23 food items. Put those in there. What we're going to do
24 at the end of the drive, all this will go to the local
25 charity food organizations here so they can give back to
26 the community. So we would like as much participation
27 as possible in that. And that goes on this weekend
28 starting Thursday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council.

29 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

31 LARRY GREER: I will be real brief. As we
32 recognize our EMS providers, and they are indeed a
33 wonderful asset to our communities. These are the
34 people that you don't want to see, but you're awful glad
35 when you need 'em and they show up and they're there.
36 And they deserve every bit of help and support that we
37 can get. But this Saturday at eleven o'clock out at the
38 Veteran's Memorial, there will be a ceremony in honor
39 and recognition for those who have paid the ultimate
40 price so that we can sit here and have this type of
41 government that we have. I encourage everyone in this
42 room and everyone that hears this to be at that ceremony
43 Saturday to honor those veterans who gave all. Thank
44 you.

45 MALE: Well, we apologize. There
46 seems to be no sound at the moment. What we have is a
47 series of images of ... County by EMS. As these show up
48 I want to urge you as you see these personnel around the
49 community either in uniform, active or out and about
50 taking some time off, I would urge you to give them a

1 pat on the back, shake their hand, say thank you.

2 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

4 BOB WALDREP: As we look through these
5 pictures, I couldn't help but think that we've come such
6 a long way. And I also can't help but remember how far
7 we've come with emergency services. Because you
8 remember in Greenville that all we had was the funeral
9 home would have the ambulance that they would come out
10 and pick you up in the funeral home ambulance. And
11 there was always some question about whether there was a
12 conflict of interest by the time you got to the
13 hospital. So, I'd like to thank you for your singular
14 purpose here.

15 MALE: Again, we apologize that the
16 sound didn't work. But I want to point out also that
17 there is a high degree of cooperation between all these
18 various services. That's what makes it all work.
19 Again, when you get a chance, please tell these people
20 thank you.

21 APPLAUSE

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are on
23 appointments now. Does anyone have any appointments to
24 any boards? Mr. Wilson.

25 RON WILSON: Yes. I'd like to appoint
26 Wayne Taylor to the sixth district Advisory Zoning
27 Board. And I'll get his address.

28 BILL MCABEE: Second.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on this? All
30 in favor of this appointment, please vote. Unanimous.
31 Anymore Mr. Wilson? That's it. Okay. Anyone else?
32 That's it for appointments. Requests by council
33 members. Mr. Waldrep. Any requests?

34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I have a
35 request for a thousand dollars out of my recreation fund
36 to go to the debate team at TL Hanna to help them with
37 their -- I understand they're state champions this year
38 -- to help them with their expenses in going to the
39 National -- I wish I could provide you with a specific
40 name.

41 JOEY PRESTON: That's enough.

42 BOB WALDREP: That's enough?

43 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

44 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second?

46 BILL MCABEE: Second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
48 favor please vote. Is that it, Mr. ---

49 BOB WALDREP: That's all.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: None at this time. But
2 listen. Wait a minute. Wait a minute. I wasn't asked
3 to do anything for the TL Hanna debate team. Where are
4 they going? Anyone know?
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you know where they're
6 going, Mr. Waldrep?
7 BOB WALDREP: Ms. Floyd, I just know that
8 they have qualified, several members have qualified for
9 going to the national debate. And where that is I'm not
10 sure. It might be Las Vegas.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, I hope not. But
12 I too would like to -- I have a little money left in my
13 account after taking care of my summer programs. And I
14 can't do much, but I sure would like to do maybe two
15 hundred and fifty dollars for that same thing. My son
16 was on the debate team. And he qualified to go to South
17 Dakota with that team. And to this day he still talks
18 about that, that whatever. I can't think of the word.
19 But he still talks about how much fun he had and how
20 much he learned through that. And I want somebody else
21 to have that experience as well. So I can only do about
22 two fifty, but members if you will allow me to do that I
23 would appreciate it. And that's in the form of a
24 motion.
25 BILL MCABEE: Second.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: From your recreation.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: From my rec account.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any discussion? All
29 in favor of Ms. Floyd's motion please vote. Is that it?
30 Mr. Greer.
31 LARRY GREER: None.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
33 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. At this
34 time I'm going to make a motion to redirect some money
35 that had previously been appropriated from the district
36 four rec account on November 12th, 2002 to the Palmetto
37 Conservation. It has not been expended. It is one
38 thousand dollars. And I wish to move that back to the
39 district four recreation account. That's a motion.
40 RON WILSON: Second.
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? So you're
42 taking your money back.
43 BILL MCABEE: Uh-huh (affirmative).
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. All in favor.
45 Unanimous. Anything else?
46 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. At this
47 time I make a motion that thirty-nine hundred dollars be
48 appropriated from the district four recreation account
49 to the Pendleton Fire Department for outfitting of
50 equipment for the new truck.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Discussion. All in
2 favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?
3 BILL MCABEE: That should do it.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. None for
5 district five. Mr. Wilson, any appropriations?
6 RON WILSON: None at this time, Mr.
7 Chairman.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, any
9 appropriations. Okay. We are adjourned.
10
11 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Called Meeting – June 3, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

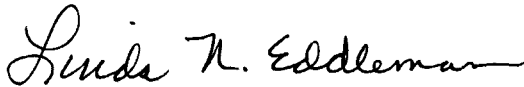
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

CALLED MEETING

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL

JUNE 6, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... June the 3rd, three p.m.
2 will now come to order. Mr. McAbee is in route, so Ms.
3 Floyd has agreed to say the invocation and pledge of
4 allegiance.

5 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Employee of the
7 month. Mr. Derrick Singleton.

8 DERRICK SINGLETON: Chairman, members of
9 council, Mr. Preston, on behalf of the Anderson County
10 Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present the
11 employee of the month for May 2008, Dale Dodd. Dale, if
12 you and your family would like to come up.

13 APPLAUSE

14 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, I understand
15 that Ms. Dodd's dad, Kenny Dodd, has just arrived from
16 Afghanistan where he's been serving our country for the
17 last year and a half.

18 APPLAUSE

19 DERRICK SINGLETON: Dale, on behalf of Anderson
20 County Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present
21 this chamber check for thirty dollars and a plaque that
22 reads, congratulations Dale Dodd, Employee of the month,
23 Anderson County, May 2008.

24 DALE DODD: Thank y'all very much. I
25 want to thank you for putting up with me. I want to
26 thank you for giving me the opportunity to do what I
27 love to do the most -- my animals. Thank y'all very
28 much for this. And I'm not going to say anything else
29 or I'll get upset.

30 DERRICK SINGLETON: It's always an honor when
31 somebody gets employee of the month. And I can think of
32 no one more deserving in our divisions. Dale works
33 hard. She's dedicated. I can guarantee you she is
34 dedicated twenty-four hours a day, seven days week.
35 I've seen it, seen it in person, actually helped her
36 stop in the middle of the road to save a dog from
37 getting run over before. So she really cares about the
38 animals. She puts every effort into it. There's no
39 lacking there. It's a tough job at times, but there's a
40 lot of rewards into it all the time. The thing about it
41 is when an animal gets adopted and goes out, she knows
42 it's got a home. And that makes her day. That's like a
43 bonus everyday when she sees them going out the door.
44 So Dale, congratulations. You deserve it. I also say
45 ... serve our country with a great honor and we're very
46 honored that you served us so that we can have what we
47 have today. Thank you, sir.

48 APPLAUSE

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd. Yes.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I would like to
2 address -- say something to Michelle and her family.
3 Michelle, I met you last year when we tried to work
4 together on an animal ordinance. I've found that you
5 are a hardworking, caring person. We didn't get very
6 far on our task, but we did get far enough so that we
7 can continue the work that we started. But I couldn't
8 do it without you. I wouldn't know where to start
9 without you. I appreciate your time and your input.
10 And sir, your little girl represents your family very
11 well.

12 APPLAUSE

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Budget discussion.
14 Ms. Wilson.

15 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 First of all, it's in writing that my request was to be
17 on the regularly scheduled meeting agenda. And I think
18 it's very much a serious issue when we have such a huge
19 budget increase and not enough time commensurate to the
20 increase to discuss this. Just working from the '06-'07
21 budget year public hearing notice and this coming year's
22 budget hearing public notice, for '06-'07, the revenues
23 and expenditures were projected to be a little less than
24 a hundred and fourteen million dollars. This current
25 budget year was around a hundred and twenty-two, a
26 hundred and twenty-three million, and the public hearing
27 notice, it now states that it was a little bit less than
28 a hundred and twenty-five million dollars. And suddenly
29 we have a proposed budget increase of probably more than
30 nineteen percent. It goes now to a hundred and forty-
31 nine million plus dollars. We still have issues of
32 accountability. If you'll look closely at what was in
33 the paper, I'm going to ask questions, and I think we
34 need to have the answers by tonight. And if we really
35 do have a strong financial acumen available in this
36 county, we should have the answers available by this
37 evening's regularly scheduled meeting. If you'll
38 notice, it states that the '07-'08 milage rate for the
39 general fund is thirty point six mils. And last year,
40 which is currently this year, it was a little more than
41 thirty-nine and a half million dollars projected revenue
42 and projected expenditures. Proposed budget is down to
43 twenty-nine point five mils, and yet there's an increase
44 projected of about forty-six and a half million dollars.
45 The Sheriff's department has a millage rate of thirty
46 point eight mils, almost nineteen million for this
47 current year projected revenues and expenses.
48 But yet thirty point eight mils is expected to bring in
49 about twenty-one point one million. In special
50 education which is actually the Tri-County Tech item,

1 we've dropped the millage. It's now to three point
2 seven from three point eight mils. And in the '06-'07
3 budget, let's see special education, they anticipated
4 for '06-'07 a sum of two million three hundred and
5 twenty-six thousand dollars roughly. And yet for this
6 year three point eight mils brought in two million
7 seventy thousand two hundred and sixty-five dollars.
8 Reducing the milage to three point seven, we're
9 expecting almost two and half million dollars. And I'm
10 concerned about that because if we're serious about
11 economic development, our Tri-County Tech and education
12 system is one of our greatest parts of our
13 infrastructure or resources to do that. Then when we go
14 onto to EMS, we were funded at a total of eight point
15 nine mils for the county. And now we're going to eight
16 point seven. And that's the combined zone nine and the
17 rest of the county. I don't see that we have any less
18 need for emergency services. And they've had a serious
19 problem with the loss of revenue once a directive was
20 signed into action by the governor where the
21 convalescence care was parceled out to a group out in
22 Missouri. It's really put a hurting on our emergency
23 services squads. Now the next item, we're also serious
24 about libraries, aren't we? It's funded at six point
25 eight mils for this current year of almost three million
26 six hundred thousand. We're dropping the millage to six
27 point six mils. And we're anticipating an increase of
28 revenue. A lot of this is going to be dependent on what
29 the actual value of a mil is, of course. But the
30 library is now projected to have about four and a half
31 million dollars. Other special revenue funds, we're
32 going to go from about nineteen million seven hundred
33 and something thousand to twenty-five million. Plus we
34 don't have a real explanation of that. We have the
35 sewer enterprise fund that's still at three mils. But
36 oddly enough, now this is a strange one, three mils from
37 this past year projected to have a revenue of about five
38 point seven million dollars. But yet three mils for
39 this coming budget year, low and behold, it's only
40 projected to bring in five million four hundred thousand
41 thereabouts. I think it would be very helpful if we
42 could have some explanations for this because when you
43 make such a huge leap from what's now stated to be about
44 a hundred and twenty-five million to more than a hundred
45 and forty-nine million it's very much a serious issue.
46 There were some unanswered questions that go back to May
47 1st. And these are just some minor line items perhaps,
48 but I think there was a famous congressman who said
49 something to the effect like, you know, a million here
50 and a million there, we pretty soon have serious money.

1 But in the administrator's legal settlement account --
2 now remember there's legal expense account that's been
3 budgeted currently at three hundred and fifty thousand,
4 but I think it spent more than six hundred thousand,
5 there keeps being the appearance of a legal settlement.
6 And I've requested to know what that settlement is. I
7 have yet to get an answer. One can only wonder if it's
8 some of those rumored cases. But we have no answer of
9 it. Now in the matching grants concern, for years the
10 representative from district seven has asked for
11 additional funding for the volunteer fire departments,
12 waterlines and municipal needs, and those requests have
13 never been honored. Yet, I see that other council
14 members get money for waterlines and fire departments,
15 and one county council member's daughter is paid a
16 consulting fee out of this account. And I would like to
17 see evidence for that particular issue that we've had a
18 proposal for bids, and what the qualifications are of
19 this individual. I think the people deserve to know.
20 Now there are also some issues like in the finance
21 division director's office. There was an increase in a
22 salary line item. And the answer was a vacant position
23 has been moved to this department. Would you please
24 specify from what department, from where? Anyway, I
25 would request that since we have to discuss this some
26 more in the public hearing part of the regularly
27 scheduled meeting that we have some answers to these and
28 the other questions. And I want to know now please, Mr.
29 Chairman, if I may ask you why we don't have the camera
30 recording this meeting for our citizens to watch? We
31 had one here the last time. And it seems that as this
32 is a very important public meeting, there should be some
33 way to record it for people to watch tomorrow night. Do
34 you have an answer for us?

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Not at this time.

36 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

38 Administrator's report. You have something to present,
39 Mr. ---

40 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I got the report
41 ... the books. I also want to remind council that we
42 did receive that two million dollar grant for the eight
43 hundred megahertz system. It allows us to be able to
44 purchase radios that will subsidize or supplement our
45 eight hundred megahertz system. I think we're very
46 fortunate to be able to receive that. We're the only
47 county in South Carolina to ever receive a grant like
48 that to purchase radios for our regions. But it's an
49 effort from a lot of folks, a lot of people within the
50 organization and a lot of help from other sources too.

1 We're very proud of that two million dollars. Also, I'm
2 going to pass out in just a second the -- there's been
3 some question about the voucher distributions. I think
4 -- for the senior citizens. And I passed a copy of that
5 out at the last meeting. Council members, another copy.
6 If you have any questions about when these vouchers are
7 to be distributed down in Belton or at the Anderson
8 County farmer's market, Michelle Strange can help you
9 with that. Try to answer any questions you had. We had
10 a few calls about that. Also, I don't know if it was in
11 your -- I think it was in your agenda books. We've got
12 a bridge dedication. One of our new bridges that we've
13 just completed with our bridge crew using the federal
14 money that we've been able to acquire from
15 appropriations. Sam Turner bridge dedication is going
16 to be June the 4th at eleven a.m. That's down in Mr.
17 Greer's district. I know Mr. Greer would like to see
18 you all come out for that. Mr. Wilson had asked at the
19 last meeting if I provided council members with copies
20 about what the interest rate was for that tax
21 anticipation note that was done back in the early
22 nineties. That was at four point four one percent. And
23 I'll give council members -- I have additional copies.
24 You can see kind of where that fits into interest rates
25 today and what we're paying for interest rates. Of
26 course, a lot of that's market driven and it also has to
27 do with your credit rating too and financial situation
28 too. It was interesting to go back and find that. At
29 this time, Mr. Chairman, if it's all right with county
30 council, I would like to present Ms. Floyd with
31 something. I think today is her birthday. And I'm not
32 sure she wanted many people to know that, but the county
33 employees would like to give you something if that's all
34 right. Would that be okay? And the thing is, you have
35 to open it in front of everyone too. This is your
36 birthday card. I think -- I don't really want to start
37 this, but I'm going to lead Happy Birthday.

38 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GRACIE FLOYD

39 APPLAUSE

40 JOEY PRESTON: A county employee found this,
41 and we just thought you would appreciate this. You can
42 credit Michelle Strange with locating it.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: It says what does it take to
44 make a great birthday and it takes a village of people.
45 And it's signed. All right. Mr. Preston and county
46 employees, I just love you. Okay. And I'm humbled by
47 the fact that you remembered today. Today I proudly
48 announce that I am sixty-three years old. Okay.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it? Okay.

50 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

2 CINDY WILSON: May I make a comment?

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

4 CINDY WILSON: First of all, many happy
5 returns, Ms. Gracie. But second of all, a question
6 about the departmental transfers that are in the
7 administrator's report. We had two hundred and fifty-
8 eight thousand five hundred and twenty-eight thousand
9 dollars transferred. There's one heading reason that I
10 wondered if we could get some kind of report on? There
11 was a fair amount of money, about a hundred and eight
12 plus seventy-five hundred that all dealt with apron
13 contracts. They took money in roads and bridges from
14 pipes and salaries full-time to professional services
15 and also from rent of equipment to professional
16 services. What was that about?

17 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Hopkins, can you explain
18 that?

19 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

20 HOLT HOPKINS: If everybody remembers, last
21 year we had to actually suspend our apron installation.
22 Well, this year toward the end of the year we were
23 trying to take any monies that we could identify and
24 actually put a contract out for a contractor on a short-
25 term basis to see if we could let a contractor do this
26 for us. And in moving, basically we took those monies
27 and moved it around into the correct line item which is
28 professional services in order to be able to contract
29 that out. We can't just pull it from where it was. So
30 we had to do the transfer.

31 JOEY PRESTON: So we didn't have to suspend
32 the program.

33 CINDY WILSON: So this is like for
34 engineering?

35 HOLT HOPKINS: No, ma'am. This is just for
36 the contractor itself to go out and put in pipes,
37 asphalt, anything related to asphalt aprons.

38 CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it, Ms. Wilson?
40 Okay. Thank you. Citizens comments. Do we have any
41 signed up?

42 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You
43 have three under other matters.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me read the
45 instructions. Meetings of county council are
46 legislative meetings based upon a representative form of
47 government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures
48 and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens'
49 agenda is for the receipt of the receipt of citizens'
50 opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for

1 debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person
2 will be allowed not more than three minutes to address
3 county council. You are asked to please refrain from
4 addressing members of the audience by name. Please
5 direct your comments to the council chair and only to
6 the council chair. When you come forward, give your
7 name, address and the district in which you reside. Mr.
8 Martin.

9 CITIZENS' COMMENTS OTHER MATTERS

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Remarks from council
11 members. Ms. Wilson.

12 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 While I've been disappointed in the Supreme Court's
14 ruling, I certainly respect that ruling. I believe that
15 this highlights even more now than ever that the
16 citizens need to elect a council that believes in a
17 government that's truly accountable to its citizens. If
18 they believe this they will do it. I know that we had
19 some council members sitting here that helped to enact
20 an ordinance in 2003 which did in effect stop the timely
21 dissemination and information regarding public funds. I
22 ask the taxpayers and citizens of Anderson to join
23 together June the 10th to elect a council whose members
24 do put the interests of this county above their own.
25 And since the Supreme Court did find that financial
26 information is to be provided. So Mr. Preston, where
27 are those GLR110s, those weekly reports that are delayed
28 by several months? I would really appreciate seeing
29 them. Thank you.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

31 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Just a comment on the budget. Sometimes I frankly need
33 the wisdom of my other council members as well as the
34 staff and everybody else when I try to comprehend the
35 budget process in a year where we're going into
36 appraisal and -- rather reappraisal and looking at
37 millage adjustment. And I heard the statement, of
38 course, last council member that there would be, quote,
39 no tax increase. I just want to try to gain as much
40 comfort as I possibly can on that issue of, quote, there
41 will be no tax increase. I say that because when I look
42 at the issue of appraisal, I wonder if that word
43 increase applies to just the total amount of money that
44 the taxpayer has to pay or does it just simply reflect
45 the fact that the millage is stagnant or has not gone
46 up? I guess I'm just kind of wondering aloud about that
47 issue. I just don't want the folks to be surprised when
48 they get their tax notice out there. And we've said
49 there's, quote, no tax increase. I just want to get as
50 much assurance as I can. And this is not being critical

1 of anyone. You know, I get a little bit concerned
2 sometimes when people make statements and they're viewed
3 as being well conflicting or contentious or bickering.
4 I think to me I'm just trying to honestly get a greater
5 understanding of this situation. When I speak with some
6 other sources with regard to our tax system, I'm told,
7 of course, number one that in our new tax arrangement
8 that there's going to be a lot of tax shifting. And
9 that shifting is going to be kind of from the upper
10 echelons of acts down to sometimes the people that are
11 less able to pay the taxes. Then again, I get
12 information that also says, well there are certain areas
13 in the re-appraisement where the fifteen percent cap
14 does not apply. So consequently there can be some
15 surprises out there with regard to reappraisement on
16 these properties. You'll have to forgive me for musing
17 aloud if you will on these issues, but I realize that
18 there's no way that the finance department can sit down
19 and come up with I guess you might say an absolute on
20 these matters. But I do think we need to be extremely
21 careful when we look at this equation, this formula, and
22 make sure that the people have a good understanding so
23 that when they get that tax notice they'll feel like
24 we've told them everything that we could tell them.
25 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I read the papers this
28 morning, as well as I read the entire thing yesterday.
29 And I did breathe a sigh of relief. I did say it's
30 over. It's over. Now let's get on about the business
31 of moving Anderson in the direction that we want it to
32 go. I'm hoping that this can happen. I'm hoping that
33 we can put aside our innuendos and our guesses and the
34 remarks that we've been saying and let's get together
35 and let's work together. If this can't be done, if we
36 can't do this, then it's all for nothing. It's all for
37 nothing. I try to be a good council member. Some of
38 you don't agree with me and I don't agree with you
39 sometimes. It's a thing where I stick out my hand and
40 you stick yours out and we shake hands. We agree to
41 sometimes not to agree. But it's going to be all right.
42 I've been wrong on several things, big time. And I've
43 always stood up and said I'm wrong. I was wrong. You
44 show me where I've made a mistake and I'm not so pig
45 headed that I will not change. Will I, Mr. Martin?
46 You've shown me several times. I have fought him. And
47 at the end of it I give him a big hug and a kiss because
48 I said you were right and I was wrong. That's my
49 makeup. There's nothing wrong with saying you were
50 right and I was wrong. But now show me how we can get

1 together and make it right. You know show me how --
2 will my saying that I apologize make a difference? If
3 it won't that's all I can offer. Folks, you know
4 Anderson County is not my home. My husband married me
5 on a Saturday and brought me here on a Sunday. And that
6 was in 1968, and I have been here every since. I told
7 you once before, you couldn't blow me out of Anderson.
8 This is where I want to be. I love this county. I love
9 the people. And I'm not going to let anybody ruin it or
10 hurt it. Now it's all behind us. Let's extend our
11 hands to each other, and let's say -- slap each other on
12 the back and say it was a good fight. Now what we gonna
13 do next? Okay. Mr. Preston, I owe you much. I owe you
14 -- yes, I do. I'm grateful to you for bringing my
15 county where you have brought us. You know, we're not
16 where we want to be, but thank God we're not where we
17 were. Thank you.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

19 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 First of all, let me apologize to you, Mr. Chairman and
21 members of council for being late. I was delayed by
22 work. Unfortunately, these three o'clock meetings
23 sometimes can be problematic for me to get away in time,
24 but I was here before the conclusion -- before our
25 actual business began. I believe one speaker said that
26 the three o'clock meetings should be ended. Mr.
27 Chairman, I supported your idea of having these three
28 o'clock meeting and using it to take care of
29 housekeeping business. Perhaps you know the employee of
30 the month or the stuff that doesn't require a vote or a
31 real discussion. I do think it's important that the
32 real business of the council and the work, the
33 legislative action, and in fact I think council comments
34 should be included in the six o'clock meeting. Thank
35 you, Mr. Chairman.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

37 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
38 Since Mr. McAbee has apologized for being late, I guess
39 I should too. It was the Powdersville traffic. The
40 court case today or yesterday that was finally --
41 Supreme Court ruled on it. I was in meetings before I
42 joined this council and gave money for Cindy Wilson's
43 defense fund. And that was in Mel Guerard's office with
44 several other people. And at that meeting and several
45 other times, everybody was absolutely sure that it was a
46 slam dunk for Cindy Wilson and that she finally had Joey
47 Preston where she wanted him. And of course, the case
48 finally was ruled on. And we had some remarks here on
49 council a few months ago that indicated that after the
50 hearing in Columbia that it wasn't going as well as they

1 thought. And of course, the ruling so stated. I'm glad
2 the way it turned out. I don't know what this council
3 will do in the future. I do believe in citizens and
4 people being able to have the information and in a
5 timely fashion. But I guess what concerned me most as I
6 read the ruling was it stated that Ms. Wilson had
7 received fifty-nine thousand pages of information. And
8 of course that was at that date. We don't know how many
9 more thousand she has received since then. And not --
10 and her reading all this and pouring over it for all
11 these years, she has yet to make one recommendation or
12 issue one ordinance that she thinks should be changed.
13 And then today we hear more and more of the same. The
14 only thing about me being late is I only wish I had of
15 got here after she was finished. Because I hear it
16 quite often. It's almost always the same thing. And I
17 would hate to wake up everyday of my life with questions
18 and criticisms of people. And I don't know frankly how
19 she does that. I look forward to tonight. And I also
20 make one comment as I close here about the three o'clock
21 meeting. I frankly like the three o'clock meeting. I
22 think it's -- I think it helps to facilitate things. I
23 think it opens up doors. Because I've been to
24 Spartanburg's meetings and I've been to Greenville's and
25 they all have afternoon meetings. And I think it serves
26 the public well, and it serves the council well. And so
27 I hope that the chairman will continue to do this.
28 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
31 gonna ramble for a few moments. Mr. Wilson, I didn't
32 have any trouble getting here today. I got here on
33 time. And one of the reasons I got here on time was
34 because of the real good roads we have in my part of the
35 county and the good bridges. And you know, we don't
36 have a lot of trouble with that. We have some really
37 good roads and bridges. In fact, we're gonna open a
38 bridge up tomorrow down in my part of the county. So
39 you know, we've done a good job of maintaining and
40 taking ...

41 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

42 LARRY GREER: ... to get to work on time
43 and to get to the places of employment that this council
44 and this county has created such as some of the major
45 industries up along the I-85 interchange and such as
46 some of those that's located in council district three.
47 And those roads are important. And it's important that
48 we work on our roads and bridges and continue to improve
49 them. And I do invite everyone here down to the Sam
50 Turner Road bridge opening or dedication tomorrow. This

1 bridge in some minds would be in the middle of nowhere.
2 But it is somewhere. It is my council district. And it
3 serves my people. And I will always oppose trying to
4 shut down bridges and close roads and try to work to
5 make those things happen and improve them. Are we going
6 in the right direction as relates to our basic
7 infrastructure? I think the answer is yes. And we hear
8 a lot of talk and a lot of discussion that we need to do
9 all these things to improve. And we do. We do need to
10 always be moving forward and moving ahead. But the need
11 to move forward and move ahead does not necessarily mean
12 that you have not done a good job in the past and that
13 you aren't making improvements. In the current budget
14 year we're in, a first time occurrence happened in
15 Anderson County this year. And we are not recognizing
16 that occurrence. We're looking over it, we're looking
17 around it, and we're pretending that it's not there.
18 But for the first time in the history of this county, we
19 have growth built into our roads and bridge program.
20 When we gave the transportation department a dedicated
21 eighteen mils, we built growth into our road and bridge
22 program. We are moving forward. We are facing the
23 problem. And we are taking corrective action. The
24 problem is some people have blinders on like that old
25 mule, and you can't see it. But we are taking
26 corrective action for our roads and bridges. Is it
27 enough? No. We need to look for more. I'm not going
28 to get into the Supreme Court decision. I'm not even
29 going to elaborate on that. But I'm going to address
30 something that I was asked at the forum, and that's
31 about harmony on this council. I sat here this
32 afternoon and heard a sitting council member campaign
33 for the defeat of other sitting council members. It
34 happened, folks. Is that right? Everybody is entitled
35 to their opinion. They're entitled to their thoughts.
36 But this is not the place to make those campaign
37 statements. If we're going to have harmony, you have to
38 work together. I've always heard the saying it takes
39 two to make a fight. But one can make a whole lot of
40 people mad. And that's what we've got going on. We've
41 got one person constantly keeping it stirred up. And
42 that happened here tonight. Do I like it? No. I don't
43 like it. And it's time we as a council, we as the
44 people came together and move this county forward. I
45 hope that June the 10th that this county will heal its
46 wounds and will once again become one people. Thank
47 you, Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer. That
49 being said, this meeting is adjourned.

50 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:52 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – June 3, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

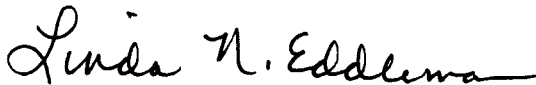
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda N. Eddleman".

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 3, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular meeting of the
2 Anderson County council for June the 3rd at six p.m.
3 will now come to order. Invocation and Pledge of
4 Allegiance, Mr. Ron Wilson.

5 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of minutes, and if
7 there is no objection I would be doing both the called
8 meeting minutes and the regular meeting minutes
9 together. If there are no objections, so by unanimous
10 consent. The chair moves to approve the minutes for
11 May the 20th, 2008, called meeting and the regular
12 meeting. Is there a second?

13 BILL MCABEE: Second.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
15 discussion. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
16 approving the minutes for May the 20th, 2008 please
17 vote. The vote is unanimous. Thank you very much.
18 Citizens' comments. Mr. Martin, do we have people
19 signed up?

20 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 There are four citizens under agenda matters.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me read the
23 instructions. Meetings of county council are
24 legislative meetings based upon the representative form
25 of government and are regulated by parliamentary
26 procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the
27 citizens agenda is for the receipt of citizens'
28 opinion, comments and input. It is not a time for
29 debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person
30 will be allowed not more than three minutes to address
31 county council. You are asked to please refrain from
32 addressing members of the audience by name. Please
33 direct your comments to the council chair and only to
34 the council chair. When you come forward please state
35 your name, address and the county council district in
36 which you reside.

37 CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA MATTERS

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution R2008-033, a
39 resolution honoring the members and dedicated leaders
40 of the Palmetto High School Air Force Junior Reserve
41 Officer Training Corps for receiving the distinguished
42 unit award for the second consecutive year and other
43 matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is
44 there a second?

45 CINDY WILSON: Second.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
47 discussion? No discussion. Chair calls for the vote
48 on resolution R2008-033. All in favor please vote. It
49 is unanimous. Ms. Wilson, do you want to present?

50 CINDY WILSON: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would

1 like to include all of -- ask all of these folks to
2 come forward. We're so proud of them. Thank you.
3 Ladies and gentlemen, we have a very special honor
4 tonight. And I'll read this and I hope I don't
5 mispronounce someone's name. If I do please correct
6 me. Whereas, Anderson County council recognizing that
7 young people are the leaders of the future and desires
8 to honor these programs and activities that foster
9 strong leadership, citizenship, patriotism and
10 responsibility and life skills. And whereas the Air
11 Force Junior ROTC develops young citizens of character
12 by teaching cadets the values of personal
13 responsibility and pride in accomplishment and service
14 to country and community. And by building self
15 reliance, leadership skills, orderliness, precision,
16 respect for constituted authority and basic military
17 skills. And whereas the Palmetto High School Air Force
18 Junior ROTC has been honored with the distinguished
19 unit award for the second consecutive year and is one
20 of only three hundred units nationwide to receive this
21 designation. And whereas Anderson County, a body
22 politic incorporate and political subdivision of the
23 state of South Carolina, acting by and through its
24 county council wishes to recognize those individuals
25 and organizations that promote the development of
26 citizenship, leadership and responsibility in our youth
27 and to honor the Palmetto High School Air Force Junior
28 ROTC for these accomplishments. Now therefore it is
29 hereby resolved by Anderson County council in meeting
30 duly assembled that Anderson County acting by and
31 through its county council hereby recognizes and honors
32 the Palmetto High School Air Force Junior ROTC,
33 Lieutenant Colonel Mike Creamer and the following
34 Palmetto High School students for their dedication to
35 the goals of the Air Force Junior ROTC and for bringing
36 this great honor home to Anderson County. Augusta
37 Adams, Kimberly Bagwell, Nancy Bannister, Brandi Biggs,
38 Justin Brock, Adam Brocklehurst, Angie Brooks, Sam
39 Butler, Charles Cagle, Brandy Chambers, Heather
40 Chapman, Carrie Chastain, Zack Chastain, Destiny
41 Chitwood, William Chitwood, Jay Cooper, Sandy Crawford,
42 Tyler Cunningham, Haley Currens, Cassie Darnell,
43 Stephanie Davenport, Samantha Derby, Jessie Desperito,
44 Kenneth Desperito, Jordan Flannery, Justin Fox,
45 Brittany Garrison, Jessica Gerisch, Chris Goodman,
46 Katie Griffin, Joel Hall, Ila Dawn Hanks, Randy Hanson,
47 Andrew Harrington, Charles Hickman, Brandon Hight,
48 Elizabeth Holiday, LeAnn Holiday, Emily Hood, Jessie
49 Horn, D.J. Hudiburgh, Tia Hudnall, Colicua Jones, Kayla
50 Lollis, Travis Lowery, Dillon Lusk, Justin Mann, Ryan

1 Manion, Hannah Mauldin, Cody McCuin, Lindsey McGill,
2 Summer McJunkin, Brandon McKinney, Bret Neece, Cory
3 Milton, Neil K. Monterde, Emily Murphy, Lee Nickels,
4 Anthony Nimmons, Caroline Norton, Cory Norton, Michael
5 Noyola, Felisha Abrione, Adam Owens, Lauren Owens,
6 Victoria Parham, Matthew Paxton, Kenneth Paxton, Sean
7 Peden, Michael Phillips, Susie Ratchford, Nikki Reid,
8 Samantha Reid, R.J. Robinson, Ricardo Rodriguez, Asha
9 Rucker, Kara Sargent, Jessie Saxton, Stephanie Sherman,
10 Annie Shockley, Bree Simpson, Jacob Smith, Page Smith,
11 Sara Smith, Lecon Spearman, Elise Squires, Andrew
12 Taylor, Devon Thomas, Ashley Thoreson, April Tinsley,
13 Colin Tulk, Crystal Valentine, Guy Valentine, Greg
14 Vinson, Alex Watson, Bradley Whitten, Cassie Wilson,
15 Brian Woodson, and Daniel Woodson. Anderson County
16 further honors and recognizes all of the parents,
17 teachers and volunteers who enable the youth of
18 Anderson County to participate in worthwhile events
19 such as the Air Force Junior ROTC and hereby encourages
20 the citizens of Anderson County to support the Air
21 Force Junior ROTC and other similar organizations.
22 This resolution shall take effect immediately. Thank
23 you very much young ladies and gentlemen. And let's
24 give these young folks ---

25 APPLAUSE

26 CINDY WILSON: Would anyone care to say a
27 word? And I know that Lieutenant Colonel Cramer has
28 worked with this group for years, and we are so
29 grateful for all of his fine efforts.

30 LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAMER: One of the things
31 I'm most proud of is one of the goals that earned the
32 Cadet Corps this award from the Air Force was they
33 started in August saying they wanted to do thirty-two
34 hundred hours of community service. And as of today
35 they've done thirty-three hundred and seventy-six hours
36 of community service. So they've been working hard.

37 APPLAUSE

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Do
39 we have any time left on this?

40 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. You have seven
41 minutes.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Want to say a word?

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, sir. I sure do want to
44 say something.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: The young lady with the
47 medals, please come to the front.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The lady that was jingling.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Please come back to
50 the front. Please go to the mic. Folks, I met this

1 young lady downstairs. She is the leader of the group.
2 I think that her instructor said that she is going to
3 be the leader next year. And I was very, very proud of
4 her and I want you to be proud of her too. Would you
5 please tell us your name and tell us about the medals.
6 And don't forget to tell us who your mommy and daddy
7 are, okay.

8 SUSIE RATCHFORD: My name is Susie Ratchford.
9 My parents are Angela and Patrick Ratchford. I just
10 recently was promoted to become cadet commander of our
11 AFJ ROTC. I've really had a whirlwind experience here
12 lately. I've been in all three years so far of high
13 school. I actually just recently was accepted to go to
14 honors camp in Oklahoma over the summer, me and another
15 fellow cadet from the school. And it's really been an
16 honor to be able to do this and receive this award in
17 honor of the previous cadets and the cadets to come.
18 So thank you.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Folks, this is a young lady
20 we all should be proud of. She belongs to Anderson
21 County. She belongs to us. And I just want you to
22 know that I'm very proud of her, and please show her
23 how proud you are of her as well.

24 APPLAUSE

25 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

27 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mrs. Floyd. We
28 have another young soldier here tonight. He's making a
29 face, but I want to recognize young Riley Harvell. He
30 will be going to far eastern parts in the not too
31 distant future. And he volunteered. And he's in
32 training. Thank you.

33 APPLAUSE

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ordinance's third
35 reading, ordinance 2008-024, an ordinance to amend
36 ordinance 98-019 as previously amended by ordinance
37 number 99-029 and others relating to the industrial
38 business park of Anderson County and Greenville
39 counties so as to enlarge the park. There is a public
40 hearing on this. Instructions for public hearing. Any
41 person desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing
42 for a reasonable period of time as long as he or she is
43 speaking to the issue under consideration. The
44 chairman exercises control of the public hearing to
45 ensure that no person abuses the public hearing process
46 by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly
47 repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or
48 inappropriate comments. With this being said the
49 public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak on
50 this ordinance may come forward. Please state your

1 name, address before speaking. The public hearing is
2 now open. Anyone wish to come forward? Okay. Seeing
3 and hearing none, the public hearing is now closed.
4 The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-024 on the
5 third reading. Is there a second? We have a second.
6 Any discussion. No discussion. Chair calls for the
7 vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-024 please vote.
8 The vote is unanimous. Ordinance 2008-026, an
9 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an
10 option to purchase certain Anderson County real
11 property and other matters related thereto. Chair
12 moves to approve. Is there a second?
13 BILL MCABEE: Second.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Is there
15 any discussion?
16 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
18 BOB WALDREP: I just assume that the time
19 allotted here to Mr. Preston will be an explanation of
20 this property? Is that correct?
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: An explanation, Mr.
22 Preston?
23 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Waldrep, it's the
24 property that Duke Power is purchasing from Anderson
25 County at the airport to put the transfer station that
26 we discussed.
27 BOB WALDREP: We -- okay. I wasn't sure
28 which one there are. There are several tracts out
29 there under discussion, and this is just the Duke Power
30 tract?
31 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.
32 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? The
34 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
35 2008-026 please vote. The vote is unanimous.
36 Ordinance 2008-028, an ordinance to amend ordinance
37 2007-035 of Anderson County, South Carolina relating to
38 the issuance and sale of not exceeding two point eight
39 million special source revenue bonds of the county and
40 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
41 approve. Is there a second?
42 RON WILSON: Second.
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
44 discussion?
45 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Ms. Wilson.
47 CINDY WILSON: There are several projects
48 on this list that I fully support, but unfortunately we
49 don't have a line item method of vetoing some of the
50 less desirable projects. And I just want to put that

1 explanation forth that since I can't get the
2 information on several of the items and there are at
3 least two, one of which I think should be referred to
4 another special source revenue bond, and then one sewer
5 project that appears to benefit a private individual
6 rather than the county at large. So therefore I'll
7 vote against it. Thank you.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?

9 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

11 BOB WALDREP: Could we just have a quick
12 review of those projects that are included in that
13 bond?

14 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. Turn over to page
15 one, that document. Page one of the ordinance. Look
16 at the section two, the paragraph just below that.
17 There's a detail list of each project. And I'd like to
18 point out we're not running a sewer line to benefit a
19 private individual as been said. That's not the case
20 at all. I think it's fairly self explanatory.

21 BOB WALDREP: So this is the one that has
22 to do with sewer in district three? Is that part of
23 it?

24 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. If you remember
25 what we had to do is we had to go back. We've already
26 approved this one time. And we had to go back and
27 change it or ---

28 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I understand. Yeah.

29 JOEY PRESTON: Because district three
30 backed out of that sewer line.

31 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So there are about
32 three projects involved in this, aren't there? And one
33 of these is a hangar?

34 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. If you look at A
35 is a waste water collection system improvements near
36 the intersection of I-85, Highway 81. ... a pump
37 station at the intersection of 81, Highway 86.
38 Acquisition of rights of way, design costs, permitting
39 costs in connection with the extension sewer line from
40 Hurricane Creek Road to 81 at or near Wren High School.
41 B, to purchase a seventy-six point two five acre
42 parcel, a seven acre parcel, a nine point six one six
43 acre parcel, land located at the Anderson Regional
44 Airport, and E, a hangar at the Anderson Regional
45 Airport.

46 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
48 calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-028. All in favor
49 please vote. The vote is six in favor. Oppose, Ms.
50 Wilson oppose. The vote is six to one. It passes.

1 Ordinance's second reading, 2008-027, an ordinance to
2 adopt the operating and capital budgets of Anderson
3 County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and
4 ending June 30th, 2009 and to make appropriation for
5 such Anderson County budgets for county ordinary
6 purposes and for other county purposes for which the
7 county may levy a tax other than for Tri-County
8 Technical College and other matters related thereto.
9 There is a public hearing for this. The same
10 instructions I read earlier do apply. When you come
11 forward please state your name and address and
12 district. Thank you. That being said the public
13 hearing for the budget ordinance is now open. Anyone
14 wishing to speak please come forward.

15 PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2008-027

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to approve
17 ordinance 2008-027. Is there a second?

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
20 discussion?

21 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

23 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
24 have three items related to the budget that I would
25 like to pursue while I have the floor. Two will
26 require a motion and hopefully a second and a vote by
27 council. One will not. So if you would allow me to
28 retain the floor until I have completed all three items
29 I would appreciate it. At this time would all the
30 female employees of Anderson County please stand? That
31 does not include council members. If you work for
32 Anderson County in any capacity and you're a female
33 employee, please stand. I want to offer you something
34 tonight. There is an ad that is running, it is a part
35 of the political campaign for this council seat, and it
36 is very negative. It is very demeaning to the women
37 who are employed by Anderson County. And I want to
38 offer you, the ladies who are employed by Anderson
39 County, my sincerest apologies that you've been drawn
40 into this. You do not deserve this. And it should not
41 be affecting you in the way that I hear that it has.
42 And I offer you my sincerest apologies that you have
43 been drawn -- it's not my ad now. But I want you to
44 know that I offer you my sincerest apologies that the
45 female employees of Anderson County have been drawn
46 into this. And I thank you for your service to
47 Anderson County. The next item that I have, Mr.
48 Chairman, is over the course of the last several months
49 there's been a lot of discussion related to credit
50 cards and credit card charges. And I have, contrary to

1 some opinions, I have been involved in this and have
2 been watching this and have been observing what's going
3 on and do wish to address credit cards, their use and
4 charges as we are moving through the budget process.
5 So at this time I'm going to make a motion to amend the
6 budget ordinance to include, at the very bare minimum,
7 language that would require all credit charges that are
8 made to be accompanied by a detailed receipt and a
9 written report giving the who, the what, the when, the
10 where and the why the purchase of the charge was made.
11 And that's in the form of a motion. I also want to add
12 to that motion that I'm recommending that the chairman
13 appoint a committee to consist of the chair, the vice
14 chair and another council member of the chair's
15 choosing to look into creating a detailed credit card
16 policy to ensure that credit cards are used the way
17 they're intended to use. And that's in the form of a
18 motion.

19 CINDY WILSON: I'll second. And while I
20 have the floor, may I?

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. Greer still
22 has the floor.

23 CINDY WILSON: This is for a second.

24 LARRY GREER: That was in the form of a
25 motion.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion and
27 a second. Now we are in discussion regarding the
28 credit card charges and policy that Mr. Greer just
29 gave. Ms. Wilson.

30 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
31 definitely could use some improvements in the policy,
32 but from my observation the current policy that we have
33 and the review of credit card expenses for a short
34 period of time in 2006 and then this past year for a
35 short period of time, there were virtually no expense
36 reports and only a few receipts. I think that it's
37 incumbent on our local government to enforce what we
38 have right now while we move through an improved
39 policy. Thank you.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Preston,
41 don't we currently have something like this in place?

42 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. We do.

43 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I think we all
46 know that I've been pretty much involved in this issue
47 of credit cards and have asked a number of questions of
48 Mr. Preston from time to time about the policy that we
49 have. And I think Mr. Preston is basically correct in
50 that we do have a policy. We just don't follow the

1 policy. We are -- there are, you know, no
2 documentation of where this money is being spent, and
3 as Mr. Greer has pointed out, this is a crying need for
4 us to restore confidence in spending practices. We're
5 here talking about spending a hundred and forty-four
6 million dollars in our next budget. But I think we
7 need to drop back just a step and try to put some real
8 teeth and integrity in this policy. What I found out
9 in my trying to deal with issue is that sometimes a
10 policy would apply, but then sometimes a policy would
11 not apply. And I saw -- and I got stacks of these
12 records when I was trying to go through them they were
13 mishmash. The they were unindexed, very difficult to
14 read. And a lot of times it would simply be said,
15 business luncheon. That's all. And there would be a
16 rather large bill. There was no itemization. Nothing
17 as to the who, the what, the where and the when that
18 Mr. Greer was alluding to. So I applaud Mr. Greer's
19 motion on that. I think it's wonderful. But I think
20 that it's something that's got to apply to everyone,
21 not just the employees out there, the ordinary
22 employees, but the top tier employees. And I realize
23 that there are some instances of economic development,
24 and that's a whole different ball game that we've got
25 to deal with because I realize that while we're all
26 equal some of us appear to be more equal than others.
27 So when we get into this issue, I want to make sure
28 that we have an ironclad policy. I think that the city
29 of Anderson has gone through some of the same things.
30 And I think Mr. Preston wants to look at a purchasing
31 card system which I had suggested some time back. But
32 in that system you document every expenditure. So Mr.
33 Greer, I'm here to thank you for coming forward on this
34 issue. I think it's an important one. And I for one
35 appreciate it.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Preston, we
38 do have guidelines and procedures to use with our
39 cards. Am I correct?

40 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. That is
41 correct.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. And I
43 received information from you this week about another
44 system that you were asked to look at by one of the
45 council members that the city is using and you were --
46 you and the county will be looking at that procedure as
47 we go along once you look at some other things. Am I
48 correct?

49 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. I believe
50 that's going to require us to probably change our

1 purchasing policy, but we are doing that.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Mr. Preston,
3 tell me something about our credit card procedure.
4 Maybe it's just not understood. As many times as the
5 council member who made this amendment and I have
6 talked, I never was under the impression that there was
7 a problem because I thought that we had talked this out
8 and we kind of agreed about the county council -- about
9 the credit cards. And now I'm hearing this amendment,
10 and I'm being asked to, I'm being asked to correct
11 something that I didn't know was a problem. Could you
12 talk to me about that? I know some of these folks,
13 some of these armchair accountants out there know it
14 was a problem because they know everything and
15 everything is a problem. But talk to me about that.

16 JOEY PRESTON: Well, I'm going to ask our
17 chief financial officer to explain the policy that we
18 have. I can comment on that after she finishes.

19 GINA HUMPHRIES: Thank you, Mr. Preston. The
20 county does have policies that govern the expenditure
21 of county funds when those expenditures are made with a
22 county credit card. There are various reasons that an
23 individual might need to use a credit card. Not all of
24 those reasons are for travel. Sometimes we make
25 purchases of goods and supplies that we need to do
26 business. And the vendor won't accept a county check.
27 Perhaps we have not established a credit relationship
28 with that vendor. So in those instances we might use a
29 credit card. In that situation we would have an
30 invoice showing the vendor's name, the date, the
31 amount, what the goods or services are. And that would
32 be included in our file along with the credit card
33 statement. Another instance where a credit card might
34 be used is for travel. What I am seeing, interestingly
35 enough, is that some hotels won't accept a check. I
36 personally, I like to take a check with me when I go to
37 a hotel and stay. I like to walk up to the counter and
38 pay with a check. I had one instance not long ago
39 where they simply wouldn't take the check, so I wound
40 up putting it on my own personal credit card, which is
41 fine. So for travel purchases for lodging you need a
42 credit card oftentimes just simply to make
43 reservations. And when we do that oftentimes we'll
44 have a confirmation that comes back whether it's e-mail
45 or regular mail, and that confirmation goes in our
46 file. The code actually requires the employee to bring
47 back the hotel or motel receipt which often is an eight
48 and half by eleven sheet of paper which states what the
49 lodging costs, if there were any other purchases made
50 toward that stay. And that's put in the file and that

1 is filed with the credit card statement. Meals is
2 another instance. And that's one area that we have
3 talked about because quite frankly I think the county
4 is behind in their meal per diem allowance. You know
5 it's twenty-eight dollars a day. The IRS federal
6 standard rate is thirty-nine dollars per day. And that
7 is in low cost areas. If you're interested, you can go
8 on the IRS website and print out tables of what they
9 call high cost areas. And just in South Carolina, some
10 of those areas are Columbia, Myrtle Beach, Greenville,
11 Spartanburg. So that's another -- that's an area we
12 need to look at. We -- in my opinion we need to look
13 at it globally and not just one piece of it. Because I
14 think there are many areas in that particular code of
15 ordinances that just need to be updated because they
16 haven't been looked at or updated in we think close to
17 twenty years. But to sum it all up when we use credit
18 cards, we do have backup documentation. An employee --
19 if I'm traveling and I spend my personal funds, when I
20 come back home to the county I fill out an expense
21 report. And that expense report asks me where did you
22 go, what did you do, and what was the business purpose
23 of it? And we fill those expense reports out. And
24 then the reimbursement checks are cut to the employee.
25 So I guess to sum it all up there is backup
26 documentation. There is a policy. Can it be updated
27 and improved? I think so.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I was thinking
30 about my next question. When this thing first hit --
31 when this thing first came up and somebody started
32 looking for something to do and they started digging up
33 the credit cards thing, okay, these folks were given
34 the information that they requested as far as the
35 credit card things were concerned, right? And at that
36 time, at that time before then it was not a question of
37 credit card fraud, was it? There was just something
38 that somebody just -- they were just looking for
39 something to do and they dug it up and all a sudden
40 we've got this big credit card thing going on. That's
41 the way I see it. I didn't know and I still don't
42 think that we have a problem with our credit cards. I
43 do believe that we have been following procedure. I
44 believe that we have done the accounting that we need
45 to do. It may be that we can do things better. I can
46 do things better in keeping my yard, and my yard is
47 something that I take pride in. And as pretty as it
48 is, there are some things that I can do to improve
49 that. There's always room for improvement in
50 everything. But I'm being asked to sit here and say

1 that there is something wrong with the credit and --
2 the credit cards and we've got to fix it. So I'm
3 supposed to agree on this amendment. I don't think
4 there's anything wrong with our credit card. I think
5 if there were that we would have been told this during
6 our audit, would we not? Yes. We would have been told
7 during our audit. Yeah. And I stand behind the audit.
8 I stand behind the audit. And that's what I wanted to
9 say. And I thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd. Time
11 has expired on this topic.

12 CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make a motion to
13 please extend by twenty minutes the budget discussion
14 please.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A motion to extend by
16 twenty minutes. The chair seconds. All in favor of
17 extending the discussion by twenty minutes, please
18 vote. Six. Ms. Floyd, how do you vote?

19 GRACIE FLOYD: I vote on the negative.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Six and one. You
21 have twenty minutes. Any more discussion on Mr.
22 Greer's amendment?

23 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson, we're
25 discussing Mr. Greer's amendment.

26 RON WILSON: Let me ask a question here.
27 Mr. Waldrep and others, I take it by their comments and
28 their body language, feel that the information they
29 received didn't have the backup. And what you just
30 said earlier, Ms. Humphries, was that there's backup
31 there. My question is, why did they not receive that?

32 GINA HUMPHRIES: I will say that during that
33 time period we had multiple news agencies, multiple
34 individuals from the council coming in at the same time
35 going through these boxes of information. One news
36 agency made copies. That entailed the tearing apart of
37 the detailed receipts from the top sheet of paper which
38 is normally the credit card statement. Quite frankly
39 when you have multiple people taking apart papers and
40 maybe putting them back together again as they found
41 them or maybe not doing that, that's a little
42 troubling. Because we spent I know a lot of time in
43 the finance department after the dust was settled on
44 all of this, we spent hours and hours and days and days
45 putting everything back together. So that's one thing
46 I would point out.

47 RON WILSON: Well, we've got this Supreme
48 Court case out of the way now. And my question is if a
49 person or someone on the council came to y'all and
50 asked for whatever to do with credit cards, any

1 department or whatever, would they be able to look at
2 that with the credit card receipt and the backup
3 information as to who ate lunch that day and what
4 project it was supposedly for, if say we're talking
5 about economic development?

6 GINA HUMPHRIES: Are you talking about
7 economic development?

8 RON WILSON: Yeah. Let's just use that
9 as an example.

10 GINA HUMPHRIES: What our procedure is, when
11 any council member has a request for information, since
12 we report to the administrator, we first seek
13 permission from him to provide that information to the
14 council member. Now if it were an economic development
15 matter, then yes. Those cards were made available, and
16 the backup documentation was there.

17 RON WILSON: So when they use that for
18 lunch or let's just say a lunch. Well, let's just say
19 they travel somewhere. You've got a motel bill.
20 You've got the meals, and it's going to list either what
21 company or whatever they were dealing with or how would
22 that be handled?

23 GINA HUMPHRIES: They are listed by project
24 name. It might be project A, project B.

25 RON WILSON: But all of that information
26 concerning who ate and what project it was and the
27 purpose for that trip is all in the backup information?

28 GINA HUMPHRIES: It is.

29 RON WILSON: Currently, right now?

30 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes.

31 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

32 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

34 CINDY WILSON: I made my first request to
35 go look at the credit card files, billing statements
36 and backup mid-September of '07. After much wrangling
37 and I mean I don't know how many different ways one can
38 request an opportunity to go look at public
39 information, we were allowed to go look at it February
40 the 6th and the 8th. We tried to take our own copy
41 machine and paper in to take -- make copies of certain
42 things. It was the worst unbelievable battle over our
43 having that opportunity you've ever seen. Then we set
44 papers aside to be copied. And as far as I know they
45 were all still attached. We did not get those until a
46 certain councilman paid, I think, five or six hundred
47 dollars out of his own personal money to get that box.
48 Now when we did go to look on February the 6th, they
49 were in a terrible disarray and most notable for what
50 was lacking, not what was there. I asked from

1 September all the way through to look at the credit
2 card billing statements and all the backup. We never
3 saw anything near all of it. This county has twenty-
4 three credit cards that we could find. And we only saw
5 a fragment of it.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

7 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I call for the
8 question.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: On the amendment?

10 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion to
12 call for the question on the amendment. Is there a
13 second? We have a second. All in favor of Mr. Greer's
14 amendment to -- oh, I'm sorry. You're right. All in
15 favor for the call for the question on the amendment,
16 please vote. Unanimous. Okay. So we will vote on
17 this. All in favor of Mr. Greer's amendment regarding
18 credit card policies making an appointments and credit
19 card charges in detail, please vote. One, two, three,
20 four, five. Oppose.

21 BOB WALDREP: Could I ask a question?

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are voting, Mr. Waldrep.
23 Opposed is Floyd and Thompson. So the amendment passes
24 five, two, with Thompson and Floyd voting in the
25 negative. Now we are in discussion regarding the
26 budget ordinance as amended by Mr. Greer's amendment.
27 Any discussion on that?

28 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: I had one other item that I
31 want to clear or propose or put before council, and
32 then I'll sit back and listen to some of the other
33 discussion. And I am discouraged, I guess is a good
34 word to put, by the fact that we're proposing a budget
35 where the employee pay raises do not kick in until
36 January the 1st of 2009. And our employees need and
37 deserve the ability to try to maintain a respectable
38 standard of living like everyone else. So I'm going to
39 propose to amend the budget to instruct the
40 administrator and staff to come back to us on third
41 reading with a plan that implements employee pay raises
42 as of July the 1st. That's in the form of a motion to
43 amend.

44 RON WILSON: Second.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Your amendment is
46 basically you want the employee raises to begin July 1.
47 Is that correct?

48 LARRY GREER: A plan to implement pay
49 raises as of July 1st.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. A plan to implement

1 employee raises by July 1 of this year. And Mr. Wilson
2 second that. Do we have any discussion on this
3 amendment?

4 BOB WALDREP: Chairman.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

6 BOB WALDREP: I just wondered from the
7 financial standpoint how much money we're talking about
8 here. Mr. Preston, do you know?

9 JOEY PRESTON: The general fund, you'll be
10 adding about two hundred thousand dollars, maybe a
11 little more than that. The Sheriff's department might
12 be three times that. You'd be adding an additional
13 five hundred thousand dollars, perhaps six hundred
14 thousand dollars. We don't know yet for the Sheriff's
15 office, to their budget. What you'll be doing is
16 you'll be increasing the budget that much money.

17 BOB WALDREP: Or either decreasing it
18 somewhere else.

19 JOEY PRESTON: You'll have to -- you'll
20 either cut it or you'll take it from ---

21 BOB WALDREP: That's right. I think
22 that's the way it works, isn't it? Either plus or
23 minus. Okay. Thank you.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Preston, in the
27 past, how have we handled our employee raises?

28 JOEY PRESTON: Well, differently. Each
29 year has been different. The current operating budget
30 that we're in now, we had the cost of living kick in
31 January the 1st along with the merit raises. Longevity
32 was all through the budget year beginning July 1, June
33 30. And that was simply what we were simply proposing,
34 is the same thing that we have in this current year
35 budget.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Is what we did last year?

37 JOEY PRESTON: One of the benefits and
38 advantages to that is that most of our revenue comes in
39 around January.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: That's what I thought. When
41 the taxes are being paid.

42 JOEY PRESTON: We'll try to make it work if
43 you all want us to do that. We've got issues that we
44 have to address in this year's budget such as the
45 funding of Gasby 45, our retirement benefits
46 requirement. And that's going to have to be addressed
47 in this year's budget or it will affect your bond
48 rating. I can tell you that. It will affect your bond
49 rating if that's not addressed. There's only two ways
50 you can address it. And first is you either use fund

1 balance which is what we're proposing to do that 'til
2 the Association of Counties kicks in and until they
3 come up with a better recommendation or until we can
4 come up with one for them, or you raise taxes. So
5 those are the issues that we have -- that's a major
6 issue we have to address in this year's budget. Which
7 when you increase that we certainly would like to see
8 that happen. We support that. We'll certainly try to
9 find a way to make that work if that's what you all
10 want us to do. But you all as a board need to
11 understand, for every one percent you raise, it's a
12 five hundred thousand dollar plus amount countywide.
13 So we were instructed to present you with a budget that
14 addressed the needs that you asked us to address,
15 employee raises without a tax increase. And you also
16 asked us to roll back the levy too during a
17 reassessment year. That's what we have before you.

18 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: No. I have the floor.

20 Thank you. So what we're basically doing is the same
21 thing we did last year. We waited until January. And
22 I believe I was told at that time the tax payment
23 starts coming in, is that right, for the fiscal year?

24 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: So we have the money
26 available. Now all of a sudden, all of a sudden it's
27 not the right thing to do. And all of a sudden we have
28 to get the money right now to pay the employees. Now,
29 county employees, you know how I feel about you. I'll
30 stand up before God and man and defend you and praise
31 you. But we've got to do what's best for the people of
32 Anderson County. And the people who -- the county
33 employees who are complaining, please stand up. Uh-
34 huh. County employees who complain that you won't get
35 your money until January, please stand up right now.
36 That's what I thought. That's what I thought. We are
37 trying to make it right for everybody. We're trying to
38 give you what you need and what you deserve. But we
39 have to do it in a manner that's going to protect
40 Anderson County. It's okay to stand up and say, oh
41 yes, let's give the employees their raise right now.
42 It's an election year, folks. Thank you.

43 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

45 CINDY WILSON: Why don't we look at the
46 budget a little more carefully? Would it not be
47 prudent to refrain from new hires until January in
48 order to fund our new employees. And there are some
49 other items like maybe put a freeze on bar bills and
50 things of that nature until our employees have been

1 properly cared for? I think that's something that we
2 need to examine.

3 JOEY PRESTON: We've already done that, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 CINDY WILSON: Oh. You mean you're not
6 charging bar bills?

7 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am.

8 CINDY WILSON: I have a question to ask.
9 Where in our budget is the projects or the set of
10 projects for district seven?

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, we are still
12 discussing the employee plan that Mr. Greer proposed.
13 That's the topic.

14 CINDY WILSON: Well, I offered a remedy and
15 I was laughed at.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, anyone wish to
17 discuss anymore? It is a plan. Mr. Preston has to
18 come up with a plan to start the employee raises July 1
19 of this year. That's the topic. Anyone wish to
20 discuss that? Chair calls for the question. Not the
21 question. I'm sorry. Chair calls for the vote on Mr.
22 Greer's amendment for a plan to start the employees'
23 raises July 1, 2008. All in favor of this amendment,
24 please vote. One, two, three, four. All oppose.
25 McAbee, Floyd and Thompson oppose. The amendment
26 passes. So now we're back into the discussion of the
27 budget as amended by the two amendments that Mr. Greer
28 presented.

29 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now Ms. Wilson.

31 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. In the budget
32 presentation the last time, the administrator presented
33 some projects. And one was the town of Honea Path
34 community room. And there was also mention over the
35 many, many years that I've requested matching grant
36 funds for other needs in district seven like the
37 waterlines and the fire departments and other municipal
38 needs and improvements. I was never allowed that.
39 Where in our budget is this Honea Path project? I
40 can't find it in this blue book. Would someone look at
41 my blue book and show it to me?

42 JOEY PRESTON: Let me remind you, Ms.
43 Wilson, when you propose capital projects like this,
44 we're proposing that these projects be funded by
45 issuing a general obligation bond. You all haven't
46 done that yet. And when you pass the budget, you have
47 the language in there that will allow us to move
48 forward to that so that we can issue the bond in order
49 to do the projects. So what happens is in the future
50 like we said whenever levy comes off the debt service

1 levy, then we'll take that levy that comes off and use
2 that to retire the debt which means we put together a
3 plan so that there's not going to be a tax increase.
4 So the proposal, ---
5 CINDY WILSON: So when would that be?
6 JOEY PRESTON: -- if you pass the budget,
7 you're passing those projects and you're allowing it --
8 it's in the language in the ordinance, you're allowing
9 us to move forward with doing those projects.
10 CINDY WILSON: Well, I remember in budgets
11 past, there was a list of bridges and I cannot remember
12 offhand, but I think there were one or two bridges that
13 were never done yet they were in the budget
14 presentation.
15 JOEY PRESTON: Go to page eleven in your
16 blue -- capital projects.
17 CINDY WILSON: This part?
18 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am, your blue binder.
19 This book right here. Go to capital projects and look
20 at page eleven.
21 CINDY WILSON: All I see is 401CIP and nine
22 point three million dollars. There are no names.
23 JOEY PRESTON: Bingo. Got it. That's it
24 right there.
25 CINDY WILSON: But there are no names.
26 JOEY PRESTON: Well, if you'd like for us
27 to itemize the names right there we would -- it's in
28 the budget presentation.
29 CINDY WILSON: Yes. We had bridge projects
30 that were not done as per their being presented.
31 JOEY PRESTON: Not to be argumentative, Ms.
32 Wilson, what happens is when you prepare -- when you do
33 the actual bond ordinance like we did earlier with the
34 special source revenue bond, you list the projects at
35 that time. That's the way we've always done it and
36 that's the way you do it.
37 CINDY WILSON: Well, it wasn't in that bond
38 year on that GOB for that year. I think it was
39 Stephenson Road Bridge. Would someone possibly be able
40 to explain or answer the questions that I asked earlier
41 regarding the differences in revenues in millage rates?
42 For example in the general fund it mentions that our
43 current revenue rate is somewhere around thirty-nine
44 point six million. And it's project -- at thirty point
45 six mils. And it's projected to go down in millage to
46 twenty-nine point five. And then it'll be forty-six
47 five roughly million. And then in the Sheriff's
48 department the millage remains the same and of course
49 it goes up in projected revenues. But then I never got
50 an answer on why Tri-County would have a less amount of

1 revenue this year at three point eight mils. And then
2 this coming year we're cutting millage and it's going
3 up. Library the same thing. I'm not sure the numbers
4 quite correlate. I just can't quite seem to get any
5 matches in my mind. Would someone be able to explain
6 that to us, why we're cutting special education and the
7 EMS millage and let's see -- oh, our debt service has
8 gone way up. It's gone from four point eight to seven
9 point two mils.

10 JOEY PRESTON: Just to answer the last
11 question that you asked first, the reason that you cut
12 the millage is because you want to avoid the windfall
13 that Mr. Harvell was talking about earlier. That's why
14 you reduce it. Ms. Humphries now is going to take you
15 through a detail which explains that.

16 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

17 GINA HUMPHRIES: Okay. What I've put on the
18 screen is the notice that was in the paper. And Ms.
19 Wilson, I think this might be from where some of your
20 questions are coming from at least. This public notice
21 lays out the total budgeted revenues and the millage
22 rates that are applicable to each of those funds. And
23 I'll just go down the list with you. I hope you can
24 read this. The general fund. You'll see the '07-'08
25 budget was thirty-nine million five hundred sixty-four
26 thousand. And the millage rate was thirty point six.
27 That was the current year we are in right now.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Humphries.

29 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir?

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment please. The
31 time has expired. The chair moves to extend the time
32 by eleven minutes. That would take us up to the forty-
33 five minutes maximum per ordinance.

34 RON WILSON: Second.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
36 favor of extending the time by eleven minutes, please
37 vote. The vote is unanimous. And please note that Ms.
38 Floyd is absent. She has excused herself. Anyway.
39 Time has been extended by eleven minutes. Please
40 continue.

41 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir. If I could ask
42 you if you have your blue budget binder with you, would
43 you please turn to the section that's titled revenues
44 because I want to show you something. And while you're
45 finding that I will tell you that this number, the
46 forty-six million four seventy-nine eight fifty, that
47 is a combination of not only property tax revenue but
48 also other sources of revenue, fees, state support. So
49 it is a misconception to try to equate these numbers
50 solely attributable to this millage rate. Okay. If

1 you're looking in your budget book, look in the revenue
2 section. Look at the general fund. There's probably
3 two or three pages there. If you go to the end ---

4 CINDY WILSON: General fund?

5 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, ma'am. It should be
6 the first two or three pages under the revenue tab, Ms.
7 Wilson.

8 CINDY WILSON: Would this be the first page
9 summary of budget revenues all funds? Is that what
10 you're referring to?

11 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes. Do you see where it
12 lays out the property tax revenues as being the first
13 two or three line items on the revenue list?

14 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Okay.

15 GINA HUMPHRIES: Okay. The first three or
16 four line items are property taxes. I believe it says
17 real property tax, vehicle property tax, and then it
18 says fee in lieu of tax. If you were to add up those
19 three numbers, you're going to come up to about
20 nineteen million dollars for the proposed budget '08-
21 '09. So what I'm saying is out of this forty-six point
22 four million only nineteen million of it is property
23 tax revenue. That nineteen million is driven by this
24 twenty-nine and a half mils. So I can kind of see how
25 people would get confused because the thirty point six
26 mils last year didn't produce thirty-nine point nine
27 million of revenue. It only produced about fifteen or
28 sixteen million dollars.

29 CINDY WILSON: Would you tell us what the
30 value of the mil was for this current year and what you
31 now project.

32 GINA HUMPHRIES: Sure.

33 CINDY WILSON: Because I keep hearing
34 different numbers.

35 GINA HUMPHRIES: When we put the '07-'08
36 budget together, we used the value of a mil at five
37 hundred and eleven thousand dollars. Now as we're
38 going through this year I am calculating every month
39 what that actual value ...

40 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

41 GINA HUMPHRIES: ... but the point I'm trying
42 to make with this is again that that forty-six point
43 four million, that's not all property tax revenue.
44 Less than half of it is. In fact, less than half of
45 our budget is funded by property taxes. And so it goes
46 with the majority of these items. Some of these funds
47 are pure property tax revenue driven. Most of them are
48 not. The Sheriff's department is probably about
49 eighty-five percent to ninety percent property tax
50 driven. Special education that you know, that's Tri-

1 County Tech, that is total property tax revenue. That
2 is one hundred percent driven by property tax revenue.
3 Yes. And you'll notice here that we have projected the
4 millage to be three point seven for the special
5 education fund which again is Tri-County Tech. And the
6 reason we do that is because this is a reassessment
7 year and we have rules to follow with regard to how we
8 calculate what is called the rollback levy. I have
9 made those calculations. I will tell you again it is
10 an estimate. It is a formula with four factors in it
11 and only one of which is a known. I am estimating that
12 will be three point seven. That is the maximum amount
13 by law that we could levy for the special education
14 fund. EMS, again you'll see that levy is going down
15 from eight point nine to eight point seven. And it is
16 in the same situation as the Tri-County Tech levy. It
17 also is subject to rollback levy calculations. Any
18 countywide levy is subject to rollback levy
19 calculations. Library is in the exact same boat.
20 Infrastructure reserve fund, that's the new fund that
21 we are proposing for the payment of the Palmetto 800
22 system. Other special revenue funds, that basically is
23 anything other than the Sheriff's department. Debt
24 service. Again, the reason you see an increase there
25 of eight point one million to eight point nine million
26 is solely due to the first payment of the 800 megahertz
27 system which that will come due April 1, of 2009, and
28 it's about seven hundred and sixty-five thousand
29 dollars. Capital projects. Something interesting for
30 capital projects -- at least on the surface it looks
31 like there's a huge increase. But you need to know two
32 things that in that twenty-two million is nine point
33 three million of the GO bond that we are proposing to
34 issue for all the projects. Also in that number is a
35 two point eight million dollar special source revenue
36 bond that we just had, I believe, third reading on
37 tonight. And as I said in my files I have all the
38 calculations. I am happy to sit down with anybody and
39 review them with you if you desire that.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, Ms. Wilson has
44 the floor.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: How much more time do we
46 have?

47 CINDY WILSON: Very quickly, where do we
48 have the needs for Pelzer, West Pelzer and Williamston
49 in the budget?

50 GINA HUMPHRIES: The needs? I'm sorry, I'm

1 not following you.

2 CINDY WILSON: I thought they had sent
3 things to Mr. Preston to be included?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done, Ms. Wilson?

5 CINDY WILSON: Not really, but I'll yield
6 the floor to Ms. Floyd for a moment.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Ms. Floyd.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Preston,
9 Gina. Now, these new figures that you're showing us
10 here, will all this change since we're going to have to
11 increase taxes for Mr. Greer's proposal? Are we going
12 to have to increase taxes for that?

13 JOEY PRESTON: We were asked to come up
14 with a plan. And that's what we're going to come up
15 with.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: With a plan?

17 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: So you're going to come up
19 with a plan, not -- oh. I understand. I'm slow, but I
20 got it. I understand. A plan. I understand now.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

22 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 ... Anderson Honea Path Watkins Center because last
24 week we had a move to strip that out. And I'm a little
25 bit surprised that there's five council people here
26 that's more interested in Honea Path than their own.
27 But we got a new vote tonight. And it's interesting
28 for me to see how she'll vote on this one. Been on
29 this council eight years, she has told me before back
30 when we used to have conversations that she would never
31 vote for a budget until, using her terms, that there
32 was a forensic audit, which of course we have not had.
33 She's voted twenty-two times against every single
34 budget that's come before us in seven years. I for one
35 am a little bit tired of being more concerned with
36 Honea Path than their own councilman is. Several of us
37 have been called traitors and everything else under the
38 sun by some group in this county because we simply
39 changed our minds and did what we had voters and
40 constituents asked us to do. So I suspect that tonight
41 we're going to watch their councilman do something
42 similar and she will simply have done what the people
43 in her area want. I'm for this budget. I think we
44 have to make some other adjustments, but I'm for giving
45 second reading tonight exactly as it is and amended.
46 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

47 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. We have one
49 minute left. Ms. Floyd.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: I call for the question.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
2 question. All in favor of the call for the question
3 please raise your hand. Vote.
4 BILL MCABEE: Don't you need a second?
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need a second. I second
6 it.
7 GRACIE FLOYD: Good.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor -- one, two,
9 three, four. Four. Oppose for the call for the
10 question. Greer, Waldrep and Ms. Wilson. We're voting
11 on the amendment on the ordinance 2008-027 as amended
12 by Mr. Greer's two amendments. All in favor please
13 vote. We have -- I don't believe it.
14 GRACIE FLOYD: I don't believe it. First
15 time.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a seven and oh on
17 the budget.
18 CINDY WILSON: May I have the floor for a
19 brief moment?
20 BILL MCABEE: I think it's time for a
21 break.
22 CINDY WILSON: I'm doing this with a good
23 faith offer to have the rest of the numbers before we
24 come to third reading.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair. We're having a
26 ten minute break. Thank you.
27 BREAK
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We will continue at this
29 point.
30 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
32 LARRY GREER: If I could have the floor
33 for just a moment please.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.
35 LARRY GREER: I would like to clear up a
36 statement that was made as we closed out the discussion
37 on the budget. I offered two amendments to the budget.
38 One was dealing with credit cards and one was dealing
39 with the employee pay raises. And contrary to what was
40 stated by Ms. Floyd, neither of those two amendments
41 stated anything calling for a tax increase. I did not
42 propose a tax increase. And I want to make that
43 perfectly clear. Thank you.
44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
46 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'd like to
47 request the floor. No. It did not call for a tax
48 increase. This is why I questioned Mr. Greer. And it
49 did not call for a tax increase because we can't raise
50 taxes anymore because of Act 388. If we could have we

1 would have had to. What this does call for is for
2 money to be transferred out of our general budget. We
3 need the money in the general budget to keep -- not the
4 general budget -- in the general fund balance to keep
5 our bond rating that we have. Last year what we did
6 with the employees was good enough last year. We did
7 it. Everybody got their money. There was no
8 complaint. There was no complaint. But this year all
9 of a sudden we have to go back and amend the whole
10 thing because there are sixty-eight people living in
11 the wrong county, I understand. But the right thing
12 would be to do to continue doing what we have been
13 doing. No. It would not call for a tax increase, but
14 it's going to call for us to have to do things
15 differently. But I must remember that this is only a
16 plan. This is only a plan. And I must remember that
17 June 10th is when? Next Tuesday? And that June 10th
18 is next Tuesday. I must remember those two things.
19 Thank you.

20 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

22 BOB WALDREP: I just have to comment a
23 little bit on the plan, so to speak. No matter how we
24 look at the plan, it's got to balance out. We've got
25 to decide what our limitations are going to be. And I
26 think it's perfectly logical from Mr. Greer's motion
27 that something would have to be cut out of this plan,
28 so to speak. Last meeting we talked about all those
29 recreation issues. My problem with this budget, this
30 year, is our priorities. One of my favorite quotes is,
31 those things that matter most should never be at the
32 mercy of those things that matter least. And I know
33 everyone has got a different idea about their
34 priorities out here, but we're going to have to look at
35 these recreation building out there. And we're going
36 to have to look at some other needs. We've got water
37 needs. We've got even software needs in this county
38 that we could update our software. And yet we're
39 thinking about pleasure buildings and recreation.
40 We've got jail needs that we're going to be facing
41 sooner or later. Everybody says that we're not. And I
42 know that Mr. Chairman, you're aware of those jail
43 needs because we've talked about those from time to
44 time. We're not setting aside enough money to deal
45 with those federal issues. And the other thing, I
46 didn't think I would agree with Mr. Brown, but I do in
47 an issue that Mr. Brown raised up about taking money
48 out of our reserve fund has an effect on our standing
49 for our bond ratings and all. I just think we really
50 have got a lot of work to do on, quote, the plan. I

1 think the plan is very fluid, but the bottom is line is
2 going to be we're going to have to get ready to come
3 back and prioritize things. So thank you, Mr.
4 Chairman.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance 2008-029, a re-
6 zoning request ---

7 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I am -- no, ma'am. A re-
9 zoning request by Wesley G. Welborn, Jr. for re-zoning
10 from R20 to C1N of plus or minus two point zero one
11 acres of property at 3308 Highway 81 North Anderson.
12 The re-zoning is to create one zoning for all property
13 consistent with existing zoning of properties adjacent
14 north, west and south. There is a public hearing on
15 this. The same instructions I read at the beginning of
16 the meeting regarding public hearings still stand.
17 Anyone wishing to speak on this re-zoning issue, please
18 come forward and give your name, address and district
19 in which you live. This public hearing is now open.

20 PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2008-029

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to approve
22 ordinance 2008-029. Is there a second?

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
25 in discussion. I'd just like to say, Ms. Wilson, I was
26 not trying to be rude to you, but we were way off
27 topic. Mr. Greer asked for a moment and Ms. -- and it
28 just got out of hand. And I do apologize if I offend
29 you, but you now have the floor on this one.

30 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I accept the
31 apology. I was trying to get my two cents worth in
32 with permission as everybody else. In the issues of
33 re-zoning along 81, there's no doubt that it's a
34 commercial area. The problem that I'm hearing about
35 from the neighbors is that they really would prefer
36 that there be some type of screen or buffer to be put
37 in. Right now we've got just big red holes, and it
38 really is an eye sore for people coming in on 81 which
39 used to be our most beautiful artery into town. And I
40 would like to ask Mr. Ricketson if there are any
41 measures in place now that when we change zoning and
42 these people get whatever grading permits or what have
43 you and they create these big holes, they take the dirt
44 out making it level with the highway, is there any
45 provision in place where they should be required to
46 stabilize the red banks behind it and maybe plant
47 something to screen it from the really nice homes
48 there. It just looks so bad. And it really is not
49 appealing, I wouldn't think, to a real estate investor.

50

1 JEFF RICKETSON: Most of our, most of our
2 buffer yards and screening take place when the property
3 gets developed. So the only thing that we have in
4 place when it's still vacant is just best management
5 practices and whatever is required under their grading
6 permit. Again, until they submit a site plan and build
7 something we don't have anything currently in place.

8 CINDY WILSON: Would you look at maybe some
9 provision that we could put into place -- council and
10 all of us could look at it. Because I've seen red mud
11 tracked all over the road. I know SCDOT has made
12 numerous complaints. And there has to be a way to keep
13 it looking decent without breaking their pocketbooks
14 and stabilizing the dirt. I mean it's just running out
15 in the highway even with silt fencing. But, you know,
16 there's no question that it's an area going commercial.
17 And I think it's our duty to make a transitional space
18 between this. It's really looking blighted right now.
19 Would it be possible to get you to look into that and
20 maybe give us some suggestions maybe by next council
21 meeting?

22 JEFF RICKETSON: We can do that.

23 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

25 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just have
26 one quick question. Mr. Ricketson, on these buffers
27 and things of that nature, did I understand you to say
28 that when you change the zoning that you don't
29 necessarily have language in the ordinance or a
30 stipulation or condition on this zoning that requires
31 this to take place, these buffer zones?

32 JEFF RICKETSON: There is language in there,
33 but it doesn't take, it doesn't take effect until they
34 build something on it. Right now they're just changing
35 the zoning on it. And in most cases you don't really
36 grade anything until you're ready to build something.
37 But in this case, the one that Ms. Wilson is talking
38 about, they have kind of raked out a cliff and just
39 left a pretty ugly site there.

40 BOB WALDREP: So what authority do you
41 have to correct that?

42 JEFF RICKETSON: We don't have anything in
43 place currently that allows us to deal with just where
44 they're moving dirt around and grading without any kind
45 of building plan.

46 BOB WALDREP: Well, isn't there a need for
47 that, Mr. Ricketson?

48 JEFF RICKETSON: I'm hearing that there is.
49 I'll give you a proposal of something that we can do
50 that you can consider.

1 BOB WALDREP: I would suggest that you try
2 to come up with something like that. I just -- the
3 reason I mention that, Mr. Chairman, is you know when
4 you go out and you knock on doors every now and then,
5 somebody comes to the door and they will not give you a
6 glass of water whenever they find out who you are
7 because you did not attend to their zoning issue as the
8 way that you should have. And so I left very thirsty
9 from one of my constituents out there on that point.
10 Thank you.

11 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

13 LARRY GREER: Just a real quick follow-up
14 to Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson. Mr. Ricketson, I'm
15 looking at this. I believe this a change from R20 to
16 C1N. And doesn't the land use regs that we have in
17 place require some type of buffer where you have
18 commercial backing up to residential once the
19 commercial property is developed? So there is some
20 land use regs in place to address this buffer issue
21 concern once the development actually takes place. Is
22 that correct?

23 JEFF RICKETSON: Correct.

24 LARRY GREER: Thank you.

25 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

27 CINDY WILSON: Just to clarify. The issue
28 that we have in several sites along 81, it's not so
29 much that it's re-zoned and changing use, but it's that
30 they've already dug out big holes adjoining
31 neighborhoods, nice homes. One of them -- there's
32 probably a ten, twelve foot drop bank to highway level
33 that's been dug out for about an acre. And it's very
34 unsightly. We all understand the need to grow and to
35 develop in an organized manner. And I think there's a
36 big hole in our land use regulations and subdivision
37 standards right now. And this would be a good time to
38 address it. Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair calls for the
40 vote on ordinance 2008-029. All in favor please vote.
41 Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-030, a re-zoning request by
42 Brian Wilson for re-zoning from R20 to R15 of plus or
43 minus five acres of property on Thompson Road,
44 Anderson. The re-zoning is to create one zoning for
45 all property consistent with existing use and zoning
46 northeast and west of the parcel. There is a public
47 hearing on this. The same rules apply. Come forward,
48 speak your name, address and district number. And at
49 this time the public hearing is open. Anyone wishing
50 to speak on this re-zoning issue? Seeing and hearing

1 none, the public hearing is closed. The chair moves to
2 approve ordinance 2008-030. Is there a second?

3 BILL MCABEE: Second.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The chair
5 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
6 030, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-031, a
7 re-zoning request by Joey Pearson for re-zoning from
8 RM7, multi-family residential to S1, services district
9 at 740 Simpson Road, Anderson. The re-zoning is to
10 allow for development of additional mini-warehouses on
11 the property now containing nonconforming uses
12 including mini-warehouses and a construction office and
13 storage yard. There is a public hearing on this.
14 Anyone wishing to speak, please come forward. The
15 public hearing is open. Seeing and hearing none the
16 public hearing is closed. The chair moves to approve
17 ordinance 2008-031. Is there a second?

18 BILL MCABEE: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. -- I'm sorry. Jeff, Mr.
23 Ricketson, please come to the mic. Thank you. Mr.
24 Ricketson, I have been trying to figure out where this
25 place is the whole weekend. Could you tell me where it
26 is please?

27 JEFF RICKETSON: It's near the intersection
28 of Simpson Road and Old Williamston Road near the
29 infamous radio station everybody has been talking about
30 tonight.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh. Okay. Isn't there a
32 mini-warehouse there now?

33 JEFF RICKETSON: There is a contractor's shop
34 and a mini-warehouse. Both of those are located on
35 this property now. And what he wants to do is build an
36 additional mini-warehouse building on the property.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Using the same
38 property? He just wants to add some?

39 JEFF RICKETSON: Yeah. What's there now is
40 grandfathered. It's not zoned for that. So what he's
41 trying to do now is change the zoning so he can do it
42 and it be conforming and not be grandfathered.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. And you have not
44 heard anything at all from the residents in that area?
45 Cause I know there are a lot of houses out there.

46 JEFF RICKETSON: There have been two public
47 hearings. The district one citizens' advisory
48 committee and the planning commission held hearings,
49 and they both unanimously approved it and there hasn't
50 been any opposition.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Mr.
2 Ricketson, do you know whether or not in your
3 professional experience that if this is going to
4 increase the traffic flow in that area, because right
5 now it's almost impossible.

6 JEFF RICKETSON: It will nominally increase
7 the traffic flow in the area. I don't think it's going
8 to overload the road system that's there now.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Do you travel that
10 way much?

11 JEFF RICKETSON: I do.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. Thank
13 you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
15 calls for the vote of ordinance 2008-031. All in favor
16 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-032, an
17 ordinance to provide for the creation of the Whispering
18 Oaks special tax district to establish the nature of
19 services to be performed therein, to designate the
20 uniform service charge in the special tax district, to
21 provide for the operation of the special tax district
22 and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
23 approve. Is there a second?

24 BOB WALDREP: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Discussion? Mr. McAbee,
26 Mr. Martin, what are we doing? What's this special
27 district all about?

28 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, a subdivision
29 or the property owners in a subdivision may move to or
30 may petition to create a special tax district in their
31 subdivision to pay for particular services or to
32 improve the roads up to county standards.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?

34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman. Am I to
35 understand that it's seventy-five percent of the
36 property owners have to ---

37 BILL MCABEE: Seventy-five percent of the
38 assessed value of the property ---

39 BOB WALDREP: Assessed value. Not the
40 property owners.

41 BILL MCABEE: Right. Am I mistaken?

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

43 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44 Mr. McAbee, you and Mr. Waldrep are both right.

45 BOB WALDREP: No.

46 TOM MARTIN: It is seventy-five percent
47 of the property owners owning seventy-five percent of
48 the assessed value. Both requirements have to be met
49 or else you have to hold a referendum. If both of
50 those requirements are met then council can do it by

1 ordinance without a referendum.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
3 calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-032. All in favor
4 please vote. Unanimous. Acceptance of Well Pine
5 Crossing Subdivision into the county road system. The
6 chair moves to accept. Is there a second?
7 LARRY GREER: Second.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
9 favor of accepting Well Pine Crossing Subdivision into
10 the county road system please vote. Unanimous.
11 Appointments. Does anyone have any appointments?
12 Hearing and seeing none, we're moving on. Requests by
13 council members. Mr. Waldrep.
14 BOB WALDREP: No requests at this time,
15 Mr. Chairman.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
17 GRACIE FLOYD: No requests.
18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
19 LARRY GREER: None.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
21 BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr.
22 Chairman.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for me. Mr. Ron
24 Wilson.
25 RON WILSON: None at this time, Mr.
26 Chairman.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- I'm sorry. Ms.
28 Cindy Wilson.
29 CINDY WILSON: None at this time. Thank
30 you.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are adjourned.
32
33 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – June 17, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 17, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

4 BOB WALDREP: I would make a motion that
5 we adjust our agenda to move item seven to just below
6 the citizens' comments, item four. I think that
7 would be in keeping with the logic of the discussion
8 of their budget before we vote on it.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
10 on the floor to amend the agenda to move item seven
11 to after citizens' comments. Is there a second on
12 that motion?

13 CINDY WILSON: Second.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You have a second on that
15 motion. We are now in discussion. Let me explain
16 what I did and why I did it. Normally, discussion
17 without any votes would go in the three o'clock
18 meeting. This item was the only item for a three
19 o'clock meeting, therefore, we did not have a three
20 o'clock meeting today. And so I just put it on this
21 agenda. And that's what I did and why I did it.
22 Anyone else wish to speak on this amendment?

23 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

25 BOB WALDREP: If no one else is
26 speaking, I just think that it follows that it would
27 be prudent to have the discussion before we vote as
28 opposed to having the discussion after we vote.

29 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. Ms. Wilson.

31 CINDY WILSON: My requests from our
32 previous several meetings has been for our council to
33 have a bonafide discussion where we actually look at
34 the numbers and discuss it. And I had requested to
35 be on prior to the third reading of the budget at the
36 regularly called meeting.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Anyone
38 else? Okay. All in favor of amending the agenda to
39 move item seven to after item four, please vote.
40 Two. Opposed, three. Opposed, three. And Mr. Greer
41 abstains. Three, three tie. It does not pass. Is
42 that right, Mr. Martin? Okay. It stays where it is.
43 Now we have approval of the minutes, June 3rd, 2008
44 called meeting and the regular meeting. I'm going to
45 do these together. Is there any objection for me
46 doing them together? Seeing and hearing none, I'm
47 doing them together. All in favor ---

48 CINDY WILSON: Excuse me.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- of approving the
50 minutes for June 3rd, 2008. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

1 The chair moves to approve the minutes for June 3rd,
2 2008, both the called meeting and the regular
3 meeting. Is there a second?

4 CINDY WILSON: Second.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
6 discussion?

7 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

9 CINDY WILSON: In glancing through the
10 minutes it was observed that this time and the last
11 time we have not been putting in our minutes a
12 transcription of the citizens' comments. And I
13 understand that we have time and space constrictions.
14 But I think we should at least write down the name of
15 the citizen and a synopsis of what they stated. And
16 that should be included in our minutes, if not
17 completely transcribed.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you are moving
19 to amend the minutes for citizens' comments to have
20 their name and a synopsis of what they said?

21 CINDY WILSON: At the minimum.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: At the minimum. Is there
23 a second for Ms. Wilson's amendment?

24 BOB WALDREP: Second.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second for her
26 amendment. Okay. Anyone else? So we're going to
27 vote on Ms. Wilson's amendment. All in favor of
28 putting citizens' comments, the name and a synopsis
29 of what's said, please vote. Six. Opposed. Six and
30 one. The amendment passes. All in favor of
31 approving the minutes as amended, please vote. And
32 that is unanimous. Very good. We have citizens'
33 comments agenda matters. I have instructions.
34 Meetings of county council are legislative meetings
35 based upon the representative form of government and
36 are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
37 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is
38 for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and
39 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
40 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
41 more than three minutes to address county council.
42 You are asked to please refrain from addressing
43 members of the audience by name. Please direct your
44 comments to the council chair and only to the council
45 chair. When you come forward, please give your name,
46 address and the county council district in which you
47 live and identify the item number on which you are
48 speaking. Mr. Martin.

49 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
50 Mike Montepara.

1 MIKE MONTEPARA: I'll stand back a little
2 bit. Good evening. Mike Montepara, Homeland Park,
3 district five. Council, first let me allow a moment
4 of your time to congratulate those ... in their
5 election and thanks those ... for their service to
6 our community.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can you speak into the
8 mic?

9 MIKE MONTEPARA: Yeah. Is that better?

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

11 MIKE MONTEPARA: I would hope that
12 continued progress will be had by both outgoing and
13 incoming members. Now I would like to address the
14 budget before you tonight. One aspect to the funding
15 is for the replacement of the animal shelter. A lot
16 of criticism has been made about animals not
17 deserving such new digs when there are other more
18 pressing matters in Anderson. In part, I agree,
19 there are deteriorating roadways, a dilapidated jail,
20 businesses need concessions, and homeowners are
21 strapped for resources and an ever tightening
22 economy. Adding more taxes never goes over well in
23 an election year. However, a concerned citizen was
24 kind enough to donate a valuable parcel of land for
25 this endeavor. Mike Glenn thought it was important
26 enough for both the humans and animals to improve
27 their lot. I know when I go to the shelter, I am
28 ashamed and embarrassed at the visitors and the
29 conditions provided for county employees to work in.
30 I've listened as visitors leave with negative
31 comments about the shelter and the conditions the
32 animals are forced to be in. And that unwanted
33 animals are forced to stay in such deplorable
34 conditions until such time they are euthanized is a
35 sad commentary on our humanity. What a terrible end
36 of their life. So what I would suggest to council is
37 this. Tie funding to the new shelter with better
38 ordinances requiring countywide licensing, mandatory
39 spay and neuter programs, better regulations of
40 animal breeders and those doing business at the
41 jockey lots and the puppy mills all throughout this
42 county. You want to be a breeder, charge them
43 appropriate fees. Many of you have seen the results
44 of these puppy mills and most of the castoffs end off
45 at the shelter anyway. As responsible pet owners,
46 you should be required to take proper care of your
47 animals, not to breed indiscriminately or simply for
48 profit and to provide spay and neuter for these
49 animals. The shelter would surely see a decrease
50 intake. Current numbers do not lie. There are

1 problems needing addressed. The added fees from
2 licensing and fees and fines would partly offset your
3 operating costs. Looking over the proposed budget, I
4 see other areas that could be slightly trimmed in
5 order to accomplish this task. Don't let your
6 employees, the public and these animals down. Thank
7 you very much.

8 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown the fourth.

9 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700
10 Woodlake, Hillandale subdivision, district one. I
11 need to make a correction. I asked last time for a
12 decrease in the budget of four point three million
13 dollars. That's money coming out of the reserve
14 fund. I was unaware at the time that two point one
15 million of this approximately is set aside money for
16 the Gasby. As such, it cannot come out of the
17 reserve fund without raising taxes which as y'all
18 know I'm very loath to do. So I'd just like to make
19 that correction and get it on the public record.
20 Thank you.

21 TOM MARTIN: Ed Jean.

22 ED JEAN: Good evening, Chairman
23 Thompson, council members. Ed Jean, Crestview Road,
24 district seven. And I'd like to talk about item
25 number five, ordinance 2008-027. Before I make a few
26 comments about that I'd like to congratulate -- offer
27 my congratulations to the winners. And I'd like to
28 thank those non-winners for running or for holding
29 office in the past. What I would like to suggest is
30 I've heard an awful lot about our budget and the fact
31 that we need an audit. I would like to make a
32 suggestion. Rather than having anyone, the new
33 members or the existing members talk about an audit
34 at this time, I would like to try to have the folks
35 up there now who have been studying the budget and
36 those newcomers who have won election to the council
37 have the opportunity, get a copy of the budget and
38 start doing their due diligence and studying it now.
39 And for those folks who may not be inclined to
40 understand the pluses and minuses and all those
41 things, I would like to again make a comment or a
42 suggestion, recommendation, that perhaps a citizen's
43 financial advisory group be established where each
44 council person could appoint someone who truly is a
45 qualified accountant, perhaps even a CPA. I do know
46 a couple of those folks who would love to have the
47 opportunity to be of service to Anderson County and
48 start looking into the budget at this time. And then
49 we would not have to have the new folks come one
50 January 1st, then at that time the new folks would

1 start looking at the forthcoming budget and they
2 would start establishing it or understanding it. And
3 if there is truly nothing there that creates a
4 problem where we do need an audit, I think at that
5 time if everybody did their due diligence with the
6 existing budget presentation, and then again when
7 next year comes around, I think we would be able to
8 learn enough ourselves so that we would not need an
9 audit. But if an audit were needed then we would
10 certainly learn by doing this due diligence that an
11 audit was or is needed. And therefore at that time I
12 would say it would be perfectly reasonable to have an
13 audit. So in summation, we've heard an awful lot
14 about the need for an audit. We've heard about a
15 petition being signed by many people for an audit.
16 And I know some of the new folks coming in do believe
17 in an audit. And again, all I'm asking is let's look
18 at this. And rather spending a million dollars, five
19 hundred thousand dollars or whatever it might cost,
20 let's see if there's not another approach where we
21 can take advantage of our talent and knowledge of
22 citizens here in Anderson County and do the due
23 diligence ourselves before we might even get to the
24 point and say let's have an audit. Thank you.

25 TOM MARTIN: Doreen Montepara.

26 DOREEN MONTEPARA: Good evening, Mr.
27 Chairman. My name is Doreen Montepara, I live in
28 Homeland Park, and I'm in district five. I'm here
29 tonight to speak about the budget, of course, and the
30 need for a brand new animal shelter. I don't know
31 how many of you have spent time up at the shelter,
32 but the conditions are deplorable. As you can see,
33 I've prepared no statement tonight. I am speaking
34 straight from my heart. And every time I go to that
35 shelter my heart breaks. I cannot tell you the
36 numbers of animals that I have rescued out of there
37 and fostered that have needed medical help and some
38 that just need love. But instead they have nowhere
39 to go so unfortunately they are euthanized. This has
40 got to stop. It just has to stop. We need the new
41 shelter and we need to make sure we get the spay and
42 neuter program up and running. I commend everybody
43 that is working on this. It needs to get done. If
44 it's not done now, just think what it's going to be
45 like in four years or even next year when you bring
46 the budget back up again. Your conditions are going
47 to triple. So I just wanted to please beg the
48 council to please consider really hard about building
49 this shelter and let's get it done and let's do it
50 for the animals. Thank you.

1 TOM MARTIN: Rhonda Simms.

2 RHONDA SIMMS: Good evening, Mr.

3 Chairman. Thank you for allowing me to speak this
4 evening. I'm here tonight in support of a new animal
5 shelter. Oh. Rhonda Simms, 212 Jeb Stuart Avenue in
6 district one. And I'm here to support the new animal
7 shelter and spay neuter clinic. I'm an animal
8 rescuer and coordinate with weekly transports to get
9 animals from shelters for approved rescues and
10 approved homes. Each week myself, along with other
11 rescuers, some who are in this room, work non-stop to
12 get placement for the animals in the Anderson
13 Shelter. I'm normally at the shelter around six a.m.
14 on Saturday morning. Pull animals and put them on my
15 transport to safety. I think I can safely speak for
16 all of us who are involved in this mission when I say
17 that it's very heartbreaking to go and pull fifteen
18 or more animals when we know that there's going to be
19 at least a hundred to take their place on the very
20 same day. And that's not just one day. It's every
21 day of the week. Right now the Anderson Shelter is
22 taking in on average a hundred animals per day and
23 having to euthanize over two hundred per week. These
24 numbers are staggering even to those of us who are
25 used to being involved in animal rescue. I truly
26 don't believe that most Anderson residents realize
27 just how huge the problem is. I've pulled animals
28 from many shelters, and I can say that the staff at
29 the Anderson shelter go above and beyond to try and
30 place the animals in their care and oftentimes work
31 off the clock to do so. Yet, despite all the efforts
32 of them, as well as the efforts of the committed
33 humane society members, the problem only gets worse.
34 Tonight you have the power to put a light at the end
35 of the tunnel for the animals, the shelter staff,
36 those of us fighting to rescue as many as we can and
37 the community as a whole with a new shelter that's
38 more safe and approachable and a low cost spay,
39 neuter clinic to provide a resource for people who
40 normally could not afford to alter their animals. We
41 can work towards not only a decrease in the number of
42 animals coming in the front door but also in the
43 massive amount being euthanized at this time. As
44 rescuers we talk about animals constantly. And in
45 talking with many people over the last several weeks
46 about the prospect of a new shelter, I've heard
47 nothing but a hundred percent support for the new
48 shelter and low cost spay and neuter clinic. Please
49 join us in support tonight and vote yes. Thank you.

50 TOM MARTIN: Ronnie Booth.

1 RONNIE BOOTH: Ronnie Booth, President of
2 Tri-County Technical College representing all the
3 districts in the county I think at this point in
4 time. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak to a
5 particular item in the budget whether it's
6 appropriate now or in the budget public hearing
7 section. It's your call.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You can speak now and at
9 the public hearing.

10 RONNIE BOOTH: Okay. I'd like to make a
11 plea if you will that Tri-County be fully funded this
12 year at our request of two point four nine six
13 million dollars. That is two hundred and seventy
14 thousand dollars more than the current millage
15 yields. But the last -- you may recall in March of
16 '07 we opened a new campus in Anderson County before
17 we opened a campus in the other counties. And that
18 campus that we've opened in Anderson County has
19 driven up cost, plant operations cost. So a
20 significant portion of that two seventy shortfall
21 we're facing is because of the new campus in Anderson
22 County. And I would ask that you consider that
23 request and that the request be met out of general
24 funds if necessary. There are a lot of requests and
25 a lot of needs in the county, but I think the return
26 on investment is there and is obvious in terms of
27 what we do. Over half of our students are from
28 Anderson County. And short of that funding request,
29 if it's not met we will be forced to add an
30 additional fee to our Anderson County students in a
31 year when I'm not sure that's the right thing to do.
32 Thank you.

33 TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

34 RICK FREEMANTLE: Rick Freemantle from the
35 White Plains precinct. I'd like to touch on
36 something that Mr. Ronnie Booth just mentioned. I
37 personally am a student at Tri-County Tech. I pay
38 taxes on two pieces of property here in Anderson
39 County. And yet when I go to school I get to pay an
40 extra tuition on top of that because this body hasn't
41 funded Tri-County Tech to the fullest. I don't
42 appreciate that. I can tell you that hundreds of
43 students, fellow students don't appreciate it. I see
44 we don't have a three o'clock meeting. I also see
45 that we don't have any citizens' comments on the end
46 of this. We managed to put the discussion of the
47 fiscal year budget on here, but we kind of overlooked
48 that last citizens' comments. I'm sure that'll
49 probably be a habit for the future this year. I find
50 it preposterous that you would all sit there, part of

1 you, and not fully discuss this budget before taking
2 another vote on it. You know, it's become a habit
3 with me, about every two years I like to go for a
4 long hard walk. During my walk I knock on a lot of
5 doors. I talk to a lot of people. Let me tell you,
6 the folks out there in Anderson County have all they
7 can do to put food on their table. If y'all would
8 open up your hearts and check some of these food
9 banks and see how many times they have run out of
10 food already this year supplying people with food so
11 they could have money for gas to get to work, it
12 might change your ideas about putting more burden on
13 their backs. They're not interested in a million
14 dollar dance hall. They would like to see a million
15 dollar tax cut. When is the last time this body has
16 had a cut in the budget? You know, I've watched them
17 go by for twelve years now. I have never seen a cut
18 in any of them. I have never seen a reduction. We
19 had a phony reduction the last time around. That
20 will be about -- I won't even need it. I would like
21 to ask you folks to seriously look into your hearts.
22 Send this budget back. Strip the fat out and think
23 about the people in this county for once.

24 TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

25 DAN HARVELL: Dan Harvell, 500 Trail
26 Road, Belton, Highpoint precinct, council district
27 seven. Mr. Chairman and members of council, I know a
28 drastic message has been sent by the voters and the
29 taxpayers of the county judging by the results of the
30 election. I hope that you'll take that into
31 consideration tonight when you go to vote on this,
32 the third and final reading of this budget. A lot of
33 people have talked to -- a lot of candidates have
34 talked to a lot of people out on the campaign trail
35 this time. And what Mr. Freemantle said, I'd like to
36 echo. There are many people here that are hurting in
37 our county. And building more government on top of
38 more government and driving these budgets to where
39 they're going is not the answer to the real problems
40 of the people of Anderson County. So I just ask you
41 to think for yourself and do not follow everything
42 the administrator tries to lead you into. And to
43 please safeguard the future -- the future tax burdens
44 of the citizens and our children that are yet to come
45 here in Anderson County. I'd like to say I'm
46 disappointed in the fact that, as Ms. Wilson brought
47 to light, the citizens' comments, those people that
48 have taken their time to come and participate in
49 these meetings have -- that that was left out of the
50 minutes. Let's just try to think the best and assume

1 that was an accident. And I don't understand why in
2 the world one person would vote on this council --
3 one person, one of you would vote to not include
4 those comments, but I don't know, maybe that'll be
5 considered in the next election. It is very -- it's
6 very disturbing some of the things that are in this
7 budget and some of us will speak to those matters
8 later on during the public hearing. But I just
9 advise you to please hear what many of the people
10 have said, what the vote turnout in this election has
11 rendered and please have mercy for the future
12 taxpayers of Anderson County. Thank you very much.

13 TOM MARTIN: Dr. Leonardo Ortiz.

14 LEONARDO ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, members of
15 council, citizens of Anderson County. My name is
16 Captain Leonardo Ortiz. I live at 4324 Belton
17 Highway in council district two. The proposed budget
18 contains much needed projects for growth of the
19 county, projects that attract more people to choosing
20 Anderson County for their home rather than some other
21 place. Projects such as the much needed proposed new
22 animal shelter. Projects such as much needed fire
23 and emergency response vessel. Projects such as much
24 needed emergency services. Projects such as much
25 needed training facility for our county and city fire
26 departments and emergency response teams. Projects
27 such as a new facility to attract more people to the
28 area to use Broadway Lake, a county lake which is a
29 diamond in the rough that badly needs polishing.
30 When people look to move to an area, they want to be
31 assured of quality government services. Prospective
32 residents look at the quality of life issues as well
33 which are especially more important today than ever
34 before since fuel costs are forcing people to look at
35 local venues for recreational pastime activities.
36 Perspective residents look at progressive minded
37 government. Now, there are a few folks in this
38 county just like in any other county in the nation
39 that gripe and protest any progress. But folks like
40 that will gripe and protest about any and everything
41 in order to deter growth so they can keep their good
42 ole boy little power base. Due to current inflation,
43 cost of operating government are going to increase.
44 Now we have two options. The first is to do nothing
45 and stop growth. But that means we'll eventually
46 have to pay higher taxes or cut out needed services
47 or both. The second option is to attract more people
48 and attract growth which in turn builds a larger,
49 broader tax base which by the laws of geographic
50 dispersion keeps our taxes lower while providing

1 better government services. I prefer the latter to
2 the former. The proposed budget is a no-brainer.
3 First, it is progressive, and the projects will
4 attract more people to the area. And secondly, it is
5 amazing to have all these great projects planned
6 while proposing a decrease in taxation by four point
7 five mils instead of an increase. Mr. Chairman,
8 members of council, your continued support and vote
9 in favor of the proposed budget is a vote for better
10 services and lower taxes. It is a vote for plain,
11 simple common sense.

12 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, those are
13 the only citizens under agenda matters.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
15 Ordinance third reading, 2008-027, an ordinance to
16 adopt the operating and capital budgets of Anderson
17 County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and
18 ending June 30th, 2009 and to make appropriations for
19 such Anderson County budgets for county ordinary
20 purposes and for other county purposes for which the
21 county may levy a tax other than for Tri-County
22 Technical College purposes, and other matters related
23 thereto. There is a public hearing on third reading
24 for the budget. And I do have instructions for
25 anyone wishing to participate in the public hearing.
26 Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public
27 hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he
28 or she is speaking to the issue under consideration.
29 The chairman exercises control of the public hearing
30 to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing
31 process by engaging in unreasonable lengthy comments,
32 clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive,
33 offensive or inappropriate comments. With this being
34 said, the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing
35 to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
36 state your name and address before speaking and
37 identify -- and speak to the chair and only to the
38 chair. The public hearing is now open regarding the
39 budget.

40 MACK BURRISS: Mr. Chairman, Mack
41 Burriss. I live on 1202 Stratford Drive. And I'm a
42 veterinarian at the Anderson County Animal Shelter.
43 And I would like to speak to the budget item which
44 would provide for a new animal shelter. This is an
45 idea whose time has come. We need a new animal
46 shelter. Out present one is old, crowded. There's
47 very little space for improvement. The county has
48 been offered as a gift by Michael and Carol Glenn
49 twelve acres on which to build the new shelter. The
50 new shelter will have attached to it or adjacent to

1 it a low cost spay and neuter clinic. Individuals
2 have pledged their personal funds to equip this
3 clinic. Veterinarians are available at this time to
4 do the surgeries at the clinic. It's entirely
5 possible that in a few years, the new shelter and
6 animal care programs for school children and others
7 at the shelter and the low cost spay and neuter
8 clinic will have decreased the number of animals
9 euthanized at the shelter by a very significant
10 number. Our goal is a seventy percent reduction. I
11 have talked to many people about this. I have not
12 seen one who is not appalled at the large number,
13 eight thousand one hundred and eighty animals,
14 euthanized at the shelter last year. And I have seen
15 no one who is against the new shelter and the
16 companion piece, the spay and neuter clinic. I urge
17 you to vote for the animal shelter. Thank you.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak
19 during the public hearing?

20 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown again, Mr.
21 Chairman. I want to thank county council and the
22 administrator. This year we had some budget
23 workshops. They were well advertised. They were
24 well attended. I managed to attend all but one. I
25 had questions. I took them to the members of the
26 administrative staff. I received all my answers.
27 Most of the growth that I see in this budget is fuel
28 costs and insurance costs. If we're going to have
29 employees, we're going to have insurance costs. Like
30 death and taxes. It's going to happen. Fuel is on
31 the rise where nationwide average now, four dollars
32 ten cents a gallon, and we're looking at five to six,
33 maybe even seven dollars a gallon, by the end of the
34 year. Diesel fuel is almost five dollars, looking at
35 probably eight dollars by the end of the year. We've
36 got to allow for this. This budget on the whole has
37 no fat. I'll say that again before God and man,
38 there is no fat in this budget. I've gone, I've
39 read the CAFR. I have gone page by page, line by
40 line, and I see nowhere to cut any fat. Now are
41 there one or two items that I disagree with? Yes.
42 There is no such thing as a perfect budget. But
43 budgets fortunately are not cast in stone off Mr.
44 Sinai. They're a good guideline. They're flexible.
45 They're liquid. They change over time. On the
46 whole, I'm very proud of this budget. I'm proud of
47 the fact that taxes are not going to go up. They're
48 never going to go down, folks. Anyone who's looking
49 for taxes to go down can forget it. You're living a
50 pipe dream. Best we can hope is that we live within

1 our means. And I think that that's exactly what this
2 budget is doing. I'm proud of it, and I urge you to
3 vote for it on third reading. Thank you.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Someone please help Mr.
5 Crowe with the mic.

6 CHARLES CROWE: I've got it. Can you hear
7 me?

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

9 CHARLES CROWE: All right. Thank you. My
10 name is Charles Crowe, and I'm from the Five Forks
11 district and I live in council district four. And
12 I'm going to shock some of you. I'm going to support
13 something that's in the budget here tonight. Forty
14 years ago when I serviced on Anderson City council,
15 I'm the one that realized the property out on 28
16 Bypass belonged to the city and made a motion and
17 supported giving it to the Humane Society to build an
18 animal shelter. So we're talking forty years ago.
19 Of course, prior to then some of these people here
20 tonight would have heart trouble because they used to
21 be in a cement block building that they backed a
22 vehicle up to and hooked to a pipe, exhaust pipe from
23 a truck, and that's the way they put them to sleep.
24 And but never the less, I'm with the people that have
25 spoke tonight on doing something with the animal
26 shelter. However, there are many, many things in
27 this budget that can be put off for a while. For
28 instance, all kind of government buildings. You
29 know, for the last couple of years we've heard about
30 the road system, the bridge system. I didn't see any
31 great improvement on bridges and roads. Yet, I see
32 where we're going to redo a building in the honor and
33 the name of a former representative. I see where,
34 you know, we're going to build some extra ball
35 fields. They're just things that, you know, I think
36 that could be put off and waited. I also, what
37 little I've seen of the budget, it looks to me like
38 you're going to do a lot of stuff on borrowed money.
39 Well you know, there's a lot of things that's going
40 to come up to be paid this year that you borrowed in
41 the past or put -- or sold bonds. I don't
42 understand why that a budget can grow almost -- well,
43 from a hundred and twenty-two million to a hundred
44 and forty-nine million and somebody says there ain't
45 going to be no tax increase. Now, we have a little
46 growth. But listen, growth is nowhere near that.
47 The only thing I can imagine is going to happen, and
48 y'all should know, is whether or not you're going to
49 accept the windfall of the reassessment. Now, if you
50 are how about telling all the people here tonight

1 that you're going to pay extra on your taxes. It may
2 not be a tax increase per se. We're not going to get
3 a millage. That's what you should be saying.
4 There's not going to be a millage rate increase.
5 There's going to be a tax increase. If you live in a
6 house that's over a hundred thousand dollars, you're
7 going to pay, you're going to pay a tax increase.
8 And so the only other thing that I want to say and
9 not taking up no more time is that I noticed also
10 there are fee increases, yet it don't tell us what
11 the fee increases are. It don't tell y'all what the
12 fee increases are. I'm talking about in the budget
13 ordinance. But there's all kind of fee increases.
14 There's even going to be an additional charge to rent
15 the civic center. But it didn't say what that extra
16 fee is going to be. All kind of fee increases. So
17 how about explaining that to the people before you
18 vote on it on the third reading. But I appreciate
19 your time and good luck in the future.

20 DOUG PARHAM: My name is Doug Parham. I
21 live on Hickory Lane in district three. I'm going to
22 come before you tonight and as always I'm coming out
23 of left field. I'm not going to talk to you like a
24 good republican or a good democrat or a good anything
25 because I'm not good at anything except stirring
26 stuff up. I'm going to ask you tonight not to
27 approve this budget on third reading. I don't think
28 there's enough in it. That sounds stupid, don't it.
29 But let me tell you where I'm coming from and let me
30 tell you why. There's too many questions unanswered.
31 There's too many stones unturned. You people have a
32 job to do between now and the first of the year. Get
33 it done before you get out of those seats. Let me
34 tell you why. I've been on both sides of the fence
35 before. It's a whole heck of a lot easier to defend
36 yourself from where you're sitting than it will be
37 this time next year if somebody else is looking for
38 something. The first thing I think you need to do, I
39 think the voters in a very loud voice said that they
40 wanted a complete audit. And I think for about five
41 or six hundred thousand dollars, we ought to be able
42 to give them everything they want. I think even the
43 nonbelievers would believe for that amount of money.
44 I believe we could tell them where every piece of
45 toilet paper went. Every pencil that's been
46 sharpened, I believe we can tell them how many times
47 it was sharpened in a day. And I for one am ready to
48 pay my part of the taxes for stuff like this. I also
49 think that any guilt or innocense that anybody has
50 should come out between now and the first of the

1 year. If there is none, let's put none out there.
2 Let's make sure before the first of the year. I want
3 to know. And I think you people ought to want
4 everybody to know. And like I said, whatever it
5 cost, I'm willing to foot my part of the bill for. I
6 think we ought to discuss a new jail. Because the
7 way the people voted, they want a new jail. Because
8 if things keep going like we're going, what we've got
9 is not going to handle it. We need to ... in the
10 door right there. We've got people going in one door
11 and out the other one day after day, month after
12 month, the same people doing the same things over and
13 over again. And they're getting by with it because
14 of money. We need to -- like I said we need a bigger
15 place out there for them so our law enforcement can
16 be safer. About ten million dollars ought to cover
17 that. Next, I think we've put off addressing the
18 bridge and the spillway at Broadway Lake about long
19 enough. I think something needs to be done down
20 there. I think about twenty-five million dollars
21 ought to cover that. Or if not, it would give us a
22 good start. We might even get the alligator while
23 we're down there for that kind of money. The double
24 bridges, if we don't rebuild them, we ain't never
25 going to get the interstate widened. We're going to
26 be the only part between Spartanburg and the Georgia
27 line that don't have six lanes of traffic. Do you
28 think that's going to bring us in any business. Of
29 course, I know a lot of people that don't want us to
30 grow anymore. A lot of people got up here tonight
31 and talked about an animal shelter. I've got
32 animals. I've got two dogs that I think the world
33 of. I'd do anything in the world for them. I get up
34 in the middle of the night and take them to the
35 doctor if they've got a cold. But I can't worry
36 about everybody in Anderson County's dog. I've got
37 more important things to worry about. I've got
38 grandbabies. I'll worry about them first. That's
39 just like I know a lot of people that's worry about
40 them Iraqis getting killed over on the other side of
41 the world. I'm worried about the Americans getting
42 killed over there. You've got to get your priorities
43 in order. Last but not least and I mean not least,
44 the workers of Anderson County, the ones that's
45 supposed to get their pay raise in January, I think
46 they ought to get it July 1st. I know it'll cost us
47 more money. But the people voted. They said they
48 wanted it. They wanted it, they ought to be willing
49 to pay for it. I'm willing to pay for my share.
50 Thank you.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

2 RICK FREEMANTLE: Yeah. Rick Freemantle
3 again from the White Plains district. You know, we
4 heard the last time around, last budget, there was no
5 fat in that budget either. Last time around we
6 budgeted thirty-five million dollars for the year.
7 We only spent thirty-two million dollars. Good deal,
8 right? We saved three million dollars? Wrong. Bad
9 deal. We had someone sit here last time around, call
10 off four point three million dollars worth of cuts
11 that could have been made. Granted there may not
12 have been a motion, but there was also no discussion.
13 No one helped. Everyone fought the one person. In
14 the end we were left over with three million dollars.
15 I call that a three million dollar overcharge. Not a
16 good deal. You know, we had no fat in the last
17 budget. We had four hundred and thirty-eight dollars
18 for Jake's New Orleans Bistro though. But we had no
19 money for students at Tri-County Tech. We had five
20 hundred and fifty-five dollars and fifteen cents per
21 strike bass at Philadelphia, but we had no money for
22 tax cuts for anyone in this county. We had three
23 hundred and nine dollars and fifty-five cents for
24 Monocle on Capital Hill. Again, no money for my
25 fellow students at Tri-County Tech. We had thirty-
26 five hundred dollars for Sullivan's Metropolitan
27 Grill. We had no money for roads, no extra money.
28 We had plenty of money for airports, meals, and
29 travel for a few elites in this county. But we had
30 no money for tax cuts. We had no money for Tri-
31 County. We had no money for roads or bridges. We're
32 on a tight budget with no fat. We have fifty-three
33 meal accounts in this administrator's budget. Fifty-
34 nine lodging and travel accounts in his budget. But
35 we've got no fat. We've got a lot of fat. And we're
36 not allowing our common sense to seep through this
37 fat and reduce this budget and send it to this out of
38 control administrator.

39 CINDY WILSON: Hi, I'm Cindy Wilson,
40 Anderson County council district seven. We have
41 failed in our job to our people in this county
42 because we have failed to discuss a budget. There
43 are many needs in this county that have gone
44 unfulfilled.

45 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

46 CINDY WILSON: ... our budget at its
47 current funding level until the new council is seated
48 in January. That would save almost seven million
49 dollars. I'm going to read to you some of the
50 information concerning the twenty-five point three

1 three million dollars in new debt load that Anderson
2 County council will propose for '08-'09. In the tax
3 fund anticipation notes of ten million dollars which
4 will probably include the nine point three million
5 dollar general obligation bond, there is language
6 indicating that we'll build the animal shelter and
7 the spay and neuter clinic. But there's no estimate.
8 There's also language that indicates that we'll
9 renovate the Ronald Townsend government building, but
10 no estimate. According to magistrates I've spoken
11 with, they really didn't believe it would cost more
12 than five hundred thousand. Yet, in a recent
13 presentation it was indicated at one point two
14 million. There's also language to renovate McCants
15 for special populations and other legally authorized
16 county purposes. The other legally authorized county
17 purposes would be a catchall. There's no number on
18 McCants except in a special presentation. There's
19 also language indicating a solid waste system revenue
20 bond at three point two million dollars to defray a
21 portion of cost of acquisition and construction of
22 solid waste convenience centers and other solid waste
23 projects permitted under the act. There are zero
24 figures indicated and nothing in the numbers part of
25 our budget that indicates what centers will or will
26 not be built. There's also in section thirty-four an
27 airport revenue bond of five point two million
28 dollars to defray a portion of the cost of
29 acquisition or construction of one of more of the
30 following: a shade hangar, a ten unit tee hangar,
31 two ten unit tee hangars, a corporate complex, a four
32 unit brick hangar and other airport related projects
33 as permitted by the act. There's already been five
34 hundred thousand dollars appropriated through a
35 recent two point eight special sources -- two point
36 eight million dollar special source revenue bond. In
37 section thirty-five there's enterprise financing
38 agreements of five point four million dollars. And I
39 don't recall having seen this language in any of our
40 prior budget ordinances. This indicates that there
41 will be enterprise financing agreements with one or
42 more banks or financial institutions in the aggregate
43 principal amount of not exceeding five point four
44 million dollars to defray a portion of costs of
45 acquisition or construction of one or more following
46 projects: three new ball fields, renovation and
47 expansion of the Anderson Civic Center. I had not
48 heard of this before, have you? Also, a Clemson
49 extension utility building which has never been
50 discussed or mentioned to us. And then again, the

1 catchall phrase, and other projects approved by
2 Anderson County council. In section thirty-eight,
3 there's a lease purchase transaction. This current
4 year we have a one point two million dollar lease
5 purchase agreement. The proposal is for five million
6 four hundred and thirty-three thousand two hundred
7 and thirty dollars. To finance the acquisition by
8 means of one or more lease purchase transactions,
9 certain real property and permanent improvements
10 including structures, buildings, fixtures and
11 equipment for use of the county of which a hundred
12 and twenty thousand dollars is going to have to be
13 used to jack up our new library which is sinking.
14 Most astonishing is that this part of the budget
15 ordinance authorizes the council chairman and the
16 county administrator to negotiate most of this
17 agreement. This is twenty-five point three million
18 dollars of new debt on Anderson County prior to a new
19 council coming on which this primary indicated a
20 watershed of -- concern out in the public. I will
21 very quickly go through a few notions in the general
22 fund. One is an issue of redundancy. There are a
23 lot of departments conducting similar transactions on
24 behalf of Anderson County. If we actually did an
25 efficiency and economy study of all these similar
26 departments, there could be great economies achieved
27 in combining the operating expenses of a number of
28 these departments. You probably could save a million
29 dollars right there alone. An example is the finance
30 division director. The finance division director has
31 a whole office separate from the finance division.
32 They're certainly compatible to work with one
33 another. In the roads and bridges and then the
34 bridges department and then we have transportation
35 administration, you have all those similar efforts
36 made by separate offices. There's a lot of
37 redundancy there. I think one of the things that's
38 of great concern is I just found out Sunday that our
39 new contract for paving this year is only four
40 hundred thousand dollars. I went back and looked at
41 old records and found that in, I think it was 2000-
42 2001, we paid Ashmore Brother about five and a half
43 million dollars. We've really nowhere near kept up
44 with that level of funding. If you'll look at those
45 related departments, there's a heavy load of
46 administration and operating expenses. And as one
47 gentleman previously talked about, a lot of meals,
48 travel and lodging, things that could certainly be
49 combined. I think that we could look at
50 renegotiating and -- bidding out and renegotiating

1 our telephone, cell phone and pagers contracts. That
2 would probably save maybe a couple hundred thousand.
3 We certainly should be bidding out all of our
4 engineering and service contracts. How about maybe a
5 couple or three hundred thousand there. In the realm
6 of our legal expenses, this past year we spent more
7 than nine hundred and thirty-three thousand dollars
8 that I could find. We have legal expenses cubbyholed
9 under service contracts, contractual service,
10 management consulting and professional services. I
11 would continue to propose that we would set up an in-
12 house counsel, perhaps a budget of four hundred
13 thousand dollars for an in-house counsel for -- and
14 then including a hundred thousand for specialized
15 attorney work. We could cut legal costs in this
16 county in half easily. We could take for example our
17 park police and fold that into the Sheriff's
18 department. That would take care of about three
19 hundred thousand dollars of redundant expenses. I do
20 believe that we need to have the employee benefits
21 increased for the rank and file employees. But I do
22 believe that we should defer or eliminate any of the
23 increases for our already highly paid department
24 heads. So in holding our general fund budget right
25 now at what we are without even looking at these
26 other cost savings and combining some of the
27 departments, you're looking at almost seven million
28 dollars. As one important person noted years ago, no
29 government entity ever taxed and spent itself into
30 prosperity. I've requested of my fellow council
31 members and our citizens that we all work together
32 and discuss and do our due diligence on all the needs
33 of the county. I do agree we need to expand and
34 improve the jail. I do agree that we need to do
35 something about our animal shelter. But I think that
36 it's important that we look at the numbers and
37 actually study the contracts. I don't think any
38 business looking at multi-million dollar projects
39 would ever rubber stamp projects like we do. Why
40 don't we all join together tonight in deferring this
41 budget and continuing at our current budget levels
42 while we make this effort prior to the new council
43 taking its seat in January and before we have any
44 more of our citizens having to give up food or
45 pharmaceuticals and go to foreclosure because they
46 can't take care of their necessities. Also, if
47 you're talking about economic development, if you
48 look at the national record for taxation issues,
49 anytime there's ever been a tax cut, it has opened up
50 economic development wide open. Let's work together

1 on really making for good positive economic
2 development and the good quality of life our citizens
3 deserve here. Thank you.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

5 THOMAS CULBERTSON: My name is Thomas
6 Culbertson. I live on Warriors Path in district one.
7 Now, you folks up there have always said that you
8 were elected to represent the will of the people. I
9 have been coming to these meetings for the last four
10 years and I have watched the majority of this council
11 rubber stamp, rubber stamp every budget brought forth
12 by the administrator here. That's not representing
13 the people. That's representing the administrator.
14 I'm going to ask you tonight, and the people spoke
15 loud and clear last Tuesday that we are sick and
16 tired of this bull. Sick and tired. Now I'm going
17 to ask you people to send this back to the
18 administrator and the finance department and tell
19 them to whack that thing down or form some
20 committees. Do your job. You're not doing your job.
21 And Mr. Chairman, you spoke while ago about vulgar
22 language. I've heard vulgar language come from you
23 right up on that buzzard roost that sounds worse than
24 a bar room at a beer joint. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

26 MAX FLEMING: My name is Max Fleming. I
27 live in council district five where we have had no
28 representation for the last three and a half years.
29 But we will have in January. I know I'm wasting my
30 time. I'd like to ask you to defer the budget until
31 the first of the year. The five of you have already
32 told how you're going to vote. You didn't even want
33 Ms. Wilson to have a say to discuss the budget until
34 after you voted on it. So we know what the vote is
35 going to be.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to talk
37 about -- speak at the public hearing regarding the
38 budget.

39 DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, Dan Harvell,
40 500 Trail Road, county council district seven,
41 Highpoint precinct. I've been coming to these
42 meetings for a long, long time, about eight years I
43 would suppose. Every year there's a new buzz word
44 for the budget and why we dare not pass the increases
45 that this administrator proposes. Let me go back a
46 couple of years. The '06 - '07 budget we were to the
47 bone. Cut to the bone. Couldn't possibly go any
48 lower. '07-'08, we were in the tissue. Couldn't go
49 any further. Not possible to make any cuts. This
50 year there's absolutely no fat in this budget. I

1 guess the people kind of got tired of hearing all of
2 this and they spoke last week and finally may have
3 opened some ears. The fact of the matter is Anderson
4 County can live off its growth without tax increases,
5 without exorbitant budget increases like we've had
6 this year. Based on the vote last week, the one
7 percent sales tax issue is not going to fly in
8 November. It will not. But lack of preparation on
9 this county council majority's part has left road
10 funding flat. We have no backup plan now that you're
11 not going to get your extra penny in sales tax.
12 That's horrible planning. And I hope that some of
13 the people that replace some of these council seats
14 will have greater vision and better foresight. A
15 gentleman before me earlier on spoke about we need to
16 spend all this money so we can get more people to
17 come here. Well let me tell you what the answer to
18 getting your growth is. The answer to getting the
19 growth you want to grow the tax coffers is to go
20 after the senior citizen market because the senior
21 citizens put the least burden on the infrastructure
22 and on the schools. That's your logical thing to do.
23 So how do you do that? You make this place tax
24 friendly for people in their elder years to come
25 here. It's logical. It makes sense. We have
26 another thing going for us. The lake's great, but
27 forget about the lake for now. Think about our
28 climate. Think of all the people that run from
29 Indiana and New York to Florida and then five years
30 later they end up right back here. Folks, we've got
31 more going for us than all the economic development
32 projects we could ever come up with. It's a natural.
33 So let's take advantage of it. Let's make ourselves
34 so tax friendly. Let's make ourselves friendly to
35 business and it will happen on its own. Now another
36 thing that some of us that follow the budget closely
37 have noticed, it looks to us like we're taking on
38 about thirty million dollars worth of new debt within
39 this year. It may be propping us up now and it may
40 be putting us in the situation where you say we don't
41 have to have a tax increase this year. But folks,
42 it'll catch up with you and it's going to catch up
43 with the councils to come. Please don't do this to
44 us. Please. Of all the building projects that are
45 built into this budget, there's something that Dr.
46 Booth from Tri-County Tech said tonight, probably
47 inadvertently and I don't know if you picked up on it
48 or not, but I hope you did. And if you didn't I'll
49 tell you now. All these new buildings require
50 maintenance, they require upkeep, and they require

1 utilities that will continue to increase from here on
2 out. I've watched government for the last fifteen
3 years build and build and build and then run into
4 budget crises years down the road because it happened
5 in a school district I'm very familiar with. Huge
6 building program. They didn't budget for the air
7 conditioning and the heating that was to follow. I
8 mean what kind of foresight and vision is that?
9 We've just got to be more careful about how much we
10 keep adding. Now I agree, we've got to address the
11 jail. We need to address the animal shelter. No
12 disagreement there. But some of these things we just
13 don't have to have. Now I'm going to offer an
14 analogy and I hope you'll allow me to do this because
15 I'm getting just a little bit off the trail here.
16 But this is an analogy concerning how careful you
17 need to be about what you jump into. Some of us
18 tried to tell you this concerning the 800 system that
19 you jumped into through eight point five million
20 dollars to the administrator to deal with without a
21 bid process. And now in yesterday's Wall Street
22 Journal we see that Motorola's handheld division
23 which is responsible for exactly all of the equipment
24 that we're going to be buying and using here has lost
25 one point six billion dollars in five quarters.
26 They're on the verge of going bankrupt. And we have
27 jumped into a system here that those of us that
28 tried, and it was nothing against the firefighters.
29 It was nothing against EMS. It was nothing against
30 them concerning Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson. They
31 were looking out for the taxpayers. They were
32 looking out for the EMS people. They want them to
33 have the absolute best thing. But this was the wrong
34 way to go about it. And we tried to tell you. But
35 you jumped off the cliff anyway. And now we're tied
36 up with a company that may be going bankrupt. I'm
37 sure the contract has already been signed. And it
38 may be a huge problem down the road. I say that just
39 to say we need to be more careful about how we spend
40 the public's money. Please don't increase this
41 budget. Please pass tonight a continuing resolution
42 to maintain this budget where it is now. We can get
43 by. We can make do. And we don't need to do that
44 until that thorough audit is done so that we know
45 where we can go with our budgets based on how our
46 performance has been of this finance department of
47 this administration for the past ten years. We need
48 to know where we've been before we know where we're
49 going and how much we can increase the tax burden on
50 the people. And thank you for hearing me.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak
2 on the budget? Seeing and hearing none, the public
3 hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve
4 ordinance 2008-027 upon the third reading. Is there
5 a second?

6 BILL MCABEE: Second.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are now in discussion.
8 The chair wishes to retain the floor. Mr. Hopkins,
9 would you please come forward please? Mr. Hopkins
10 and I -- I can't talk. Hold on. Mr. Hopkins and I
11 had a good conversation last week regarding the
12 paving. Paving and roads and bridges were my pet
13 peeve. And we discussed possibly a better way of
14 doing things. He called it a three year plan. Mr.
15 Hopkins, will you just basically illustrate or
16 reiterate what we talked about regarding the three
17 year plan?

18 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, we discussed this or
19 I discussed this a while back with a few council
20 members, and basically the proposal at that time was
21 let's put all our resources for paving together and
22 put it in -- develop a plan, a three year plan and
23 even have council vote on it only once per year, but
24 be voting on the tail end of the three year plan
25 adding to it basically. And the reason we proposed a
26 plan, what we really need to do -- money's tight. I
27 mean we currently do not have quite enough paving
28 dollars with the escalating prices of asphalt. To
29 make every dollar count, if we had a plan, the first
30 year or the closest year of that plan would be to --
31 I mean we'd be paving roads. So say that we adjusted
32 our plan in November. The following summer we would
33 be paving the first year of that plan. Year two of
34 that plan would allow us to do a lot of work that
35 needs to be done ahead of time, patching, doing full
36 depth patching work, chip sealing, shoulder work,
37 drainage work, pipe replacement, those kind of things
38 a year in advance of paving. The third year would be
39 our planning year where we would be taking new -- or
40 we'd be reevaluating all the roads. We'd be
41 reevaluating every year all year long basically what
42 needs to be added to that third year. That third
43 year would be adjustable, but those first two years
44 would not. We'd lock in and we'd stick to the plan
45 because that way we can put out one contract once a
46 year and get all our resources available. And the
47 reason I say that is it'd be C funds, it'd be tax
48 dollars, our general fund account and any other
49 sources we may have. With a plan we could also at
50 the end of our budget year, we could take any left

1 over money that we may have -- sometimes we have left
2 over money in pipe. Sometimes we have it in gravel.
3 Depending on how our year went, we could take every
4 bit of those resources and put it toward the plan,
5 again working the plan. And the plan would be
6 developed based on -- I mean we would recommend the
7 plan based on the needs that we saw and the condition
8 of the roads. But I feel it very important that
9 council have a vote and a say in the development of
10 that plan because you put Mr. Hopkins in a very bad
11 spot if you just leave it up to our staff to do it.
12 We need input from the public and through council is
13 where that public input should really come. But the
14 plan would allow us to instead of working in a six
15 month time frame we could work in a year and a half
16 time frame so we could really make wise decisions and
17 not be in a rush to do it.

18 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a
19 question please?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. I
21 still have the floor. Also, by working a three year
22 plan and having basically a year and a half cycle
23 instead of a six month cycle, we're able to drive
24 down material costs. Is that right?

25 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, we could do it by
26 having a bigger contract all at once. The typical
27 year is we start out with a small quantity. We get
28 our prices based on a smaller quantity. And by the
29 end of the year council has approved various roads
30 through the year and we add those roads onto the
31 existing contract. If we start out at the beginning
32 of that year bidding everything together, we could
33 get a better price.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. With all that
35 being said, I move to amend ordinance 2008-027 by
36 moving and/ or transferring all the paving account
37 money from the respective paving accounts to the
38 appropriate account in Mr. Hopkins' department for
39 the paving, grading and drainage of roads in
40 accordance to need by working the plan and also to
41 dissolve the respective district paving accounts. Is
42 there a second? We have a second.

43 CINDY WILSON: There are some issues
44 here.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up, Ms. Wilson. We
46 have a motion on the floor to transfer all funds from
47 the district paving accounts to Mr. Hopkins. And we
48 have a second. And to dissolve the paving accounts.
49 Now we are in ---

50 CINDY WILSON: I've asked for the floor,

1 please.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I'm trying to
3 decide what's going on here.

4 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

5 CINDY WILSON: In previous years we were
6 funding culverts and aprons out of our general fund
7 account for roads and bridges. Well, what used to be
8 the transportation department. And in previous years
9 we also provided more funds to the municipalities
10 which also pay two taxes, one to the town and one to
11 the county, for this same effort. And we also have
12 the issue of pre-existing commitments that have not
13 been met in our respective paving accounts. There
14 are already commitments that have been made. I think
15 that this appears to be kind of a last minute ploy of
16 a lame duck council to really go after those who have
17 prevailed here. And unfortunately, it's not just a
18 slap in the face of the new people coming on council,
19 but it's a slap in the face of our citizens. We've
20 seen year after year the past ten years a reduction
21 in what we spent on roads and paving. The only
22 method that any council member had was to appropriate
23 out of their meager discretionary paving account.
24 What this looks like more to me than anything is that
25 this administration has gotten out of money and is
26 desperately trying to come up with some funding. So
27 what do we do about commitments that are already in
28 the pipeline. What about the commitments that have
29 already been made to the different towns and the
30 needs around each district? How are you going to
31 answer that? Do you really count on this
32 administration to look out for you?

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins. Those
34 commitments would be maintained, right?

35 HOLT HOPKINS: I would recommend that you
36 stick to what's been done.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right.

38 CINDY WILSON: But there have already
39 been commitments made that would be appropriated in
40 the first meeting of July with the first of the
41 fiscal year. Those have not been made public per se,
42 but they've already been commitments to the
43 municipalities at least in district seven and other
44 of the road needs.

45 HOLT HOPKINS: That would be a question
46 of the council on how you want to handle that.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Martin has
48 indicated time has expired.

49 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to extend

1 the time by thirteen minutes.

2 CINDY WILSON: Second.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This will take us up to
4 twenty minutes. We have a second. All in favor of
5 extending the time on this issue by thirteen minutes
6 please vote. We have unanimous.

7 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think Ms. Wilson still
9 has the floor.

10 CINDY WILSON: I'll defer to Mr. Waldrep.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

12 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just have
13 some questions. I guess I wasn't anticipating this.
14 I've always felt like that we needed to try of look
15 at our road situation by priorities. And I suppose
16 that this is an attempt to do so. Is that correct,
17 Mr. Hopkins, rather than look at it on a district by
18 district basis where one is simply allotted a certain
19 amount of money whether he needs it or not. And that
20 seems like that's been the situation in the past,
21 that we've got seven districts, seven paving
22 accounts, and how much is in each paving account?

23 HOLT HOPKINS: It varies. Somewhere
24 around two eighty to three hundred thousand each
25 district.

26 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I guess the only
27 thing I'm asking the council, the wisdom of the
28 council, to think about is there are sometimes I
29 suppose when one council member feels like that their
30 priorities conflict with other council members'
31 priorities. That seems to have been the traditional
32 wisdom of the old accounts. And I just want the
33 council members to think about what a difference that
34 that might make, you know, with their district. I
35 think overall I have a tendency to kind of agree with
36 what we're doing here because I think that this looks
37 like a way of priority -- putting priorities on
38 things. And I'm kind of big on that. But at the
39 same time I would just hate to thing that there's
40 situations where some particular council member might
41 be isolated a little bit and they just wouldn't get
42 anything at all. So I just wondered if there's some
43 way that we could maybe amend the situation, Mr.
44 Chairman, to have some modicum of a safety net sort
45 of for that poor district that where the council
46 person may fall out of favor with the other members
47 of council.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins.

49 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, I keep
50 trying to sit down and you won't let me.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I see that. How would we
2 address respective district needs when a constituent
3 calls up with a road issue? How would that fit into
4 the plan?

5 HOLT HOPKINS: Again, it depends on the
6 size of the emergency. I mean I would call those
7 emergency type situations. Some stuff would be taken
8 out of our general maintenance type fund. If it's
9 big enough like we had up in the Powdersville area
10 four or five years ago, it's the kind of thing that
11 we need to come back to you to say, look, we've had
12 two million dollars worth of damage that we need to
13 handle.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Those issues will be
15 addressed, correct?

16 HOLT HOPKINS: Correct. I mean one
17 thought would be, you know, to reserve some
18 discretionary funding for each district. But again
19 that's council's decision.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But the key phrase is the
21 roads will be repaired or improved based on need,
22 right?

23 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes. And of course we
24 would have to -- you know, there's needs in all parts
25 of the county so we couldn't target one area. We
26 could spend every bit of the money in any one of your
27 districts in one year.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But you're going to use
29 some good judgement there, right?

30 HOLT HOPKINS: We would have to.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Floyd. Thank you. Mr.
33 Holt Hopkins, you and I talked about this, was it
34 three years ago?

35 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, ma'am.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: This was not a brand new
37 idea designed to trip up nobody. You know, it really
38 surprises me how no matter what you do when you try
39 to do the right thing, when you try to make things
40 that's going to help the situations that we deal in,
41 you have to go through this stuff, you're trying to
42 get me, you're trying to get me. But you know, you
43 can't please everybody all of the time. And in my
44 district I have twenty-two thousand people that I
45 have to serve. And I can't -- this is a good idea.
46 We talked about it. I think Mr. Tolly was on council
47 when we first started discussed this thing. Do we
48 have monies left in these accounts at the end of the
49 year? Are there any other accounts? I know about
50 district two's paving account, but what about the

1 others? Are there money left in this account that
2 was not used?

3 HOLT HOPKINS: I don't remember
4 everybody's balance, but every district typically has
5 some residual money left and it rolls over to the
6 following year.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Following year. Okay.
8 Could this money -- in this case that we're
9 discussing now this money will be taken and instead
10 of just sitting there rolling over it would be used
11 for the intentions that it was put there. Am I
12 correct?

13 HOLT HOPKINS: Our proposal would be that
14 we -- if we saved some money on one project, any
15 money that's left goes right to the next project
16 plan. We just keep working down the plan.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Instead of just
18 sitting in somebody's account. When you proposed
19 this when we got together three years ago, I thought
20 it was a really good idea. And I'm so happy to see
21 that it's being brought up again because I still
22 think it's a good idea. I'm through.

23 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Ms. Wilson.

25 CINDY WILSON: Very quickly, district
26 seven has requested and receives annually a
27 prioritized list. We go down that. And number four
28 is the worst number, we tackled that first. And then
29 number three's are the ones that are less bad. And
30 then two and one's are okay. Also, I wanted to point
31 out that I think it was in '03 district seven
32 appropriated a number of roads that never really got
33 paved until '05. And I'm concerned about this. It's
34 not Mr. Hopkins' fault when things are delayed, but
35 we have his boss that makes decisions when we have
36 projects done and when we don't. I do believe that
37 certainly in district seven's case we've worked
38 really hard between Mr. Hopkins and the various needs
39 of the district to make sure the ones in worse need
40 got first attention and then so on down the line. So
41 I would be opposed to this because of how I've been
42 treated and my district has been treated.

43 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, may I?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins. Yes, sir.
45 Go right ahead.

46 HOLT HOPKINS: Again, a lot of times it's
47 the timing. If we get requests or funding available
48 to us once you approve it, if it happens in August or
49 October, the contractor has a choice of refusing to
50 do anymore -- take on anymore roads. That's why it's

1 important that we try to get as many roads into the
2 contract in January for the upcoming summer and to
3 try to plug in roads at the end of the contract.
4 Because if asphalt is going up, they will reject new
5 additions to the contract.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. And this three
7 year plan will resolve that problem, correct?

8 HOLT HOPKINS: Because by January we
9 would know everything we could possibly spend money
10 on for that year and it'd be on one contract.

11 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Hopkins, what would be
14 the total amount of money that we were talking about
15 with regards to all the expenditures for roads and
16 bridges?

17 HOLT HOPKINS: I don't remember the exact
18 council total. It's one point six million roughly.

19 BOB WALDREP: Between all of us?

20 HOLT HOPKINS: Oh, no, sir.

21 BOB WALDREP: Each council member?

22 HOLT HOPKINS: Yeah. All combined, the
23 council paving accounts equal right at one point six
24 million.

25 BOB WALDREP: And so -- and then the
26 other money that you have is what?

27 HOLT HOPKINS: Then we have C-fund money
28 which we average around a million dollars from C
29 funds that go on county roads. And then depending on
30 the year we could probably put another hundred and
31 fifty, two hundred thousand from our maintenance
32 account onto paving our other project.

33 BOB WALDREP: Well, would it be harmful
34 if each council member had about a hundred thousand
35 dollars that would be allotted to their account?
36 Would that do a great deal of damage to the overall
37 plan that you see? We're talking about seven hundred
38 thousand. I mean you've got -- you're spending
39 about, what, five million or so on ---

40 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, we'd like to. We're
41 not spending that recently. We've been going about
42 around two to three million depending on which year
43 it is.

44 BOB WALDREP: Three million. Okay. But
45 would seven hundred thousand dollars, you think, do
46 damage to the overall plan? I'm just trying to think
47 ---

48 HOLT HOPKINS: We could plan that much
49 better by seven hundred thousand ...

50 BOB WALDREP: Well, in a perfect world,

1 of course, you get it all.

2 HOLT HOPKINS: Point nine million or nine
3 hundred thousand dollars, we could plan that much
4 more if you decide to do it that way.

5 BOB WALDREP: I'm just trying to see if
6 there's some middle ground here that we could discuss
7 as a possibility. And if any other council members
8 have any ideas that they would like to provide on
9 that. I would propose an amendment that would say
10 that -- well, let's put it this way, that the council
11 members would have at least fifty thousand dollars
12 that they would have that they could deal with
13 problems in their district and to maybe reduce it to
14 that degree. And that would allow the council
15 members to deal with the cities and some of the
16 issues that come up where they will not feel -- well,
17 they'll free much freer of representing their
18 district. At the same time they would be seeding all
19 of this extra money to the planning. And then as I
20 understand it, the overall plan would have to be
21 approved by the council. Is that correct? That's
22 the, that's the last repository of the authority
23 would be the council?

24 HOLT HOPKINS: That's my recommendation
25 that in November of each year you would approve the
26 plan.

27 BOB WALDREP:
28 All right. And that plan would be mapped out for
29 us. And what about the people that absolutely -- or
30 rather the people that have input into the plan, will
31 that be a process where the council people will be
32 meeting with you for the purpose of working this plan
33 out, that they would stay in touch with you with
34 regard to the plan for their district?

35 HOLT HOPKINS: I would encourage that.
36 Yes, sir.

37 BOB WALDREP: Well, there would have to
38 be a mechanism of communication with your office for
39 that purpose that everybody would be on board so to
40 speak. There would be constant communication on that
41 issue. Is that what your intent is in all this
42 legislation?

43 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir. It wouldn't be
44 that much different. The point being with the plan,
45 we can lock in and stick to the plan for at least the
46 two years. Everything else could stay very similar
47 to the way we work now. I've met with each one of
48 you from time to time on roads issues.

49 BOB WALDREP: Well, I just want you to
50 know and council to know that I'm kind of a
priorities guy. Sometimes we get into arguments

1 about what the priorities are. You know, my
2 priorities might not be your priority, but you can
3 convince us with, you know, the proper information,
4 you know. So Mr. Chairman, I would just move to at
5 least retain fifty thousand dollars in each account
6 if we amend the proposed ordinance.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So the Waldrep
8 amendment is to not dissolve the paving accounts, but
9 that each district retain fifty thousand dollars. Is
10 there a second for the Waldrep amendment?

11 CINDY WILSON: I'll second it. But I
12 have to point out in stating that -- in seconding
13 that, there have already been appropriations, for
14 example, big intersection projects for district seven
15 that have been promised that would be in excess of
16 fifty thousand. I would have to have Mr. Hopkins
17 request to look at those items and make sure that
18 whatever had been promised in district seven would be
19 funded because these are very necessary projects.

20 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Time has
22 expired once again.

23 LARRY GREER: I move to extend by ten
24 minutes.

25 CINDY WILSON: Second.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. The chair moves
27 to extend time by twenty-five minutes. This would
28 take us up to the forty-five minute maximum for an
29 issue. Is there a second to ---

30 CINDY WILSON: I'll withdraw my second to
31 Mr. Greer if he'll withdraw his motion and then I'll
32 second yours.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're extending
34 time by twenty-five minutes to take us up to forty-
35 five minutes. Ms. Floyd.

36 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I believe I
37 asked for the floor.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd asked first,
39 Mr. Greer.

40 LARRY GREER: I'm sorry.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. We need to
42 vote on the time. All in favor of extending time by
43 twenty-five minutes please vote. Okay. We have
44 extended time by twenty-five minutes. Ms. Floyd.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: First of all, we need a
46 break. I know what you're trying to do, but we do
47 need a break.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Secondly, Mr. Hopkins,
50 don't you meet with all of us every year to go over

1 your proposals for us?
2 HOLT HOPKINS: I have so far.
3 GRACIE FLOYD: No, you have. You have.
4 HOLT HOPKINS: I have. Yes, ma'am.
5 GRACIE FLOYD: You have always done that.
6 Okay. Do you advise all of us about our roads or do
7 we have any experts up here already that you don't
8 have to advise about road problems and road
9 situations and road concerns? Do you advise all of
10 us about our situations?
11 HOLT HOPKINS: We give you the
12 engineering perspective on what we would recommend.
13 And we ask that you bring the public perspective to
14 us and work out what should be done.
15 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Don't we have that
16 going now? Isn't that the way we have handled the
17 road business for as long as I have been here?
18 HOLT HOPKINS: The only difference is
19 that we've had seven individual priority lists.
20 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Mr.
21 Hopkins, haven't you ridden the roads -- do you ride
22 the roads with council members who have requested
23 that you do to show us what you're talking about the
24 problems are?
25 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, ma'am.
26 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Hopkins, by you
27 getting the money -- no. One other question before
28 that. Mr. Hopkins, will fifty thousand dollars help
29 me in any way in my district if all I have left is
30 fifty thousand dollars to do something with? What
31 could I get done with fifty thousand dollars?
32 HOLT HOPKINS: You couldn't pave a long
33 road, but you could pave a couple of small roads.
34 GRACIE FLOYD: A couple of small roads?
35 HOLT HOPKINS: And some other type paving
36 projects that pop up during the year.
37 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative). Do
38 we have a lot of these little paving projects popping
39 up during the year? I want to know the truth. Just
40 say it.
41 HOLT HOPKINS: There's been some paving
42 projects for fire departments. There's been short
43 roads that I think in most districts that somebody
44 has called and a lot of people start calling, we need
45 our road patched. Trucks could have started running
46 on a road and tore it up. And that's something you
47 can't plan for if heavy traffic tears it up. That
48 money could be used for those kind of things or ---
49 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So if we all had
50 fifty thousand dollars we could use that money to --

1 okay. Let's say we didn't have the money. Let's say
2 that we didn't keep fifty thousand dollars a piece.
3 Could those little things be taken care of in what
4 you are proposing?

5 HOLT HOPKINS: To a point. We could do
6 it with our general asphalt paving -- maintenance
7 account. But anything that would be a lot of money,
8 we'd have to really come back to you and allow us to
9 adjust the plan. We don't want to adjust the plan if
10 we don't have to.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, you're missing my
12 point. My point was -- my point is, by you having
13 the fifty thousand dollars if a road needed to be
14 paved -- if a truck tore up a road or something like
15 that could you fix it without us having to spend
16 fifty thousand dollars out of the money that we have?

17 HOLT HOPKINS: In most cases, yes, ma'am.
18 Again, it's how much -- if I have to start taking
19 money from the plan, you know, the one point six or
20 whatever amount you put in that special account
21 that's going to be toward the plan, the resurfacing
22 plan, no. I would need to come back to you for
23 permission to adjust the plan to fit that in. But
24 you know, under two hundred thousand dollars we've
25 got a little flexibility. We could put off putting
26 in a pipe and go fix that road.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm trying to see if I can
28 -- how I feel about keeping fifty thousand dollars
29 out rather than giving that money and putting it in
30 one pot. And let's do all of our road paving and all
31 our roads, you know, through you. I'm trying to
32 decide, you know. Which is which? Is it better to
33 just go ahead and give it all to you and let you do
34 it? Or is it better that I keep fifty thousand
35 dollars to do whatever it is you're going to tell me
36 to do to begin with.

37 HOLT HOPKINS: I don't feel like I'm
38 qualified to answer that question.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: If you would think about
40 it, I didn't ask you for an answer. I was telling
41 you I'm trying to decide. I didn't ask for an
42 answer.

43 HOLT HOPKINS: I apologize.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Accepted.

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, this is what
47 I'm trying to decide here. And I guess I still don't
48 know. I'll just listen more. And I sure do thank
49 you. I'm finished.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You finished? Mr. Greer.

1 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Finally. I may be a lame duck but both of my legs
3 still work. I still have my mind and it still works.
4 And one thing that I remember very clearly as I
5 started on this journey to represent the people of
6 council district three was that they had always felt
7 that they had never gotten their fair share of the
8 services of this county. That feeling still exists.
9 It exists in Ms. Wilson's district as well over in
10 the Honea Path area and the friendship community.
11 It's still there. It's a very real concern to those
12 people. And what I'm seeing and hearing tonight
13 disturbs me greatly. I'm thinking of a time a few
14 years back when an effort was made to reduce the cost
15 of operating our solid waste system. And in an
16 effort to reduce the cost of operating that solid
17 waste system, some convenience centers quit taking
18 metals and some other things. Guess where those
19 convenience centers were located? They were located
20 in my council district. Guess who fielded the phone
21 calls for that reduced service? I did. Why is it
22 when these type things are happening the burden seems
23 to fall on the rural areas and those outlying areas.
24 A fifty thousand dollar amount as Mr. Waldrep has
25 alluded to won't even fund municipal services in the
26 three municipalities that I have. Ms. Wilson has
27 four municipalities. That won't fund those
28 municipalities. What I see happening here tonight is
29 an effort not to improve our road systems but to
30 shift road money from one part of the county to the
31 other. I think the Powdersville area will suffer
32 just as much as my area will, Mr. Wilson. And we
33 need to be very careful about what we're doing. Now
34 Mr. Hopkins was quizzed about the amount of money in
35 district paving accounts now. Up until a month or so
36 ago, the district three paving account was almost
37 down to zero. And the reason being that all of the
38 money had been appropriated for paving projects. The
39 reason there is some money in there now is because
40 some of those came in under budget and the money was
41 put back into the district three paving account. We
42 need to be very careful about what we're doing. I'm
43 opposed to both the amendment for the fifty thousand
44 and I'm opposed to the plan to eliminate the district
45 paving accounts. I believe that this is an effort to
46 deprive the people of my council district of the
47 services that they pay taxes for. And I am totally
48 opposed to this amendment as it's proposed. Thank
49 you.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

1 BOB WALDREP: I was just going to say my
2 probably very weak effort there to try to reach
3 compromise has been addressed very clearly by Mr.
4 Greer. And that's what I was trying to see if there
5 is some way -- there's always a little bit of a
6 difference in the areas, I think, that we represent.
7 District two for example and I, district one, share
8 the city of Anderson. And I guess what I was looking
9 for was some way that I could assure the city of
10 Anderson that they were going to get a little bit of
11 their tax money back. Because these city residents
12 pay taxes too, county taxes as well as city taxes.
13 So I just wanted to see if there was any thought
14 patterns in this group here. And I hope that when we
15 discuss things that we discuss them in a civil way,
16 of course, and that we are not bickering. But we're
17 just simply trying to find from our own experience
18 what we think is the best thing for Anderson County.
19 So having said that, that's certainly the tone that I
20 want to take in all our discussions. I would like to
21 say that I think there's not a person on this council
22 that doesn't want what's really best for the people
23 in Anderson County. Having said that I will say no
24 more.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
26 calls for the vote on the Waldrep amendment. That is
27 not to dissolve the paving accounts but to retain
28 fifty thousand dollars in each respective account.
29 All in favor of that amendment please vote. Oppose.
30 Did you vote, Ms. Wilson? Okay. It's two, four.
31 Four against and one abstain. So that fails.

32 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And it was -- I'm sorry.
34 Ron Wilson, McAbee, Thompson and Greer voting against
35 that. Right?

36 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Thompson, I'd like for
37 the record to reflect that the representative of
38 district two and the representative of district one
39 voted the same way.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So noted.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. You're not
42 trying to start nothing, Mr. Waldrep, now with me?
43 Is that a compliment, Mr. Waldrep?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now we're on the Thompson
45 amendment to transfer all funds to transportation to
46 develop a three year plan and to work the plan and to
47 dissolve the respective district paving accounts.
48 All in favor of the Thompson amendment, please vote.
49 Two. Oppose. Five.

50 APPLAUSE

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have Ron
2 Wilson, McAbee, Greer, Waldrep and Cindy Wilson in
3 the opposition. So the Thompson amendment fails. So
4 now we're back on the budget. And how much time do
5 we have left? We have twelve minutes to talk about
6 the budget.

7 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes.

9 CINDY WILSON: I wanted to point out that
10 in our finance department, I believe that's
11 department 5046, the audit fee is around forty-two
12 thousand dollars accounting and audit fee. And
13 there's a management consulting fee of about eighty-
14 four thousand dollars. I would like to make a motion
15 that we combine those two fees for a total of a
16 hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars and have a
17 complete detailed audit. I believe we can do that,
18 an annual audit for that. That would be a very
19 simple way -- a simple solution. And I hope y'all
20 will find that so too.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you move to combine
22 the funds of two accounts?

23 CINDY WILSON: Yes. There are two
24 categories under the finance department.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And we're having what
26 kind of audit?

27 CINDY WILSON: To have a complete
28 detailed audit.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And what is a detailed
30 audit?

31 CINDY WILSON: Well, according to what
32 people have told me it would be pretty much tracking
33 every penny in and out for the year.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And how much is the total
35 of those two accounts?

36 CINDY WILSON: Well, it would be about a
37 hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars. So whatever
38 amount of auditing we can get for a hundred and
39 twenty-six thousand I believe it to be a complete
40 detailed audit for that figure for the year.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson has
42 made a motion to combine two accounts which totals a
43 hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars to have a
44 detailed audit for a hundred and twenty-six thousand
45 dollars worth. Is there a second to that motion?

46 BOB WALDREP: I'll second it.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to that
48 motion. We are in discussion about combining
49 accounts and having a detailed audit.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'd like to
3 hear from our finance person. Where is she? Gina,
4 would you please come to the mic? Okay. Since you
5 are the only CPA that works for this -- I know there
6 are two of us. There's another one there. You're
7 right. But since you are one of two CPAs in this
8 room that's working for the county, what Ms. Wilson
9 is proposing, how would that affect what we're doing
10 now?

11 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, first of all what
12 I'd like to say once again is that the county does
13 have a complete audit every year. We have had one
14 every year. We have received an unqualified clean
15 audit opinion on that every year since I've been here
16 and even in previous years. We are under a contract
17 now with existing external auditors. It is a three
18 year contract. The audit for year June 30, '08 will
19 be year two. So I'm not sure how we would get out of
20 that contract and reenter another one for a different
21 type of audit. You know, we have talked on many
22 occasions about what we think this type audit might
23 cost, this concept of every transaction being
24 audited, every penny in, every penny out being
25 audited. And I will tell you with certainty that you
26 will not get that for a hundred and twenty-six
27 thousand dollars.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, do I still have
29 the floor?

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

31 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman, with
32 your permission may I ask one question of Ms. Wilson
33 and get a short answer? Okay. Ms. Wilson, could you
34 please tell me what is the purpose -- what purpose
35 did you have in mind for this?

36 CINDY WILSON: Well, as most people know
37 in this previous primary election everybody -- I
38 shouldn't say everybody, but there was a majority of
39 people who voted who really subscribed to a more
40 complete audit. We don't believe that we're getting
41 a complete detailed audit. We believe that we're
42 getting basically a financial review of some of the
43 financial statements.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I thank you.
45 You've answered my question now. May I go back to
46 her with your permission.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Gina, if we did this,
49 would we get, would we get a different animal just by
50 bringing it through the back door? If we let -- you

1 know, if we do this then what will it show us? Are
2 we showing -- are we getting better showing now the
3 way we're doing it? Do you understand my question?

4 GINA HUMPHRIES: What I think the county
5 or any entity wants to know is do the financial
6 statements represent fairly what has happened within
7 the entity. That basically is what the purpose of an
8 audit is, is to come in and say these financial
9 statement -- and when I say financial statements I
10 mean balance sheets, income statement, cash flow.
11 The auditors attest and they put their name and their
12 reputation on the line and say we have gathered
13 enough evidence. Evidence might be third party
14 confirmations at banks. Evidence might be physically
15 looking at documentation. Evidence might be taking
16 samples from a list of transactions. Evidence would
17 be examining the files. But they tell us they have
18 sufficient evidence in their professional opinion to
19 give a clean opinion on the financial statements.
20 Now, I have never known an entity to do this type of
21 audit. I have talked with auditors about it, and I
22 have not found one yet that has ever done this type
23 audit. So I can't answer your question to say is it
24 better, is it worse, is it a different animal. I
25 don't know.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I haven't heard of
27 anything like that either. And I'm kind of confused
28 here because if it's being done to satisfy the folks
29 that she's talking about, then I'm still concerned
30 would they still be satisfied when it's over, when it
31 comes back the same way? Would they still be
32 satisfied?

33 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, if I could say this,
34 there are some new, they're called SASes, S-A-S,
35 Statement of Auditing Standards. There are some of
36 these new standards that have just come out. I
37 attended some training last week to learn more about
38 them. Rita has gone to training. These statements
39 are going to require our auditors and all other
40 governmental auditors to do a more in-depth review of
41 your internal controls, your risk assessment, your
42 fraud risk assessment. So what Ms. Wilson is asking
43 to be done is going to be done anyway as part of
44 these new auditing standards that are coming out.
45 We'll probably be doing some training, if you will,
46 to let the council members kind of get their arms
47 around these standards and to understand what it
48 means. And if you will remember, one of the
49 recommendations that our external auditors made was
50 the county hire and formulate an internal audit

1 department. That probably is not going to go away.
2 We're probably going to see that recommendation
3 again. And that recommendation came as a result of
4 these new auditing standards. So I kind of embrace
5 them. I think it will make us stronger because of it
6 for having gone through this more in-depth internal
7 control review. So perhaps Ms. Wilson could talk to
8 the new auditors. I mean not the new auditors, the
9 external auditors, and have them explain these new
10 standards. And maybe that would satisfy the council
11 members to some extent. I don't know. That's just a
12 suggestion.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ron Wilson.

16 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 When we had the audit forum here and we talked to
18 them, it was the first time I'd heard anybody talk
19 about expanded procedures. Tonight we've had a
20 motion to have -- combines some accounts and have
21 this complete audit. I'm going to offer an amendment
22 that we do this thorough and complete audit
23 regardless of what it costs now and get it over with.
24 That's my motion.

25 CINDY WILSON: Second.

26 APPLAUSE

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you are amending Ms.
28 Wilson's amendment by amending it basically to extend
29 the cost?

30 RON WILSON: To include whatever it
31 takes to do the audit and to do it thoroughly, not
32 expanded procedures, not for a hundred and twenty-six
33 thousand, but for whatever it costs to do the
34 complete audit and get it over with.

35 CINDY WILSON: Would it be more
36 appropriate if I withdrew my motion and let your
37 motion, Mr. Wilson, ---

38 RON WILSON: However you want to do it.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It would make it a whole
40 lot easier.

41 CINDY WILSON: Okay. I'll withdraw my
42 motion and support and second Mr. Wilson's.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Who seconded your
44 motion?

45 BOB WALDREP: I did. I seconded the
46 motion.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you withdraw your
48 second to hers?

49 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. Well, I guess so.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So basically we have one

1 amendment one the floor to have a complete audit at
2 whatever cost it costs. And can you give me a brief
3 definition of a complete audit?

4 RON WILSON: We'll let Ms. Wilson do
5 it. She has said it before. I mean it's a complete
6 audit where we know everything. And there's no ifs
7 ands or buts about it. There's no questions about
8 where things are being spent or it went. We do it
9 and get it done.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: Are you talking about a
11 forensic audit?

12 RON WILSON: I don't care what kind of
13 semantics we use. I'm talking about something to get
14 it done and cover everything to where everybody
15 finally says, yes, something was done wrong or it
16 wasn't, you know.

17 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Ms. Humphries,
19 do you understand what a complete audit is if the
20 auditor asks?

21 RON WILSON: May I comment something
22 here?

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure. I'm just trying --
24 -

25 RON WILSON: The audit firm made it
26 plain when they were here. They said they could do
27 it. We don't need anyone's opinion.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

29 RON WILSON: All we need to do is
30 simply employ them to do it. They said it would
31 probably take everybody they had for a year.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

33 RON WILSON: So I mean it's pretty
34 simple.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand where you're
36 coming from now. Okay. Very good. We have a motion
37 on the floor -- I'm sorry an amendment for a complete
38 audit at whatever cost. And we have a second. And
39 we are still in discussion.

40 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

42 LARRY GREER: I'm going to support this
43 amendment, but I do have two questions of Mr. Wilson
44 or whoever chooses to answer those questions. When
45 the idea of this type of audit first came up way
46 back, I asked some questions. And since that time
47 I've had estimates of what it would cost to do this
48 audit. And one of them was by the auditor that we
49 currently had. When he did the audit presentation he
50 indicated somewhere in the neighborhood of five

1 hundred thousand dollars up for one year. There was
2 another estimate provided that estimated that it
3 would take a team of four auditors a period of a year
4 at a cost of two point two million dollars for one
5 year. Now my question -- my two questions and
6 whoever wants to answer it can answer it, is what are
7 we going to audit? Are we going to audit -- I heard
8 you. But let me finish my comment please. I give
9 you the courtesy. Now give me the courtesy.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The audience please be
11 quite. This is not a public ---

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Town hall.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Town hall meeting. Thank
14 you.

15 LARRY GREER: Are you talking about the
16 current budget year? Are you talking about the years
17 2000 forward? What time frame are you talking about?
18 What years are you talking about because that does
19 affect the cost of the audit. It does affect the
20 length of time that it will take to perform those
21 audits. And then the second question is where are
22 you going to get the revenue or the money to pay for
23 this audit? Is it coming out of the undesignated
24 reserve? Where are the funds coming from? So I'll
25 sit back and listen. I'm going to restate again, I'm
26 going to support the amendment as it's worded. But I
27 think those two questions need to be answered.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Greer.
29 Mr. Martin has indicated time has expired. We have
30 taken the discussion on the budget up to the maximum
31 of forty-five minutes. We need a super majority to
32 go beyond forty-five minutes. Does anyone wish to
33 extend time beyond what we have now?

34 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
35 extend by ten minutes.

36 BOB WALDREP: Second.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a
38 second to extend by ten minutes. All in favor of
39 extending by ten minutes, please vote. Six, zero.
40 I'm going to abstain. So we do have our super
41 majority. So we are continuing discussion for ten
42 minutes. Who wishes to discuss?

43 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

45 BOB WALDREP: I know this is a difficult
46 area and I appreciate Mr. Wilson's contribution to
47 the discussion about the audit. I always like to put
48 in some kind of safeguards on anything that we do.
49 And I would think that ...

50 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

1 BOB WALDREP: ... council would review
2 the contract with the auditor. You know, the
3 administrator -- right now we've delegated so much
4 authority to the administrator to do this. And I
5 would want some safeguards in there with regard to
6 the council itself doing the approval of this
7 particular audit because I think there might be a
8 little bit of a separation or insulation that we
9 should have from the administration. That's the
10 whole purpose of an audit is that we have an
11 independent body to look at these records and these
12 figures. And when that's done you want to make sure
13 that the person or the records being examined, you
14 know, are separated from the person who has prepared
15 those records. And I just say that as a caveat in
16 any kind of auditing. Now this is not to say that
17 anything is wrong. However, I know that in business
18 when the bank examiners come around, the president of
19 the bank is usually, you know, asked not to be there
20 while the examination is going on. So I just think
21 that that's something that we need to consider in
22 what we're doing here. I just say that as just a
23 comment about the procedures. And I would add this
24 also, that when we did have the last report from the
25 auditors that reported to us, it was stated that we
26 needed to have, as I recall, Mr. Wilson, some
27 internal controls that needed some attention. And I
28 would also say that there are different descriptions
29 and definitions of auditing. Some is simply you
30 report the money that you took in and you report the
31 money that went. And it doesn't necessarily give the
32 kind of information that you would like to get about
33 really who is getting the money so to speak. For
34 example, in our recent look at the credit card
35 situation. I don't think we would have ever been
36 able to find this information unless we went over as
37 individuals and started going through those kind of
38 records. And we found all kind of lax procedures.
39 And I think even the administrator admits that he
40 could have done better with those procedures. So
41 having said that, we need to be very conscious about
42 the process that's going on. Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

44 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

46 BILL MCABEE: I've listened with
47 interest to Mr. Waldrep's statement that there were
48 recommendations made by our accounting firm. He's
49 correct. One of the recommendations that was made by
50 the accounting firm is that we have a risk manager

1 and fraud risk manager as a position within the
2 county. One year ago at this time that was proposed
3 in the budget. And during budget negotiations the
4 one thing the representative from district one
5 insisted upon having removed from the budget was a
6 risk manager, fraud risk manager, that is the
7 principal recommendation of the audit firm.

8 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to
9 have to respond to that please.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

11 BOB WALDREP: Mr. McAbee, I've
12 repeatedly listened to your claim that I had opposed
13 a risk manager. That risk manager had to do with the
14 -- had nothing to do with the finances at all. And
15 if you would look at the record -- if you would read
16 the record and make it clear you would know that that
17 risk manager situation was one in which I was saying
18 that the department head should be risk managers.
19 And this had to do with the safety. It had nothing
20 to do with the finances whatsoever. And I hope -- I
21 don't think you will ever understand that because
22 you're shaking your head. But if you would read the
23 record one more time you would find that what you're
24 saying is absolutely incorrect. Thank you.

25 APPLAUSE

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, no, no. We need to
27 maintain order please. Mr. Ron Wilson.

28 RON WILSON: Yeah. I just want to say
29 I don't -- it seems fairly simple to me, this
30 process. We're going to do a complete audit,
31 thoroughly, and know exactly what's going on, where
32 the money is being spent. And I agree that council
33 probably needs to know what that's going to cost, and
34 I don't think it's going to cost two million dollars.
35 And I certainly think it's going to cost more than a
36 hundred and twenty thousand. But other than that, us
37 knowing what that's going to cost -- and the firm
38 that was here that did the audit, I remember asking
39 them during the thing, they have never done such an
40 audit of anything. So if they happen to be the one
41 that does this they're going to have a new
42 experience. And I hope that we move on this. And I
43 call for the question.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson calls for the
45 question. Is there a second?

46 BILL MCABEE: Second.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
48 favor of calling for the question please vote.
49 Unanimous. So we call for the question. All in
50 favor of Mr. Wilson's amendment to have a complete

1 audit at whatever cost, please vote. Four. Oppose.
2 McAbee, Thompson oppose. Ms. Floyd, how do you
3 stand?
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'd
5 like to tell you my stance as well.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go right ahead.
7 GRACIE FLOYD: First of all we get a
8 complete audit every year. That's the first thing.
9 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, point of
10 order.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of
12 order, Ms. -- Mr. ---
13 LARRY GREER: The question has been
14 called and discussion has ended. It's time to vote.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you abstain.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: I remember in the past,
17 others have given their reasons for abstaining. So I
18 won't be the first one to do this. But I understand
19 what's going on. I don't know how much money this is
20 going to cost. Until somebody can tell me what is a
21 complete audit and how much it's going to cost, I
22 abstain.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So anyway, the
24 amendment does pass. So now we're back to the
25 question of the budget as amended by Mr. Wilson's
26 amendment. All in favor of the budget as amended,
27 please vote.
28 CINDY WILSON: Wait a minute, this is for
29 the entire budget?
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This is the entire budget
31 as amended by Mr. Wilson. The entire budget, yes,
32 ma'am. All in favor of the entire budget as amended
33 please vote.
34 LARRY GREER: And as amended on second
35 reading.
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Third.
37 LARRY GREER: It was amended on second
38 reading too. So there's amendments in there from the
39 second reading as well.
40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. All amendments
41 included. Please vote. Oppose. Waldrep and Wilson.
42 And who didn't vote?
43 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd abstains.
45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So the vote is four, two
47 and one. The budget passes as amended with all
48 amendments.
49 APPLAUSE
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: At this time we're taking

1 a fifteen minute break.

2 BREAK

3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Will the meeting please -
5 - will the chamber please come back to order?

6 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, while
7 they're coming to order may I ask for a point of
8 clarification?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

10 CINDY WILSON: The audit that was
11 referred to was for '07-'08. Was that correct, Mr.
12 Wilson? Thank you.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He did not specify.

14 RON WILSON: I mean that's fine with
15 me.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The term or the year was
17 not specified.

18 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

20 BOB WALDREP: I noticed in the agenda
21 that there's no place for remarks by council members.
22 Was that intentional or inadvertent?

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, this is our
24 legislative meeting, and so that's why that was done
25 that way. The comments were normally held in our
26 workshop. And this is not our workshop. This is our
27 legislative meeting.

28 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, Mr. Chairman,
29 on that note if I may have the opportunity to explain
30 my vote on the budget. I would ask the indulgence.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, my concern
32 is if I allow you to talk then someone else will want
33 to talk like we got into the last meeting. So I
34 would like to just continue on with our agenda,
35 please.

36 BOB WALDREP: I know you would like to
37 do that, Mr. Chairman. But I'm asking as a point of
38 personal privilege that you allow me to be able to
39 address an explanation for this vote of mine. One of
40 the council members made a comment to me and I think
41 it's important that I be able to explain my situation
42 as a representative of district one. Please don't
43 stifle that, please, sir.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, please keep
45 it brief. And no one else. No one else, please.
46 Mr. Waldrep, please keep it brief.

47 BOB WALDREP: I will. Okay. Thank you.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: That's not fair, Mr.
49 Chairman. That's not fair. If anyone else wants the
50 same right, that person should be given the same

1 right.

2 BOB WALDREP: I would agree to that.
3 I'll be brief, Mr. Chairman.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead, Mr. Waldrep.

5 BOB WALDREP: Just very quickly, members
6 of the council, I admit that I did vote twice for the
7 budget before, and I made efforts to trim money out
8 of that budget. I was unsuccessful in doing that. I
9 got voted against. I want everyone to know that I'm
10 in favor of a lot of things in this budget. I'm in
11 favor of the animal shelter. I like the idea that we
12 have some expansions at the airport. There are a lot
13 of things that I like about that. But a budget that
14 goes from -- increases by twenty-five million dollars
15 and a twenty percent increase, I just simply cannot
16 vote for. If we have an opportunity for this new
17 council to look at this, and apparently we're not
18 going to do that when people are paying four dollars
19 for gas and their food is going up and we've had that
20 kind of increase. And let me tell you this last
21 thing and I'll stop. But anybody that thinks that
22 we're not having a tax increase doesn't live in the
23 real world. When you get those tax notices, you'll
24 find that there's going to be a reassessment process
25 that we'll be going through. And the reality is that
26 we are going to have a tax increase. Thank you, sir.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. To be fair to my
28 fellow council members, anyone else wish to explain
29 their vote? Hearing and seeing none, we're moving
30 on. Ordinance 2008-029, a re-zoning request by
31 Wesley G. Welborn, Jr. for re-zoning from R20 to C1N
32 of about two point zero one acres of property at 3308
33 Highway 81 North, Anderson. The re-zoning is to
34 create one zoning for all property consistent with
35 existing zoning of properties adjacent north, west
36 and south. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
37 second?

38 BILL MCABEE: Second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No
40 discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in
41 favor of ordinance 2008-029 please vote. It is
42 unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-030, a re-
43 zoning request by Brian Wilson for re-zoning from R20
44 to R15 of about five acres of property on Thompson
45 Road, Anderson. The re-zoning is to create one
46 zoning for all property consistent with existing use
47 and zoning north, east and west of the parcel. The
48 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

49 BILL MCABEE: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The

1 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
2 2008-030 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-
3 031, a re-zoning request by Joey Pearson for re-
4 zoning from RM7 to S1 at 740 Simpson Road, Anderson.
5 The re-zoning is to allow for development of
6 additional mini-warehouses on the property now
7 containing nonconforming uses including mini-
8 warehouses and a construction office and storage
9 yard. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
10 second?

11 BILL MCABEE: Second.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? The
13 chair call for the vote on ordinance 2008-031. All
14 in favor please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-
15 032, an ordinance to provide for the creation of the
16 Whispering Oaks special tax district and other
17 matters related thereto. There is a public hearing
18 on this. To repeat myself since it's been a while.
19 Public hearing. Any person desiring to do so may
20 speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period of
21 time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue
22 under consideration. The chairman exercises control
23 of the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses
24 the public hearing process by engaging in
25 unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly repetitive
26 comments, profane, abuse, offensive or inappropriate
27 comments. With this being said the public hearing is
28 now open. Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance
29 may come forward. Please state your name and address
30 before speaking. The public hearing is now open.
31 Please come forward if you wish to speak. Seeing and
32 hearing none, the public hearing is now closed. The
33 chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-032. Is there
34 a second?

35 BILL MCABEE: Second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion.
37 Mr. McAbee, you're sponsoring this. Exactly why are
38 we doing a special tax district at Whispering Oaks?

39 BILL MCABEE: This is a subdivision
40 whose developer put in roads that were -- did not
41 meet the county -- were not acceptable for admission
42 into the county road system. The only method of
43 really resolving this and bringing these roads into
44 the system is creation of a special tax district that
45 would pave the roads and bring them up to county
46 standards.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. McAbee.
48 Anyone else wish to speak? Discussion? The chair
49 calls for the vote on 2008-032. All in favor please
50 vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ms. Wilson, you have a

1 discussion on the budget.

2 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
3 There were a few items that we really didn't really
4 actually get to. I'm going to request that we have
5 an itemized list of all the projects in the tax bond
6 anticipation notes which probably will end up being
7 the nine point three million general obligation bond.
8 There are some projects that were mentioned in
9 presentations but could not be found in either the
10 numbers or the budget ordinance part of this budget.
11 And likewise, with the solid waste system revenue
12 bonds we know that there are quite a few convenience
13 centers around the county that require upgrading and
14 expansion. And I would like an itemized list of
15 those projects that will be served by this three
16 point two million dollars. And under the enterprise
17 financing agreement, there are several projects in
18 here that had never received discussion before and
19 would like to know a little bit more about those.
20 I've found out by one of our -- from one of our
21 farmers that the Clemson Extension utility building
22 is most likely a processing center for the farmers to
23 take their surplus crops to freeze. And that's
24 certainly a very, very supportable effort. And also
25 what detail we might have on a renovation and
26 expansion of the Anderson Civic Center. Any of the
27 projects that were listed in the presentations, I
28 would like to be shown where they are in these
29 ordinances. And those are the primary concerns at
30 the moment, is that those projects that were listed
31 would be funded. There are so many items when I went
32 through the general fund. I'm just going to quickly
33 go through a few of them because there was
34 insufficient time. But in the general fund, as I
35 mentioned, we have a number of departments that have
36 apparently redundant operating expenses. And I would
37 like to see if we could do an economy and efficiency
38 study here in the county, I think clearly in the
39 finance department. The finance division director
40 should be folded back into the finance department.
41 That would save at least a hundred and fifty-five
42 thousand dollars by the redundant office expenses.
43 There were others in here too. So I'd like for us to
44 look at that because to repeat efforts and expenses
45 is wasteful actually. And I think we can do a whole
46 lot more with a lot less. And do we have any idea
47 when we might could be getting a list that I've
48 requested, Mr. Preston?

49 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. You received
50 that list twice during the budget workshops. You

1 have a detail. I made two public presentations. And
2 each project was listed with the cost associated with
3 it including all the convenience centers.

4 CINDY WILSON: Well, there are some
5 problems there because several years ago we had a
6 last minute addition of three hundred thousand
7 dollars to a general obligation bond for Stevenson
8 Road bridge that has yet to be done. It was in that
9 bond which was voted on. Then in, I think it was the
10 following year, Stevenson Road bridge, and I think
11 several other bridges were listed, I think it was for
12 '04-'05, and those bridges have not yet been done. I
13 think there might have been one or two out of that
14 entire list. So that's problematic. There are
15 issues in -- for example, I would like to know, and I
16 asked this earlier in your presentations, out of what
17 account are we paying for the ongoing repairs for
18 Michelin Boulevard? We know those have been hundreds
19 of thousands of dollars, but I couldn't quite find it
20 anywhere in the budget. And since we still need to
21 bring that road up to standard so that the state will
22 take it into its road system and get it off us that's
23 an important question. And, oh, I had a question too
24 on this lease purchase agreement list. It looked
25 like several different departments were requiring
26 backhoes. And sometimes the price would be sixty
27 thousand and sometimes it would be seventy thousand.
28 And I was wondering if there is a difference in the
29 type of backhoe required and why we couldn't just
30 have one or two backhoes instead of several. And I
31 was really alarmed to see there was a bulldozer in
32 here for six hundred and thirty thousand dollars.
33 And I've seen some expensive bulldozers, but I don't
34 think I've ever seen a six hundred and thirty
35 thousand dollar one and wondered if we could get an
36 answer on that. I think it was in solid waste. Let
37 me see if I can find it. I have to put my glasses
38 back on to find it. Oh, here we go. In solid waste,
39 there's a request for one bulldozer under a lease
40 purchase for six hundred and thirty thousand dollars.
41 And then above that in waste water management they
42 needed one seventy thousand dollar backhoe. And then
43 in infrastructure they needed one backhoe for sixty
44 thousand dollars. And then under roads and bridges
45 they needed one backhoe for seventy-five thousand
46 dollars. Are those all the same kind of backhoe?

47 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am. They're not.

48 CINDY WILSON: What would be the
49 difference besides cost?

50 JOEY PRESTON: The tasks that they would

1 perform. The type of backhoe.
2 CINDY WILSON: Could not one be bought
3 instead of three that could cover for all three of
4 those needs? They're all very similar.
5 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am.
6 CINDY WILSON: What's the difference in
7 the tasks?
8 JOEY PRESTON: Holt Hopkins and Greg
9 Smith, please come to the mic, please.
10 GREG SMITH: On the backhoe for the
11 sewer department we have to go into right of ways.
12 We have to have a four by -- four wheel drive.
13 CINDY WILSON: Okay.
14 GREG SMITH: It's a little bit more.
15 Sometimes you don't need it. Sometimes you do.
16 Bucket size. There's all kind of little differences.
17 Horse power. It depends.
18 CINDY WILSON: Okay. And what about that
19 six hundred and thirty thousand dollar bulldozer?
20 That must have air conditioning and stereo and
21 everything.
22 GREG SMITH: Well, a bulldozer at a
23 landfill of course has to be adaptable to what you're
24 doing. You're dealing with three to one inclines in
25 the type of brush. We push brush. We push -- we
26 work it back and forth between LCD and CND.
27 CINDY WILSON: Oh. So that's basically
28 our CND or is it for both?
29 GREG SMITH: It'll actually be used in
30 both.
31 CINDY WILSON: Oh, so we use it also at
32 the Allied Waste facility?
33 GREG SMITH: No, no, no. Starr
34 landfill. Starr landfill only.
35 CINDY WILSON: Oh, just the Starr
36 landfill. Okay.
37 GREG SMITH: Yes, ma'am. And it has to
38 be powerful enough to push heavy stumps, up hills.
39 It's also used the heavier the weight the compacting.
40 We could have bought maybe a lighter bulldozer and a
41 compactor. But this is going to have two uses. So
42 instead of buying a compactor and a bulldozer, we
43 went with one. And the compactor -- I mean the
44 bulldozer will go ahead and keep packing and packing
45 which extends your life at the landfill.
46 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. These were a
47 lot of questions. And I had a bunch of other
48 questions that I'd asked Mr. Preston prior to first
49 reading. And then at second reading I'd requested
50 the information by third reading which I still don't

1 have. But I'm sure we'll continue talking about this
2 budget for a long time to come. Thank you.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.
4 We are at appointments. Various boards and
5 commissions. Does anyone have any appointments to
6 make? Seeing and hearing none. No. Okay. Seeing
7 and hearing none we're moving on. I received an e-
8 mail from Steve Pellesier requesting that the
9 WorkLink work force investment board be withdrawn.
10 So that is off the agenda. Requests by council
11 members. Mr. Waldrep.

12 BOB WALDREP: Yes. Mr. Chairman, thank
13 you. I have a request out of my recreation fund for
14 five hundred dollars for Meg Butner and Anna Little.
15 That's five hundred each for those two for the Hanna
16 National Debate Team that's going -- these are state
17 champions that are going to the National Debate Team.
18 And also five hundred dollars for Ashley Jordan from
19 Westside, five hundred dollars for her. I just
20 wanted to say that hopefully these young people will
21 learn to engage in civil debate and come back and get
22 involved in politics.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
24 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else,
25 Mr. Waldrep?

26 BOB WALDREP: That's all. Thank you.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Nothing.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

30 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
31 I have one. At this time I move to appropriate two
32 thousand dollars from the district three recreation
33 account to the Flat Rock Bowen Fire Department to
34 assist them with a purchase of a grass truck.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
36 How much did you say?

37 LARRY GREER: Two thousand.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two thousand. All in
39 favor please vote. Unanimous. Is that it?

40 LARRY GREER: That's it.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

42 BILL MCABEE: None at this time.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for me. Mr. Wilson.

44 RON WILSON: None, Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

46 CINDY WILSON: Well, I have none that can
47 be funded through my discretionary accounts right
48 now. But I did have a couple that I'd like to
49 forward to our administrator from two different fire
50 departments that needed some assistance from the

1 department 5827 matching grant funds. And I'll be
2 getting those to him.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

4 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That being said and done
6 we are adjourned. Thank you.

7

8

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Called Meeting - June 26, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep - District #1
Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman - Clerk to Council

ABSENT

Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson - District #7

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and stated that the reason for the called meeting was to cancel the July 1, 2008 County Council meeting.

Chairman Thompson then moved to cancel the July 1, 2008 Council meeting and Mr. McAbee seconded. Vote was five in favor (Thompson, McAbee, Floyd, Greer, Waldrep) and two absent. Motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
WORK SESSION
August 5, 2008 - 9 A.M.
Held at the Anderson County Museum
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep - District #1
Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson - District #7
Linda N. Eddleman - Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the work session is hereto attached for your approval.

The work session adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2008

Amendments -

- ① Change date from
8/15/08 to 8/5/08*
- ② Add 3 words on page 13*
- ③ Change Larry "Phinney"
to Larry "Finney"*

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. On page thirty-
3 five of the budget ordinance, section forty-eight,
4 the caption is special audit. This is how it reads.
5 It is the desire and intent of the Anderson County
6 Council to conduct a special one time audit of the
7 books of Anderson County. This audit is to be a
8 total complete penny in/penny out audit. The
9 purpose of this audit is so that the county council
10 will know everything, where the money has been spent
11 or where it went and to ascertain if something has
12 been done wrong or if something has not been done
13 wrong. This is not to be an expanded procedures
14 audit. This is to be an absolute assurance audit.
15 It is understood that this type of audit has never
16 been conducted anywhere as far as we know on any
17 type of entity. Therefore there is no way to know
18 how much this type of audit will cost. The county
19 council's intent is to conduct this audit on
20 whatever -- to conduct this audit at whatever cost
21 it takes. County Council has not determined the
22 fiscal period this audit is to cover nor what the
23 parameters of the audit will be or by what standards
24 the audit will be conducted and has not determined
25 the source of revenue to pay for this audit. At
26 this time I ask our external auditor, Mr. Larry
27 Finney, to come forward. I met with him a couple of
28 weeks ago. He is now in the process of auditing the
29 books for the fiscal year we just came out of and he
30 informed me that this special audit falls outside
31 the contract and parameters that he has with the
32 county. So the purpose of this meeting today is to
33 determine the consensus of the county council on
34 what they want to do with this special audit. We
35 can postpone it and let the new council next year
36 deal with it or we can define the parameters and
37 take up the issue and go forward. But I wanted the
38 council as a whole to decide this and not Michael
39 Thompson, the chairman, to decide this. So Mr.
40 Finney, he's going to come up and answer any
41 questions regarding the audit or the special audit.
42 Mr. Finney.

43 LARRY FINNEY: Thank you. Good morning.
44 I really am here -- Mr. Thompson and I met very,
45 very briefly just a couple of weeks ago primarily
46 just so I could see what the ordinance actually said
47 and kind of shared with him a few thoughts that I
48 will share very briefly with you and then again I'm

1 primarily here just to participate and answer any
2 questions that anybody has. Having read the
3 ordinance, and a little bit of this will be
4 repetition from the presentation that I did after we
5 had finished the last financial audit. I think all
6 of this, or at least from my perspective, began that
7 night that I did the presentation when I shared with
8 council really the idea that the normal regular
9 financial audit that we just performed ?? that the
10 concept of reasonable assurance because we don't
11 look at all the transactions of the county. But
12 obviously the opposite of that is that if you're
13 providing reasonable assurance the comparison I made
14 is the absolute assurance where you're looking at
15 all the transactions of the county. Having read
16 this ordinance I guess there are just a couple of
17 thoughts I'll share with you. And again, I'm here
18 primarily to answer questions. I think from my
19 perspective, you have rightly stated in the
20 ordinance that as far as I'm concerned I've never
21 seen an absolute assurance audit performed. We have
22 certainly never performed one in our firm. And I've
23 actually talked with several other friends that are
24 CPAs and other firms just to ask and try to get
25 their perspective on it as well and they were not
26 aware of an absolute assurance audit ever being
27 performed. And let me share with you why -- what
28 I've -- one of the things that I want to tell you
29 is, I'm not aware of anybody that I've talked to
30 that would probably even bid on performing an
31 absolute assurance audit. You can just ask around.
32 And I'm not saying that nobody would do that.
33 Certainly somebody might. But let me share with you
34 one of the concerns that I have personally as far as
35 an absolute assurance audit is concerned and why I
36 think one has never been done. And it really
37 relates to the fact that when you start talking
38 about absolute assurance that when we perform an
39 audit we are using as a basis the general ledger of
40 the county. The general ledger of the county is the
41 financial document that in essence is supposed to
42 record all of the transactions for the county within
43 it. And that's the basis for the preparation of the
44 financial statements. Well, when you start talking
45 about an absolute assurance audit, the first
46 question that I'm gonna ask is, how do you know that
47 all of the transactions are actually in the general
48 ledger? And that -- intentionally or

1 unintentionally. In other words, how do I know that
2 there wasn't a transaction that was incurred by a
3 council member that for one reason or another didn't
4 end up on the general ledger? And the same could be
5 said for every other department in the county. And
6 so the first question I would have is, just with
7 completeness. And I'm not sure anybody could really
8 answer that question. How do we know that every
9 single transaction of the county is actually in the
10 ledger? We would certainly hope it would be. But
11 it may or may not be. So when you start asking,
12 start asking any of us to say, give us absolute
13 assurance that everything that the county has
14 incurred financially is in the ledger, I certainly
15 don't know. And I don't necessarily know if anybody
16 else could say that, because there are so many
17 people involved in all the transactions of the
18 county. So that's the first concern that I think
19 would make it very difficult for anybody to want to
20 provide those services. And I think that's probably
21 why one has never been done in the past. Having
22 said that, there may be somebody out there who would
23 be more than willing to do all the work. But the
24 second thing is -- and I had mentioned this and I
25 know that the ordinance specifically says that this
26 is not to be an expanded procedures audit. But that
27 night of the presentation I mentioned this and I
28 wanted to mention it again because this is typically
29 what we see happen and that is rather than actually
30 having an audit performed, what we typically see
31 happen is what we call agreed upon procedures. And
32 agreed upon procedures are where a council or board
33 of some kind says, we would like you or we would
34 like somebody to do some special work in these
35 specific areas. Those areas, those functions,
36 whatever they may be, there's no limit to how many
37 procedures or what could be performed. It is
38 totally up to, in this case the council, as to what
39 those procedures would be. Just to give you a feel,
40 when I first became aware that this was an issue, I
41 went ahead and asked the finance department just to
42 give me some ball park figures in terms of the
43 number of transactions for the county, and I think
44 this was for the 06-07 fiscal year because that was
45 the year that we had last audited. And they
46 provided a list that in essence, I think the number
47 of transactions for the entire year was in the ball
48 park of one point four million transactions. That's

1 a lot of transactions. So when you start talking
2 about an absolute assurance audit or whatever it may
3 be, that would take a significant amount of time.
4 And so that's why what we generally tend to see is
5 some idea of agreed upon procedures that provides a
6 little more focus to the areas of concerns or
7 whatever they may be. And again, that may be
8 totally unlimited. So those are just a couple of my
9 thoughts, just having looked at the ordinance. But
10 again, I'm primarily here to answer questions and so
11 participate however I need to.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are there any questions?
13 Mr. Wilson.

14 RON WILSON: You're more or less
15 saying you can't do an absolute total audit with any
16 absolute assurity?

17 LARRY FINNEY: Well, what you can have
18 somebody do, is you can have somebody perform audit
19 type work on all the transactions that are in the
20 ledger. But what you can't ask them to do is to say
21 I'm going to assure you that this is all the
22 transactions for the county, because they don't know
23 that. What they know is they know that all the
24 transactions that are in the ledger, they could
25 answer to those. But they can't necessarily say, I
26 know that that's all the transactions for the county
27 because how do they know there are some that aren't
28 recorded in that ledger? Does that make sense?

29 RON WILSON: Who knows that if it's
30 not in the ledger?

31 LARRY FINNEY: In essence what you have
32 to do is you have to go to each department head for
33 each function in the county and literally ask them,
34 are there any other transactions that are not
35 recorded in the ledger? You're gonna just have to
36 rely upon each person to tell you that's the case.

37 RON WILSON: But somebody had to ?? so
38 why isn't there a record?

39 LARRY FINNEY: Well, because how do I
40 know that there aren't other commitments made for
41 which a check hasn't been written yet? It happens
42 pretty frequently. One of the things that we do,
43 and we do them through our regular audit procedures,
44 is we ask of numerous people, are there transactions
45 that have been -- the county has committed to for
46 which you haven't written any checks for yet. That
47 happens a lot. Somebody might create a purchase
48 order to buy some good, the goods may have come in,

1 you may not have paid for them yet. Or we committed
2 to buy the goods but the goods haven't come in yet.
3 We've still made a commitment. There's still a
4 liability that exists there, but we haven't written
5 a check or anything for it yet.

6 RON WILSON: If you did an expanded
7 procedures thing can you isolate on departments and
8 things, can you do that?

9 LARRY FINNEY: Uh-huh (affirmative).

10 RON WILSON: If what you said is true,
11 if you did that, how do you know there's not other
12 things outstanding in those departments?

13 LARRY FINNEY: Well, because what you're
14 doing is your council is defining specifically what
15 we're gonna look at. And so you can define and say,
16 we want you to look at all the transactions that are
17 in the ledger for this department, and so we're
18 limiting it to what's in the ledger.

19 RON WILSON: Using what you just said,
20 there may be other things in that department that's
21 paid out that we won't be auditing; is that right?

22 LARRY FINNEY: Could be. The other
23 would come to bear in the following year and that's
24 when I notice in the ordinance you didn't define the
25 period. So ---

26 RON WILSON: So if you did it for two
27 years you would get a total audit?

28 LARRY FINNEY: Well, when you say total
29 audit, that's just a difficult ---

30 RON WILSON: I mean, would that catch
31 those things that those checks have been written for
32 that would finally be paid?

33 LARRY FINNEY: Yeah, but of course then
34 you would have the same issue for, you would have
35 the same issue for that next year.

36 RON WILSON: I have difficulty in
37 understanding why we can't get a total audit.

38 LARRY FINNEY: Well, I think in a way
39 you're thinking of a total audit you can because
40 you're thinking of a total audit as everything
41 that's included in the ledger. And if you're just
42 wanting to know that everything that's included in
43 the ledger is it recorded properly, is it recorded
44 accurately, etcetera, etcetera, then yes, that can
45 be done. And I think that's how you're defining a
46 total audit, which is fine.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

48 CINDY WILSON: I'm looking at the latest

1 GLR153, which is all accounts in all the departments
2 and funds, accounts and ?? accounts, revenues and
3 expenditures and I wanted it unaudited as of June
4 30th.

5 LARRY FINNEY: '08, June 30th, '08?

6 CINDY WILSON: Right. And I have not
7 been provided that. Our administrator prefers to
8 give it to me after you've audited it. What I
9 wanted to point out is the little bit of the weekly
10 check registers which are called GLR110 as compared
11 to GLR153, I find that sometimes the expenditures I
12 might see there don't check up, at least to what I
13 can find, to GLR153s. I found where our treasurer,
14 for example, would write out checks for people to go
15 to Leadership Anderson classes at the Chamber of
16 Commerce and then I don't find that following
17 through on the GLR153s. For example there can be
18 cash expenditures that may not even show up at all.
19 Recycling I understand is cash that comes and cash
20 that goes and I'm not sure exactly how we would
21 account completely and accurately for that. It
22 would be a massive undertaking and one of my
23 constituents has written me and I shared the note
24 with you a while ago. It appears that we are not
25 following the policies and procedures that we have
26 in place even now. For example we go back to the
27 credit card mess that we've got. We have even
28 council members spending money on credit cards that
29 are way over budget in departments that they're not
30 in. We really must look first I think at our
31 policies and procedures before we can actually and
32 adequately come up with a scope for an internal
33 auditor to do a complete detailed audit.

34 LARRY FINNEY: Well, the example that
35 you just mentioned, those are perfect examples of
36 what you would typically see as part of agreed upon
37 procedures, saying, okay, you know, these are
38 specific areas that we want you to look at so we can
39 understand, you know, why the 110 doesn't agree with
40 the 153, etcetera, etcetera.

41 CINDY WILSON: The problem we have is
42 that we have an administrator that can transfer
43 funds from department, account, sub-account, willy
44 nilly all over the place without even notifying
45 council members. And unless you came in and look at
46 ---

47 LARRY FINNEY: At all the departments?
48 Right.

1 CINDY WILSON: -- you would not detect
2 all those ---

3 LARRY FINNEY: Which you could still do
4 under the agreed upon procedures. You could just
5 make sure whatever was agreed to, that all of the
6 departments were looked at so that all of them were
7 covered. You could even include -- say you want to
8 look at all the transfers so that we understand all
9 the transfers that took place as well.

BOB WALDREP: I just have a question. I
think when we had this discussion before when you
were here before council, I think one thing that was
stated was that we had some problems with control.

LARRY FINNEY: Yeah. We had some
recommendations regarding some improvements that
could be made in the internal controls and policies
and procedures. That's right.

BOB WALDREP: And I have to ask you this
question. If you were sitting on this council and
you were talking to another accountant perhaps, and
you were trying to put this all in perspective about
the most efficient, cost efficient as well as energy
efficient ways to address this problem, what would be
your recommendation?

LARRY FINNEY: You're saying this problem
in terms of ...

BOB WALDREP: In terms of trying to
promote the greatest integrity of our county system.

LARRY FINNEY: I would probably, I would
probably consider two things. I would, one, consider
doing some agreed upon procedures in some areas that
we had some concerns about. The other thing that
could be done, I think, Ms. Wilson, you or somebody
has mentioned that in the past that some type of
operational or efficiency work had been done by
somebody. I don't know if that's the case or not.
But you -- I used to work for one of the big
international firms years ago and they're typically
the ones that you will see with certain entities that
will come in and perform what they call operational
or efficiency projects. What tends to happen with
audits, obviously when an audit is performed if
you're looking at the accuracy and propriety of the
transactions having been reported the way they should
and have they been reported accurately, but you're
not gonna deal so much with efficiency kinds of
issues. There are efficiency -- in effect those kind
of projects that can be done. So that would always

be an option.

BOB WALDREP: Accuracy I think is probably what we're looking for and secondarily efficiency.

LARRY FINNEY: Yeah, the accuracy, the accuracy I would think could be handled through agreed upon procedures.

BOB WALDREP: So you feel that this council, if they really wanted to do an audit that the -- we've got two terms here, agreed upon procedures and expanded procedures. Are those synonymous?

LARRY FINNEY: They can be. Typically expanded procedures deal with if we're gonna come do the regular external financial audit, you know, council might say well why don't you just look at this area in addition to what you normally look at for an audit? That's what I would consider expanded procedures. Agreed upon procedures are really totally outside the financial, the regular financial audit. It's saying, let's take on a whole new project and this is what we want that project to be. And then you list whatever those procedures might be.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anymore questions from council?

BOB WALDREP: Well, one other thing I wanted to mention is the way that this special audit ?? provided and listening to the conversations about it, it just seems like that if we were to engage in this kind of audit that we would not necessarily be gaining what we really want to achieve. We would be again counting nuts and bolts at the transportation division and things that we are really not that interested in. Whereas if we focus on something that we find to be troublesome, then we can achieve that ??

LARRY FINNEY: My concern -- if it was me, my concern with this ordinance the way it was written is you're gonna end up having work done in areas that you really don't have concern about and it's gonna be a lot more costly than if you just had agreed upon procedures done. And again, the agreed upon procedures could be -- you could come up with twenty-five. You could come up with three hundred and twenty-five. Again, what -- the number of procedures is unlimited. But it just tends to focus you on those areas where you really, really want the time spent.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Let me ask a question here to Bob and Cindy, what is it y'all want done?

BOB WALDREP: As for me I'm trying to get the language, the lingo, that CPAs and accountants use to try to define what we're gonna do here. First of all we started out with this concept of a total audit, you know, like you were talking to a penny in, a penny out. In my judgment after listening to this information today, I can't see that that would serve any useful purpose as to what we're trying to achieve. What I think that we probably need to do is to have an audit which would focus on those areas that we find troublesome. For example, the legal expenses, the credit cards, some of those other areas that we find, you know, that are so nebulous and so hard to find. We have a lot of conversations about attorney/client privilege as to why council members can't actually see what this money is going for and things of settlements and things of that nature. So that's one of the areas that we need to get into. My understanding is that the council is the client here. So as a client, I want to be able to know just how this money is being spent. So that would be one area that I would focus on.

RON WILSON: What else you want?

BOB WALDREP: Well, of course the credit card situation.

RON WILSON: Can you draft what you want and have it ready for the next meeting?

BOB WALDREP: With some help from the accountant, I think that I could.

RON WILSON: All right. Let's do it.

GRACIE FLOYD: How long would this type of audit take if we were going to do something like that?

LARRY FINNEY: Well, again it would depend upon the number of procedures that we come up with. I could give you a better feel once we had a detailed list of what needed to be done. Then I could put the estimated hours to that and get a feel for how much time and what the cost would be once we had that done.

GRACIE FLOYD: You do our audit now; don't you?

LARRY FINNEY: Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: How long does it usually

take you?

LARRY FINNEY: We probably last year spent about eight to nine hundred hours, last year. But that's gonna be totally different than what you might end up with agreed upon procedures. Again, it totally depends upon the procedures that are developed.

GRACIE FLOYD: Nine hundred, eight hundred hours equates to -- is it six months? How many months is that?

LARRY FINNEY: Oh, well, we had, we had (inaudible - noise from audience). Last year we started in early January, finished up about mid February -- actually early February. And I think -- was council ?? in March? I think it was in March. So it was about probably a month and a half for three to four people.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Didn't you start like after the fiscal year ended, like sixty days out, you started in January?

LARRY FINNEY: Well, that was because -- that was just because of the county did not actually end up contracting with us until way after year end. This year we have actually already been out and spent about three weeks doing interim work already even before year end. And we'll be back out in December this year and we'll have everything done by the end of December.

CINDY WILSON: Are we paying y'all consulting fees outside of the auditing fees?

LARRY FINNEY: The only fees that you've paid us so far are there were some -- a couple of additional procedures or work that was done as part of last year's audit. And then we've had to attend some meetings related to, you know, some of those things. But no, we haven't done any, we haven't done any what I would call consulting or advisory work or anything like that other than this kind of thing right here.

CINDY WILSON: And have we paid y'all consulting ??

LARRY FINNEY: Yeah, what they did is -- I asked about that when I saw that. And what they do is they just put the contracted audit fee on the audit side and then if there's any additional procedures that are done they put that in consulting as opposed to just adding it to the audit side of

things.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: I would take it that once Mr. Waldrep has drawn up this audit procedure we would submit it but that your firm wouldn't be in the running for this, it would be through another firm; right?

LARRY FINNEY: What I would suggest you do is actually just put it out for bids. That's what I'd suggest.

INAUDIBLE DISCUSSION - NOISE FROM AUDIENCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The question before the council is what we want to do about this special audit that's a part of the budget ordinance. Speaking for myself, and myself only, I would like to leave it to the next council. This is not going to be a final ...

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need to maintain order, please. This is not going to be an easy procedure and I want to make sure the people requesting this special audit gets what they want. And since I'm not gonna be here to answer the ins and outs, I want the people who want this to get what they want. So just for me myself, I think we should just postpone this special audit and let the new council take it up when they assume office.

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, technically this is a workshop and we cannot take votes. But I can get the consensus of council so if you want to say I agree or I disagree, I can get a consensus and then ---

BOB WALDREP: ??

MICHAEL THOMPSON: ?? both. But just speak ??

BOB WALDREP: Yea.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yea. Mr. Martin here? I need to get a consensus without taking a vote; is that right? There is a vote?

TOM MARTIN: You cannot poll council in the sense of finding out what the vote would be, but you certainly can hear from individual members of council what their position is.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me hear from you individuals what your position is?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, let me say something here if I may. It might take a few

minutes. But I have been speaking with some of the newly elected council people that will be coming on and they certainly are the elephant in the room. So I take it from the consensus of what they have said that they would like very much the opportunity to pass on this audit because they're gonna be the ones that are going to be responsible to that degree, and that will be greatly appreciated. And I think it would also add to the assurance and trust of the people out there if these new council people have that opportunity to do so. So let me just tick off a few things here ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Tick away.

BOB WALDREP: -- since I've got an obligation to do that. And that is that they would like to have a bid procedure be written into the ordinance. They would like to -- for the audit firm not to be connected to any Anderson County employee and make sure that there was a divorce between that or any kind of special interest. That the administrator and financial director would be placed on paid leave. They would be readily available to answer any questions that should become necessary and they would be prohibited from having contact during this audit period. An acting administrator would be hired to fulfill the requirements of the South Carolina Home Rule Act and the acting administrator would fulfill the direction of the County Council in this audit exercise as well as direct the employees of the county. And that the county council would meet with the financial audit committee. They would like to have an audit committee prepared and of course they would be part of that. And if we do postpone it then they would be very much a part of that and that would be moot. That the acting administrator would accept the bids of the audit and bring them to the county council for discussion and after the audit firm is chosen they would meet with acting administrator for discussion and implementation of the council recommendations for an audit. So these are some of the ideas that have come from the newly elected council folks. And I certainly think that great weight should be given to the fact that we've got a big change in the composition of our council.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that the consensus of the council to postpone and let the new council take it up? Anybody want to say anything because I can't

take a vote here?

RON WILSON: Fine with me.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Fine with you, Mr. ...
Anybody else wish to speak? Okay. It sounds like
what I'm hearing is, it is the consensus of the
present council to postpone any action on a special
audit and let the new council when they are seated
take up the issue and define the parameters and ??.
Correct me if I'm wrong. There are no corrections so
that's what's gonna happen.

APPLAUSE

END OF AUDIT MEETING

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – August 19, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2 (late)
Larry E. Greer - District #3 (left early)
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Celia Myers – Acting Clerk

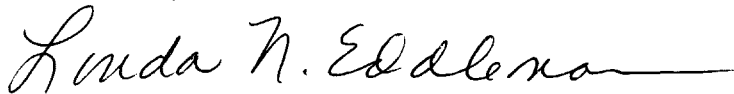
ABSENT

Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

1 **THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE BEGINNING OF
2 THIS COUNCIL MEETING PREPARED BY MRS. CELIA BOYD
3 MYERS WHO WAS FILLING IN FOR MRS. LINDA EDDLEMAN**

4 The official meeting of the Anderson County
5 Council convened in the Council Chambers of the
6 Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at
7 6:00 p.m. Chairman Michael Thompson called the
8 meeting to order. Chairman Michael Thompson asked
9 that the record show that Mrs. Celia Boyd Myers was
10 filling in for Mrs. Linda Eddleman; and that Mrs.
11 Gracie Floyd was not present at this time, but would
12 join them later. He then asked Mr. Bill McAbee to
13 give the invocation. Everyone stood and pledged
14 allegiance to the flag of the United States of
15 America.

16 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

17 Chairman Michael Thompson moved to approve the
18 minutes from the July 15, 2008 regular meeting. Ms.
19 Cindy Wilson seconded. Ms. Cindy Wilson moved to
20 amend page 27 of the minutes to read "There are
21 farms" instead of "They're farms". Chairman Michael
22 Thompson seconded her motion; and the vote to amend
23 the minutes was unanimous. The motion to approve
24 the minutes as amended was passed unanimously.
25 Chairman Michael Thompson then moved to approve the
26 minutes from the August 5, 2008 work session; and
27 Ms. Cindy Wilson seconded. Mr. Bill McAbee moved to
28 amend the last sentence in the 2nd paragraph on the
29 1st page to read that Mr. Waldrep read a statement
30 requested as a result of the consensus of the
31 incoming Council. Mr. Ron Wilson seconded his
32 motion to amend. Mr. Bob Waldrep asked if the work
33 session had been recorded. Chairman Michael
34 Thompson stated that it had not. Mr. Bob Waldrep
35 stated that he believed Mr. Bill McAbee was correct;
36 and that did say that. Mr. Ron Wilson moved to
37 amend Mr. Bill McAbee's amendment to include a copy
38 of the statement Mr. Bob Waldrep read from that day.
39 Mr. Bill McAbee seconded the motion. Mr. Bob
40 Waldrep agreed to provide a copy of the Council's
41 records. The vote to amend Mr. Bill McAbee's
42 amendment was passed 5-0. The vote to amend the
43 minutes of the August 5th work session was passed 5-
44 0. The vote to approve the minutes as amended was
45 also unanimously passed.

46 CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Matters

47 Chairman Michael Thompson read the instructions
48 for speakers during the Citizens' Comments; Agenda
49 Matters. Ms. Ann Smith of Hamlin Road, District #6,
50 approached and thanked the Council for their

1 previous votes on the Three and Twenty zoning Map.
2 She asked that the Council again vote for approval
3 on third reading. Mr. Eddie Moore of 1311 Agnew
4 Road, District #3, approached the Council Members.
5 He read a prepared statement concerning the burden
6 on taxpayers and that they could not handle another
7 increase in taxes.

8 The tape should begin running here.

9 **VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT STARTS AT THIS POINT**

10 EDDIE MOORE: We cannot afford to
11 continue this mode of operation in this county and
12 it needs to stop now. I strongly advise you to stop
13 this tax increase now and wait until better economic
14 times are with us before we go forward with this
15 type of increase. We already see where the sheriff
16 is projected to need another three million dollars
17 for next year. What else are we not being told?
18 Before we commit to another dollar increase in
19 Anderson County's budget, let's wait until the new
20 council takes office in January when we will have a
21 real audit to see where we can find money elsewhere.
22 Thank you.

23 TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

24 MARK POWELL: Council chairman and
25 council members, my name is Mark Powell. I live off
26 Hogg Road in Williamston in council member Cindy's
27 district seven. The money you guys spend, the
28 ordinances you pass, the zoning that people beg you
29 to give them, the reason they ask you to do these
30 things -- I would love for you to have a hearing for
31 the people who had their areas zoned and ask them,
32 did you get what you bargained for? The people over
33 on Highway 81 who begged for zoning first, I think
34 you will find ninety-nine percent of them will say,
35 we didn't want 81 to become Clemson Boulevard. We
36 don't want the commercial development. But yet,
37 what did they get? 81 has turned into Clemson
38 Boulevard. They did it to protect their residential
39 living conditions. I wish the council would
40 understand that all you're doing in passing zoning
41 ordinances is allowing the county to need more
42 employees, hire more people, to put little signs
43 saying we're gonna have a zoning hearing for the
44 people who want to change the zones. I mean, I'm
45 amazed up near the landfill, no one wants it in
46 their backyard. I'm glad they chose that yard
47 instead of mine. I'm honest. Okay. But you
48 already exempted someone from paying money to get a
49 zoning change even before you do the zoning, if I
50 read that correct last time. It's all about bigger

1 government, more rules, more employees and they have
2 to pay money in order to get something changed to
3 what y'all are gonna give them anyway. It's ten
4 million dollars. You know, we go from thirty-eight
5 million somewhat to a hundred and forty-two million.
6 I'd ask any citizen in this room to say how many
7 roads have been paved, how many utilities have been
8 upgraded. Yeah, we've added some new sewer systems
9 for a mega warehouse that has commodes only. We
10 need industrial growth, so hopefully that's gonna
11 help that. But the bottom line is, this ten million
12 bucks should have already been in the hundred and
13 forty-two. All we're gonna get is -- I went down to
14 Broadway Lake. I've been there twice now. It's a
15 beautiful lake. It's a tiny little twirpy little
16 lake with a golf course nearby that I'm sure has a
17 banquet room that could be used for some kind of
18 facility. Lake Hartwell is huge. If we're gonna
19 build something that's gonna be used by the general
20 public -- I don't know how many people in here even
21 know how to get to Broadway Lake. It would be nice
22 to have something, but out there where nobody knows
23 how to get to, it's ridiculous. If you're gonna
24 pass this ten million dollars to give a building
25 down on a lake that hardly anybody knows where it's
26 at or has ever been to, I wish you would name it a
27 name that's very fitting. Five to two. I think
28 that would be an appropriate name because five
29 people out of seven is what's voted for it generally
30 speaking. That would be an appropriate name. Five
31 to two new facility. Thank you.

32 TOM MARTIN: Roger Scott, Sr.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He's gonna wait.

34 TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

35 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, ladies and
36 gentlemen of the council, Mr. Chairman. Before I
37 address the council agenda matter I'd like to talk
38 about -- I'd first like to say that I really
39 appreciate the wise choice that you made at the
40 special called meeting dealing with the audit. For
41 a long time the citizens in this county felt like
42 none of you were willing to listen to what we had to
43 say. I will not lie to you. Many of us went to
44 that meeting sure that we were gonna have that audit
45 shoved down our throat. We wouldn't have believed a
46 word that came out of it. You were wise to see
47 that. I think you did the right thing to let the
48 new council handle it. That'll put the ball in our
49 court, so to speak. I'd like, once again, just to
50 thank you for that. The agenda matter I'd like to

1 speak to is R2008 -- put my eyes back on -- -040. I
2 believe this is something Ms. Wilson is bringing
3 forward dealing with the county council's review and
4 approval of all bids and contracts. We've had a lot
5 of controversy here in the county about some of the
6 goings-on that just don't seem quite right and I
7 hope that you would all give it the consideration
8 that it is due when she speaks to it. And again,
9 Mr. Chairman, thank you for your wise decision.

10 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
11 citizens under agenda matters.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
13 Economic development announcement, resolution 2008-
14 039, Mr. Preston and Ms. Jones. I will let you make
15 your announcement and we need to make the motions to
16 get the resolution on the floor. And from that
17 point we would have our discussions on the ---

18 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we have a --
19 Heather Jones will come forward to present the
20 council the proposal tonight. We do have items to
21 vote on tonight. We have representatives from the
22 company that are with us tonight also. Heather.

23 HEATHER JONES: Good evening and thank
24 you, Mr. Chairman, council members, Mr. Preston, Mr.
25 Martin and members of the audience. AFCO, a local
26 industry in Anderson who is majority owned by the
27 Bosch Corporation is considering adding and
28 introducing new product lines at their Anderson
29 facility. This is a project that is competitive
30 with one of their facilities in Mexico, which is
31 actually the favored site. This critical component
32 in the addition of these new product lines is
33 critical because it aids in the transition of this
34 facility as the existing production lines and their
35 products are otherwise slated to be phased out
36 entirely by 2013. The potential expansion as you
37 would find in the documents that were delivered
38 yesterday would call for twenty new jobs, ten of
39 which would happen in 2009 and ten of which would
40 happen in 2010 and an over forty million dollar
41 capital investment at the facility. By approving
42 this inducement resolution tonight, which I request
43 that you do so, you're committing to AFCO Anderson
44 County's commitment to retaining three hundred and
45 thirty employed associates at the current time as
46 well as the new twenty employees and the potential
47 for the forty million dollars of new capital
48 investment. Often existing industries don't feel
49 the sizzle that new companies do whenever they're
50 coming to an economic development office or to the

1 state talking about expansion, new capital
2 investment and new jobs. But I will say that this
3 is one proposal that I feel is really the exception
4 to that rule. They came to us with a very large
5 need for incumbent worker training. Those three
6 hundred and thirty employees have a distinct need to
7 be trained on the new production lines if this
8 expansion happens. A very large dollar value. So I
9 think it's also incumbent upon you to look at those
10 partners that I named within the letter yesterday
11 which are Department of Commerce, Ready SC, Tri
12 County Technical College, the South Carolina
13 Technical System -- Technical College System,
14 WorkLink, as well as many others. Because without
15 them we would not have been able to tackle the
16 incumbent worker training need that this company
17 has. So together with these partners we have really
18 put together a very aggressive proposal in an
19 attempt to keep them in Anderson County. So I would
20 ask that you ~~a~~approve this inducement resolution
21 tonight with the knowledge that you have your
22 staff's approval, as well as our county attorney,
23 Robert Galloway, who has reviewed the document and
24 did find it in order.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Jones.
26 The chair moves to approve resolution 2008-039. Is
27 there a second?

28 BILL MCABEE: Second.

29 CINDY WILSON: Second.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
31 discussion on this?

32 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

34 BOB WALDREP: I assume that this is the
35 normal typical fee in lieu of agreement? Is that
36 correct?

37 HEATHER JONES: Mr. Waldrep, back in 2003
38 the county entered into a super fee agreement with
39 Bosch and that was a four percent assessment rate,
40 which is allowed by state law. In '06 they came
41 back and amended that. This would allow them to
42 come under the standard super fee that Bosch has,
43 since this is a majority owned company by Bosch. So
44 to answer your question, it is a normal fee in lieu
45 of tax. There is no credit associated with it. It
46 is just a straight fee.

47 BOB WALDREP: Four percent?

48 HEATHER JONES: Yes, sir.

49 BOB WALDREP: Normally a corporation is
50 ten percent; right?

1 HEATHER JONES: It's a ten point five
2 traditional assessment.

3 BOB WALDREP: And then there's -- I
4 thought the fee that we were operating on was about
5 a six percent at one time.

6 HEATHER JONES: No, sir. A super fee,
7 when they reach a certain threshold for state-wide
8 investment, that's when a super fee hits. And so
9 that's a four percent assessment.

10 BOB WALDREP: There's no super, super
11 fee is there? This is about as far as they've gone,
12 is four percent?

13 HEATHER JONES: This is the extent at
14 which we're allowed to reduce the assessment rate.

15 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

16 HEATHER JONES: Thank you.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Hearing no
18 one, the chair calls for the vote on resolution
19 2008-039. All in favor, please vote. The vote is
20 unanimous. Thank you. Resolution R2008-036, a
21 resolution recognizing and honoring Anderson County
22 resident Bailey Hanks for her recent success in
23 Broadway and thanking Ms. Hanks for the positive
24 image she has given to Anderson county. The chair
25 moves to approve. Is there a second?

26 CINDY WILSON: Second.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
28 Wilson. Ms. Wilson, this is yours.

29 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I wanted to
30 have Ms. Hanks' family to come up front and join me
31 and we have a framed and signed copy by all of our
32 council members and just wanted to express our great
33 joy in this young lady's success. Whereas, Anderson
34 county is elected by and representative of the
35 citizens of Anderson county and is therefore deeply
36 involved in and affected by all the events in the
37 lives of its citizens. And whereas, Miss Bailey
38 Hanks was born in Anderson county on February 6th,
39 1988 to parents Brad and Angie Hanks, was raised by
40 her parents, along with her sisters, Brooke and
41 Bradlee, to be part of a close-knit family and is a
42 true product of the Anderson County community and
43 its schools, having attended Centerville Elementary,
44 Lakeside Middle, Westside High and Pendleton High.
45 And whereas Miss Hanks has been deeply involved in
46 the Anderson county performing arts community since
47 she was very young and while growing up in Anderson
48 county she performed for almost every theater
49 organization in Anderson county. And whereas, Miss
50 Hanks' most recent success has been her selection to

1 perform the role of Elle Woods in the Broadway
2 production of Legally Blonde after a grueling six
3 week audition which was filmed as a reality based
4 television show on MTV. And whereas, beyond her
5 obvious talent, Miss Hanks exhibits grace and
6 maturity beyond her years, which is a testament to
7 the influence of her loving and dedicated parents
8 and her nurturing family and a reflection upon the
9 community in which she was raised. And whereas,
10 Miss Hanks consistently credits her upbringing and
11 her roots in Anderson county as an important part of
12 her ability to weather any storm, and Anderson
13 county wishes to express its gratitude to Miss Hanks
14 for the positive portrayal of Anderson county that
15 she has shown the entire country and the world. And
16 whereas, Anderson county, a body politic and
17 corporate and political subdivision of the state of
18 South Carolina, acting by and through the county
19 council desires to honor and recognize Miss Hanks
20 for her success and for her continued commitment to
21 Anderson county. Now therefore, it is hereby
22 resolved by Anderson county council in meeting duly
23 assembled that Anderson county hereby honors and
24 recognizes Miss Bailey Hanks for her recent
25 selection for the role of Elle Woods in the Broadway
26 production of Legally Blonde and for the pride that
27 Miss Hanks has brought to her family and to the
28 entire Anderson county community. Miss Hanks,
29 congratulations in achieving one more of your many
30 goals. You continue to inspire the Anderson county
31 community through your talent, your charm, your
32 maturity and your grace. Thank you for the
33 wonderful representation of Anderson county and its
34 people. This resolution shall take effect and be in
35 force immediately upon enactment. Resolved in
36 meeting duly assembled this 19th day of August,
37 2008. Thank you for sharing the joy with us.

38 APPLAUSE

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that all, Ms. Wilson.

40 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

42 BOB WALDREP: Before we get into the
43 next item. I received a call from a Mr. Oldham that
44 said that there was a request from Dr. Hunt to
45 reform this resolution.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm gonna get to
47 that. But we need a vote on this one.

48 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I'm sorry.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anymore discussion on Ms.
50 Wilson's resolution. Okay. Call for the vote on

1 resolution 2008-036. All in favor please vote. It
2 is unanimous. Now, getting to resolution 2008-038.
3 I was asked to remove that from the agenda.

4 BOB WALDRÉP: Yes, if you would.
5 They've said that they would redo it.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. So we're at
7 number seven, item number seven, employee of the
8 month, Mr. Derrick Singleton, Human Resources
9 Committee Chair.

10 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of
11 council, Mr. Preston, citizens. On behalf of the
12 Anderson County Human Resource Committee, I would
13 like to present the employee of the month for August
14 2008, Veda Maroney.

15 APPLAUSE

16 DERRICK SINGLETON: Members of Ms. Maroney's
17 family, if they would like to come up, you're
18 welcome to come up. Ms. Maroney, on behalf of
19 Anderson County Human Resource Committee, I'd like
20 to present this chamber check and a plaque.
21 Congratulations Veda Maroney, Employee of the Month,
22 Anderson County, July 2008.

23 APPLAUSE

24 VEDA MARONEY: I appreciate all my co-
25 workers. I appreciate it. You don't know how much.
26 And I'm very honored. Thank you.

27 ??: This is Ms. Veda, not Ms.
28 Maroney, and her husband Larry is Mr. Veda to our
29 office staff. So we love Ms. Maroney. She's an
30 excellent worker. She's been with us for ten years.
31 Everybody in the office loves her. You better be
32 good to Ms. Maroney or somebody will take care of
33 you. I would like to mention that Mr. and Mrs.
34 Maroney had their 50th Wedding Anniversary August
35 the 1st. And I would like to give them a round of
36 applause.

37 APPLAUSE

38 ??: I've got a pretty good
39 group of my staff that come to witness this tonight.
40 If they would stand up, I would appreciate it.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wow. That's good.

42 ??: We love you.

43 APPLAUSE

44 ??: Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Check presentation,
46 Department of Commerce. Mr. Preston.

47 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
48 ask Mr. Dirk Reece from the Appalachian Council of
49 Governments to come forward and we had a
50 representative from the State Commerce here to make

1 a check presentation. Mr. Greer, if you would join
2 them, please, down front. Introduce Steve and --
3 okay.

4 DIRK REECE: On behalf of the
5 Honorable Mark Sanford, the Commerce Department
6 secretary, the grants management people, Daniel
7 Young and Bonnie Aman, I am honored to bring this
8 big check tonight. I told Councilman Greer, you
9 can't take this to the bank yet. There's a lot more
10 work to do.

11 LARRY GREER: One day we will.

12 DIRK REECE: But I want to commend Mr.
13 Greer and council. This check, a grant, for five
14 hundred thousand dollars awarded for the Starr-Iva
15 water. This was awarded in the competitive process
16 at the state. Approximately I think thirty-one
17 communities got funded and many didn't get funded.
18 Competitively awarded. So I commend council, the
19 folks in Appalachia, for writing a good application
20 and one that was deserving for the citizens of
21 Starr-Iva. So with that I would like to ---

22 LARRY GREER: While I'm talking I'm
23 gonna ask Randy Pettigrew -- Randy is manager of the
24 Starr-Iva Water Company. I'm really pleased that
25 this is happening at this time of year with the
26 drought that we have and the number of homes that we
27 have that's having trouble with water. A lot of our
28 communities are struggling. And I'm gonna brag on
29 Randy Pettigrew just a little bit. Randy works very
30 hard to try to help get water into the Starr-Iva
31 community. And I'm really pleased that this is one
32 of the last successes that I will be able to
33 participate in while serving on council. My only
34 regret is that -- we have a lot of other people out
35 there who still need water. And my only regret is
36 that we're not able to help all of those people who
37 truly need water. And we thank you for bringing
38 that check today.

39 APPLAUSE

40 RANDY PETTIGREW: I'm not the best speaker
41 in the world, but I just have it laid upon -- as far
42 as Mr. Preston, thank you. You have been a
43 blessing. You've helped the Starr-Iva Water Company
44 graciously. We've never come to you and you've
45 never refused us. You've always give it your best
46 shot. And again, from the Starr-Iva community I
47 thank you. Larry Greer, God bless him. He's been a
48 blessing to Starr and Iva, which he has to Anderson
49 County. Words -- I couldn't explain in words how
50 much I appreciate Larry and what he's done for the

1 Starr and Iva area. Most of you know that we're
2 kind of a poor area down there, but we love each
3 other. And we try to put the Lord first and try to
4 help our people all we can. And I just want to
5 thank each council member, the chairman and all, God
6 bless you in all your endeavors. Thank you.

7 APPLAUSE

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item number nine,
9 Connections presentation, Mr. Dan McKinney, Downtown
10 Economic Redevelopment Committee. Okay.

11 DAN MCKINNEY: Mr. Chairman and council
12 members, thank you very much for the opportunity to
13 speak to you this evening. My name is Dan McKinney
14 and I'm the spokesperson tonight for an organization
15 in downtown Anderson. The organization is the
16 National Trust Main Street Program and the specific
17 committee of that program is the Economic
18 Restructuring Committee. This is a committee formed
19 from members of our public sector, city, people that
20 work for the city, as well as people that work in
21 the county, people that are landowners, property
22 owners, and business owners, in downtown Anderson.
23 These stakeholders on this committee, there are
24 about twenty people and they have come together to
25 produce a vision for being able to recruit new
26 business and new enterprise to downtown Anderson.
27 I'll read a little bit from our charter to help you
28 understand what this organization is about. The
29 Economic Restructuring Committee will provide
30 leadership to strengthen downtown Anderson's
31 existing economic assets while expanding and
32 diversifying its economic base, will develop and
33 implement programs to help sharpen the
34 competitiveness of existing businesses, recruit
35 compatible new businesses and find new economic uses
36 to build a commercial district that responds to the
37 needs of today's consumers. We will find ways to
38 convert unused or underused commercial space into
39 economically productive uses. I'm not sure which
40 I'm more proud of, the production of a suite of
41 recruiting documents, which I'm gonna show you a few
42 of, or the fact that we have an organization in
43 place that is -- produced these documents in a
44 nonpartisan way with a true public/private sector
45 partnership. And this has happened kind of under
46 the radar and I'm here tonight to help educate the
47 community and help educate you about this group and
48 show you one of their accomplishments. Before you
49 is a booklet and it's called Connections. It is
50 based on building off of the Electric City, the

1 theme of the Electric City and using that core
2 identification for the city of Anderson as a way to
3 promote why a business, why an enterprise, would
4 want to locate here. The single page document
5 that's in front of you which is also -- for the
6 audience I'll pull up page two here. Some of this
7 is on this page. But to help you understand what
8 this committee has done, I'll read you a little bit
9 from this document. This would be the read me or
10 welcome document that is contained on our companion
11 CD that accompanies the book. Locating in downtown
12 Anderson, South Carolina, the brightest part of the
13 Electric City, will energize your business. We
14 offer all the right connections to ensure that your
15 business succeeds. Hence the title of our print
16 media and multimedia of Connections. Welcome to
17 Connections, your guide to locating your business in
18 downtown Anderson, South Carolina. The Main Street
19 program and the city of Anderson has partnered to
20 create this guide which will make your choice to
21 locate in downtown Anderson an easy decision. The
22 booklet you have in front of you is broken down into
23 several areas, and I'm not gonna go through all
24 these, but I do want to show what the book is about
25 and how we plan to use this as a recruiting tool.
26 We help people understand how to get connected to
27 Anderson's market, location, alternate financing, to
28 capitalize on the branding that's being brought into
29 existence for downtown, so their business can
30 identify with our advertising programs. The
31 infrastructure for downtown and how they can tap
32 into how to do business here and make it easy for
33 them to do that. Our community, why our -- we have
34 a community that wants a downtown and wants a
35 sustainable, viable downtown, and so that's working
36 in their favor. We have anchors that are already
37 drawing considerable traffic to our trade zone and
38 how they can tap into that traffic. We also give
39 them forms on -- to help them navigate the waters to
40 come into business easily in our commercial
41 district. I'll show you a little bit of one of the
42 pages in the book. And what I'm using here is one
43 of our, one of our techniques being able to give
44 people the tools to understand why they want to be
45 located in downtown Anderson. This is an -- this
46 happens to be an interactive PDF file which is
47 located on the companion disc for the books that you
48 have in front of you. This file is also
49 downloadable off the Connections website,
50 andersonscconnections.org and they can obtain this.

1 And the interactivity allows them to navigate this
2 document the same way you would a website and be
3 able to locate email addresses and jump directly off
4 of this document to other websites for organizations
5 that are in support of their new business. We have
6 a trade zone, the market segment, which I want to
7 touch on briefly, is that we are providing on our
8 companion disc not only this welcome mat and what we
9 offer, we're also providing them a very rich set of
10 data that we have worked with the Nielsen, Claritus
11 (phonics) Group to bring into existence and this
12 data basically gives them a very enriched
13 demographic profile for our trade zone. It give\
14 them the retail market potential which helps them
15 identify gaps and the presence of whether businesses
16 are here that are serving a demand. If there's a
17 gap this tool helps them understand that. And
18 lastly, it helps them understand our market profile
19 and who we are, what we buy, how we spend our money
20 and what products. And with those three tools, this
21 gives a new business a real leg up in research for
22 why it makes sense to be located in downtown
23 Anderson. The rest of the book, you know, follows
24 those same lines. I'm not here tonight to go
25 through that whole book. But it is available in a
26 booklet form. It's available on a website. It's
27 available on a companion CD and this way of
28 providing multimedia lets people consume what we
29 want to tell them the way that they would like to
30 look at the data. This was our first step as a
31 committee, was to provide the case for change or the
32 reason for why you would locate in downtown
33 Anderson. Our second phase, which has just kicked
34 off with a new -- election of new officers and new
35 chairman is to take the message out and actually do
36 the recruiting. Also to make sure that this
37 committee is working in concert with the existing
38 entities that are working for downtown Anderson at
39 the city and the county level. In conclusion I do
40 want to offer one additional comment which we're
41 very proud of and that is that in the rear of the
42 book and you see the credits, I want to bring your
43 attention that no trees died to bring this book into
44 existence. This is an alternative fiber book made
45 of sugarcane mostly and with a smattering of post
46 consumer recycled paper. So it's not shiny and
47 glossy, but we're proud of the fact that it is
48 printed on such a new material and an alternative
49 material. That concludes my remarks. I believe
50 there's a little time if you have any questions or

1 comments. I'll feel free to answer them.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions or comments
3 from the council?

4 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

6 CINDY WILSON: I'll look forward to
7 reading this and I really appreciate all that you've
8 done, Mr. McKinney, to try to pull this all together
9 and go forward with marketing our great county.

10 Thank you.

11 DAN MCKINNEY: Thank you very much. And
12 I will pass that on to our committee, who deserves
13 the credit.

14 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

16 BOB WALDREP: Mr. McKinney, thank you
17 for the presentation. Appreciate that. Is
18 Connections sort of coordinated with other
19 organizations such as like Imagine Anderson and the
20 other ...

21 DAN MCKINNEY: It is coordinated through
22 the fact that we have representation with, for
23 example, the county economic development office, for
24 example, Heather Jones is a committee member.
25 Arlene Young is Downtown Development coordinator for
26 Anderson and is a committee member. The mayor of
27 Anderson is a committee member. But it's not all,
28 you know, public sector, there's also plenty of shop
29 owners and whatnot. Part of the new -- the next
30 step for this in recruiting is we're always
31 reformulating the committee based on the needs that
32 we have, and so Imagine Anderson, the Chamber is
33 involved. We're trying to make sure that we're
34 touching all of those bases so that we have a
35 coordinated program here.

36 BOB WALDREP: Upstate Anderson, is that
37 -- is it Upstate?

38 DAN MCKINNEY: Well, it's the new
39 Innovate, I think Innovate Anderson is what it's
40 called.

41 BOB WALDREP: Innovate, okay. I guess
42 my thought is that I just wanted to make sure that
43 everybody is talking to everybody and there was ---

44 DAN MCKINNEY: That is utmost important
45 to us.

46 BOB WALDREP: -- no duplication going
47 on, you know, duplication of effort. Thank you very
48 much.

49 DAN MCKINNEY: You're quite welcome.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Thank you,

1 Mr. McKinney. Item number ten, presentation to
2 county council, Mr. Terry Chapman and the Little
3 Joes All Star team. Bring all the kids up too,
4 please, so we can see them. Is their mic on?

5 TERRY CHAPMAN: Well, they told me I had
6 a big enough mouth anyhow. This is the ten and
7 under all stars Anderson, South Carolina Little
8 Joes. On behalf of them, we want to thank the
9 county council for helping us represent Anderson,
10 South Carolina. We had two teams in it, one came in
11 third, one came in fifth. We might not have
12 finished first as far as standings, but we finished
13 first in the hearts of the people around baseball.
14 They seen such attitude, such good sportsmanship,
15 good coaching, and the kids had a lot of fun on top
16 of that. And they appreciate each and everything
17 that y'all have done for them. At this time we
18 would like for council members from district 1, 2,
19 4, 5 and 6, if they would come down front. I know
20 Ms. Gracie is not here. I talked with her the other
21 day and I didn't talk with her today. She had some
22 physical ailments at one time. So I'm gonna sort of
23 hold on to hers or I might get Mr. Preston or one of
24 them to present it to her when she comes back. But
25 if we would, I'd like Mr. Waldrep, since he's in
26 district one, guys, who's got Mr. Waldrep's? If you
27 would, come up here. This says right here, and I
28 told them, I said, I'm not gonna read because we'll
29 want to redeem the time and we didn't have but ten
30 minutes. But it says presented to Bob Waldrep, Jr.
31 in appreciation for taking care of our kids in the
32 community 2008. Thanks. Little Joes Ten and Under
33 All Stars.

34 BOB WALDREP: Thank you very much,
35 guys.

36 APPLAUSE

37 TERRY CHAPMAN: We want to get a picture
38 with you. Like I said, I'll keep Ms. Gracie's right
39 now. But district four, Mr. McAbee -- that's right.
40 Mr. McAbee, if you would. Mr. McAbee, we thank you
41 for, when I say taking care of our kids, that's what
42 I mean. It's not just mine. I haven't got but one
43 up here, and hopefully get him out of the house I
44 won't have no more. But taking care of all the
45 kids. Because it's like I've said in the past, some
46 of these kids couldn't have made it or couldn't
47 afford to make it or wouldn't have went if it hadn't
48 been for the county council and the members that
49 supported them. Mr. McAbee, I appreciate it.

50 BILL MCABEE: Thank you.

1 APPLAUSE

2 TERRY CHAPMAN: District five, Mr.
3 Thompson. We've got Mr. Thompson over there. Come
4 on guys. And these boys ain't that shy when you ...
5 But Mr. Thompson, again, like I say, we just -- we
6 can't say enough, because like I said, textiles, the
7 companies used to take care of the kids. I started
8 when I was five till I was too old to play. But
9 they're gone. So now it's gonna take the county
10 council and members of the county to help these guys
11 represent who they are, not what they, you know,
12 what we make them be or anything, but what they can
13 be, and that's the best of their ability. District
14 six, Mr. Wilson. Come on, guys. Mr. Wilson, again,
15 I know I just keep going over and over, but I can't,
16 I can't say enough ... (microphone malfunction - Mr.
17 Chapman cannot be heard)

18 APPLAUSE

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are on item
20 number eleven, presentation to the county council,
21 Mr. Rusty Marsh, Golden Harvest ...

22 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

23 RUSTY MARSH: My name is Rusty Marsh.
24 I'm administrator of the Golden Harvest Food Bank in
25 Aiken, South Carolina. We've been serving six
26 counties in the South Carolina side and eleven
27 counties in the Georgia side through the Golden
28 Harvest Food Bank. We were blessed, five counties
29 in the upstate. And the Golden Harvest Food Bank is
30 glad to be in the upstate and I believe the agencies
31 that we partner with are glad to have us here.
32 Currently we have about eleven member agencies that
33 get food from the food bank. We started servicing
34 them in June of last year. In December of this year
35 we opened up what we call the UDC, Upstate
36 Distribution Center. Very proud of that. About
37 thirteen miles outside of Anderson up near Liberty,
38 South Carolina. A member agency of the Golden
39 Harvest Food Bank can come there and get critical
40 food supplies that are needed by seniors and that
41 are needed by children. Now, the Golden Harvest
42 Food Bank, we do many different programs. Mainly we
43 sponsor with churches and other non-profits to
44 provide emergency food assistance. They can do that
45 in a number of ways. We have a program called the
46 brown bag program which we're proud of that serves
47 seniors with a twenty-five pound box of food every
48 month. And what I've been told by these seniors is
49 that box of food that I get is just what it takes to
50 get me over. You know, social security comes in and

1 it goes right out. And it goes out to such items as
2 rent, electric. And hey, when you get a little bit
3 older like myself, I'm fifty-eight years old, I'm on
4 three kinds of medicine. So go figure, you're gonna
5 have to have some medicine. At the Golden Harvest
6 Food Bank, we don't want our seniors to do without
7 food or to do without their medicine or not to be
8 able to pay their rent, electric bill, those things.
9 Golden Harvest Food Bank only does one thing. We
10 store food. We're a non-profit organization. We've
11 got a thirteen thousand square foot building in
12 Aiken. It's about two thousand five hundred square
13 feet up near Liberty. And currently, like I say, we
14 service eleven agencies. Anderson Interfaith
15 Ministries, you probably recognize them. Operation
16 Care, you probably recognize them. And Haven of
17 Rest. Just to mention a few. Now our mission at
18 the Golden Harvest Food Bank is to end hunger, feed
19 the people. Now, you may ask, Rusty, how is the
20 Golden Harvest Food Bank going to end hunger? The
21 bible says, we'll always have the poor. It's up to
22 us to help those that are in need. The way the
23 Golden Harvest Food Bank is going to accomplish
24 this, by having an emergency food pantry. That's
25 another church or a non-profit organization within a
26 twenty to thirty minute driving distance of somebody
27 who is in need of food assistance. If we can do
28 that, if we can put food into those areas, then we
29 can effectively say that we have ended hunger. I've
30 been at this since 1994. I love it. I go out and
31 speak to various people and they say, well, you work
32 for Golden Harvest Food Bank, you're a volunteer. I
33 say, no ma'am, I get paid. I'm doing something that
34 I enjoy, and hey, they pay me for it too. Now, we
35 keep a small staff. Most of our work is done by
36 volunteers at the various branches. People come in
37 and they sort food. We receive food nationally. We
38 receive it locally. We go to the local grocery
39 stores. We get a lot of support from corporations
40 and stuff like that. I'm coming before the Anderson
41 council tonight to ask for just a thousand dollars.
42 And if you award the Golden Harvest Food Bank a
43 thousand dollars, let me tell you what I can do with
44 it. The Golden Harvest Food Bank received tractor
45 trailer loads of food. We have member agencies,
46 there's eleven in Anderson County, that we're
47 serving effectively. But when we receive a tractor
48 trailer load of food, we're not gonna turn it down,
49 because we have tractor trailers. We have a fleet
50 of trucks that can go pick that food up if it's

1 donated to us. Then what we do, we bring it back
2 and we make sure that our member agencies are taking
3 care of food. They can come and get food and they
4 get a little invoice. It's called a shared
5 maintenance fee. It's like ten to twelve cent per
6 pound. Now you can't get food at any grocery store
7 or anywhere that I know of for ten to twelve cent
8 per pound. But because they partner with the Golden
9 Harvest Food Bank and because we have a fleet of
10 trucks, then they can come and they can get food,
11 just pay a shared maintenance fee. Then they can go
12 back and they can give it to individuals who need it
13 such as the seniors. There's other programs for
14 children, after school programs that we're very
15 proud of. But the program that I'm describing to
16 you, and I'm asking -- you can fund with a thousand
17 dollars, two manna trucks. What we call a manna
18 truck is five thousand pounds of grocery product.
19 Do the math. That's about ten cent per pound. But
20 that can come into Anderson county. Any church can
21 do it, anybody who would like to feed people. We
22 can advertise in the area that the Golden Harvest
23 Food Bank, in connection with a church or a non-
24 profit organization is going to have a mass feeding
25 program. Currently, the statistics in Anderson
26 County is one in seven residents live in poverty.
27 Well, already this year we have distributed over
28 three hundred and seventeen thousand pounds of food.
29 So we're doing all that we can do. And we need your
30 support to help do that. Those two trucks called
31 manna trucks can provide over ten thousand pounds of
32 food to those residents who are in need of food
33 assistance. That's all we do. We do food. We do
34 it well. I'm very proud to work with the Golden
35 Harvest Food Bank simply for this reason. And when
36 I go out and share, I always try to tell this. For
37 every one dollar that comes into the Golden Harvest
38 Food Bank, ninety-five cents of that dollar goes out
39 to do the mission work. Only five percent is kept
40 for administrative. That's a very good non-profit.
41 If you're looking for a place to -- a non-profit to
42 get into, you want to check what amount of your
43 dollar goes to administrative. A nickle on the
44 dollar goes to the Golden Harvest Food Bank
45 administrative costs. That pays my salary and I
46 love what I do. One other statistic that I want to
47 give you, and I won't give you a lot of statistics,
48 but I will ask if you have any questions. I'll try
49 to answer them for you.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions from

1 council? No questions.

2 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

4 CINDY WILSON: What are your eleven
5 corresponding agencies?

6 RUSTY MARSH: I have to write them
7 down. I mentioned Anderson Interfaith Ministries,
8 Haven of Rest, Meals on Wheels of Anderson,
9 Salvation Army of Anderson. We partner with a lot
10 of Salvation Armies. We also partner with Red Cross
11 organizations too in times of disaster. So the
12 Golden Harvest Food Bank, in addition to emergency
13 food panties, we're there in time of disasters,
14 emergencies. West Anderson Church of God, Cross
15 Hill Church of God, Iva First Baptist, Concord
16 Community, Emanuel Full Gospel, and I mentioned
17 Operation Care. Any questions?

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Thank you,
19 Mr. Marsh.

20 RUSTY MARSH: We would appreciate your
21 support. Anything you can do, we're here to serve
22 the upstate. God bless you.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: At this time we'll take a
24 fifteen minute break.

25 BREAK

26 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Who's got the music
28 playing? Please turn it off. Okay. We're on item
29 number twelve, ordinance's third reading, ordinance
30 2008-018. First of all let me do some housekeeping.
31 Please note in the minutes that Ms. Floyd is now
32 present. However, Mr. Greer is having a situation
33 and he is now absent. So please make that note in
34 the minutes. Now we are in the third reading of
35 ordinance 2008-018, an ordinance amending ordinance
36 99-004 of the Anderson county zoning ordinance as
37 adopted July 20th, 1999 by amending the Anderson
38 county official zoning map to adopt a zoning map in
39 the Three and Twenty precinct. The chair moves to
40 approve. Is there a second?

41 RON WILSON: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from Mr.
43 Wilson. Any discussion?

44 RON WILSON: Yeah. I have a ---

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

46 RON WILSON: -- one question. And I'm
47 the one that made the motion at last meeting about
48 this variance for AnMed. Is Jeff around?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ricketson.

50 RON WILSON: Okay. My question is, I

1 talked to several people at Chestnut Springs, which
2 is across the road, and this is a farm, Mr.
3 Campbell's farm, I believe, and he's entered into
4 some kind of estate planning thing where this is --
5 once he's gone, then AnMed can do I don't know what.
6 And I talked to some of them AnMed people down at
7 Hilton Head while we were down there and I asked
8 them what was their intentions on this property and
9 I didn't get very good answers. And perhaps the guy
10 that I was talking to didn't know. But I wanted to
11 know exactly what does this variance do concerning
12 the zoning out there once we vote on it? If we do
13 it with the variance that I made the motion for the
14 other night, what does that do?

15 JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Wilson,
16 the map that's over there on the left is the map
17 that you all approved with that variance -- it
18 really wasn't a variance. You were just voting to
19 amend the map to zone that property that AnMed had
20 requested from residential agricultural to R20
21 residential. And basically what that does, as
22 residential agricultural, which is what all that
23 green area on the map is, says you can have one acre
24 minimum lots and you can do any kind of agricultural
25 use. The yellow, which is what you voted to make
26 AnMed's property, is similar to some of the other
27 yellows on the map. And that only allows for single
28 family subdivisions with twenty thousand square foot
29 lots, minimum square foot lots. They can be bigger
30 but they can't be any smaller than twenty thousand
31 square feet, which is a little under a half acre.

32 RON WILSON: And this is in an area
33 right across from Chestnut Springs?

34 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

35 RON WILSON: I'm gonna make a motion
36 that we take that out of there. And I want this
37 process to start like it should for everybody else,
38 and that if AnMed wants it changed, they can go
39 through the process like everybody else. So that's
40 my motion.

41 CINDY WILSON: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you're making a motion
43 to take the AnMed variance out?

44 RON WILSON: Yes.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, you
46 understand what's going on? Yes? We have a second
47 by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion on Mr. Wilson's
48 amendment?

49 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

1 BOB WALDREP: I've got some questions
2 here about this. Mr. Ricketson, is this a planned
3 unit development?

4 JEFF RICKETSON: No. There are not any
5 planned unit developments on this map. This is just
6 a simple R20. It's just a general zoning category
7 that's in the zoning ordinance that allows for
8 single family residential subdivisions.

9 BOB WALDREP: Well, I'm trying to
10 understand what we would be doing here. Would we
11 just be going back and redoing the same process all
12 over again?

13 JEFF RICKETSON: You would basically -- I
14 think this motion is to undo what you did at the
15 last meeting. It was previously zoned RA, the whole
16 tract, and I think the motion as I understand it, is
17 to undo what you did last time and make it RA again
18 as it was before you voted at the last meeting.

19 BOB WALDREP: Well, I was asking some
20 questions at the last meeting and I didn't seem to
21 stimulate any interest from anybody at that time.
22 I'm just a little surprised that tonight there seems
23 to be a new issue. There must have been a meeting
24 between now and then where the people came out.
25 This is an unzoned area; right?

26 JEFF RICKETSON: As of tonight.

27 BOB WALDREP: I mean, the whole area,
28 it does not have zoning in it?

29 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

30 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So I guess I'm
31 beginning to wonder. I know this is an elementary
32 question, but you don't have zoning and now we're
33 talking about zoning an area and then undoing the
34 zoning that we put in.

35 JEFF RICKETSON: Well, the map that you
36 have there has been through two readings of council.
37 Tonight when you adopt it, assuming you adopt it, it
38 will be zoned. It will be zoned by ordinance.
39 It'll take three readings and a public hearing to
40 rezone it to something else.

41 BOB WALDREP: Go ahead, Mr. Wilson.
42 I'm just really trying to understand. I don't have
43 a dog's fight, I just have a ...

44 RON WILSON: The people there voted
45 last week, about eighty-eight percent or something,
46 to zone that precinct. And so what we're talking
47 about is the map and how it would be zoned, which is
48 right over there. And at the previous meeting I
49 made a motion to accept the variance or whatever you
50 want to call it that AnMed requested. After I

1 talked to one or two of their people at Hilton Head,
2 AnMed's, and then also talked with the people that
3 live in Chestnut Springs subdivision, which is
4 across the road from this, and that's a fairly
5 upscale neighborhood. And if we go with the
6 variance, it will allow them to put a lot more
7 houses across the road on a smaller piece of ground
8 than what was -- would have been zoned previous to
9 that. And so all I'm saying is, I would like to
10 take that out because you'll have a local -- if they
11 want to have it changed, they can do so. But
12 they'll go through the process where local people
13 will act on it first and then it will come up to the
14 county planning commission for their approval and
15 then finally to us. So I'm asking that we take that
16 out and go back to what we were prior to it and the
17 people have already voted, you know, on the zoning.
18 So tonight we'll be giving a third reading to their
19 wishes. The only thing we're talking about here now
20 is whether or not AnMed would be -- how they're
21 going to be treated in that zoned area. Will it be
22 ---

23 BOB WALDREP: AnMed owns the property
24 that we're talking about?

25 RON WILSON: On the one -- yes, the
26 piece of property that we're talking about. Yes,
27 sir.

28 BOB WALDREP: Well, I thought AnMed --
29 is this just a commercial enterprise for them?

30 RON WILSON: I don't know.

31 BOB WALDREP: They're not building a
32 hospital up there; are they?

33 JEFF RICKETSON: I think this was property
34 that was given to them through their foundation ---

35 RON WILSON: Yes.

36 JEFF RICKETSON: -- as a bequeathal or
37 just a gift.

38 RON WILSON: It's part of an estate
39 planning thing with the owner.

40 BOB WALDREP: Okay. But it's a for
41 profit organization? Okay. Well, they're paying
42 taxes on it, I would assume? Is AnMed paying taxes
43 on this property?

44 JEFF RICKETSON: I don't have any idea.

45 BOB WALDREP: Well, you know, if AnMed
46 is up there doing business and buying property and
47 rezoning -- okay. Well, I don't want to get into
48 the depths of that, but this opens up -- that's why
49 I was asking some questions at the last meeting that
50 we had, gentlemen. Thank you.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I too have some
4 questions about this. Okay. In the last two votes
5 was the variance in there at the time we voted the
6 last two times?

7 RON WILSON: Only the last one.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Only the last one? Okay.

9 Now I know you told us what happened to make you
10 feel more cautious now, but have we ever done this
11 type of thing before with any other company, agency,
12 whatever, you know, put the variance in without
13 going through the system?

14 JEFF RICKETSON: Yes. And this is an
15 initial zoning. You have changed maps up to the
16 last reading. It takes three readings and you've
17 changed them on the third reading in the past.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But I don't know
19 if you answered my question. My question is this.
20 He wants -- he says that AnMed should go through the
21 system for a variance as others have done. And I
22 agree with that. But my question is, have we ever
23 granted a variance to anyone else who did not go
24 through the system but just put it in the map as we
25 did this one?

26 JEFF RICKETSON: You have done that
27 before. You've made -- you've granted requests as
28 people have gone through on the initial map. But at
29 times you've also said they need to go back through
30 the process and go to the citizens advisory group
31 and the planning commission and have each -- have
32 their request considered by each one of those
33 entities.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But we've done
35 that before ---

36 JEFF RICKETSON: You've done it both ways.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: -- both ways before?
38 Okay. That leads me to a question, Mr. Chair, I
39 would like to ask Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson, following
40 you lead in this, what makes it different now?

41 RON WILSON: Well, after talking to
42 some of the people at Chestnut Springs, as well as
43 talking to the AnMed people in Hilton Head, and I
44 asked them what type of development were they
45 planning, they didn't know, and then it got me to
46 thinking about this being a smaller -- this zoning
47 would allow it to be smaller lots, which would be --
48 I mean, it translates into more houses. And I'm not
49 opposed to a development like that if that's what
50 the local people want. But I would prefer this to

1 go back in such a way that the local people are in
2 more control of it as it comes up through the
3 system. If they all say, fine, fine. But I think I
4 made a mistake at the last meeting and I'd like to
5 see this go back to where it's all green there like
6 the other now where you've got, I guess that's sort
7 of yellow or tan or something, that would go back
8 green, the rest of it would remain the same.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair calls
10 for the vote on Mr. Wilson's amendment to take out
11 basically the AnMed variance and put it back the way
12 it was originally. All in favor of Mr. Wilson's
13 amendment, please vote. It is unanimous. Now we're
14 voting on ordinance 2008-018 as amended or
15 unamended, depending on how you look at it. All in
16 favor, please vote. It is unanimous. Thank you.
17 Ordinance's second reading, 2008-001, an ordinance
18 amending chapter 34 of the Anderson County Code of
19 Ordinance pertaining to the fire prevention and
20 protection and other matters related thereto. There
21 is a public hearing on this. Instructions for
22 public hearing. Any person desiring to do so may
23 speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period of
24 time, as long as he or she is speaking to the issue
25 under consideration. The chairman exercises control
26 of the public hearing to ensure that no person
27 abuses the public hearing process by engaging in
28 unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly repetitive
29 comments, profane, abusive, offensive or
30 inappropriate comments. With that being said, the
31 public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak
32 on this ordinance may come forward. Please state
33 your name and address before speaking. Anyone wish
34 to speak on this ordinance. Someone please help Mr.
35 Crowe with the mic, please.

36 CHARLES CROWE: Mr. Chairman, Charles
37 Crowe, Five Forks community. No one would expect a
38 person sitting here with oxygen hose in his nostrils
39 to speak on this particular thing because I know
40 it's probably needed. However, as the county
41 decided what people who live outside the city is
42 gonna do with little limbs and leaves, you know,
43 without anybody picking them up, so what are they
44 going to do with them? And that's the only reason I
45 came down the aisle. Appreciate it.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

47 MARK POWELL: My name is Mark Powell,
48 again, Hogg Road, Williamston. You know, the
49 political process is an amazing thing. Second
50 reading is when it's open to public hearing. If I

1 were to look at the Anderson County website and the
2 agenda says, I didn't bring my glasses, I'm going to
3 struggle with this, fire prevention, okay, fire
4 prevention and fire control, I would sit at home if
5 I didn't know more, and I would go, huh, they're
6 worried about big fires and how to help prevent
7 fires. This is about a burning ban. This is not
8 about fire prevention. This is about the ozone.
9 This is about, you know, the environment. This is
10 about us, Anderson County, with very little
11 industrial economic area as far as employers being
12 controlled because of Greenville County and
13 Spartanburg County having a lot of industrial stand
14 pipes and waste going into the atmosphere, we get
15 lumped into theirs. This is not about fire
16 prevention. You have deceived society to not show
17 up to complain about this, because it doesn't sound
18 like this is about fire prevention -- I mean, about
19 burning ban. Do you understand that the town of
20 Williamston, West Pelzer, they all have little
21 trucks that go and pick up. But we who live in the
22 county, we have our pickup trucks and our cars.
23 Very few of us have -- well, I have several pickup
24 trucks, but everybody doesn't have a pickup truck.
25 What's gonna happen to all those limbs? They're
26 gonna be piled up in the backyard. Leaves are gonna
27 be piled on top of them. You're gonna have rats and
28 snakes and other rodents and bugs and you're
29 creating this problem. Now, you had the people from
30 the government say at the last meeting that this is
31 needed in order to show DHEC that we, Anderson
32 County, are doing all that we can. That official
33 told you, we've done all that we can do already. He
34 didn't tell us anything that they had done to
35 prevent this number from being high. They just said
36 we've done all that we can do. Do you understand
37 that if people do put their tree limbs in their car,
38 trunk, back of a truck and have to drive to Starr-
39 Iva to get rid of it. There's going to be more
40 ozone, there's going to be more pollution from the
41 cars driving all the way down to the dump sites to
42 get rid of this stuff than there is a little fire.
43 If you want to control fire, if you want to control
44 smoke, ACE, which is right in my back yard, seems to
45 have a fire very conveniently about every time the
46 mountains get so big they can't pile it on top
47 anymore, their inventory gets reduced, now they have
48 a fresh dirt spot for contractors and people to pay
49 to get rid of their tree limbs, to get rid of their
50 construction debris, he grinds it up, supposedly

1 sells it, I see a lot of berms. I don't see trucks
2 leaving out with it. I see lots of trucks coming in
3 and there's always room for more trucks. I think
4 like two weeks ago we had another fire. If you want
5 to control smoke, I would imagine if we just got rid
6 of that one organization or required him to have
7 constant water, some kind of agitation process so he
8 won't accidentally have spontaneous combustion,
9 maybe it does happen. But if he -- I mean, we had
10 that thing burning for months. It burned for like
11 two months. I have daughters with asthma. Okay.
12 We have breathing problems. If you want to do
13 something to help Anderson County, I would imagine
14 that one situation would solve most of our smoke
15 issues if he was required to either go away or if he
16 was required to put water on his product so it
17 wouldn't spontaneously combust. People are gonna
18 have leaves in their yards, tree limbs, and if you
19 don't allow them to burn it, it's gonna cause bugs,
20 rats, snakes. It's not gonna be a good thing. But
21 this is not a fire prevention ordinance. It
22 disgusts me that it's called that way, because
23 people would have showed up if you had said burning
24 ban ordinance. Thank you.

25 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Members of the council,
26 I'm Steven Chapman. I live at 106 Ellison Circle in
27 Belton, South Carolina, the Cheddar community. I
28 want to stand here and talk about this fire
29 prevention because people talk about fire
30 prevention, we can put most fires out with the
31 technology we have today. But I'm sure as most of
32 y'all know but the public does not know that the
33 forty acres behind my house, 106 Ellison Circle, has
34 been sold and been rezoned, and may I add to most of
35 the community, and when I say most of the community,
36 I talked to over seventy people who are not aware of
37 the rezoning of their land for an ethanol
38 distribution center to be placed there, that the
39 local fire department doesn't have the ability to
40 put out an ethanol fire which requires a special
41 foam, and there's rumors going around, unconfirmed,
42 may I add, that ethanol is being stored at the old
43 Mohawk Rugs Mill, which currently is where our
44 church is located, and that there are other places
45 where ethanol is being stored. And as a member of
46 Anderson county, I'm quite disturbed that this
47 rezoning was done and unfortunately I have somewhat
48 proof that it was done without the knowledge of most
49 of the people in our immediate community. But it
50 disturbs me to know that my home and next to my home

1 and other places that supposedly has this ethanol,
2 if there is a fire, the closest place to put it out
3 is in Greenville. Has anyone in the county council
4 looked into these matters and looked at the expense
5 and danger to life of citizens of this county that
6 if there was a ethanol fire that we do not have the
7 ability to extinguish it. Thank you.

8 GARY THOMPSON: Gary Thompson. I live at
9 1224 Brown Road, Iva. I was hoping my council
10 member would have been here tonight, but seems like
11 he wanted to leave early. It don't seem like he
12 represents us too much since he's lost the primary.
13 We're a rural community. We have farms. We heat
14 our homes with wood. The price of fuel is high.
15 This ban would seem that it would stop people from
16 burning fireplaces, wood stoves. Well, it sounds
17 ambiguous, so that's the way it sounds. Also, where
18 is all these limbs and trees gonna go? It's gonna
19 fill up landfills. From what I understand, rotting
20 trees put off more ozone than actually burning them.
21 Has this been considered. I don't want another
22 ordinance, another storm water run-off so-called
23 thing to be thrown down our throats and blame it on
24 the EPA. I didn't get to speak to the EPA before I
25 came here tonight. I spoke to them the last time
26 when the storm water run-off act was pushed through,
27 which this council tried to blame the EPA for having
28 to act on, when I spoke to the EPA, they were not.
29 The ordinances that you passed had nothing to do
30 with them. So in my position, having a farm, we
31 have brush that has to be burned constantly. Who is
32 gonna come around, who is gonna pay for this other
33 than the taxpayer. So I know the people in the
34 Grove community, most of them that I've spoke to, I
35 can't speak for all of them, but most of them that I
36 spoke to are totally against this. Thank you.

37 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr.
38 Chairman. My name is Rick Freemantle. You know, I
39 hadn't really planned on speaking to this matter
40 because I looked at it and it seemed harmless
41 enough, fire prevention. Interestingly, just last
42 weekend, a person came into my driveway to pick up
43 his son, he lives over in district seven, he said,
44 Rick, what's this about a ban on burning, this thing
45 Mr. Thompson is doing? I said, no, no, no, no, Mr.
46 Thompson told us that it was going to affect the
47 city, burning leaves in densely areas in the city
48 because people were having problems and we had ozone
49 problems, but it wasn't going to affect burning out
50 in the bonnies where I live. And I assured him that

1 we were okay and I explained to him the ozone
2 problem, that we had had one ozone level handed down
3 to us from the federal government, how we had
4 managed to do our very best to meet that level and
5 we were repaid with what, another lower level. The
6 bottom line is, the federal government, the EPA,
7 they can't stay in business if they don't have
8 something to do. This new lower level of theirs is
9 just absolutely ridiculousness. It's bureaucracy
10 run amuck. You know, I've got about sixteen acres
11 of property. The day before primary, a couple of
12 boys run around my backyard, I get a call, I've got
13 quite a few fire trucks and the fire department
14 paying me a visit. They did a very good job and
15 they were very professional. It was a serious
16 situation. Most of my property is dry pine. And I
17 really hold my breath this time of the year worrying
18 about that type of situation. But I'm here to tell
19 you, the way we've been fleeced as taxpayers in this
20 county, you drive into my driveway and tell me I
21 cannot burn my brush, you come past my no
22 trespassing signs to tell me what I'm gonna do with
23 my property, somebody's gonna have a problem. This
24 is ridiculous. This is just over reaching. More
25 government bureaucracy we don't need. Thank you.

26 GENE SULLIVAN: Gene Sullivan, district
27 four. I may be speaking out of turn because I've
28 not seen the ordinance and I don't know what all it
29 entails. But if it includes burning brush or yard
30 debris, then I agree with those who have spoken
31 before, it's wrong, because we don't have any place
32 to dispose of the debris without burning it. I just
33 had a pine tree fall on the corp of engineer
34 property, the buffer between my property and the
35 lake. I had to get the ranger to come out and mark
36 other trees that I can cut. As the corp regulations
37 now exist I can pile the brush on the corp property
38 below elevation 660 and burn it and I don't know if
39 this ordinance is gonna prohibit that on corp
40 property or if it's going to prohibit me from
41 burning limbs that I cut off of trees that are
42 encroaching on my field, if I'm gonna be able to
43 burn them. But if this another liberty you're
44 taking away from the citizens of the county, then
45 you need to rethink it and not impose this ban.
46 Thank you.

47 AMY PLUMMER: Mr. Chairman, I'm Amy
48 Plummer. I live in Loblolly Pines subdivision
49 across from where you live. Burning is a problem in
50 our part of the county. There are fires in our

1 subdivision on half acre lots very close to people's
2 homes. They don't just burn leaves. They burn
3 other trash. Most of you know that my house burned
4 down earlier this year, the end of last year, and
5 when we moved into Loblolly Pines, one day my
6 daughter comes running in to me and she said, mommy,
7 mommy, somebody's house is on fire. And I said, why
8 do you say somebody's house is on fire? And she
9 said, because I can smell the plastic, I can smell
10 that smell, that house burning smell. And I ran
11 outside and we walked all over the neighborhood,
12 actually we ran, and then we got in the car and we
13 drove around to see if somebody's house was on fire
14 and they didn't know it. We didn't find a house on
15 fire. But in several places in our neighborhood
16 there were people burning their leaves and trash.
17 The problem with allowing burning and not having a
18 burning ban, people have asthma. I have three boys.
19 All three have asthma. When they're playing sports,
20 especially my oldest son now is affected by that.
21 With the burning it causes asthma attacks. And it's
22 not just for children. It's for our elderly. It's
23 for our average adults that have asthma. This is a
24 community problem. There are other facilities that
25 we can take our trash to. I have garbage pick-up at
26 my house and I haul my trash to the dump when I have
27 to. And it's just part of taking care of your home.
28 And I think that this is something that I hope you
29 will all consider just because of the danger that
30 happens when something is burning. Those sparks
31 fly. Just a few weeks after my fire we were in
32 another neighborhood and a house had burned down and
33 the house right beside it caught on fire too because
34 of sparks from that house fire. Burning trash in
35 the backyard catches houses on fire, and I hope that
36 you will consider this is a fire safety problem,
37 this is a health problem, and it affects all levels
38 of our community. Thank you.

39 STEVEN POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview
40 Estates, district one. Looking at this ordinance
41 there are a few problems with it and these deal
42 mainly with language, the type of regulation
43 involved. And part of the problem we have here is
44 -- and also location. Now, we have in the city, of
45 course, all burning is banned in the city. And in
46 the city where we had trash pick-up we also have
47 garbage pick-up. Now, the areas in the county where
48 they don't have any of this pick-up, I have seen
49 people burn, but when they burn, their burning pile
50 is very small. It covers maybe a radius of only

1 three feet and they're just burning some small local
2 stuff together and they just go together. As you
3 move farther out, people do set up bigger piles, but
4 they're not out next to our house or anything else -
5 - they're not right next to our house. It's out in
6 the middle of their yards where they can keep an eye
7 on it. And then of course you have -- when you go
8 farther out, then you had people tend to make their
9 piles bigger. And as far as some of the wording is,
10 it talks about, you know, we also have a burning
11 ban. This was dealing with land clearing I assume.
12 There also can be harm to economic development if
13 people want to come in and they need clear land,
14 you're basically telling them you cannot clear land
15 right now from here -- this spot in here to over
16 here. Also we'll get involved with the clean air.
17 We get more of our pollution comes from the
18 automobile exhausts and other industries than it
19 does from burning. And I've heard a lot of people
20 say they do need to have a place in which to
21 eliminate your garbage. Well, this I'll say by all
22 your leaves, your limbs and your branches. If you
23 don't have the ability to haul this stuff out,
24 you're gonna have to either pile it somewhere or
25 burn it. And a lot of people simply have chosen the
26 best way for them to do it is to burn it. But for
27 the most part they're very careful about it. They
28 move it out into an open area where they keep an eye
29 on it. And that's how they do their burning. So
30 there's no -- they put it away where it can't, you
31 know, the fire can't jump. It's not an easy thing
32 to really solve and you're never gonna make anybody
33 happy. But also some of the points I found
34 interesting is you need to have an official there to
35 sort of supervise it and also having to get an
36 official permit to burn. Like I said before, I've
37 known some people who just, you know, they're out in
38 the rural areas, and asking them to get a permit is
39 just something a lot of them most likely will simply
40 ignore for their little small pile. And we also
41 need to know is this going to be cost effective
42 trying to enforce it. The county is pretty big and
43 trying to -- I don't know how many people you would
44 need to have to try and enforce this. Anyway, just
45 some thoughts to consider. Thank you.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else on the public
47 hearing?

48 ROBBIE LAND: Hi, my name is Robbie
49 Land. I didn't know I was going to be speaking on
50 this tonight. I came for something else.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Your address and ...

2 ROBBIE LAND: My address is 1300 Mill
3 Street and that's in district seven. I am the fire
4 chief at Cheddar Fire Department. I had no idea
5 that this was going to be on the agenda for tonight.
6 But I just wanted to say from the fire department's
7 standpoint, I'm not speaking for any other fire
8 departments, but I've talked to a few and I feel
9 like most of them feel the same way. We do this job
10 for free and we do not want to be getting up at all
11 hours of the night to go out and put out somebody's
12 little pile of leaves. We're not getting paid to do
13 this. I would love for y'all to hire some firemen
14 that could. But we have very few problems in this
15 county with people letting their fires get out of
16 hand. It's gonna happen. If you allow people to
17 burn, it's gonna happen. But it's a very small
18 problem. And without being able to -- without
19 having the pick-up like the cities, folks need to be
20 able to burn their yard debris. And for those who
21 were talking about burning trash, that's illegal
22 without this. So if you see that, you need to call
23 anyway.

24 SOPHIA CHAPMAN: My name is Sophia
25 Chapman. I live at 106 Ellison Circle, Belton,
26 district seven. Do I need to repeat it. Okay. As
27 far as the burning trash and stuff, trash should not
28 be burned and just like the gentleman said, that's
29 illegal anyway. We live in the county, not in the
30 city. My father owns some property at the middle of
31 Lewis Drive and at the end of Lewis Drive, which is
32 right outside of my little circle. Now, we don't
33 even own a truck. Because of gas prices my husband
34 and I have cars because it's better on gas. It
35 just, you know, makes more sense to us. Well, we
36 don't burn ours, so my dad said, well, I've got some
37 extra land that I'm not using as a rental problem,
38 bring it down here and bring it to the back. I want
39 to tell you, when we bring those leaves down there
40 and those limbs, the rodents are so bad, the
41 mosquitos. The last time we took it, I run in the
42 truck and left my husband by his self because four
43 mosquitos attacked me on this leg at the same time.
44 Now, it is funny but it's not funny. But it's
45 ridiculous. Because there's nobody to come pick it
46 up. It's not like everybody has a lot of money
47 because we're already paying for groceries and gas.
48 I don't have the gas. I don't know about anybody
49 else. But I don't have the gas. My son and my
50 husband have sleep apnea and my son is five. And I

1 don't like burning stuff, but like the gentleman
2 said, there's nobody to come pick it up. Thank you.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

4 DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, members of
5 council, Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, Belton, county
6 council district seven. So many of us that have
7 spent what seems like more than half our lives watch
8 dogging government see something like this come up
9 and the way it's been presented, all I can say is
10 from a citizen's viewpoint this is nothing more than
11 a call to common sense. The first thing I think
12 you should be doing is not hiding under the umbrella
13 that the federal government is the originator of why
14 you're doing this. I think it's time that our local
15 governments, our county councils, our city councils,
16 start passing some resolutions and we start looking
17 back toward Washington from which all those mandates
18 and requirements keep coming that are being placed
19 on us using the tax dollars that we sent to them.

20 It's just not right. It's a backwards way of doing
21 things. So first of all I'd like to suggest that
22 this council pass a resolution to send to all the
23 congressmen that represent South Carolina as well as
24 the two U.S. senators saying that we're tired of EPA
25 setting these regulations with some quasi science
26 that can't totally be proven about ozone levels,
27 about misplacing monitors in places that make it
28 impossible for us to meet attainment and then, like
29 Mr. Freemantle said, raising the bar once we've met
30 an attainment level. This absolutely makes no sense
31 and I hope that you all will consider doing that in
32 the form of a resolution. Now, I understand that
33 there are nuisance problems with smoke smoldering
34 fires in this county. I grew up, because of my
35 grandparents on the Chiquola mill hill half the
36 time, things were a lot more fun over on the mill
37 hill side of town than they were where my parents
38 lived and where I grew up, so I stayed over there.
39 And you know, I can remember days as a child when
40 smoke was just everywhere in the fall. And I admit,
41 that is a problem. Perhaps we should craft
42 something, and I may have some people even in my own
43 camp jump on me about this, perhaps we should craft
44 something to deal with the nuisance and the fact
45 that some people do have asthma and this is a
46 problem for some of them. But then we've gotta look
47 at the bigger picture and we've also gotta look at
48 the fact of what this will do to commercial
49 business, what this will do to developers and what
50 this does just to us about how we need to dispose of

1 our natural trash, our limbs and our debris.
2 There's one more thing that comes to mind here that
3 I'd like to not think about but I can't but to given
4 the history of the way politics work in this county.
5 Could it be that there's a grand plan out there for
6 the county to start doing what the cities do and
7 start some sort of pick-up service so that we
8 wouldn't be burning limbs, we would be taking them
9 to the landfill. Of course, that would be filling
10 the landfill, wouldn't it, and then that'll cause us
11 another problem. But could this possibly exacerbate
12 the solid waste fees, because after all this is
13 another form of solid waste. Could this give us
14 even more fees on our tax bills to cover an entirely
15 new program that was created because we can't do
16 this. Like I say, there are things that need to be
17 worked out here. But as I said to begin with, it's
18 a call to common sense. And let's try to do
19 something in a common sense manner and let's look
20 back to Washington and tell them it's time that they
21 get their act together and stop making life so hard
22 on all of us. Thank you.

23 SANDRA CLARY: Sandra Clary, 243 Saint
24 Paul Road, district six. I find this absolutely
25 amazing that I stood before several hundred people
26 at Wren High School and talked about this very same
27 thing during a landfill meeting. I did tons of
28 research on how many fires there are at C & D
29 landfills. I mean it just goes on and on and on
30 about how they smolder and how they burn for weeks
31 and weeks and weeks and yet DHEC doesn't see it as a
32 problem. I do.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wishes to
34 speak during the public hearing? Seeing and hearing
35 no one, the public hearing is now closed. The chair
36 moves to approve ordinance 2008-001. Is there a
37 second?

38 BILL MCABEE: Second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
40 now in discussion. The chair wishes to retain the
41 floor. I'm a little concerned. A lot of people who
42 have spoken apparently have not actually read this
43 ordinance. People who live in rural areas who have
44 big chunks of land, you're basically out there by
45 yourself, this will basically not affect you unless
46 you're trying to burn during what they call the
47 ozone period when we're having the most problems
48 with ozone. So if you -- and also agricultural
49 burns are exempt. Campfires are exempt. Fires for
50 warmth in your chimney and your fireplaces are

1 exempt. The gentleman mentioned there was a guy,
2 ACE I believe he said behind his house, why can't
3 the county do something about that? Well, the
4 county cannot because the ordinances -- I'm sorry.
5 The county cannot because county cannot enforce
6 state law. And it's state law that will address
7 that issue. Passing this ordinance will allow our
8 county employees, environmental services, to enforce
9 what is now state law, so then we can address the
10 problem behind your house. But currently as it sits
11 now, it cannot. So the gentleman on the sixteen
12 acres, he's out there by himself. He can have a
13 good time. Just don't burn during the ozone period
14 and that is outlined in this ordinance. If you're
15 in a rural area, as I already said, it basically
16 don't affect you because you're out there by
17 yourself. In the more congested areas, in the mill
18 village, in the subdivision where we're basically
19 living elbow to elbow, yes, that will affect you.
20 Personally, I don't want to breathe someone else's
21 smoke and it addresses those issues. The city of
22 Anderson in particular, they already have a blanket
23 no burning in the city. So this is what is actually
24 going on. So the concerns that people raised
25 tonight are actually not there. And it will also
26 resolve some of the problems that were presented.
27 So that being said, anybody else wishes to speak.

28 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

30 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

31 As you know, I was an early opponent of this
32 proposal when you first presented it to me. I have
33 a hundred acres of coastal Bermuda and coastal
34 Bermuda does better if you burn it about every five
35 years. But one of the things I was looking for was
36 a provision that exempted agricultural and accepted
37 forestry and wildlife burns. Also I felt like it
38 was important that rural landowners who had
39 significant chunks of land, it would not be
40 affecting their neighbors, would be exempt. The
41 provision of this ordinance clearly states that you
42 can't burn within seventy-five feet of your property
43 line. You can't burn within seventy-five feet of a
44 structure. If your yard is a hundred and fifty
45 feet, backyard is a hundred and fifty feet wide and
46 extends a hundred and fifty feet from your back
47 door, you can burn in the middle of your backyard.
48 This ordinance will apply in those areas of the
49 county where lots are smaller and people cannot get
50 away from their neighbor's smoke. Mr. Chairman, it

1 is because of the exceptions and the change in this
2 verbiage that I have decided that I can indeed
3 support this ordinance.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I live in a
7 subdivision and on days -- there are sometimes when
8 my neighbors all get out and be working in the yard
9 all at one time and everybody burns. And for years
10 I didn't, for years I didn't burn. But then
11 everybody else was doing it, so hey, I joined in the
12 group. But then something happened in my
13 neighborhood. One of my neighbors is on oxygen.
14 The AnMed truck comes I think twice a week to his
15 house. And so I got to thinking, that's not fair.
16 It's not fair. This man has a right to breathe
17 fresh air. He has a need to breathe fresh air. I
18 may have a right to burn now, but where does my
19 right end and his start? You can't tell the smoke
20 which way to go. I want ...

21 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

22 GRACIE FLOYD: ... so I had to give up
23 burning. I had to give up burning so that I can
24 assure him that he will be able to breathe. That he
25 will not have to breathe my smoke because I live by
26 that rule that says do unto others as you would have
27 them do unto you. It's easy to say I'm gonna --
28 nobody's gonna tell me what to do with my property.
29 But I know I don't live in this world by myself. I
30 live in this world next to people, people that I
31 love and people that I hope who love me. And I want
32 to watch out for their welfare as I watch out for my
33 own. So yes, I'll give up my burning. I just
34 started the last three years. It was kinda fun too,
35 but I'll give it up. Don't know what I'll do with
36 my trash. I'll be in the same predicament that some
37 of you will be in. It's not trash. It's just yard
38 debris. Maybe I'll -- I own some woods behind me.
39 Maybe I'll stick it up there in the woods. And I
40 don't know what I'll do. But I know what I'm going
41 to do. I'm not burning anymore so this man can
42 breathe.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Floyd.
44 Anyone else?

45 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

47 BOB WALDREP: You know, there's so many
48 aspect of this matter that I tried to consider last
49 time and I kind of reluctantly voted for it. But
50 since that time I've been contacted by a lot of

1 people that have talked to me and tried to discuss
2 it, even people in the firefighting department. And
3 I've just been convinced that while the motivation
4 for this is good and that we can work toward perhaps
5 some solution and, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your
6 efforts on this. I really do. I think -- I know we
7 never end up with a perfect piece of legislation,
8 but at this particular point I'm having difficulty
9 with it. I was kind of motivated by the ole EPA
10 argument before, that somehow another we would
11 please EPA and that they would let us go on with our
12 lives here, but then you find out that you never can
13 quite please them, they're gonna keep moving, you
14 know, moving the target. You never hit EPA. Just a
15 little aside here. I don't mean to bore everybody.
16 But I'm working on a committee now, statewide
17 committee, where EPA took fourteen years to make a
18 decision as to water quality between Georgia and
19 South Carolina. Fourteen years it took them to make
20 a decision. And it's a political organization and I
21 think some of the suggestions that have been made
22 here tonight are to be well taken about how we need
23 to try to fight back a little bit. But one of the
24 things that concerned me also was enforcement.
25 We've got to have enforcement. And Mr. Greer is not
26 here tonight, but that was one of his concerns at
27 the last meeting, and this is kind of an unfunded
28 mandate. This gonna require us to employ people and
29 we will have a burning department, I feel sure, with
30 a department head and there will be people out that
31 will have to enforce this in someway, whether it's
32 relegated to the sheriff, it's gonna have another
33 aspect. I just don't know that it's that big a
34 crisis at this point. I'm certainly willing to
35 consider it in the next administration and I think
36 some of the others are willing to consider it. But
37 at this particular point I just cannot -- I'm not
38 persuaded. Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

40 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

42 CINDY WILSON: I do think that we
43 definitely have a problem here, I'm just not
44 persuaded that this is the best way to cure the
45 problem. Another concern that Mr. Waldrep touched
46 on and Mr. Greer before, doesn't the E -- I mean,
47 doesn't DHEC have a requirement to enforce this
48 right now?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think they have two
50 people for two counties or something to that effect,

1 so basically there is no enforcement.

2 CINDY WILSON: Well, the strange thing

3 ---

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. I don't want
5 to offend anyone. There's minimum enforcement.

6 CINDY WILSON: Well, the property of a
7 fire is to do it quickly. By the time someone even
8 turns in anything most of the time a fire would be
9 already done. And I definitely sympathize with
10 those who have breathing problems. I do have that
11 problem myself. But I'm not persuaded right now
12 that this is the right thing to do. I think we need
13 to work on this one. Thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Mr. Wilson.

15 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 This is a very hard issue for me to deal with. I
17 think contrary to what some of the speakers have
18 said, I think if you are making an effort sometimes
19 that influences the way that EPA or some other
20 bureaucratic agency looks at it. But I'd have to
21 also agree with Mr. Waldrep in that if we happen to
22 achieve that level then what's to say that they're
23 not gonna lower that bar again. And with some of
24 the comments that Mr. Martin made a few meetings ago
25 about how the air sort of gets trapped in this area,
26 I don't see that -- I mean, I think this would
27 probably help a little bit. But I don't think it's
28 the answer. And you know, I'm gonna err here, I'm
29 gonna err on the side of less government
30 intervention. And I don't -- I'm just not convinced
31 that this is going to help us that much. So I'll be
32 voting no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?
34 Okay. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of
35 ordinance 2008-001, please vote. Three. Oppose.
36 Three, with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson
37 voting negative. Three and three, so the ordinance
38 dies. Going to ordinance 2008-033, an ordinance
39 amending ordinance 99-004, the Anderson County
40 building ordinance as adopted July the 20th, 1999 by
41 amending the Anderson County official zoning map to
42 rezone from RM7 to S1 that parcel of land identified
43 at 740 Simpson Road, consisting of approximately two
44 point zero four acres in the Hammond School precinct
45 on the south side of Simpson Road, and other matters
46 related there. The chair moves to approve. Is
47 there a second?

48 CINDY WILSON: Second.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
50 Wilson. Any discussion? No discussion. Chair

1 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-
2 033, please vote. It is unanimous. Ordinance 2008-
3 036, an ordinance amending section 2-352 and section
4 2-492 of the Anderson County code of ordinances
5 pertaining to boards and commissions and the
6 economic advisory board and other matters related
7 there. There is a public hearing on this. The same
8 instructions I read earlier still apply. Come
9 forward, give your name and address, speak to the
10 topic at hand and speak only to the chair. With
11 that being said, the public hearing on this
12 ordinance is now open. Please come forward now if
13 you wish to speak. Seeing and hearing no one, the
14 public hearing is now closed. The chair moves to
15 approve ordinance 2008-036. Is there a second?

16 BOB WALDREP: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr.
18 Waldrep. Any discussion?

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: I have a question on the
22 -- in our packet we received information on the
23 proposed changes and it was taken out, I think, at
24 the last meeting, the discussion was, about the
25 voting members coming from each council member's
26 district and we had some concerns with that, so that
27 has been changed to may be in the appointing council
28 member's district. But now it says based upon the
29 proposed member's knowledge -- let me go back.
30 These members are to be selected based on their
31 knowledge, expertise or experience in matters of
32 public, commerce, public infrastructure and
33 planning. How are we gonna know all these people
34 have all of that? Are we gonna provide a test for
35 them or what are we gonna do?

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you saying that that
37 wasn't in there or are you ---

38 GRACIE FLOYD: That's in there. But I
39 want to know how are we going to -- I know y'all
40 like to use the word enforce a lot. So how are we
41 going to make sure that these people that we
42 appointed will have the knowledge, the experience,
43 the business experience in infrastructure and
44 planning? How many people are you gonna be able to
45 find with experience in infrastructure and planning?
46 Will there be a test given to each one? If so, I
47 wanna grade the papers.

48 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think Ms. Floyd still
50 has the floor. I think the key word is proposed

1 maybe. Proposed or their perceived knowledge.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Does it say perceived
3 knowledge? The board is gonna have ---

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It says upon the proposed
5 member's knowledge. Now, we're not gonna give them
6 a test, but ...

7 GRACIE FLOYD: It says voting members
8 with each county council appointing two members
9 whose primary residence may be in the appointing
10 council member's respective district based upon the
11 proposed member's knowledge. A proposed member is a
12 person whom you choose. Based upon the proposed
13 member's knowledge, his experience or his experience
14 in matters of business, commerce, public
15 infrastructure and planning. Now, I know that -- I
16 want to know how are we going to ensure that the
17 proposed member has the knowledge that's called for
18 in this section?

19 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you want to move to
21 amend that and take it out or how do you want to
22 handle it?

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, as I read it, I
24 thought about, well, if we leave it out what are we
25 going to -- I'll make a motion that we delete this
26 portion.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Delete that last ---

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Delete this last portion
29 here and make it open to the people whom we think
30 will be able to do the job for our district as our
31 district representative.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So replace the
33 comma with a period and everything thereafter is
34 stricken?

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Stricken, yeah.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second?

37 BOB WALDREP: Second.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to Ms.
39 Floyd's amendment. Mr. Waldrep you was trying to
40 get the floor?

41 BOB WALDREP: Well, yeah, I was.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go right ahead.

43 BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to inform
44 Ms. Floyd that I did not create that language. I
45 don't know where that language came from. Maybe Mr.
46 Martin can tell me where that language came from
47 that was inserted.

48 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Martin.

50 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,

1 Mr. Waldrep, members of council, that language has
2 been in the ordinance since its inception.

3 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

4 TOM MARTIN: Whenever the ordinance
5 was created.

6 BOB WALDREP: Yeah, right, okay. So I
7 guess I was unaware that that particular language
8 was in there. But I can understand what Ms. Floyd
9 is saying, that that's pretty stringent
10 qualifications on our appointments out here, which
11 we kind of hope that they're gonna be good people
12 and have common sense I think more than anything
13 else. I don't think we're trying to get any MBA's
14 from Clemson or something to come in as our
15 appointments. So I just wanted to echo that. I
16 think that the council over the years will exercise
17 some reasonable judgment about who they would put on
18 these boards and commissions and do the best we can.
19 We've done pretty well so far and I think we will
20 continue to do well. Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anymore discussion on Ms.
22 Floyd's amendment? Okay. Call for the question on
23 Ms. Floyd's amendment, putting a period in place of
24 the comma after district and everything else
25 thereafter is stricken. All in favor, please vote.
26 Five. Mr. Wilson, how do you vote?

27 RON WILSON: Opposed.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Opposed. So it's five to
29 one. It passes. So now we're at the ordinance as
30 amended by Ms. Floyd. All in favor of the amended
31 ordinance, please vote. Five. How do you vote, Ms.
32 Floyd?

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Opposed.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five, one. It passes.
35 Okay. Item 13D, 2008-037, an ordinance authorizing
36 the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds
37 series 2008 of Anderson County, South Carolina in
38 the principal amount of not exceeding ten million
39 dollars, and other matters related thereto. There
40 is a public hearing on this. The same instructions
41 do apply. Speak on the topic. Speak to the chair
42 only. Identify yourself when you come forward and
43 state your name -- I've said that. Okay. With that
44 being said, the public hearing is now open regarding
45 ordinance 2008-037.

46 BENNIE SUE WEST: Mr. Chairman, my name is
47 Bennie Sue West and I am in district one. I want to
48 appeal to each of you not to pass this general
49 obligation bond of ten million dollars until the
50 economy improves. Go back later and look at it when

1 things improve, and I hope they will improve. I
2 just don't think we need additional debt. Our
3 budget went from one twenty-two million dollars for
4 last year to one forty-nine million dollars, and I
5 feel certain that there are places where you can cut
6 back and maybe accomplish some of these projects
7 that have been listed for this amount of money.
8 Thank you.

9 GARY THOMPSON: Gary Thompson, 1224 Brown
10 Road, Iva, district three. I would hope y'all would
11 vote against this on the fact that like the last
12 speaker here, it's a rough economy right now. The
13 cost of fuel, as most of y'all know is sky high.
14 Food prices are sky high. Our taxes are sky high.
15 There's no good relief out there at all and y'all
16 are wanting to burden us with some more debt for a
17 wish list. You're telling us that -- you know, me
18 myself personally, me and my wife have gone to car
19 pooling and it puts her way out of her way. It has
20 disrupted our family. But, you know, we're not
21 getting -- we can't just go to somebody and say give
22 us more money. We can't go to our employer and say,
23 well, you know what, everything has gone up and we
24 need more money. We can't do that. Unfortunately
25 government in general doesn't seem to see that.
26 They seem to think anytime they want something they
27 just come get it from us. It don't come magically
28 out of the air. This county government has not been
29 thrifty, has not been wise. They don't seem to care
30 when other people have to struggle. I think why
31 don't we look at this government if there's things,
32 which there's probably a lot of things on that list
33 would be nice to have, but you have to put your
34 priorities first and what your necessities are. We
35 have a county administrator here that doesn't have
36 to pay for his own fuel. He drives around in a gas
37 guzzling vehicle at times when gas is sky high. I'm
38 not trying to make an example of our administrator.
39 It's just an example of government in general.
40 There is so much waste out there and all y'all do is
41 every time we come up here, you're asking for more
42 of us. Where do you want people to cut it from? We
43 sacrifice constantly. There's a lot of good people
44 out here that work hard to try to make it, live
45 within their budget, within their means. You know,
46 my wife already hangs out clothes. We don't run the
47 air, as little as possible. I run a farm, we both
48 work full time jobs. A farm is a full time job.
49 And our taxes just keep going up. And it just don't
50 seem to get through to any of y'all. Well, thank

1 you.

2 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening council, Mr.
3 Chairman. As I said before, my name is Rick
4 Freemantle. I come before you here tonight in my
5 official capacity as the secretary of the original
6 Anderson County Taxpayers Association. Also, as the
7 president of the republican party's White Plains
8 precinct. I'm here tonight to voice some of my
9 concerns with this proposed ten million dollar bond
10 as well as the concerns of a lot of our members.
11 First let me say that I'm opposed to about ninety-
12 nine percent of this bond. I know most of you are
13 probably shocked. I know some in the gallery will
14 probably resort to their childish idiocies, branding
15 me or anyone who speaks against this bond as a
16 negative person or worse yet, a cave person. That's
17 all right with me. Freedom of speech is a right
18 which our founding fathers expected us to share
19 equally. And I invite the other members in this
20 gallery to express their thoughts. After all, this
21 chamber belongs to them as much as it belongs to me.
22 An important aspect of this bond proposal should be
23 our current economic condition. A little addition
24 to my notes, we all heard from the man from Golden
25 Harvest tonight. If that didn't sink in to any of
26 you, I don't know what's going to. I would like to
27 enlighten you as to our current economic condition
28 here in South Carolina starting with our employment
29 growth rates. Currently our non-farm manufacturing
30 which makes up about thirteen percent of our
31 workforce is going backwards to the tune of a
32 negative one point two percent and non-manufacturing
33 is double that rate of decline. Our private service
34 sector, producing service sector, which is our
35 largest workforce in South Carolina represents about
36 sixty-three percent of our workforce. It has
37 declined by ninety-five percent since 2006. The
38 only area in which employment shows a solid increase
39 is in government. Go figure. This area currently
40 represents seventeen percent of the workforce.
41 Government employment has increased roughly eighty
42 percent since 2006. One of the major foundations of
43 our county's financial strength is based on the
44 stability of our citizens' real estate portfolios.
45 Single family home permits have steadily declined
46 since 2006. And the first quarter of 2008 shows us
47 to be down five hundred and ten percent from two
48 years ago. Multifamily permits or apartments has
49 increased two hundred and fifty percent since 2006.
50 So maybe we should not be so quick to stop one of

1 the few areas of economic influx we still have left.
2 The real interesting figure is that the average home
3 price index has declined by a hundred and ten
4 percent in the last two years. Bankruptcies have
5 risen twenty percent just recently. And the newest
6 figures out today show that the current inflation
7 rate was double what our government experts
8 predicted. How is it that our county government can
9 continue to superficially inflate the prices of our
10 homes with their reassessments while the market is
11 driving the value of them down? I would like to
12 also add that the total economic damage to our
13 country and county as a whole, which is resulting
14 from the staggering price of our fuel is just now
15 beginning to be tallied. At a time when many local
16 governments are cutting back on their budgets, we do
17 have an administration who chooses to thrust our
18 county into further debt. This administrator and
19 some of you up there are trying to once again tell
20 us that our taxes will not be going up. This is, as
21 it has been for over ten years now, an outright lie.
22 We have already been told by Mr. Hunter, our
23 auditor, that we can expect a higher tax bill again.
24 So what about this magnificent ten million dollar
25 bond? My first question is, if we have such a great
26 credit rating, of which we're supposed to be in debt
27 to this administrator, according to him anyway, then
28 why are we getting such a raw deal on this bond?
29 I've had several people now tell me that even if we
30 pay this debt off early we will be stuck paying the
31 total amount of interest for the full term of the
32 loan, or the bond. Excuse me. Please forgive me,
33 but whose side is this administrator on? For
34 someone who cost us almost two hundred thousand
35 dollars in salary and perks last year, is this the
36 best he can do? I can get a better deal at one of
37 our local car title lending institutions. For that
38 matter, whose side are you on? Our elected
39 officials, would any of you sign onto a debt
40 repayment schedule which penalized you for paying
41 your loan off early? Could it be that because our
42 economy is in serious trouble the administrator had
43 to offer a bigger carrot in order to find buyers for
44 this bond? If the terms of this bond are as they
45 are being reported to be, it should send up red
46 flags to our representatives. With our economic
47 future balancing between a recession and quite
48 possibly a depression, how is it that this
49 administrator would be so reckless as to place our
50 county in such a precarious position with an

1 additional ten million dollars of debt? I would
2 like to talk about the parks/sports
3 complexes/recycling education centers/libraries, and
4 whatever you wish to call them in an attempt to gain
5 support for these items. All of these items sound
6 great and I'm sure that many people would love to
7 take advantage of the proposed amenities if they're
8 ever completed. However, none, and I repeat none of
9 these things are a function of government. There
10 are just as many people, and perhaps even more than
11 those who would use these facilities that would
12 rather have a serious tax break on their most
13 valuable possession, that being their homes. If you
14 want to borrow and spend several million dollars
15 plus interest in each of these areas proposed for
16 these parks, then why don't you spend that money on
17 something which will benefit all the citizens of
18 these areas and the rest of the county equally? Say
19 maybe on something foolish like roads or fire trucks
20 or more EMS units. I know none of these things are
21 fun. But I promise you when the time comes and you
22 need a fire crew and their truck, or God forbid, an
23 EMS unit, do not expect anything from any of these
24 proposed fancy new parks to help you. If you insist
25 on building these things, then why don't you let the
26 people who live in the areas which they are to be
27 built pay for them? Are you afraid that maybe they
28 will not have any desire to pay for these things?
29 Instead of making all of Anderson county pay for
30 these parks, create special tax districts for these
31 things. Now let's just see how bad these parks are
32 desired. I understand that we are, or we were,
33 thinking about buying a party boat. Now relax. I
34 know it's going to be a fire rescue boat. A lot of
35 the folks were upset about the cost of this thing.
36 And that is this administrator's fault. We're not
37 educating the public as to what this thing contained
38 as well as what it could do. Now as I understand
39 it, this boat would be more commonly called a harbor
40 boat, similar to the ones we watched work in New
41 York during 9/11, during the 9/11 attack on our
42 country. And I heard that this boat was going to be
43 used with any fires which might occur to our homes
44 within the three hundred miles of Lake Hartwell's
45 shoreline which are located in Anderson. The
46 picture of this boat showed that it had two turrets
47 through which water could flow. Do any of you up
48 there know how this type of boat manages to get that
49 water to flow? The reason this boat is called a
50 harbor boat is twofold. One, it is used to help

1 fight fires on large ships. And two, it has a
2 limited reach for land structures. The particular
3 boat which was in the picture drafts water into its
4 pumping mechanism by standing in a strong current or
5 by constantly moving. In the case of our lake it
6 would have to be constantly moving in order to keep
7 a continuous flow of water as I understand it. This
8 boat would have very little value to any home on
9 Lake Hartwell, especially with its pool at such a
10 low level. There are several bridges which this
11 boat could never navigate under and therefore would
12 again be useless to the homes on the other side of
13 those bridges. I understand that a decision has
14 been made to hold this item over for the new council
15 to hash over. Whether it is them or you, this idea
16 sounds like someone wants a big boy to play with at
17 three hundred and eighty thousand dollars -- excuse
18 me. And three hundred and eighty thousand dollars
19 is a lot of money for a play toy. However, if the
20 purchase of this boat is to be made, then maybe you
21 would first look into similar boats which have the
22 capacity to pump water while in a stationery
23 position over a sufficient pool. This boat -- this
24 new type boat or different boat may still not be
25 able to reach all of the homes on Lake Hartwell, but
26 it could act as a refilling fire hydrant for the
27 tankers which would be -- which would keep a steady
28 flow of water going to the scene. The next item I
29 would like to talk about is the Broadway Lake
30 Community building. I know this is a joke; right?
31 Surely. You cannot be serious about this proposed
32 Taj Mahal. Especially during these financial
33 troubling times. I took a look -- I took the time
34 to view the horrifying power point presentation
35 showing the appalling conditions of the current
36 building. I was shocked to see the end cap being
37 held away from the otherwise good kitchen sink
38 counter top. Did you know for about thirteen
39 dollars and a minuscule amount of labor that could
40 be fixed? Was that beautiful fire stone place
41 really taking up a whole wall? It looked to be
42 about thirty feet wide. Did you know that a little
43 bit of soap and water would clean those fancy field
44 stone floors in those bathrooms? I was very
45 impressed with the nicely trimmed windows,
46 professionally finished walls, ceilings and floors.
47 I know this is a joke. Do you know how many areas
48 or precincts do not have anything for a community
49 building in this county, let alone one as nice as
50 the one which is already over there on Broadway?

1 Over in White Plains we're fortunate enough to have
2 our own community building. And compared to
3 Broadway Lake, ours looks like a cardboard box for a
4 homeless person. Don't misunderstand me. We're
5 happy with our building. It serves our purposes
6 rather well. We're grateful for it and would never
7 dream of expecting someone to build us a twenty-six
8 hundred and five square foot building at a cost of
9 over three hundred and fifty dollars a square foot.
10 Let me tell you, I'm in the building trades business
11 and I pray you have not signed any contract yet. It
12 is no wonder that five of you did not want to form a
13 committee to review any contracts related to these
14 aggressive projects. Besides Broadway Lake, who
15 else is benefitting from this outrageously priced
16 building? Who is the contractor for this project
17 going to be? I would love to ask them if they feel
18 any guilt at all for fleecing this county so badly.
19 Why is the Broadway Lake area so special? Why is
20 this administrator discriminating against the other
21 communities which do not even have a building of
22 their own? I know this is all a joke. I laughed so
23 hard that I almost hurt myself when I saw that this
24 administration mentioned this building could be used
25 for county council retreats. Do you seriously think
26 the people of Anderson county will fall for that? I
27 know that we complain a lot about the money being
28 spent at Myrtle Beach every year for your fun and
29 frolicking, but I think we could send all of you
30 there for the next thirty years and not come close
31 to spending nine hundred and fifteen thousand
32 dollars. This whole thing is absurd,
33 discriminatory, extremely reckless and very -- and a
34 very selfish waste of our tax money. Again, if they
35 need this thing so bad, make Broadway Lake a special
36 tax district and then let's see who is willing to
37 pay for it. The only project with any merit in this
38 proposed bond is the proposed fire training burn
39 building. This is a function of government and it
40 contributes directly to the safety of all Anderson
41 county citizens. The only unfortunate thing about
42 this project is that we have lived under an
43 administration which, instead of saving the record
44 growth which this county experienced over the last
45 ten years for projects like this one, he chose to
46 spend it elsewhere. It is even sadder yet to think
47 that this project could be paid for in cash with the
48 tax money this administrator spends in one year on
49 legal fees and he would still have money left over.
50 This facility could have been built ten times over

1 with the growth this county has experienced over the
2 last ten years. While we're on the subject, why is
3 it taking so long to even bring to the table the
4 idea of building this valuable training tool? Could
5 it be that our administrator's priorities are not in
6 order? Could that explain why we recently received
7 a twenty-eight thousand dollar grant for the West
8 Pelzer rescue squad as opposed to the one hundred
9 thousand dollar grant for Preston's precious balloon
10 festival? Could it be that we are surrounded by
11 officials in the state who have their priorities
12 upside down? There's an old saying which says you
13 can only go to the well so many times for water and
14 after a while it will go dry. Folks, the well needs
15 a break and it's close to being dry. It, like our
16 lake, is under extreme drought conditions right now.
17 And passing this bond right now is a foolish
18 mistake. Thank you.

19 APPLAUSE

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's retain order in the
21 council, please.

22 THOMAS TOLLISON: Thomas Tollison, Warriors
23 Pass and I'm in county council district one. I
24 don't know how much I can add to this, I'm telling
25 you. But if you've got any concern for the
26 taxpayers of Anderson county, you will either defeat
27 this or put it off and let the oncoming -- new
28 council coming in the first of the year, let them
29 deal with it, do a study on all of the proposed
30 costs in these things. I looked over it briefly.
31 I'm not a builder. I'm a homeowner. I've got a
32 whole lot more home than that thing there for a
33 whole lot less money in a real good neighborhood. I
34 think there's a lot of waste there. And another
35 thing, just like he said about legal fees and here
36 we come with another one that the county has got to
37 pay for. Over something that didn't happen. I've
38 seen the film and he's claiming there was
39 intimidation. No. This is foolish. Why are we
40 allowing this man to do this to us? Has he got
41 something on you people up there that causes you to
42 rubberstamp everything he ---

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's please stay on the
44 subject.

45 THOMAS TOLLISON: I'm on the subject, this
46 ten million dollar fiasco that you're asking for.
47 This is ridiculous. If you've got any concern for
48 the taxpayers of Anderson county and what the people
49 told you at the polls on June 10th, that was a
50 referendum against his policies. And you're

1 supporting them. If you can't see that, you're
2 blind. Either defeat this thing or put it on the
3 table until the first of the year. Thank you.

4 APPLAUSE

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This is not a public --
6 this is not a town meeting. We are to remain quiet
7 please. No applause, no outbursts. Yes, sir,
8 please.

9 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Steven Chapman, 106
10 Ellison Circle, district seven. This is my first
11 meeting of the council. I don't know a lot that's
12 going on really. I'm just a simple man. Single
13 income family, Christian man and I believe in
14 stewardship as the bible speaks of. And I've heard
15 a fervent prayer today in this meeting. I've heard
16 the golden rules cited. And I say this not to
17 question anyone's personal religious beliefs for
18 that is for Jesus himself to judge as I see my
19 beliefs as. But I know we are all commanded to be
20 good stewards and you're elected officials. And in
21 doing so, we have put our trust in you to be the
22 stewards of what's our best interest for this county
23 and for the citizens of this county.

24 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You haven't spoken on
26 this? Go ahead, sir.

27 MARK POWELL: Mr. Chairman, my name is
28 Mark Powell. Hogg Road, district seven. You know,
29 y'all were presented a huge check for five hundred
30 thousand dollars. It's a wonderful thing that
31 they're going to get water pipes. You know, for ten
32 million bucks a whole lot of communities could get
33 water. The road I live on wouldn't mess your front
34 end up as you drive down it. I cannot perceive how
35 you think that ten million bucks when everyone of
36 our incomes may not be changing but our cost of
37 living is changing -- I don't live in the city of
38 Williamston. I own property there. And, you know,
39 they got in a mess. Okay. They hired a lot of
40 people. Every person is going to be about fifty
41 thousand dollars per person by the time you got
42 benefits. Some people are way more expensive than
43 fifty thousand. Anderson County has gone from
44 thirty-eight million dollars ten years ago to a
45 hundred and forty-two million because we emptied
46 this building, built a bigger one, filled it full of
47 people, created new departments, created new
48 personnel, new heads of departments, we bought other
49 buildings, Kroger Center, Kroger Building, paid more
50 than it was worth by anybody's imagination. We're

1 now going to fill it full of people. We bought a
2 building on Main Street that supposedly is ready to
3 be occupied. Just move in and go. It's got to have
4 one point something million. I think this bill has
5 that in it. Our problem is we have too many people.
6 Y'all have too many employees. You can't give all
7 your friends, all your buddies, all your relatives,
8 all your constituents' sisters, daughters, sons, a
9 job. Government has to quit supplying income to
10 people and supply what you're supposed to, safety
11 and infrastructure. If we would quit hiring so many
12 people, buying so many buildings, filling them full
13 of people -- I mean this thing down at the lake. I
14 assure you that thing is not going to sit empty
15 without an employee sitting down there sweeping his
16 floor all day most likely. That's probably going to
17 be another two or three employees. That's a hundred
18 and fifty thousand dollars a year just in income for
19 janitors to hang around. We don't have
20 infrastructure spending because we keep hiring
21 friends and relatives. We have nine hundred
22 employees. I don't know if that includes the police
23 department. How many did we have ten years ago? We
24 don't have a spending problem on the issues that we,
25 the constituents, want done for us. We have a
26 spending problem because we create new jobs in
27 government, in these buildings. Quit hiring people,
28 start firing. Williamston, two years ago was
29 bankrupt. Okay. We may have a wonderful rating as
30 a county. I don't understand a rule of pay interest
31 even though you pay it off early. I cannot fathom
32 that being the case that anybody would sign
33 something like that. The town of Williamston got in
34 terrible shape two years ago, bankrupt basically.
35 And what did they do? They got rid of excessive
36 employees. They cut back on some stuff, silly
37 stuff, stupid stuff, ridiculous stuff, lavish
38 buildings that nobody needs. They may want them. I
39 think this thing has in it -- the wording says
40 something about necessary. Bull crap. It is not
41 necessary for somebody to have a pretty building to
42 go in down at that lake. It is not necessary. It
43 is necessary for our firemen to be trained. Build
44 that. That's great. It is not necessary for our
45 humane society to have a Taj Mahal like Greenville
46 does. They went from three buildings to like ten
47 buildings and probably three or four times the
48 employment role. That's the same thing that's going
49 to happen to us if we build this big humane society.
50 Like I said last time I love animals. But we don't

1 need to build a big Taj Mahal to take an animal to
2 it that we charge -- I mean you want to do a spay
3 and neuter clinic. Do you realize that the doctors
4 who go around in the little vans in Greenville, you
5 can get a female cat spayed for forty bucks. The
6 guy who comes to Belton and all the other areas will
7 do a male cat on site for like twenty, twenty-five
8 bucks. I don't understand why we have to spend so
9 much money to give people what they can get
10 somewhere else. Quit spending our money, start
11 giving us infrastructure. We don't need pretty
12 things. We need good roads, good utilities. Give
13 some more sewer. You know. Who knows, I guess some
14 of this burn ban that thank God you didn't pass --
15 some of this is because -- you guys have to get your
16 head screwed on straight. You can't give wish
17 lists. You have to give necessities. Quit giving
18 things that people want. People, how many people
19 want that? Special tax districts will prove what
20 people do and don't want. Please do not vote for
21 this bill. Please. I say pass it tonight as a
22 failure and that way we don't have to deal with it
23 next year. Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wishing to
25 speak during the public hearing?

26 BOB MARTIN: My name is Bob Martin. I
27 live in Green Chase, and I'm in district one. And I
28 just would urge you all to spend our money on
29 essentials. And when you finish supplying us with
30 all the essentials we need then I'd be glad to
31 consider parks and things like that. You had young
32 people up here who played baseball. I'd point out
33 to you that for the price of one of those parks,
34 those kids could play baseball for a long time.
35 Thank you.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wishes to
37 speak during the public hearing. Seeing and hearing
38 no one the public hearing is now closed. The chair
39 moves to approve ordinance 2008-037. Is there a
40 second?

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You have a second by Ms.
43 Floyd. Any discussion?

44 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

46 CINDY WILSON: I have some questions and
47 some amendments, please. Mr. Chairman and Mr.
48 Administrator, are you going to use any of this ten
49 million dollars general obligation bond for a
50 steeple chase race course and equestrian center? I

1 would want to point out that this year's spring
2 contract for paving was only four hundred thousand
3 dollars. In 2000-2001 we spend almost five and half
4 million dollars on paving not counting C funds, was
5 my understanding. I've heard what these incredible
6 citizens have come up and said tonight. And I think
7 we need to take heed. I would like to propose that
8 there be some amendments to this. The first one
9 would be that section 2F and exhibit B be changed to
10 read that the proceeds derived from the sale of
11 bonds shall be applied to anyone and then strike or
12 more.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you have a page
14 number for that, Ms. Wilson?

15 CINDY WILSON: It's section 2F and
16 exhibit B. Exhibit B is the last item in your bond
17 package. Section 2F, I think, is page four.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Exhibit B, page
19 four. Okay. Go ahead.

20 CINDY WILSON: I would move to strike or
21 more. Keep shall be applied to anyone and strike or
22 more of the following purposes. One is constructing
23 and equipping a new animal shelter facility which
24 will include a quarantine holding facility for large
25 animals including but not limited to horses and
26 cattle for which the plans are subject to county
27 council review and approval. Then item four,
28 renovating and equipping the former McCants school
29 building subject to county council review and
30 approval of plans. Item five, nine hundred and
31 fifteen thousand dollars to be deposited in a
32 special matching grants fund account for matching a
33 federal grant to replace the Broadway Lake dam and
34 bridge. I would move also to put dollar amounts on
35 the projects that are remaining subject to review
36 and approval for council. And I would also move to
37 take half of the ten million dollars and apply it to
38 Anderson County roads. Then I'd also move that in
39 item G, it says not -- it starts with it is not in
40 the best interest of the county for the county
41 council to provide for the issuance and sale of not
42 exceeding ten million dollars aggregate principal
43 amount general obligation bonds of the county to
44 provide funds for anyone and I would strike or more
45 of the purposes set forth in section two up above
46 for the reason that I asked the first question.
47 I've asked that these be put in the form of a motion
48 and be for your consideration.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson has
50 made a motion to amend the ordinance. Is there a

1 second?

2 BOB WALDREP: Second.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You have a second by Mr.
4 Waldrep. We are in discussion on Ms. Wilson's
5 amendments. Any discussion on Ms. Wilson's
6 amendment? Hearing no one the chair calls for the
7 vote on Ms. Wilson's amendments. All in favor of
8 the motion to amend please vote. Two. Oppose. Mr.
9 Wilson, Mr. McAbee, Ms. Floyd and Mr. Thompson
10 opposes. So the motion to amend fails. We are back
11 in discussion on the original ordinance, 2008-037.
12 Any discussion?

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

15 BOB WALDREP: I guess this started out
16 a couple of months ago talking about this bond and I
17 think everyone has had an opportunity to speak
18 pretty much tonight on all the things that concern
19 them all the way from the status of the economy to
20 the need for these particular items. I need to
21 address a little bit about how this bond may have
22 come to being. I was certainly not privy to the
23 genesis or creation of this bond issue. Somehow
24 another being in the position that I've been in, I'm
25 not privy to a lot of things that have happened with
26 this council. So usually what I find out when I get
27 in here is that somehow another, magically, maybe
28 five members of this council come together in a, you
29 know, just an agreement that I've never really seen
30 before. I've never been privy also to any real
31 communication from the administration as to the need
32 for these things. And let me say this. There are a
33 couple of things in here that I could be persuaded
34 to find as useful. There are some issues regarding
35 the need for dealing with the animal, new animal
36 shelter. And I think that we need to move in that
37 direction. There's a need for the fire equipment, I
38 think testing facility. And that's been kind of --
39 that's been discussed. And I will say that some of
40 these things were discussed at the budget meeting
41 that we had. But I know that was first time that I
42 saw them. They just came in and said we're going to
43 have a budget workshop and whoa, magic, here's ten
44 million dollars that we can spend. In everything
45 that I read, everything that I try to study, every
46 periodical from Wall Street to Main Street to Forbes
47 to Business Week, no government that I'm aware of is
48 as spend happy as Anderson County. Just look
49 around. If you can find somebody in South Carolina
50 that even comes close to this county in new

1 expenditures, you know, I'll apologize. I just
2 don't find anything like that. We've had everything
3 from -- I know some people believe that it's the
4 object of government to try to stimulate the economy
5 in some way. Well I think this is going to have the
6 reverse effect of what we're trying to do. I don't
7 think it's going to stimulate the economy. I think
8 it's going to have an adverse effect. Even the city
9 of Anderson, when you looked at their budget they
10 went up maybe three or four percent. We went up
11 twenty-four percent. Every aspect of what we do
12 just doesn't make good economic sense. There's a
13 friend of mine that I served with in the Senate that
14 said, son, if you can find it on the spending side
15 God bless you. You're not going to find it on the
16 spending side. We have -- what amazes me is when we
17 look at our government process, do we ever look at
18 ways to save money. I don't know that we -- I never
19 hear that word. Hey, we could save a little more by
20 doing this or doing that. No. It's always, hey,
21 that's something out there that's attractive and it
22 was put together artfully in the political form.
23 And this is what's done in the general assembly.
24 It's done in the congress. I give you a little bit
25 over here for your district and then I don't want
26 you saying anything about coming up on my district
27 over there. And then we get about five of us
28 together and we get enough stuff and we'll have a
29 majority. Now we all got to stick together, right?
30 Right. Okay. And so then the vote day comes. And
31 so I think that's what we're going to see tonight.
32 We're gonna see just four people. One has left. I
33 don't know why he left. I hope his health is okay.
34 But I think that's what we're gonna see tonight
35 unless for some reason way down deep these four
36 people know, that are here, that what they're doing
37 is absolutely wrong. I hope that somehow another
38 just that little twinge, just barely alive, that
39 just sense of conscience that might be barely there
40 will come forth when they consider the vote that
41 they're about to take. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

45 But first of all, I wanted to assure Mr. Waldrep
46 that there are no kind of getting together like he
47 said, no gatherings to come up with ideas or
48 whatever. We do our homework. We don't wait till
49 we get here to find out what's going on. Secondly
50 ---

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let's maintain order in
2 the chamber, please. Go ahead, Ms. ---

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Secondly, Mr.
4 Waldrep, you need to check Charleston, Orangeburg,
5 York and Berkeley Counties. All right. Thirdly, we
6 have talked to our constituents. Now, we have
7 representatives here from your county, Mr. Waldrep
8 and Ms. -- well, we have your folks here tonight.
9 But if our people would come and I represent twenty-
10 two thousand by the way, if our people would come,
11 I'm sure that they would be laughing at our jokes
12 and applauding us as well. And another thing,
13 remember when Jesus went to the house and the two
14 ladies came out and they were anointing his body
15 with spices and perfume. And the disciple said, oh
16 no, you're just wasting money, you shouldn't be
17 doing that, you should sell that money and give it
18 to the poor. And I was thinking as I was listening
19 to some of this, boy, what would Jesus do? What did
20 Jesus say. And with that I thank you. Oh. Another
21 thing. Excuse me. One more thing. You folks sat
22 there and you let district five come up ---

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: District five?

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh yeah, school district
25 five.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: School district five. I
27 thought you meant my district.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: No, not your district.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: School district five came
31 and passed this big huge referendum that you're
32 gonna have to pay for out of that dollar we only get
33 a quarter, but you're going to have to pay for it.
34 And not one of you -- I think I was the only voice
35 in Anderson that rose up and said, no. No. But you
36 didn't say a word. You didn't say a word. Thank
37 you.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
39 calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-037. All in
40 favor please vote. Four. Oppose. Two. Ordinance
41 pass. We'll have a ten minute break.

42 BREAK

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chamber will now
44 please come back to order so we can resume our
45 meeting. We're on item fourteen A, ordinance 2008-
46 038, district one application of Anderson County
47 school district five to amend the planned
48 development district covering a hundred and twenty
49 acres on Old Williamston Road across from Cobb's
50 Glen to replace the northern approximately forty

1 acres with a site for a new middle school and to
2 reallocate the remaining density areas of the site
3 into the southern eighty acres and eliminate the
4 most dense classification from the previously
5 approved planned development. There is a public
6 hearing on this. The instructions read earlier
7 still apply. Speak on the topic. Stay on the
8 topic. Do not be too lengthy. Speak to the chair,
9 only to the chair. With that being said come
10 forward, give your name, address and the district in
11 which you live. With that being said the public
12 hearing is now open. Would someone please close
13 that back door. Thank you very much. Anyone wishes
14 to speak on the public hearing? Mr. Waldrep, yes,
15 sir.

16 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm Bob
17 Waldrep. I'm from district one. I live at Jackson
18 Square. And I'm not a member of the tax association
19 or anything like that. But I've always wanted to do
20 this. I hope you don't mind. This issue that's
21 coming up about the rezoning on Williamston Road,
22 the only thing that's really concerned me and I
23 think it's concerned everybody else, is the traffic
24 considerations. We have a tentative design, I
25 think, that shows turn off lanes. I think Ms.
26 Wilson is aware of those. And we talk about turn
27 off lanes. And I have tried to contact the highway
28 department, Mr. Patterson, to see what kind of
29 assurances we that we could get with regard to the
30 traffic on this particular area. I think it's about
31 forty acres that they're going to cut out of a
32 hundred and twenty acres. The residents of Cobb's
33 Glen which are across the road, I think, have
34 contacted me and talked to me a good bit. I just
35 hope the council will assist me in working with the
36 highway department and with the school district with
37 regard to this traffic situation. It may come to
38 the point where we have to have a traffic light out
39 there. Someone has even mentioned bicycle trails
40 and sidewalks which might help alleviate this
41 problem. I kind of hoped that we wouldn't have this
42 problem in this area. But when I talked to the
43 school district they assured me that this was the
44 only property they could afford. Of course, I kind
45 of question that because they've got lots of money.
46 But they said that property on 81 was as much as, I
47 don't know, a million dollars an acre, that sort of
48 thing, and this is what they can afford. There's no
49 question that there's a need in this area for this
50 rezoning. But if you would just kind of join me --

1 and I think Ms. Floyd's had that concern before. I
2 don't mean to call you out now, Ms. Floyd. Okay.
3 We've talked about that. One reason that it's my
4 concern is because I've been in this arena, I guess
5 you might say, of politics for a long time. And I
6 have seen it happen time and time again when the
7 school districts do not adequately plan and they
8 build the school and then they call everybody else
9 in to save their bacon, so to speak. I just want to
10 make sure that the planning is done here in the
11 right way. And I thank you for your patience.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: My name is Gracie Floyd,
13 1201 Ramona Drive, Belton, South Carolina. But I
14 live in school district five. And I'm standing
15 here. This is something I've never done before.
16 I've seen it done a couple of times. And it
17 something I never thought I would do. But I have
18 to. I have to. I am wondering how much is this
19 going to cost the county? Nobody has said anything
20 about that. How much is it going to cost the
21 county. Okay. I'm told, well it won't cost the
22 county anything because the school district is gonna
23 widen the road and they're going to do da, da, da.
24 But the school district will only be widening the
25 road right in front of the schools. All right. But
26 what's gonna happen way on down the road on both
27 sides as people come to the school. Who's gonna
28 widen those roads? We are. We had the same kind of
29 -- well, it wasn't the same kind of problem. But we
30 had a problem with the school on Harriet Circle.
31 The school district went in there and they built the
32 thing and then they started calling, something is
33 wrong, we need your help. It was money that the
34 county had to pay to get out there and straighten it
35 out. The -- what do they call themselves? The
36 taxpayer associations, both of them, nobody said
37 anything. But I'm saying something now. I'm saying
38 that the school district chose property that's in a
39 congested area already. There are other spots they
40 could have chosen. Nothing has been done down on
41 the south side of town. In fact, the schools down
42 there are closing rapidly. On Belton Highway, I was
43 told a couple of years ago that the school district
44 owned property on Belton Highway. I heard this when
45 I first moved into Anderson County. And that that
46 school -- that property was gonna be held for a new
47 high school. Now, I'll tell you up front, I don't
48 spread rumors. I heard that. Now it's up to you
49 whether you want to believe it or not, but this is
50 what I heard. But when it came down for the new

1 high school, they went on 81. But there is property
2 on Belton Highway that could have been used to build
3 that school -- to build a school which would have
4 left a school on that end of town. But now here we
5 are, we have to approve a zoning now because they
6 say that's all we have to do. But it's gonna come
7 back to us when people start complaining on that Old
8 Williamston Road. I think, Mr. Preston, you live in
9 that area. The people from Cobb's Glen has told me
10 that they're hating this idea because it's gonna be
11 harder for them to get out and go places that they
12 have to go. Right now I have a constituent and a
13 friend who lives on Highway 81 who can't plan
14 anything until eight thirty because she can't get
15 out of her driveway. And I could see this same
16 situation happening again. All I'm saying, council
17 members, is that -- I'm not saying turn it down.
18 But I'm saying let's look at this thing carefully
19 since we have a chance to do it, even though the
20 taxpayers aren't hollering about it. Even though
21 most of that dollar that they pay for taxes go to
22 the school district, they're not hollering about it.
23 The only thing they're hollering about is that dime
24 we're getting ready to spend. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

26 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Stephen Chapman, 106
27 Ellison Circle, district seven. I don't have any
28 children going to district five, but as a taxpayer I
29 would like to note that I see a lot of bickering and
30 arguing over the money. We just blew ten million
31 dollars on a nice big boat possibly that I hear
32 these rumors about, a nice big facility on Broadway
33 Lake, and now we're bickering over a school for the
34 education of our youth. I understand they've made a
35 bad choice of location. My children go to Cedar
36 Grove. They have -- fortunately, they have worked
37 out their little system with the traffic on the road
38 they're on. Now I understand there's ways and yes,
39 sometimes we might have to pay a little bit of money
40 to expand the road. But a little bit of money
41 compared to ten million dollars is like a drop of
42 rain compared to a flood in Mississippi. I don't
43 understand what the argument is. If we can blow ten
44 million dollars then I think we can equip our
45 students with a school. And whether it's in a bad
46 part of town or a good part of town, does it really
47 matter? A school is a school. Children get to go
48 to school and get educated. Now education is
49 priceless but a building is not.

50 MARK POWELL: You know, chairman, I

1 have ---

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name.

3 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, once again.

4 Williamston. Hogg Road.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

6 MARK POWELL: I have input on district
7 seven. I have input on all the schools. My kids go
8 to district one. And as far as the council member
9 who showed great theatrics that we don't seem to
10 raise Cain over spending money on schools, guess
11 what, schools are needed. Taj Mahal little boat
12 houses or houses down on Lake Broadway is a fudge
13 factor. The reason we don't say anything -- we go
14 to our local school administration when they have
15 meetings to talk about what we're concerned about
16 with our schools. We love spending money on our
17 children. We despise money being spent on stupid,
18 unnecessary, ridiculous expenditures. So as far as
19 theatrics on saying we don't raise Cain over it, we
20 go to our respective school districts and talk about
21 it there. And to say that we have not complained
22 about school stuff is the most ridiculous,
23 ludicrous, obscene thing I've ever heard in my life.
24 We like that because it's needed. Portable
25 buildings are being used. And you know, the kids,
26 they live way over there. Why would we want to bus
27 kids way down on Belton Highway? That would be
28 rather stupid. You build schools where people live.
29 That's why district five is building a school there.
30 A lot of kids live there.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: I know we're in hearing,
33 but I want to bring up a point of order. This is
34 not about how important the schools are. This is
35 not about whose child goes where. This is about
36 zoning.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Please when you
38 come forward please stick with the topic of zoning.
39 Anyone else wishes to speak on this ordinance during
40 the public hearing?

41 BETTY BAGLEY: My name is Betty Bagley.
42 I'm getting a cold. I'm sorry for my voice. I live
43 in district one. My address is 104 McPhail Farms in
44 Anderson. But I'm here today to represent Anderson
45 School District Five as the superintendent. I want
46 you to know that on April the 24th, 2007, sixty
47 percent of the voters voted in favor of a hundred
48 and forty million dollar bond referendum for
49 allotted -- needed buildings and renovations and
50 we're very proud of that and we're good stewards of

1 that money. And our meetings are open continuously
2 for citizens to come and give their input. So
3 everything that we've done about the bond referendum
4 was out in the public, the cost of it, how it would
5 be paid. We had fifty plus meetings to make sure
6 that the citizenry knew about the meetings. Again,
7 they voted sixty percent and we're very happy about
8 that. Since that time, we have worked very hard
9 with the architects, the State Department of
10 Education, the staff here at the county to meet the
11 requirements that are put upon us. School districts
12 just don't go out and do what we want to do. When
13 it comes to purchasing property we have all kinds of
14 parameters that we have to work in. It has to be
15 approved again by the State Department of Education,
16 by the DOT, by the county. And we have been working
17 diligently with these people. We have done what we
18 needed to do. I have architects here tonight. I
19 have civil engineers. I have people from the
20 district office who this is what they do. And we
21 have work to do what the state department has come
22 up and said what we needed to do. We have done what
23 DOT has said we needed to do. We have taken all
24 this advice and we have put it into the plans that
25 we can answer tonight. I know this is about zoning,
26 but other things have been brought up that I felt
27 like needed to be addressed. Yes, we need this to
28 be rezoned so that we can build the middle school
29 there. It's a perfect location for what we're
30 trying to do. As we have found middle school
31 property on the other side of town, it's a beautiful
32 location for what we're trying to do in building a
33 middle school. And we have an elementary school to
34 build. When we go out to find property, we have to
35 buy property that is approved by the DOT and State
36 Department of Education and others. It has to be
37 property of certain acreage so that we can build a
38 school there. And yes, we have to be able to afford
39 it. We have so many regulations that govern us that
40 it's a bit absurd that we just go out and do what we
41 want to do. We do not. And we have taken our
42 charge from these different organizations and
43 agencies to get their input. And that's what we've
44 done. And to behave as if we didn't is surprising
45 to me. And all the other property that we have
46 built on and purchased since 2000, we have worked
47 through the process just like we're working through
48 this process. So we're ready to show you anything
49 that you need to see. We're here to answer any of
50 your questions that you may have. We're here to

1 tell you the input of the DOT, the state department
2 of education. I know the staff here are ready to
3 answer your questions so that you can have good
4 information on whether or not to allow the rezoning
5 of this school property so that we can build our
6 middle school there, which is a perfect location to
7 help the overcrowding of McCants and for the future
8 of this school district. So we're here. Just let
9 us know what you need to know and we'll be happy to
10 provide the information.

11 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're still in public
13 hearing. Anyone else wishes to speak? Seeing and
14 hearing no one the public hearing is now closed.
15 The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-038. Is
16 there a second?

17 CINDY WILSON: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
19 Wilson. We're in discussion. Mr. Waldrep, you wish
20 to say something?

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just
22 wanted to see if Ms. Bagley could answer some
23 questions.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Bagley, can you
25 please return to the mic?

26 BOB WALDREP: Ms. Bagley, I hope that
27 you didn't pick up that I was opposed to the
28 building of the school. My questions revolve around
29 the traffic that's out there to make sure as we
30 possibly can that there are no real problems out
31 there. I know it's going to be some inconvenience,
32 but school is a wonderful thing and I think it'll be
33 an asset, you know, to the community. And I just
34 wanted to reexplain, if I might, that my experience
35 in the past, for twelve years I've seen these
36 situations where schools were built in the wrong
37 place. And hopefully we have evolved now to where
38 there's some cooperation with the Department of
39 Transportation. However, I tried to get to Mr.
40 Patterson today. I did understand that they don't
41 really do their studies until after the school is
42 built. And that was something I didn't quite
43 understand. Can you help me with that?

44 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, let me say first of
45 all, we're concerned about the traffic as well. And
46 in designing the school and the location on the
47 property, we have taken extra steps to put in what
48 we call stacking lanes where people can turn off the
49 road and they can stack to deliver their children,
50 pick up their children. But the State Department of

1 Education as well as the DOT, Department of
2 Transportation, they have worked with us in looking
3 at the property to see whether or not it met
4 preliminary review as being a good site to them.
5 They look at sight, when you come out can you see
6 both ways. They look at stacking as well. They
7 look at turning lanes and tell us what we have to
8 have. But whether or not they can put a red light
9 there, that's what they have said that they would
10 have to wait for the school to be built and then
11 make a determination about the red lights. But as
12 far as where would the turning lanes be, what needs
13 to be done as far as car moving into the property,
14 buses moving into the property, they have to be
15 separated. They've already worked with us on that.
16 And the architects have worked with them, Southern
17 Management, they have worked with them. And so we
18 have a good knowledge of what is expected of us
19 already. But the question of a traffic light
20 remains. And they have been very explicit in saying
21 that when we see how the patterns will emerge, how
22 the traffic flows, that's when they will make the
23 determination about the traffic light.

24 BOB WALDREP: Was there any discussion
25 about bike trails or sidewalks that was incorporated
26 into this plan for kids to walk down the street to
27 school?

28 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, we'll do as much as
29 we can as far as our money allows us. We have a
30 budget, if you will, and we can't go over it. And
31 as much as we can beautify the area, because I know
32 Cobb's Glen is in front of it, we will. If we can
33 afford sidewalks, I'd love to put that in as a
34 community school. People could ride their bicycles.
35 Would we have places for their bicycles to be parked
36 and that sort of thing. But I can't stand here
37 today and say, yes, we'll put in sidewalks or yes,
38 we'll put in bike trails. Because first of all we
39 have to build the instructional program that we
40 need. We have to build the roads, the turning
41 lanes. We have to build all of the stacking lanes.
42 We all know what the economic situation is. If we
43 could afford putting in those sort of things, we'd
44 be happy to do so. But I can't stand here and
45 promise we'll do it because we have to stay within
46 budget in building the school.

47 BOB WALDREP: Well, we just increase
48 our budget here whenever we need a little more
49 money.

50 BETTY BAGLEY: We're limited with ours.

1 We do not have a ton of money.

2 BOB WALDREP: Oh, okay. All right.
3 But you do understand that -- I think everyone
4 understands that if you're gonna have a plan and
5 you're gonna construct something, now is the time to
6 do it when the cost will be much less, you know.
7 And so I'm just hoping that school district five
8 will do that. I'm not admonishing you. Please
9 understand that. Hopefully, this is a constructive
10 line of questions, you know.

11 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, that's fine. I
12 just want to make sure that -- we're working and
13 we're trying to work with individuals. And we're
14 working with the agencies that we have to report to
15 and have our plans approved. That we're not out
16 there by ourselves making decisions and hope people
17 will like it. We are having to work with the DOT,
18 the SDE, the county and others to meet their
19 requirements. We do not have a lot of leeway on
20 what we want to do because we are so regulated by
21 codes and standards that others put on us. And so I
22 just can't allow one to think that we are not
23 participating in dialogue with people who we need to
24 do so in order to build a school and we'll all be
25 proud of it. We are doing that. We have done that.
26 We have involved traffic engineers in other schools
27 that we have build. And we didn't just go, well
28 we're gonna pop it here and this is where we're
29 gonna put it and it's gonna have to work. I mean we
30 had traffic engineers. We had the State Department
31 of Education, we had the DOT approving these sites,
32 telling us exactly what we had to do and we did
33 exactly what we're told to do.

34 BOB WALDREP: So you feel like you've
35 done everything that you're supposed to do? You've
36 met every specification of the Department of
37 Transportation as well as the Department of
38 Education and those two agencies have spoken with
39 each other and you have spoken with them?

40 BETTY BAGLEY: And we have to.

41 BOB WALDREP: And your architect? And
42 you've submitted your architectural plans to these
43 agencies and they've been approved?

44 BETTY BAGLEY: Exactly.

45 BOB WALDREP: Well, hopefully this
46 dialogue is a positive thing, you know, because
47 people like to know that we've been doing our job.

48 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, we're all in this
49 together.

50 BOB WALDREP: Beg your pardon.

1 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, I don't take this
2 as being adversarial or anything like that.

3 BOB WALDREP: No. I didn't want you to
4 take it that way. You know, it just -- I tried to
5 pour a little love out of here, you know, if I can.
6 I want you to receive it.

7 BETTY BAGLEY: Well, what I want you to
8 understand as the county council, we're in this
9 together. We want a wonderful county. We want a
10 wonderful city. We want to make sure that our
11 children are properly educated to compete and live
12 and learn in this global world that they're in. And
13 you want good things for this county. You want good
14 things for Anderson. And we have to work together
15 for that to happen because schools attract people.
16 People want to come to live in an area where there's
17 good schools. And so we all want that. And that's
18 what we're trying to get. And we're very open. And
19 our plans are laid out and we have to do what we're
20 told to do because we're highly regulated. That's
21 what I want you to know.

22 BOB WALDREP: Well, you're a good
23 spokesperson for school district five.

24 BETTY BAGLEY: Thank you.

25 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Ms. Bagley.

28 Mr. ---

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ricketson.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Ricketson, I'm
31 concerned about the flow of traffic on that road.
32 Now, before I ask you this, council members, have
33 you heard -- have any of you heard from the citizens
34 over in Cobb's Glen about any of this? Has anybody
35 received phone calls?

36 BOB WALDREP: I have.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right.
38 Anybody else? Well, I guess it was because Cobb's
39 Glen used to be my district, but now it's yours.
40 Right?

41 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I guess you gave
42 it to me.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't give you
44 anything. Okay. All right.

45 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Want it back?

46 GRACIE FLOYD: It's not yours to give.
47 But anyway, I did hear from some people out in
48 Cobb's Glen and they are concerned that they will
49 have problems getting out ...

50 END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 1

1 GRACIE FLOYD: ... not going to be a
2 traffic light there. And they are also concerned
3 that further on down the road it won't be a -- it'll
4 still be that two lane highway there which is going
5 to kind of bottle things up for going back or
6 whatever, coming to. What did DOT say about -- did
7 you look into this kind of thing?

8 JEFF RICKETSON: Yes. We've had dialogue
9 with the school district. The staff has had
10 dialogue with DOT. The school district has had
11 dialogue with DOT. Everybody has been involved in
12 this. There's been extensive dialogue with the
13 community. I think the school district went out and
14 had a meeting with the Cobb's Glen Homeowner's
15 Association. And they came to the first meeting of
16 the planning commission. They did not come back
17 after they met with the school district. So, I'm
18 assuming that -- or the planning commission assumed
19 that a lot of the Cobb's Glen concerns were met when
20 they met with the school district.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I don't know, but I
22 know what I've got. I know what I had. And Mr.
23 Waldrep received phone calls too. But now, suppose
24 later on it does become a problem with people going
25 up and down the streets and getting in and out.
26 Then what happens?

27 JEFF RICKETSON: DOT's position was that
28 they would wait till the school got built ---

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I heard her say
30 that.

31 JEFF RICKETSON: --- there would be
32 warrants for the red light as they do with most
33 projects.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah.

35 JEFF RICKETSON: And the school district
36 has in place a plan to widen the roads that they can
37 affect immediately around the property and to hire
38 crossing guards to direct traffic during the times
39 that school lets in which will be the only time that
40 the roads will be really be taxed.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative).
42 But on further down the road, you know, if it
43 becomes a ---

44 JEFF RICKETSON: That would be DOT's issue
45 because DOT is responsible for maintaining Old
46 Williamston Road.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: It's a state road?

48 JEFF RICKETSON: It's a state road.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Hot dog. That means that
50 we don't have to worry about it. We'll let the

1 state worry about it. I think you've satisfied. My
2 issue, my issue was not about the school itself. It
3 was not about how important the school was for the
4 children. Anybody with any sense knows that. But
5 it was about the zoning. That's what I was elected
6 to do. And that's what I did. And I just thank
7 you.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

9 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 And I want to thank district five representatives
11 for coming and answering questions. And I know
12 you've sat there for a terribly long time. It seems
13 that with our experiences of the past several years
14 of locating schools and then having the difficulties
15 of the traffic that we should learn our lesson here.
16 It seems that with the wonderful trend of locating
17 schools in the neighborhood context once again that
18 this is an excellent opportunity for all of us to
19 make this be a great prototype project again. There
20 are no site plans in our package so we're having to
21 ask more questions. But I personally would like to
22 see a bike lane and sidewalks on the school
23 property. And I would like to see all of us
24 coordinate with SCDOT and the county DOT and the
25 respective districts, council districts, that will
26 be involved, my boundary line is just up the road,
27 to create sidewalks along that area so that since
28 you will be in the context of a neighborhood and it
29 is a change in use of zoning there from residential
30 to an institutional use, if we could go ahead and
31 start planning now to do the sidewalks on Old
32 Williamston Road along with the accel/decel turn
33 lanes and the bike lanes, we could cut down on an
34 enormous amount of the traffic most days, mornings
35 and afternoons, because children would want to walk
36 and ride their bikes to school once again. Is there
37 any way that we might could possibly table this and
38 then by next council meeting have a plan worked out
39 with SCDOT and with our school district to work out
40 the sidewalk and bike lane projects? It's only two
41 weeks. So it's not like it's an extensive long
42 time.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you making a motion
44 to table, Ms. Wilson?

45 CINDY WILSON: Well, I wanted to ask Ms.
46 Bagley if this is a hardship to maybe delay this by
47 two weeks so that we could maybe get some feedback.
48 You know, there are some grants that we can get for
49 sidewalks on Old Williamston.

50 BETTY BAGLEY: This would be a hardship.

1 We have a purchase agreement with the owners and it
2 runs for a hundred and twenty days. And the way
3 that it's scheduled right now, our first reading,
4 second reading and third reading. If we stay on
5 schedule we'll be six days from that deadline. So
6 to table it for a couple of weeks would even -- it
7 really would mess up the timetable.

8 CINDY WILSON: Would it be possible
9 maybe if we go ahead and pass this on first reading
10 tonight to get all the heads together and work out
11 and make sure that we'll have sidewalks near this
12 property and then sidewalks on Old Williamston. It
13 will take some time, of course, to get the
14 assurances. But if we could get some sort of a plan
15 put together.

16 BETTY BAGLEY: The architects, I think
17 they're using them to draw in the sidewalks, that
18 sort of thing. But again, we can bid them. We can
19 bid them as an alternate. We can certainly look at
20 grants and that sort of thing. But we have X amount
21 of money to build this school. And we have to live
22 within that X amount of money.

23 CINDY WILSON: You know, there might be
24 alternatives to sidewalks. I know we've looked at
25 pavement expansions for Midway and I'm hoping we'll
26 finally get that project going this year. But that
27 might be an alternative and fuel purpose -- a four
28 foot expansion maybe that would work as a sidewalk
29 and a bike path. That would enable the neighborhood
30 people to get to and from school without having to
31 always go into -- get into a car and drive.

32 BETTY BAGLEY: And I don't want to
33 mislead you. We would like very much for that to
34 happen, And how kids would ride and walk and make it
35 a nice little neighborhood like that. I can see
36 that and I understand why you would want that. And
37 we can do that. But I don't want to mislead you for
38 you to think that I'm going to say that will happen.
39 We can put it in our plans. We can fit it out. We
40 can see how it will fall. We can work trying to get
41 grant money and that sort of thing. Because it
42 would be nice. It would be a welcome addition. And
43 I think people would applaud that, trying to see
44 that that's what you're trying to do, cut down on
45 traffic and people walk to school. It's a nice,
46 nice thing. But I don't want you to think that I'm
47 standing here promising you that. But we will do
48 everything that we could to make that happen. We'd
49 work very hard to make that happen. And if we could
50 move forward tonight, because we're really on a

1 tight schedule, to delay it really -- I don't know
2 if the owners of the property would give us an
3 extension. We have asked for extensions in the past
4 and they have denied us that. So we're really
5 pushed for time. But I can tell you it can be
6 written in. It can be drawn in. We can bid it. We
7 can do everything possible to make it happen.

8 CINDY WILSON: Well, you'll have my vote
9 tonight. And I would hope that maybe those of us
10 whose districts your project would reside in or be
11 adjacent to, maybe before the next council meeting
12 we could get Mr. Patterson from DOT and see if we
13 can get our federal grant writers in here too to
14 help us with that.

15 BETTY BAGLEY: Thank you.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? No one.
17 The chair calls for the question, ordinance 2008-
18 038. All in favor please vote. One, two, three,
19 four. Oppose. Abstaining. Mr. McAbee and Ms.
20 Floyd are abstaining. So it's a four zero two. It
21 passes anyway. Thank you very much.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I
23 understand this is on first reading.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Right. Good. Good.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: First reading.
27 Ordinance 2008-039, district four, application of
28 Susan Everett Melton, owner, for rezoning from RA to
29 C2 at 913 Whitten Road, northeast corner of Liberty
30 Highway and Whitten Road. The rezoning is to allow
31 for the sale of property for unspecified development
32 of commercial uses. There is a public hearing for
33 this. The same rules apply as all previous public
34 hearings. Stay on topic. Don't be excessively
35 long. Speak to the chair, only to the chair. Come
36 forward, give your name, address and district
37 number. That being said the public hearing is now
38 open. Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance?
39 Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now
40 closed. The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-
41 039. is there a second?

42 BILL MCABEE: Second.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from
44 Mr. McAbee. We are in discussion.

45 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- the chair retains
47 the floor. Mr. Ricketson, notice in the material,
48 all committees, staff, citizens advisory and
49 planning all voted in denial.

50 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What's the heartburn
2 with this?

3 JEFF RICKETSON: This is not consistent
4 with the county's comprehensive plan. It calls for
5 this area to be residential agriculture and we had
6 extensive input from the community on this one when
7 we put together the plan that we would hold the line
8 on the existing industrial area across the street.
9 And that -- the conditions have not changed since
10 that time. So the plan calls for this area to be
11 residential agriculture. And that's why the staff
12 made our recommendation and the citizens advisory
13 group for district four and the planning commission
14 unanimously voted to uphold the comprehensive plan.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, if there's
16 commercial across the street, why wouldn't it be in
17 compliance?

18 JEFF RICKETSON: Because the planning
19 calls for that not to be commercial. It calls for
20 it ---

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That side of the street
22 is zoned different.

23 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. McAbee.

25 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 This is not just my district, but it's also the road
27 I live on. And our land use plan for that section
28 through there is rather schizophrenic, isn't it? We
29 have what, five miles of the industrial zone
30 property on one side and two miles of industrial
31 zone property on the other side and then three miles
32 of residential agriculturally zoned property.

33 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

34 BILL MCABEE: It's quite possible with
35 the sewer across the road that the rest of the
36 property on the west side of that highway would
37 build out as industrial, isn't that correct?

38 JEFF RICKETSON: Could be.

39 BILL MCABEE: If that's the case, then
40 the right side of the highway remains residential
41 agricultural. It's not likely to attract probably
42 the best of housing situations, would it, if your
43 view is of a factory? Would that be safe to say?

44 JEFF RICKETSON: Well, this request is not
45 for industrial. This request is for ---

46 BILL MCABEE: Right. That's what I
47 understand. But if the rezoning remains residential
48 agricultural on this property on the property on the
49 eastside of the highway, and it's remained that way
50 and was developed under that zoning classification,

1 with the property across the highway being
2 industrial, wouldn't that perhaps lend itself to not
3 be developed to perhaps the best or the most
4 favorable residential neighborhood. It would, it
5 would deteriorate from the value of it from
6 residential development, wouldn't it?

7 JEFF RICKETSON: You could make that
8 argument.

9 BILL MCABEE: Isn't there usually
10 between a residential and an industrial area --
11 wouldn't it be normal to have perhaps a commercial
12 area in there too? There's no commercial in that
13 ---

14 JEFF RICKETSON: There's no commercial
15 zoning on Liberty Highway.

16 BILL MCABEE: At all?

17 JEFF RICKETSON: No.

18 BILL MCABEE: Not north of the
19 interstate.

20 JEFF RICKETSON: No.

21 BILL MCABEE: But there is industrial
22 zoning?

23 JEFF RICKETSON: There is. Because we
24 have a county owned sewer line that was built up to
25 serve GNP about ten years ago. And at the time we
26 were putting together our plan it didn't make sense
27 to take property that had a sewer line in the back
28 yard and zone it for agriculture.

29 BILL MCABEE: Exactly. Exactly. I
30 just think my point is that, you know, that down the
31 road it might actually be something to consider,
32 that it might it develop better as a commercial or
33 be a more desirable commercial type location on the
34 east side of the highway rather than as a
35 residential development.

36 JEFF RICKETSON: The staff's opinion of
37 that at the time and still is, if we wanted to do
38 that we probably should do that on a holistic
39 approach as opposed to picking it off one or two
40 parcels at a time.

41 BILL MCABEE: Right. All right.

42 JEFF RICKETSON: Because other people have
43 asked for commercial zoning in this area and the
44 council has consistently turned them down.

45 BILL MCABEE: Right. The last such
46 request was north of there and it was entirely
47 surrounded by residential agriculture. There was no
48 industrial or commercial zoning adjoining it or
49 within sight of it. But it just seems interesting
50 to me that we have so much industrial on one side of

1 the highway and we -- there seems to be a tendency
2 on staff's part to require the east side of the
3 highway to remain RA.
4 JEFF RICKETSON: At the time we just had
5 extensive community input, had several meetings at
6 the time. And the council member at the time made a
7 pledge to the community that that's the way it would
8 be and that's how we got the plan that we have.
9 BILL MCABEE: I see.
10 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
12 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Ricketson, is this
13 some species of spot zoning?
14 JEFF RICKETSON: If you approve this I
15 think it probably would be.
16 BOB WALDREP: Isn't that what we assume
17 in planning and development?
18 JEFF RICKETSON: It's not generally good
19 planning to treat one property differently than the
20 surrounding properties.
21 BOB WALDREP: So we would just be sort
22 of violating all our principals if we do that.
23 JEFF RICKETSON: One could make that
24 argument.
25 BOB WALDREP: And really if we do this
26 one it creates a precedent. The planning really
27 means nothing at all.
28 JEFF RICKETSON: You could make that
29 point.
30 BOB WALDREP: And that's a good point,
31 isn't it, from you planners and you people that
32 professionally study these matters. Is that
33 correct?
34 JEFF RICKETSON: Yes.
35 BOB WALDREP: Thank you.
36 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
38 GRACIE FLOYD: Jeff, haven't we done
39 that before?
40 JEFF RICKETSON: Have we spot zoned
41 before?
42 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. In some instances
43 ---
44 JEFF RICKETSON: I suppose that over the
45 ten year period there probably has been some spot
46 zoning that's happened.
47 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. But I don't mean
48 as far back as ten years.
49 JEFF RICKETSON: I don't recall staff ever
50 recommending that, but I'm sure it has happened a

1 time or two.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. I'm sure. Okay.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

4 GRACIE FLOYD: So and ---

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Could we say that maybe
7 precedents have already been established?

8 JEFF RICKETSON: Not in this particular
9 area.

10 GRACIE FLOYD: No. Not the area. The
11 concept.

12 JEFF RICKETSON: Conceptually, yeah.
13 You've made this precedent before.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So this precedent
15 has already been set.

16 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

18 BILL MCABEE: In Five Forks precinct,
19 that's the precinct in question, isn't there a
20 single piece of property on Lebanon Road that is
21 zoned inconsistent with all the properties
22 surrounding it?

23 JEFF RICKETSON: I'd have to look at the
24 map. I can't recall.

25 BILL MCABEE: There is. Fifty-seven
26 acres.

27 JEFF RICKETSON: This particular request
28 is for C2 commercial which is highway commercial
29 which allows for a very broad range of commercial
30 uses including taverns and bars and restaurants and
31 car dealerships and just an array of highway
32 commercial intensive uses. So, that's what's before
33 you tonight is whether you want to rezone this
34 individual tract as C2 and set a precedent for that
35 area.

36 BOB WALDREP: You could -- excuse me,
37 Mr. ---

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. What
40 are the neighbors, the people that are surrounding
41 that area, have we talked to them and all of that?

42 JEFF RICKETSON: The property has been
43 posted. It's been advertised and there's been
44 nobody here to speak.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: And nobody spoke to you
46 about it?

47 JEFF RICKETSON: No. I haven't had any
48 calls on it.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: The planning commission,
50 did they meet on this one?

1 JEFF RICKETSON: The planning commission
2 and the citizens advisory board both voted
3 unanimously to recommend denial.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Denial. Okay.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

6 BOB WALDREP: Well, I wasn't sure where
7 we were going with all this, you know. So now we've
8 got spot zoning, we've got the possibility of bars
9 and car lots and what else in C2 can you have.

10 JEFF RICKETSON: There's pages of
11 allowable uses.

12 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Entertainment
13 centers.

14 JEFF RICKETSON: It's a very broad,
15 general category.

16 BOB WALDREP: That thing over in
17 Georgia that they had. We couldn't have ---

18 JEFF RICKETSON: Well, we have a separate
19 free standing sexual business ordinance that might
20 ---

21 BOB WALDREP: It wouldn't get there.
22 Okay.

23 JEFF RICKETSON: It wouldn't get there, I
24 don't think.

25 BOB WALDREP: And the planning and
26 zoning commission has denied it and the advisory
27 board has denied it.

28 JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

29 BOB WALDREP: So how did it get here?
30 I guess it just ---

31 JEFF RICKETSON: It required to come to
32 council. Everybody has their day at council.

33 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
35 calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-039. All in
36 favor please vote. One. Oppose. Mr. Wilson, Ms.
37 Floyd, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson
38 oppose. So it's one to five. The ordinance dies.
39 Ordinance 2008-040, an ordinance authorizing the
40 leasing of space at the Anderson Regional Airport
41 and other matters related thereto. The chair moves
42 to approve. Is there a second?

43 CINDY WILSON: Second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
45 Wilson. Mr. Preston.

46 JOEY PRESTON: I'm gonna ask Mr.
47 Ferguson to come forward. Adam, explain the
48 proposal.

49 ADAM FERGUSON: Good evening. This is to
50 lease the former FAA flight service station building

1 that the FAA left back in July of last year. The
2 FAA is gonna retain about a third of the building
3 for their communications equipment and radios. They
4 will rent a third of the building. The other lease
5 in the ordinance is for emergency services to
6 release the other two-thirds of the building for
7 their needs. When this was a flight service
8 building, it was required that the FAA only pay a
9 dollar a year. Now that it is not a flight service
10 building, some new FAA regulations kick in that we
11 have to get fair market value for the building even
12 if it's the FAA renting it and even if it's Anderson
13 County renting it. So this is the reason why we
14 have leases to -- formal leases to lease the space.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else from
16 council?

17 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

19 BOB WALDREP: I wanted to tell you that
20 people have been talking about you.

21 ADAM FERGUSON: I hope half of it's good.

22 BOB WALDREP: And they've been -- but
23 first of all I have to get leave from Mr. Preston.
24 Is it okay if I talk with Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Preston?

25 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

26 BOB WALDREP: Thank you, by your leave,
27 sir. Mr. Ferguson, I just wanted to say really that
28 I've heard some awfully good things about you and
29 working out there at that airport. And I've just
30 been very encouraged as a unit, you know, that we're
31 doing well out there. And I guess one of the hopes
32 that I had in trying to get some money eventually is
33 to get those hangars out there, you know, because I
34 do realize that that is a good project. I
35 understand there's a waiting list for hangars and
36 that we should be able to, you know, really make a
37 little bit of money for a change that would help it
38 support itself. So those are the only comments I
39 had. I want to thank you for your good service.
40 And thank you, Mr. Preston.

41 ADAM FERGUSON: Thank you. And thank the
42 whole council. Thank you for your time.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? No one.
44 The chair calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-040.
45 All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you.
46 Ordinance 2008-041, an ordinance to amend chapter
47 thirty-eight of the Anderson County code of
48 ordinances which relates to land use and development
49 standards and other matters related thereto. The
50 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

1 CINDY WILSON: Second.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
3 Wilson. We are in discussion. Any discussion? No
4 one? The chair calls for the -- Ms. Floyd.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: I got it under the wire,
6 didn't I? Mr. Chair, we need to go back over this,
7 okay, and talk to me about the meat of this entire
8 thing here. I know I read it and I know that we've
9 talked about it before. But this is the first time
10 it's come up for a vote. But can you go back
11 through it for me quickly?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston, Mr.
13 Ricketson, give us the meat of this.

14 JEFF RICKETSON: Give you the meat. If
15 you'll look at the ordinance, item number one,
16 subsection one, the last clause of that subsection
17 one there it says, will not result in any increase
18 in flood levels of the base flood discharge. We had
19 an error. You all adopted -- you all revised our
20 flood plane ordinance two years ago. This error was
21 in there. It's not consistent with the FEMA
22 national flood plane program. We pointed it out to
23 DNR. They reviewed the previous ordinance that you
24 all adopted. We just sort of missed it, something
25 that needs to be fixed to make us compliant with
26 state law and the national flood insurance program.
27 So it's just a correction of something that we
28 missed.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I know that at one
30 time we were -- well, I got the word that there was
31 something about the economic advisory board wanted a
32 member to be placed somewhere, wanted to get a
33 member somewhere.

34 BOB WALDREP: That's the next
35 ordinance.

36 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, that's the next one.

37 JEFF RICKETSON: This is just about our
38 flood plane ordinance.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, okay. All right. I
40 got it. I had the right string but the wrong yo-yo.
41 Okay. I got it.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it?

43 GRACIE FLOYD: That's it. Thank you.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
45 calls for the question, ordinance 2008-041. All in
46 favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you.
47 Ordinance 2008-042, an ordinance amending section 2-
48 492 of the Anderson County code of ordinances
49 pertaining to the economic advisory board and other
50 matters related thereto. The chair moves to

1 approve. Is there a second?

2 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from

4 Ms. Wilson. This is the one where they are

5 requesting two additional members be added to the

6 board in the ex-officio capacity. Ms. Floyd.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, for what purpose?

8 Did you ever get that?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I do not know for what
10 purpose.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Does anybody up
12 here know? Wait a minute. I had the floor. Does
13 anybody up here know for what purpose? Does anybody
14 know that?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Jones, do you know?

16 GRACIE FLOYD: No, no, no. I said up
17 here.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Up here? I do not know.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Does anybody know why we
20 are doing this, for what purpose?

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's an ex-officio so
22 it's a non-voting member. Do you want me to answer
23 -- get the question answered?

24 GRACIE FLOYD: No. I'm just -- well,
25 whatever. I'm just surprised that we're gonna do
26 this and we don't even know why.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Jones. Can we have
28 Ms. Jones?

29 JOEY PRESTON: It's a recommendation
30 from the advisory committee. Dr. Juan Brown
31 requested that in a letter a while back.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But why does he want
33 these two extra people on the board?

34 HEATHER JONES: In his letter you notice
35 that he talks about Innovate Anderson and the fact
36 that when the board, excuse me, the county council
37 reappointed those members, the executive director of
38 the Anderson County Office of Economic Development,
39 and at this time that being me, was then eliminated
40 from Innovate Anderson's board.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I did that. I'm guilty.

42 HEATHER JONES: They in turn approved an
43 amendment to their bylaws to add an ex-officio
44 position for not Heather Jones but the director of
45 the Anderson County Office of Economic Development
46 so that those two office could have a more seamless
47 reporting system to one another. So item one in Dr.
48 Brown's letter addresses that issue and that is the
49 reasoning behind it. Item two is the recommendation
50 to add the director of the South Carolina Employment

1 Security Commission. Terry Gilstrap currently fills
2 that position. She is involved in, I would say,
3 ninety-nine percent of the projects that we have in
4 Anderson County, provides a great resource to us.
5 That office provides a great resource to us. And it
6 makes good sense in Dr. Brown's mind, I think as
7 well as many others, that she be at the table
8 listening to and participating in discussions.
9 Again, both of these positions are ex-officio,
10 meaning that they do not have voting privileges.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A line of communication?

12 Heather Jones: Correct. It's more about
13 a seamless line of communication.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm awfully sorry, Mr.
18 Chair. I apologize.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's okay.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Jones.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Jones, would you come
23 back, please? Ms. Jones, why -- I mean, with your
24 presence would you be representing the county?

25 HEATHER JONES: I would hope so. I mean
26 in my capacity as the Director of Economic
27 Development and in that it's named the Director of
28 Economic Development, it doesn't specify that
29 Heather Jones has a position, that I would be
30 representing the county in my official capacity on
31 that board.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. The reason I
33 asked the question. It's a strange question, I
34 know. But the reason why I asked that question
35 because a while back we had some serious concerns
36 about something that went on in a meeting that
37 appeared as if you were aware of it, you condone it,
38 and we were not notified until it was too late.

39 HEATHER JONES: I'm not certain that I'm
40 aware of what you're referring to.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: No. It wasn't a name
42 change. No. It wasn't a name change. Uh-uh
43 (negative). I don't want to go into details, but it
44 was about the county council. Think for a minute.
45 It'll come back.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: SWAT?

47 HEATHER JONES: About the SWAT analysis.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. Thank you. And I
49 just want to ensure that the next time something
50 like that comes up and that you are aware of it that

1 you would please do all you can to notify our
2 administrator who in turn will notify us so that we
3 can have a -- so that we can defend ourselves if
4 need be, and we're really good at that, or we can go
5 to the folks and ask why. Okay. But we didn't know
6 about it until it was all done. And then we were
7 presented a letter that said, well, your economic
8 development person signed it. You know, but anyway,
9 I just want to make sure. Okay.

10 HEATHER JONES: Yes, ma'am.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: And I thank you for that.

12 HEATHER JONES: Yes, ma'am.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: And for being so sweet

14 about it.

15 HEATHER JONES: Thank you.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That it?

17 GRACIE FLOYD: That's it.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

19 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

21 BILL MCABEE: In section two of this,
22 it references -- they changed some of the language,
23 but it references section 2-351 of the Anderson
24 County code of ordinances. Doesn't that apply to
25 all boards and commissions in Anderson County? May
26 Mr. Martin answer that?

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, can you
28 answer that?

29 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Mr. McAbee, that is correct. Section 2-351 is the
31 general standards for all boards and commissions.
32 This would create an exception to that.

33 BILL MCABEE: For just one board.

34 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

35 BILL MCABEE: I see.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

37 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Continue.

39 BILL MCABEE: I move to strike section
40 two. This would change the ---

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The whole section or
42 just that ---

43 BILL MCABEE: Well, the ---

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The blue part.

45 BILL MCABEE: The amendment to section
46 two and leave -- by striking that I want to remove
47 the blue part and leave the red part in place. It
48 would leave it consistent with the rest of the
49 boards and commissions in the county.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're looking at the

1 red line portion?

2 BILL MCABEE: Right.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You want to put the red
4 part back in?

5 BILL MCABEE: Right. And remove the
6 blue.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Take the blue out.

8 BILL MCABEE: The blue out. The blue
9 is the proposed change. If we vote yes, unamended,
10 the blue language would be adopted. The red line
11 item is -- I'm proposing that we not adopt the
12 amendment to section two. And this would leave this
13 board as under the same ordinances as all other
14 boards.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So -- okay. Mr.
16 McAbee has made a motion to amend. If you look at
17 the redline version, paragraph two, the red section
18 that is currently stricken out, he wants to put that
19 back in. And the blue section following it he wants
20 to strike that. Does everyone understand?

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, what -- the
22 effect of that is that we won't have those two ex-
23 officio members?

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. The ex-
25 officios are in paragraph one. We're talking about
26 paragraph two.

27 BOB WALDREP: So what's the effect of
28 what he's doing?

29 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, may I?

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah.

31 BILL MCABEE: The intent is that this
32 board would remain under the current county
33 ordinances that governs all county boards as to
34 terms of office rather than changing it for just one
35 single board.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So be consistent across
37 the board.

38 BILL MCABEE: Correct.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand. So be
40 consistent across the board.

41 BOB WALDREP: Right. And this does not
42 in any way affect the ordinance that we passed
43 earlier that had to do with the conflict of
44 interest?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Separate.

46 BOB WALDREP: Separate? Okay.

47 BILL MCABEE: That's correct.

48 BOB WALDREP: So that would still be in
49 there.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

1 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Did we get a second on
3 that motion to amend? Mr. Wilson has seconded that.
4 Any more discussion on Mr. McAbee's amendment? No.
5 All in favor of Mr. McAbee's amendment, please vote.
6 Five, six. Okay. Six, zero. Now we're in
7 discussion on the ordinance as amended by Mr.
8 McAbee. Any more discussion on the ordinance? No.
9 The chair calls for the vote on the amended
10 ordinance, 2008-042. All in favor as amended,
11 please vote. Unanimous. Okay. Good. 2008-043, an
12 ordinance authorizing amendments to a lease dated
13 September 29, 1966 with the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens
14 Mental Health Center for the purpose of updating and
15 revising the lease and to lease additional Anderson
16 County rent property to the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens
17 Mental Health Center and other matters related
18 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
19 second?

20 CINDY WILSON: Second. And may I?

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second, Ms. Wilson. And
22 yes, ma'am, please continue.

23 CINDY WILSON: It says caption only. A
24 copy of ordinance will be delivered prior to the
25 meeting. I didn't get one. I got some information.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson said she
27 didn't get an ordinance.

28 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

30 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
31 there actually is no ordinance. This is by caption
32 only. We did not receive the original existing
33 lease in time to make the changes and to do it in
34 the form of an ordinance. So I'm not really sure
35 ---

36 CINDY WILSON: Well, you said it would
37 be delivered prior to the meeting. But I have a
38 question. Other than providing the five plus or
39 minus acres what further financial responsibility
40 does Anderson County have in this proposal?

41 JOEY PRESTON: None, Ms. Wilson.

42 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

44 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, any money?
45 Is there any fiscal impact of this?

46 JOEY PRESTON: I don't understand your
47 question?

48 BOB WALDREP: Money. Is it going to
49 cost us any money? Fiscal impact?

50 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. No, sir.

1 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

2 JOEY PRESTON: What mental health has
3 done is of course they leased the current site from
4 the county back in 1966, a fifty year lease. And
5 they've outgrown that facility. And what they're
6 asking is that the county approve the lease or the
7 possibility of leasing the property to them so they
8 can take that to the state to try to get the funding
9 to build a new fifty thousand square foot building
10 that their consultants have recommended that they
11 build.

12 BOB WALDREP: Are they paying us
13 anything for that?

14 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. They don't pay
15 us.

16 BOB WALDREP: It's just kind of an
17 intergovernmental mutual relationship?

18 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

20 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep,
21 that is correct. It is basically a no cost lease
22 because of the service that is being provided. It's
23 a governmental service and so no cost to the county
24 but also no cost to mental health for the lease
25 itself.

26 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Just wanted to
27 know it wasn't going to be in the budget somewhere.
28 Okay. Thank you.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
30 calls for the question -- I'm sorry, calls for the
31 vote on ordinance 2008-043. All in favor please
32 vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-044, an ordinance
33 imposing a prohibition on certain vehicular traffic
34 on Hendricks Road and Wilderness Trail and other
35 matters related thereto. The chair moves to
36 approve. Is there a second?

37 RON WILSON: Second.

38 CINDY WILSON: Second. And may I have
39 the floor again, please?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

41 CINDY WILSON: It says this ordinance
42 will be hand delivered prior to the council meeting.
43 I don't have one.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

45 CINDY WILSON: There's not one in my
46 package.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, you wanted
48 to say something?

49 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
50 members of council, we do not represent the county

1 on this one. From the outset we have made it clear
2 that we cannot represent the county. I think that
3 alternate council who drafted the prior ordinance
4 are also working on this particular one. And so I
5 really can't speak to the status of the ordinance.
6 I really don't know.

7 CINDY WILSON: I would like to make a
8 motion, please, that we withdraw this from the
9 agenda and then receipt by the next council meeting
10 ---

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you're making a
12 motion to table? Ms. Wilson, motion to table?

13 CINDY WILSON: I think it would be
14 easier to withdraw it from the agenda tonight and
15 then put it on the next ---

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Same thing. Okay. Is
17 there a second on Ms. Wilson's motion to withdraw?
18 Ms. Floyd, what is your point of order? Turn your
19 mic on.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: According to Robert's
21 Rules, the person who authored the ordinance should
22 get the first stab at it, should get the first
23 chance to speak on it.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He should.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: He should. Yeah. And I
26 think that before we table this, if it is tabled, I
27 think that the author should at least get a chance
28 to speak on it, according to what the rule states.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson, can
30 we back up and give the sponsoring council member a
31 chance to speak before we table?

32 CINDY WILSON: Well, first of all, my
33 motion was to withdraw until we had the actual
34 ordinance. But I'm amenable to whatever.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

36 CINDY WILSON: I just can't vote on
37 anything I don't have.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. She withdraws her
39 motion. So Mr. Wilson, do you wish to speak on
40 this?

41 RON WILSON: It is late.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It is.

43 RON WILSON: Yeah. This is -- we
44 weight limited the road, Hamlin Road, which is the
45 landfill, fronts on that road. And Wilderness Trail
46 is a road which is smaller than Hamlin and Hendricks
47 is about the same condition as Hamlin. Both of
48 these roads run near the landfill. And so the
49 restrictions here that we're placing on these are
50 identical to Hamlin. And the ordinances will be

1 constructed in that manner. It was something that I
2 asked them to do. I hope that we'll pass this.
3 We'll certainly have it by second reading and if
4 there's something on it that people don't like they
5 can undo it. But this is another attempt to make
6 the landfill more difficult to have in that area.
7 And it's not a reach too far to think that the
8 landfill could access those roads and have entry
9 points there which you cannot do now on Hamlin. So
10 that's what this is about.

11 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: I get the vague feeling
14 that there's some litigation going on here. Mr.
15 Martin, you represent someone involved in this?

16 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

18 TOM MARTIN: We do not.

19 RON WILSON: May I answer that? I
20 think the conflict is that DHEC is involved.

21 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 That's correct.

23 RON WILSON: There's no lawsuit at
24 this time pending anywhere on this deal.

25 BOB WALDREP: Well, I just didn't
26 understand the conflict.

27 RON WILSON: DHEC is involved in the
28 landfill and whether or not to permit it or not.

29 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

30 RON WILSON: And then this -- and so
31 that's the conflict with Mr. Martin and his ---

32 BOB WALDREP: Well, who does Mr. Martin
33 represent in that?

34 RON WILSON: In that regard they
35 represent, I'm sure, DHEC.

36 BOB WALDREP: You represent DHEC, Mr.
37 Martin?

38 TOM MARTIN: No, sir. Actually, we do
39 not represent anyone involved -- your question was
40 as to the litigation, I think, that has just ended.
41 And to my knowledge we did not represent anyone in
42 that. We have an indirect conflict, basically a
43 business conflict. We have a client that has asked
44 that we not represent any party in this matter.

45 CINDY WILSON: Who was the client? Was
46 it the county? Is the county the client?

47 TOM MARTIN: It is not the county. It
48 is not anyone involved in this particular matter.

49 BOB WALDREP: A very mysterious
50 process, Mr. Wilson, we've got here. We don't have

1 an ordinance to read and we have a conflict from an
2 unknown client and we don't have anything to really
3 sink our teeth into. Wouldn't it be best for you to
4 allow us some time to review this?

5 RON WILSON: Well, we've passed other
6 things this way and if you want to cut it down on
7 second or third reading, fine.

8 BOB WALDREP: I would think that would
9 be advisable that we not -- that you would withdraw
10 it. I mean I'm not trying to be antagonistic, but I
11 find this to be a little byzantine. Okay. Thank
12 you.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So are we going to move
14 to table or are we gonna vote?

15 RON WILSON: We're gonna vote.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're gonna vote. Okay.
17 The chair calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-044.
18 All in favor of the ordinance on first reading
19 please vote. Four. Oppose. Two. Four, two. Mr.
20 Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- I'm sorry, Ms.
23 Floyd.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: That's all right. Please
25 have it recorded that district two voted in the
26 affirmative on first reading.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: On first reading. Yes.
28 It was a four, two.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: On affirmative on first
30 reading with the option to take a closer look at the
31 second reading.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. We can attack it
33 on the second reading.

34 END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 2

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I'm asking
36 permission from the council to please amend the
37 thing here so that I can do my appropriations so
38 that I can, I can ---

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there any objection
40 to Ms. Wilson -- I'm sorry, Ms. Floyd doing her
41 appropriations so she can excuse herself?

42 BOB WALDREP: No objection.

43 CINDY WILSON: None. May we do all of
44 them at that time?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you want everyone to
46 do their appropriations now and the resolutions
47 later? Are there any objections to that? I'm
48 hearing no objections. So by unanimous consent we
49 are amending the agenda. We are skipping down to
50 item seventeen to do the request by council. And

1 this is by unanimous consent. Mr. Waldrep.

2 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, from my
3 recreation fund I would ask that three thousand
4 dollars be appropriated to the city of Anderson for
5 the Community Blair Park. And a hundred and fifty
6 dollars for the Food Harvest.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The Golden Harvest?

8 BOB WALDREP: Yeah. The Golden
9 Harvest. Hopefully if everybody gave a one hundred
10 and fifty dollars that would be the thousand that he
11 was asking for. We can get it out of Mr. Greer
12 later on.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And that's out of
14 the recreation account. Is that it?

15 BOB WALDREP: That's it.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? We
17 have a second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? All
18 in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

19 BOB WALDREP: That's all.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
22 have three. I would like to appropriate all of this
23 is from district two's recreation account.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Twelve hundred dollars to
26 the Concerned Citizens group at the Eastside
27 Community for their back to school program, back to
28 school picnic. That's twelve hundred dollars.
29 Also, I would like to appropriate two thousand
30 dollars to the BalloonFest.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two thousand?

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Uh-huh
33 (affirmative). That's gonna take place pretty soon.
34 And a thousand dollars to the Greek Festival which
35 will be held at the Farmer's Market. All of this is
36 in the form of a motion.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
38 All in favor of Ms. Floyd's appropriation please
39 vote. Unanimous. Mr. Greer is absent. Mr. McAbee.

40 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I have Mr.
41 Greer's.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I'm sorry.
43 Backing up to -- Mr. Greer has giving Mr. McAbee his
44 appropriations. So go right ahead.

45 BILL MCABEE: From the district three
46 recreation account, seven thousand five hundred
47 dollars for the Great Southeast BalloonFest and BFA
48 National Championships.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that all?

50 BILL MCABEE: Yes. That's it.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Any discussion?
2 All in favor please vote. It is unanimous. Is that
3 all for Mr. Greer?

4 BILL MCABEE: That's all for Mr. Greer.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. What about Mr.
6 McAbee.

7 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
8 From the district four recreation account, ten
9 thousand dollars for the Great Southeast
10 BalloonFest. And ---

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: They're gonna love you.

12 BILL MCABEE: Absolutely.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else? That's
14 it.

15 BILL MCABEE: That's it.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any
17 discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

18 BOB WALDREP: No discussion. I just
19 hope Mr. Wilson will be able to top Mr. McAbee
20 there.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of
22 Mr. McAbee's appropriation, please vote. Unanimous.
23 Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to
25 appropriate two thousand five hundred dollars from
26 the district five rec account to BalloonFest. Is
27 there a second?

28 BILL MCABEE: Second.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second from Mr. McAbee.
30 All in favor please vote. Mr. Wilson, how are you
31 voting? Unanimous. Okay. The following
32 appropriations are from the district five paving
33 account. Mr. Holt is not here. Anyway. In the
34 minutes. Ninety-seven thousand dollars for paving,
35 grading and drainage of Greenland Road. Thirty-four
36 thousand dollars to Greenleaf Drive. Two hundred
37 and forty-three thousand for Green Meadow Circle.
38 Is there a second? That's all paving, grading and
39 drainage of those roads.

40 BILL MCABEE: Second.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in
42 favor please vote. Unanimous. And that's all for
43 district five. Mr. Wilson.

44 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 I want to appropriate ten thousand dollars out of
46 district six rec account for the Wren Fire
47 Department. They need some headsets and some
48 pagers, so...

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair
50 seconds. Any discussion? All in favor please vote.

1 Unanimous. Anything else?

2 RON WILSON: No. That's it. But
3 since Mr. Waldrep was so inquisitive I did it
4 through my company.

5 BOB WALDREP: You mean gold is up that
6 much?

7 RON WILSON: Yes.

8 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, you've been
9 giving a lot from your company in this political
10 arena. Thank you. I appreciate it.

11 RON WILSON: Yes, I have.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, any
13 appropriations?

14 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. From district
15 seven's recreation account I'd like to appropriate a
16 list of four please. A hundred and fifty dollars to
17 the Golden Harvest Food Bank, twenty-five hundred
18 dollars to the Honea Path Fire Department for rescue
19 rope and fire hose, a thousand dollars to the Free
20 Clinic in Honea Path and fifteen hundred dollars to
21 the Battle of Anderson. And that's in the form of a
22 motion.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any
24 discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous.
25 Anything else, Ms. Wilson.

26 CINDY WILSON: From the district seven
27 paving account I would like to appropriate fifty
28 thousand dollars to the Honea Path Watkins School
29 parking lot project and twenty-five thousand dollars
30 to Williamston for their paving, grading, ditching
31 needs. And then to reappropriate two items that
32 were made to Williamston. One was the eight
33 thousand dollar federal grant match which didn't
34 come about. And that was in the amount of eight
35 thousand dollars appropriated on January 6th of '04.
36 And the North Academy Street repair project for the
37 town of Williamston in the amount of one thousand
38 dollars which had been appropriated 2-15-05. And to
39 reappropriate to the town of Williamston for their
40 paving needs.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any
42 discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous.
43 That's all the appropriations. So now we're going
44 back up to item fifteen A, resolution 2008-034, a
45 resolution to establish worker compensation coverage
46 and benefits for prisoners and other matters related
47 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
48 second?

49 CINDY WILSON: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, do you want

1 to give us some elaboration?

2 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
3 members of council, state law gives each county the
4 option of insuring prisoners at the county detention
5 center under the county's worker's comp coverage or
6 not. The vast majority of South Carolina counties
7 do cover the prisoners under worker's comp coverage.
8 Anderson County has not prior to this time and I
9 don't know the reasons. I will defer it totally to
10 the fiscal staff on that regard. But I am assuming
11 that it was a cost benefit analysis. That analysis
12 has been done again. It's my understanding that the
13 Appalachian COG recommended that Anderson County do
14 cover the prisoners under worker's comp. The county
15 staff redid the analysis and determined that it was
16 in the county's best interest to cover the prisoners
17 at the detention center under worker's comp. These
18 are the workers who actually work for the county at
19 the animal shelter, the recycling center, various
20 places in the county. We have had one episode that
21 I know of where the county was sued by one of these
22 prisoners and because it was not covered under
23 worker's comp, the county would have been liable for
24 that coverage. We were able to get the insurance
25 reserve fund, frankly, dragging their heels, to
26 cover the county on that particular matter so that
27 our liability was limited basically to our coverage
28 with the insurance reserve fund. This would take
29 away the need for going through that kind of a
30 gyration. Workers would be covered by worker's
31 comp. Therefore, any claim that they had would be
32 addressed by the worker's comp coverage and county
33 staff believe that that is in the fiscal best
34 interest of the county.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

36 BOB WALDREP: Are we going to see these
37 figures, this cost analysis. And are we going to --
38 I just wonder what company we're dealing with. Have
39 we decided a company to be the carrier for workman's
40 comp or is that through the state? Just by way of
41 ---

42 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. It is through
43 the state.

44 BOB WALDREP: Through the state.

45 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

46 BOB WALDREP: Okay. So we're getting a
47 deal. How much does it cost through the state?

48 JOEY PRESTON: I'll have to get you that
49 report that Rita did. We don't have it with us
50 tonight, but I understand it's going to be some

1 significant savings.

2 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, I do know
3 this, that benefits afforded to prisoners are
4 limited as I understand it to something like twenty
5 thousand dollars, is that correct, even the most
6 severe loss. I mean that's the information that I
7 have on prisoners and workman's compensation.

8 TOM MARTIN: You were referring to
9 worker's comp coverage or just ---

10 BOB WALDREP: That's right. Worker's
11 comp coverage.

12 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Waldrep, I cannot
13 answer that. The twenty thousand that I'm aware of,
14 that is the figure that I had been told would be the
15 county's annual cost.

16 BOB WALDREP: I'm talking about the
17 limitation in case the man actually died, you know,
18 with a work related injury, that that would be the
19 extent of the coverage.

20 TOM MARTIN: I do not know the answer
21 to that.

22 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, those kind
23 of figures would be good to have and to know if we
24 could have that information. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
26 calls for the vote on ordinance -- I'm sorry,
27 resolution R2008-034. All in favor please vote.
28 Unanimous. And please note in the minutes that Ms.
29 Floyd has excused herself. So it's five and oh.
30 Resolution 2008-035, a resolution approving the
31 issuance and sale of not exceeding three million tax
32 anticipated note, taxable series 2008 of Anderson
33 County, South Carolina and other matters related
34 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
35 second?

36 CINDY WILSON: Second.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from
38 Ms. Wilson. Any discussion?

39 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

41 CINDY WILSON: I have a question. Why
42 are our tax notices being sent in November rather
43 than October as has been the custom?

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- anyone can answer
45 that?

46 JOEY PRESTON: I'm going to ask Gina to
47 answer the question.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Gina.

49 Gina Humphries: I can answer that. Thank
50 you. We have recently prepared a tax schedule and

1 we're anticipating being a little bit later getting
2 our tax notices out due to the reassessment and all
3 the additional work that comes with that. If we can
4 get them out sooner, obviously we will. But we're
5 saying it will be no later than November.

6 CINDY WILSON: I would like to propose
7 an amendment to this particular issuance and sale of
8 not exceeding three million tax anticipation note.
9 Ostensively it's for the Sheriff's department. So
10 I would like to make an amendment that we -- should
11 this be passed that it would be three million
12 dollars tax anticipation funds for the Sheriff's
13 department exclusively and specifically and for no
14 other use except for the Sheriff's division
15 including detention center.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second to Ms.
17 Wilson's ---

18 BOB WALDREP: I second and I think the
19 council has gotten the nod from Mr. Preston.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are in
21 discussion of Ms. Wilson's amendment. I think she
22 just amended to do what we were going to do anyway.
23 Right? Okay. Any discussion on her amendment to do
24 what we're going to do anyway? No. All in favor of
25 her, Ms. Wilson's, amendment, please vote.
26 Unanimous. So we're back to the ordinance as
27 amended. Any discussion? Okay. The chair calls
28 for the vote on the resolution as amended. All in
29 favor please vote. Unanimous. Okay. Ordinance
30 2008-037 has been requested to be removed from the
31 agenda so it is gone. Ordinance 2008-040, a
32 resolution requiring county council review and
33 approval of all bids and contracts. The chair moves
34 to approve. Is there a second?

35 CINDY WILSON: Second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
37 Wilson. Any discussion?

38 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Mr. Martin.

40 TOM MARTIN: I believe that the
41 chair referred to it as ordinance.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Resolution
43 R2008-040. I have been corrected. We have a motion
44 and a second. We are in discussion. Ms. Wilson.

45 CINDY WILSON: It has been the custom of
46 council in years prior for our current
47 administration to review and approve all bids and
48 contracts and I believe that we owe that to the
49 people who have elected us, particularly since
50 you've heard all the concerns expressed in the ten

1 million dollar GOB passing. This is very simple.
2 And look at it on the good side. Those who will not
3 be here in January might want to encumber the new
4 council with extra work.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
6 speak on this resolution? No. Chair calls for the
7 vote, resolution R2008-040. All in favor. Two.
8 Oppose. Three. The ordinance dies. We are at
9 appointments. Ms. Wilson, do you have any
10 appointments?

11 CINDY WILSON: None. Thank you.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

13 BOB WALDREP: Only disappointments, Mr.
14 Chairman. Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for me. Mr.
16 McAbee. Mr. Wilson. Okay. We're done with
17 appropriations. Administrator's report. Anything
18 to add, Mr. Preston?

19 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir.

20 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a
21 question please?

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

23 CINDY WILSON: Were there any transfers
24 for the month of June? I noticed that we had a
25 report for the month of May and month -- months of
26 May and July but no June report. So did we have any
27 transfers for June?

28 JOEY PRESTON: I don't know of any. I
29 thought that report had been provided to council.
30 But if it hasn't I'll certainly go back and find it.
31 But I don't recall at this point in time. I'll have
32 to go back and look to see.

33 CINDY WILSON: It sounds rather
34 nebulous, doesn't it? Okay. Thank you.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Citizens'
36 comments, other matters. Mr. Martin, do you have
37 people?

38 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. Linda Ford.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Let me read the
40 instructions. It's been five hours. Meetings of
41 county council are legislative meetings based upon
42 the representative form of government and are
43 regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
44 town meetings. Accordingly, citizens agenda is for
45 the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and
46 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
47 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
48 more than three minutes to address county council.
49 You are asked to please refrain from addressing
50 members of the audience by name. Please direct your

1 comments to the council chair and only to the
2 council chair. Come forward, give your name,
3 address and the county council district in which
4 your reside. Now, Mr. Martin.

5 TOM MARTIN: Linda Ford.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

7 LINDA FORD: I have some papers. My
8 name is Linda Ford. I live on 29 McCaughrin Street
9 in Pelzer in district seven. And I do appreciate
10 the opportunity to speak here. I've never done this
11 before and it's been quite an experience. I'm just
12 here speaking on behalf of a group of citizens that
13 live in our community. And with all these big
14 problems that I have been hearing today, the few
15 hundred people that live where I do, this is
16 probably going to seem very minor to you. But in
17 late May a road was closed that has been used since
18 before 1902. It had been opened to the public. The
19 county has maintained that road. It also has stop
20 signs on either end. It no longer has a street name
21 on it although it used to. No one had any idea that
22 it was a privately owned road. It had been given to
23 the Pelzer Rescue Squad and then the Pelzer Rescue
24 Squad sold it to an individual. But there was no
25 public notice of this. He had closed the road with
26 some tractor trailer rigs and storage trailers and
27 things. And he said that he had no other place to
28 put them even though he has other lands, you know,
29 near the area. But the problem is it's caused major
30 traffic problems for those of us who live in the
31 area. This road was our best access to Courtney
32 Street to travel to and from Williamston without
33 having to use Highway 8. The school bus comes down
34 Courtney Street from the Palmetto schools and used
35 that road as a bus stop and turnaround area. And we
36 are very concerned now that school has started again
37 about the safety of the people on those buses. The
38 entrance and exit at Lyman Street is very narrow
39 with limited visibility. You have to pull onto
40 Courtney Street to be able to see how to pull out.
41 And if you're trying to enter Lyman Street then you
42 have to wait till the car on Courtney Street pulls
43 out before you can get in. The traffic on Highway 8
44 is already very heavy with just everyday traffic.
45 And now high school football season is here causing
46 more traffic. Also, with the Clemson/USC traffic it
47 makes it almost impossible to pull out onto Highway
48 8 from where we live. On Halloween, I'm not
49 exaggerating, we have hundreds of children coming
50 into that area. And then at Christmas time the

1 traffic gets backed up with people coming to see our
2 lights and our light people. I've spoken to
3 everyone that I can think of, including Ms. Wilson
4 and to Mr. Hopkins, the highway department, the town
5 council of Pelzer, chairman of the board of the
6 rescue squad and finally to an attorney. And Ms.
7 Wilson tells me that there's nothing that she can do
8 because the road is actually located just inside the
9 town limits. The town then turned around and sold a
10 strip of land right beside the road to the same man.
11 And again without any kind of public notice, the
12 lady who lives right beside the road has kept the
13 whole property from the road all the way to her
14 house up since 1976 and had no idea that the land
15 didn't belong to her until after the land was
16 actually sold. This leaves her with about three
17 feet of driveway. But he has said that he will not
18 close her driveway off. The attorney I consulted
19 says that we have a good case if we decide to sue.
20 But we don't really want to do that because
21 regardless of who wins it's going to cost money.
22 But the money is not as important to us as the
23 safety of the people in that area. I would just ask
24 you to please look at these maps and these pictures
25 that I have provided you and see if there's not
26 something that you can do. Something needs to be
27 done now. This is just an accident waiting to
28 happen and we need help. Thank you.

29 TOM MARTIN: Robbie Land.

30 ROBBIE LAND: Hello. My name is Robbie
31 Land. I still live at 1300 Mill Street Extension in
32 Belton, district seven. I am the fire chief at
33 Cheddar Fire Department and this was my main reason
34 for coming here tonight. I found out just a few
35 days ago that the railroad spur that's coming in for
36 the ethanol plant that's apparently being built in
37 our district has decided that they needed Lewis Road
38 closed at the railroad track and cul-de-sacs put in
39 on both sides. I just wanted to come in -- I found
40 out at about four o'clock today that this is
41 something, according to somebody I talked to off of
42 the number that I got off the sign, this is
43 something that you folks will be voting on next
44 month. They've got signs up talking about the
45 abandonment of the road, wanting y'all to vote on
46 that so they can close that road. And I just wanted
47 to let you know, I haven't talked to anybody that
48 lives in that community, the people who are rooted
49 in that community, who have sunk their lives into
50 it, been there all their lives, nobody I've talked

1 to wants it closed. The people who are coming in
2 who are brand new, they want it closed. So I just
3 want to make sure you know that the community
4 doesn't want it closed. And I want you to see what
5 it's gonna do to the fire department's response
6 time. I just had to throw a quick little test
7 together. But I had a guy run the road for me
8 today. And for us to respond from our station, the
9 road is right across from our station, and we use it
10 to cut down -- to cut time off our response
11 accessing several roads in our district, accessing
12 the city of Belton, Rock Springs fire district,
13 Whitefield fire district, all of which we run mutual
14 aid to, all of the areas outside of Lewis Drive, the
15 mutual aid districts and plus the roads that we
16 access in our district going that way, it is going
17 to add one minute and fifty-four seconds minimum to
18 our response to have to go around Sherard Road if
19 they close the road. Okay. To access Lewis Road to
20 go down and come back in, it's gonna add three
21 minutes and eighteen seconds. Folks, this is an
22 eternity when your house is on fire. Fire doubles
23 its size every minute. In three minutes and
24 eighteen seconds, that's nine times bigger. A
25 kitchen fire just burnt your house down. If you
26 vote to close this road, it's a big liability to us.
27 So we need this road open. And we're also going to
28 need a lot of equipment to cover that place when it
29 comes in. We don't even have the equipment to cover
30 what they have now and they're bringing in this new
31 stuff. So get ready to get in your pocketbook for
32 that. That's gonna hurt.

33 TOM MARTIN: Steven Chapman.

34 STEVEN CHAPMAN: I'm Steven Chapman. I
35 still live at 106 Ellison Circle, Belton, South
36 Carolina. I'm in district seven under Cindy Wilson.
37 I am here also for my main purpose today just to
38 speak about the road closure of Lewis Drive. I am a
39 member of the community and I have took a petition
40 at current level of seventy-five names on the people
41 who are against this road closure. Most of the
42 members in the community don't even understand
43 what's going on as far as the ethanol plant or the
44 road closure. And I do want to bring this to your
45 attention. We do not want this road closed. And I
46 want to bring it to the attention of this council.
47 I have people who I can bring to this meeting who
48 have called the number on the sign and were directed
49 to the railroad. I kid you not. I consider this to
50 be unacceptable because the railroad wants it closed

1 and they're directing people to talk to the
2 railroad. And I can actually provide those people.
3 And as far as the ethanol plant, I would like for a
4 future discussion about this -- members of this
5 community do not feel like they were notified
6 properly of this ethanol distribution plant. And
7 everyone that I've spoke to has voiced that they
8 were not for this and were completely against this.
9 And I would like to be informed of a way to have a
10 resolution or someway to stop the building of this
11 until this can be looked into further, for I believe
12 there is zoning impacts as far as resale value on
13 people's homes, I'm understanding, that if an
14 ethanol distribution plant is built within a half a
15 mile of the residence that the FHA will not loan on
16 that house, which basically means that house will
17 never be able to be sold. And yes, gentlemen, that
18 does include my home. I now have a ninety thousand
19 to a hundred thousand dollar home that is worthless
20 because no one else can buy it. There are zoning
21 issues here that we need to look at. And I would
22 seriously advise that you get with one of us or some
23 members of the committee, that these things haven't
24 been considered. Members of the town around our
25 community said they were not even notified of a
26 hearing on this, that signs weren't posted properly,
27 that they wasn't notified in the mail or notified by
28 any other means. And I would like to bring this to
29 the attention of the council. Thank you very much.

30 TOM MARTIN: Amy Plummer.

31 AMY PLUMMER: My name is Amy Plummer.
32 I am with Ellison Economic Development Group of
33 Ellison Properties. We represent the Greenville and
34 Western Railway in economic development and real
35 estate issues. Notification was made. You can
36 verify that through Mr. Hopkins. It was done
37 through the county. Everyone within the specified
38 radius around this property was sent letters and the
39 property was posted appropriately. As far as the
40 road closure is concerned, first of all I agree with
41 the fire chief. Right now in Anderson County if we
42 were to have a fire out there at that tank farm,
43 right now, today, we do not have the equipment to
44 take care of that fire. That is if we never put
45 anything else out there. Ethanol is not as volatile
46 as petroleum is. Ethanol is the same thing as corn
47 whiskey or vodka. And we all keep that in our
48 cabinets. Not all of us, but a lot of us do.
49 Anyways, the federal traffic safety -- first of all,
50 the railroad is regulated by the STB, which is the

1 Surface Transportation Board. And being regulated
2 by the STB, when we have a customer that comes to us
3 and says -- or not -- and says that we want you to
4 deliver this product to our rail -- or to our
5 company, we don't have the privilege to say, no, we
6 don't think that is the appropriate product for that
7 site, we're not gonna bring it to you. We don't
8 have the privilege to say, no, we're not gonna carry
9 that because we don't like ethanol. We don't have
10 those privileges because we are regulated by federal
11 law. So when a customer on our rail line comes to
12 us and says, will you deliver this product to us, we
13 have no choice but to do it. This facility is not
14 an ethanol plant. All we are doing is putting in a
15 rail yard to pipe in to the tanks that are already
16 in place. We are not adding to anything other than
17 bringing in trains and unloading. Currently, right
18 now, the ethanol that we are going to be bringing in
19 by train is already coming in to this community to
20 the tank farms by truck. For every rail car you
21 have on that railroad, you take four tractor
22 trailers off the road. That means for every unit
23 train of ethanol you bring in, you're taking four
24 hundred trucks of ethanol off the road. Further,
25 the Federal Transportation -- or the Federal Traffic
26 Safety Administration issues a code for crossing --
27 or for railroad crossing closures. There are three
28 criterias for closures and this is without any
29 industrial prospect. The first criteria is that the
30 grade crossing have less -- or have under two
31 thousand traffic count crossing over that grade
32 crossing. This crossing qualifies for that. The
33 second criteria is that there be another crossing
34 within one half mile -- or one quarter mile, one
35 fourth mile, by rail from that crossing that's being
36 closed. This closing passes that criteria. The
37 last criteria that they have is that the railroad is
38 crossed at least five times either by bridge, by
39 crossing or by tunnel within a one mile
40 specification. This railroad grade crossing meets
41 that specification. We are trying to communicate
42 with the community and cooperate, but we are
43 required by federal law. If you can change the
44 federal law we cannot serve them. But until that
45 federal law is changed, we have to continue with
46 serving them with the product that they have
47 requested us to serve. Thank you.

48 TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

49 MARK POWELL: I had hoped under
50 citizens comments that I'd be able to say thank you

1 for voting no on the ten million dollar expenditure.
2 Instead I have to say shame on you. I'm looking
3 down at this section that's called administrator's
4 report. I haven't listened to the radio, so I have
5 no clue what's really going on. But from listening
6 to Mr. Waldrep having asked a question whether he
7 can ask an employee a question, you know, I'm
8 confused. I've worked for employers all my life
9 except for the last two years. I'm self-employed
10 now. If you work for an employer, if you look at
11 the paycheck which you receive, it has a company
12 name or in this case a county name on it. Therefore
13 you're employed by that county. I'm the county, all
14 these people are the county, the people who aren't
15 here tonight are the county. We can't personally
16 write you a check. We can't personally watch over
17 everything, so we elect you guys. When we elect you
18 guys, we're electing you to do our business. We're
19 electing you to watch what we do. We're also
20 electing you to hire our employees, to watch over
21 our employees. And I am ashamed that if we have
22 people working for us who gets a paycheck from me,
23 the county, because I pay taxes, and our elected
24 officials who we elect and pay a minuscule little
25 paycheck to to do it, you do a good job for what
26 little pay you guys receive, but I can't imagine
27 that you guys can't ask one of your employees a
28 question, any question, any employee, any time. I
29 have nothing against any of these guys here. But
30 I've been a couple, few times now and I've heard our
31 county lawyer say I can't answer that. That blows
32 me away also. I have no clue how we hire a lawyer,
33 but if -- it looks to me we ought to hire a lawyer
34 called Anderson County's lawyer who works for the
35 county, and I don't give a rat's butt what comes up,
36 he can stand up and say, yes, no, you can, you
37 can't, instead of, I can't answer that. You know,
38 all these people receive paychecks with my name on
39 it, with your names on it, and you're the bosses and
40 they're your employees. I can't comprehend this,
41 that we can't make people do things with my money,
42 your money and everyone else's money in this room.
43 Don't know what's gonna happen come January, but the
44 expression would be, I hope a whole bunch of heads
45 roll. And I ain't referring to administration only.
46 I'm referring to we've got too many people working
47 for this county. The town of Williamston now has a
48 positive bank account. Why? Because they cut back
49 and they cut back fluff and they cut back employees
50 they didn't really need. I hope we can do something

1 like that. Thank you.

2 TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

3 RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening. It's nice
4 to see, or hear rather, the previous speaker hit on
5 some of the things that I've talked about in the
6 past. We are your bosses up there. We count on you
7 to control this individual here. Why did this
8 administrator tell you, according to the newspaper
9 accounts, what he was going to do in regards to the
10 slap suit he has created against Bob Waldrep and
11 Cindy Wilson? Why did this matter not come up
12 before this council body during a regular meeting
13 over eight months ago when this bogus problem
14 supposedly occurred? Who gave this little hired
15 employee the right to tell our duly elected
16 officials what he was going to, matter of factly,
17 do? Oh, please forgive me. Now I remember. Five
18 of you gave him the power to think he controls
19 everything and everyone in this county. And
20 amazingly, five of you never seem to feel his wrath.
21 How is that possible? What special things do you
22 five do to keep him at bay? I would like to thank
23 you, once again, Mr. Chairman, for your wise
24 decision at that called meeting to hold over this
25 special audit until the next council takes seat. I
26 would also like to insist that you do some
27 housecleaning. There's one matter left for you to
28 take care of that the new council doesn't deserve to
29 be shouldered with. You owe it to the next council
30 body to have an open investigation into the
31 allegations of the lewd and improper sexual behavior
32 between Mr. Preston and another subordinate female
33 employee. I understand that Mr. Preston gave his
34 own sworn statement as to the actions which occurred
35 on that special evening at Cater's Lake. Mr.
36 Chairman, someone's lying. And we the taxpayers,
37 your bosses, have a right to know who it might be.
38 I have my idea which one is telling a little story.
39 But you, sir, have a duty to find the truth and
40 bring it to us. I would also like to remind you
41 that suborning perjury like adultery and indecent
42 exposure is also a crime. I have just one more
43 little problem which is bothering me. Why did the
44 park police chauffeur the council woman from
45 district two to the special called meeting? Did
46 they pick her up at her house and drive her to the
47 meeting?

48 TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Dan Harvell has left.

50 RICK FREEMANTLE: I think you all made him

1 sick.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Next person.

3 TOM MARTIN: Roger Scott, Jr. I'm
4 sorry. Roger Scott, Sr.

5 ROGER SCOTT: My name is Roger Scott.
6 I live at 27 Mill Street, district seven. Mr.
7 Chairman, council members, I own the property in
8 Pelzer in question. Before I purchased the property
9 I had my attorney to check everything that's been
10 discussed here about the rules as far as what can be
11 done with a private road. I bought it from the
12 Pelzer Rescue Squad. I needed the property and I
13 used it. And I appreciate y'all letting me speak.
14 I don't want to inconvenience any of these people.
15 I grew up with them. I know them. I care about
16 them. But I needed the property and I have checked
17 with DOT, I checked with Mr. Holtz, I checked with
18 everybody before I purchased this property to make
19 that I could use it. And that's been over five
20 years ago. So I appreciate y'all's time. Thank
21 you.

22 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
23 citizens under other matters.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
25 Remarks from council members. Ms. Wilson.

26 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 At the last council meeting I had requested of the
28 engineering firm and our administrator to have the
29 sewer information. I requested information about
30 the capacities daily average treating numbers for
31 the Six and Twenty sewer plant and also for Rocky
32 River and also the anticipated cost to replaced the
33 mentioned sewer lines and pump stations. I still
34 don't have it. It's been more than a month.
35 Several months ago I requested information regarding
36 the airport land acquisitions. I requested copies
37 of contracts and closing statements. I understand
38 that the key piece which was on the market prior, a
39 short time prior to the actual contract with the
40 county, for I think nine hundred and ninety-nine
41 thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars, and
42 then the county a short time later agreed to pay one
43 point three million. I understand that a sitting
44 council member and his business associate benefitted
45 from that in the form of a commission. Would you
46 please forward me copies of the contracts and
47 closing statements so we can determine whether these
48 rumors are true or not. Also, in reference to the
49 road closing for the Cheddar Community, that is a
50 major thoroughfare. You've already heard from some

1 of the community members. I was never notified, as
2 is customary, of that road closing until I began
3 getting phone calls over the weekend. Over the
4 weekend I've only found one person who says they
5 received a notification from the county that the
6 zoning, the rezoning, was taking place. And I want
7 to apologize to members of this community because
8 there was no opposition, I voted to rezone from RA1
9 to industrial. I then turned around and voted to
10 give a package of incentives to this ethanol
11 project. Can you imagine my horror now that I find
12 that there will be tanker trucks within maybe two or
13 three hundred feet of residences and we're finding
14 out more and more things that are causing great
15 concern to the safety and welfare of ...

16 END OF TAPE 4, SIDE 1

17 CINDY WILSON: ... None of this was ever
18 issued information-wise to us. But I do know that
19 we found out at that vote on the incentives package
20 that McNair Law Firm represented the ethanol
21 project. And we also had him, the attorney from
22 McNair, confirmed that Mr. McAbee and Ms. Plummer
23 were receiving commissions. I just find this so
24 horribly irregular that the information is not out
25 there for any of us to see. I think that this bears
26 a great deal of investigation. And I think that we
27 do need to have information regarding the federal
28 and state and county regulations regarding such
29 projects as this. And in reference to the terrible
30 situation in Pelzer, I really don't know quite how
31 to respond to this. I can see the issues on both
32 sides, but when I called Mr. Hopkins, as I was
33 notified of this issue, he informed me that it was a
34 jurisdictional matter for the town of Pelzer in
35 which case I'm not sure that I have legal standing
36 or our council would have legal standing. And I
37 would request that we have a legal review, perhaps
38 our county attorney-- maybe we have a county
39 attorney that doesn't represent the other side in
40 this issue -- to give us some kind of a legal review
41 of this situation and let us know if we have legal
42 standing. Thank you.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

44 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
45 I know the hour is extremely late and everybody
46 wants to go home. But as I go through these council
47 meetings time and time again I see that one of the
48 reasons that we have to spend so much time dealing
49 with so many of the issues is because we just simply
50 are not afforded the information that we need,

1 particularly I guess I was surprised that the
2 resolution that was just introduced a moment ago
3 requiring county council's review and approval of
4 all bids and contracts really surprises me. Because
5 in my mind, we are the ultimate source of power,
6 political power in this county, and also the
7 ultimate source of responsibility. When I came on
8 this council, my first meeting as chairman, I
9 informed members of the administration that it was
10 my duty, I felt like, to have the most open and
11 transparent and accountable kind of government, and
12 I continue in that vein. I just want everyone to
13 know that I will continue trying to do that. I do
14 hear the clarion call of the bugle coming over the
15 hill. I believe that help is on the way and there
16 is hope. Thank you very much.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

18 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 The only thing I would say tonight, politics is,
20 especially in this county, has gotten to be pretty
21 -- a pretty good sport. And I think it's
22 regrettable tonight that certain people in the
23 audience as well as people on this made comments
24 about Larry not being here, and it's my
25 understanding that he may be at the hospital. And I
26 hope that we'll remember him tonight. I came on
27 this body two years ago pretty much in opposition to
28 Larry. And over the year, couple of years I've
29 served with him I've enjoyed getting to know him,
30 and he's a friend. So I hope that we'll pray that
31 he'll have a recovery if he has had any serious
32 trouble and that I regret that politics in this
33 county has fallen to this level. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

36 BILL MCABEE: I am forced to agree with
37 Mr. Wilson and his remarks about the politics in
38 this county. It troubles me some of the things I've
39 witnessed here tonight and some of the things I've
40 heard here tonight. More shocking is that one of
41 our colleagues persists in lying about other members
42 of this council and fabricating information that has
43 no basis and truth and repeating it as if it does.
44 And in fact, in attacking my character and my
45 integrity when I followed the ethics laws of this
46 state. Madame, if you do not quit slandering my
47 name, I will sue you and sue anyone who repeats the
48 lies you have spread. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This council meeting is
50 adjourned.

1

ADJOURNED AT 11:30 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – September 2, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular meeting
2 for September the 2nd, 2008 of the Anderson County
3 Council will now come to order. Invocation and
4 Pledge of Allegiance, council member, Cindy
5 Wilson.

6 CINDY WILSON: Let us pray. Our most
7 divine heavenly father, we thank you for this
8 awesome privilege of living in a free country.
9 Please help us to remember that this freedom did
10 not come free. Please protect and guide our
11 soldiers who protect this freedom for us on the
12 battlefields today. And dear father, please bring
13 your divine guidance on us tonight as we do the
14 work of the people and in your will. We thank you
15 for all of our many blessings. And I pray this in
16 the name of the Lord, my personal Lord and savior,
17 Jesus Christ. Amen.

18 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Note in the minutes
20 that council member, Bob Waldrep, is absent. He's
21 a delegate for the Republican party and he's up in
22 Minnesota. So he will be absent tonight. Item
23 number three, approval of the minutes, the chair
24 moves to approve. Is there a second?

25 BILL MCABEE: Second.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

27 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

29 CINDY WILSON: I don't have the page
30 numbers handy, but there were a couple of places
31 where there were some misspellings. Let me see if
32 I can find them. One of them dealt with Ellison
33 properties. It was Allison properties. And let's
34 see.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You can just tell us.

36 CINDY WILSON: I think it's spelled A-
37 l-l instead of E-l-l.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right.

39 CINDY WILSON: But that's all that
40 I've got for the moment. Thank you.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson
42 moves to approve, moves to amend the agenda with
43 the correct spelling errors. The chair seconds
44 her amendment. Any objections to Ms. Wilson's
45 amendment. Okay. By unanimous consent the agenda
46 is amended. Anymore discussion on the agenda?
47 Okay. The chair calls for the vote on the amended
48 minutes as amended by Ms. Wilson. All in favor
49 please vote. Unanimous. Six and oh. Citizens'
50 comments. Instructions. Meetings of county

1 council are legislative meetings based upon a
2 representative form of government and are
3 regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
4 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda
5 is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments
6 and input. It is not a time for debate, question
7 and answer or dialogue. Each member -- each
8 person will be allowed not more than three minutes
9 to address county council. You are asked to
10 please refrain from addressing members of the
11 audience by name. Please direct your comments to
12 the chair and only to the council chair. When you
13 come forward, give your name, address and the
14 district in which you reside. That being said,
15 Mr. Martin.

16 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. Mike Montepara.

18 MIKE MONTEPARA: Good evening. Can you
19 hear me? Mike Montepara, district five, Homeland
20 Park. Good evening council, Mr. Preston. No
21 prepared text tonight, just some words out of my
22 heart. You're taking under consideration tonight
23 some measures which I think are very important for
24 Anderson County. Down in the basement there's a
25 little sign, change is inevitable, progress is
26 optional. I think that's very important to
27 realize when you're looking at what's going on
28 tonight. You have a general obligation bond and
29 also a revenue bond. I think both of them are
30 very positive, positive measures that you need to
31 undertake. The airport is a moneymaker. Clemson
32 University doesn't even park their planes here
33 from what I understand because they have no place.
34 Clemson is a big, huge money draw for this area,
35 yet they park elsewhere. I don't know if it's
36 Greenville, Atlanta, or somewhere else, but not
37 here in their very own county. Why do we not make
38 these accommodations for businesses, construction,
39 other people have planes. You need to get them on
40 board. That money is being lost to other
41 counties. The second one is the general
42 obligation bond. There's many measures in there
43 that may or may not be debatable. Every one of
44 them is needed. I think this is a positive step.
45 Progress for Anderson County. I think you should
46 be moving forward with this. Once and for all
47 finalize the vote. Put your hands up. Let's say
48 yes. Let's get it done. Thank you.

49 TOM MARTIN: Travis Burriss.

50 TRAVIS BURRISS: Good evening. My name

1 is Travis Burriss. I reside in Iva, South
2 Carolina, district three of county council. I'd
3 like to speak on behalf of the ordinance tonight,
4 2008-037, which authorizes the issuance and sale
5 of a general obligation bond. This bond consists
6 of our future. Investing in our future, I
7 strongly believe that our future is with our kids.
8 Statistics show us that if we don't reach our kids
9 at an early age by challenging them to perform at
10 their highest potential, providing positive
11 influence in their lives, helping them build on
12 their character, and chances are pretty slim that
13 once they're in their early teens and late teens
14 we won't have that chance to have that impact with
15 them. We in the Starr-Iva community take
16 advantage of these opportunities of building on
17 our future. With recreation activities for our
18 community kids, we have an opportunity of
19 affecting over one thousand kids in our Starr-Iva
20 community every year with the recreation programs
21 that we provide through dedicated volunteers.
22 This is not a paid staff in our area. It's
23 dedicated volunteers. We're currently serving
24 over a thousand children and parents. And
25 facilities are inadequate to meet the growing
26 needs of our communities. The interest in the
27 Starr-Iva youth sports has expanded to the point
28 that we now offer football, cheerleading,
29 basketball, baseball, softball, T-ball, soccer and
30 wrestling. We're too severely overcrowded. And
31 with only one gym and two softball fields in the
32 Iva area and two baseball fields in the Starr
33 area. Ms. Marie T. Bowie saw a need to recognized
34 and investing in our future. And in 2006 she
35 donated thirty-four acres to the kids in our
36 community to build recreation fields. The Starr-
37 Iva community has been blessed with community
38 support and raising money for this facility. And
39 with the help of a county ordinance we could make
40 the Parker- Bowie Park a reality. I strongly
41 believe that investing in our future for our kids
42 will improve our way of life. And once we improve
43 our way of life we will have better opportunities
44 for economic development in the county council
45 district three location in Anderson County. In
46 closing, I'd like to thank my county councilman,
47 Mr. Larry Greer, and each of you other councilmen
48 and councilwomen, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Wilson, Mr.
49 McAbee, Mr. Waldrep which is not with us, Ms.
50 Floyd, Ms. Wilson for your tireless and unselfish

1 dedication and support that you give our county
2 and making it a better place to live. Thank you.

3 TOM MARTIN: Jeremy Holtzclaw. I'm
4 sorry. Yes. Holtzclaw.

5 JEREMY HOLTZCLAW: Thank you. My name is
6 Jeremy Holtzclaw. I reside at 1320 Millcreek Road
7 in Iva in district three. And I definitely echo
8 what Travis has said. First of all, I want to
9 thank you for the investment that you've already
10 made in passing the first two readings of the
11 general obligation bond. I definitely see that
12 you do have the intent and the will to reach out
13 to our outlying communities and to improve those
14 communities. As a father of six kids I have quite
15 an investment in the recreation association
16 myself. And currently I drive fifteen miles one
17 way just to get to a practice field for the sports
18 we're involved in now. Of course, it would be
19 wonderful to have those centrally localized fields
20 in one place. It would definitely benefit myself
21 and my family. It also benefits community. In
22 visiting other complexes in our area and even in
23 areas outside of our county, it's obvious the
24 comradery, the fellowship that is enjoyed by the
25 families, the families of the community. I think
26 it's a wonderful way to bring families together
27 where they wouldn't normally meet. Of course,
28 they might pass on the line at the school, pass at
29 the grocery store, possibly at the gas station.
30 But definitely a time for them to get together and
31 realize some of their things that they have in
32 common, for instance the well-being of their
33 children. Again, we thank you for what you have
34 done so far in passing the previous two readings.
35 And we encourage you to go ahead and pass that
36 third reading tonight so that we can continue to
37 grow our communities, continue to reach out to
38 them, reach out to our kids and make a difference.
39 Thank you.

40 TOM MARTIN: Dan McCullough.

41 DAN MCCULLOUGH: Good evening. Also
42 here on behalf of the Iva Community Recreation
43 Association. First of all I'd like to thank your
44 committee for allowing us to be a part of such a
45 wonderful county. Without you guys we would not
46 be able to be where we are today. You have made
47 our town become a new place to be with athletic
48 fields, with items that you've given to our police
49 department, our fire departments. Our district
50 has been very well pleased and, you know, very

1 appreciative of what has happened. I've been part
2 of the Iva rec community for over twenty years. I
3 spent fifteen of those years as the President on a
4 voluntary basis. When we began in 2000, well, in
5 1988, we had only two fields, a small gym and
6 today I'm here to say because of your help along
7 with the United Way, our kids are enjoying three
8 football -- three fields to practice at, a
9 gymnasium, a well-equipped tennis courts and we're
10 still now searching for a future for over a
11 thousand young'uns, young people that we haven't
12 enough fields for them to participate. With the
13 Parker-Bowie complex before us and looking into
14 the future, with this operation the children of
15 the Iva area, the children of partly Abbeville
16 area and some of Anderson area can come and
17 participate on these fields. With your help this
18 could be done next year, 2009. And tonight I just
19 really want to thank you again for what you have
20 done on behalf of Mr. Greer and his support for
21 our community as well as your own support. Again,
22 thank you for that and I hope tonight that this
23 referendum will be passed for the third reading.
24 Thank you.

25 TOM MARTIN: Jimmy Ward.
26 JIMMY WARD: I'm here for the same
27 reason. But I'm also here to say that I'm a proud
28 member of Anderson County. Over the years I've
29 wanted to come to some of the meetings. I just
30 haven't had the opportunity. But, you know, I
31 don't believe everything I read in the paper about
32 all of you. I believe that you have a tremendous
33 job. But it's also a job that really, it's very
34 important. Because the things that you do affect
35 all the people in the county. And I'm not a
36 politician. Now some people say I'm not a speaker
37 but I love to talk. So, anyway. Well, the reason
38 I'm here is just strictly for the kids tonight
39 because as it's been said before, if you don't
40 reach them before they get twelve years old, good
41 luck. Our system -- you see what happens to them
42 everyday when they don't have the proper guidance
43 and the proper direction. So yes, you need to
44 have recreation fields. You need to have things
45 for them to do when they get out of school.
46 Because if you don't there's plenty of things for
47 them to get in trouble on the streets. And we see
48 that everyday in our judicial system. We try to
49 take care of them after they've gotten in trouble.
50 Well, I've been a coach, I've been President of

1 the Iva rec, and I've probably been in the
2 recreation department longer than anybody we have
3 active and serving now. Probably since, it's been
4 twenty-five years I've been involved with little
5 league. I've talked to all the people in the City
6 of Anderson, the YMCA, I have friends in all
7 districts. Anything you can do to support each
8 one of these recreation departments, to reach
9 these kids before they get to twelve years old,
10 because I've coached a lot of girls and a lot of
11 boys, and they'll tell you up front once they get
12 to that age it's hard, it's hard for them to
13 change what's already been there. If they're not
14 loved and they don't have some kind of respect
15 from the community then they don't respect the
16 community. So keep that in mind when you do pass
17 the reading. And I hope you do. And I just
18 appreciate the job that each one of you do. Thank
19 you very much.

20 TOM MARTIN: Jeff Craft.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This mic over here
22 does work. So you can ...

23 JEFF CRAFT: My name is Jeff Craft.
24 I live in Anderson. I live in Anderson council
25 district three. I love Anderson County. I've
26 lived and/or worked here for almost my entire life
27 and I'm very proud to do that. I get the
28 opportunity to teach kids today. I too want to
29 speak on behalf of supporting the referendum
30 general obligation bond for the impact it's going
31 to have on the Starr-Iva community. And without
32 question, as has been said, this is an investment
33 in our community and in the children who live in
34 the Starr-Iva area. And in a sense to me this is
35 a pay now or pay for it later proposition. The
36 only people that are gonna benefit from the Starr-
37 Iva area from this are gonna be the youth in this
38 community. And that's very important. There are
39 many, many areas in which we could debate how to
40 spend money. But to me this is clearly a no-
41 brainer. As a teacher, I get the pleasure -- and
42 I have two kids that attend schools in the Starr-
43 Iva area. As a teacher, I see clearly the
44 benefits that this can have on the kids in our
45 community. I talk to my students an awful lot
46 about having pride in the community and in the
47 school in which they live. I don't think there's
48 a better way that we as adults can demonstrate the
49 pride that we have in our county and our community
50 than by supporting this referendum. But I

1 appreciate all you do. I've got to say I wouldn't
2 have your jobs, but I appreciate what you do for
3 the best interest of this -- of the people in this
4 community. Thank you.

5 TOM MARTIN: Angela Lollis.

6 ANGELA LOLLIS: Good evening council
7 members and Mr. Chairman. My name is Angela
8 Lollis. I live on Sapphire Point in district
9 five. I'm also here tonight representing the
10 Anderson County Humane Society. For those who may
11 not know me, I'm the current Vice President. I
12 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight
13 regarding the bond issue as it relates to the new
14 animal shelter and the spay-neuter clinic. I
15 implore you to vote yes one more time to fund this
16 important project. As long as the Anderson County
17 Animal Shelter continues to take in thirteen
18 thousand plus animals each year, we'll also be
19 accepting that over eight thousand of those will
20 be euthanized. What can we as a community do to
21 prevent this? First we need to provide a low cost
22 spay-neuter alternative that will be available to
23 the public. The only workable answer to the
24 overpopulation problem is to reduce the numbers of
25 unwanted animals being born. The other important
26 part of the solution is to keep the animals that
27 do end up at the shelter healthier and more
28 comfortable during their stay. If the animals
29 stay happy and healthy, they're simply more
30 adoptable. The new shelter and clinic are good
31 for the homeless animals of Anderson County.
32 They're good for animals with homes that continue
33 to have unwanted litters. And they'll be good for
34 Anderson County. Thank you for your time.

35 TOM MARTIN: Mack Burriss.

36 MACK BURRISS: Mr. Chairman. The
37 Animals Shelter Advisory Committee has met with
38 the architect several times in the last month.
39 We're very close to completing the final plans for
40 the shelter and for the companion piece, the low
41 cost spay and neuter clinic. The shelter is badly
42 needed to reduce the crowding of the present
43 shelter and to provide -- the new shelter is badly
44 needed to provide more humane housing for the
45 companion animals that we must take care of. The
46 spay and neuter clinic is essential if we are to
47 reduce the number of animals brought to the
48 shelter. Last year more than thirteen thousand
49 animals were turned in at the shelter and more
50 than eight thousand were euthanized. I appreciate

1 the support county council has given so far and I
2 sincerely hope that you will vote this third and
3 last time to make possible this worthy cause.
4 Thank you.

5 TOM MARTIN: Mike Wilson.

6 MIKE WILSON: My name is Mike Wilson.
7 I live in the Piedmont area in Mr. Wilson's
8 district, district six. I'm here to speak out in
9 favor of the general obligation bond. I cannot
10 add much more than our friends from the Starr-Iva
11 area. I will add that Powdersville is growing
12 very rapidly. I would hesitate to say there's not
13 many places in South Carolina, especially the
14 Upstate, growing faster than Powdersville. And we
15 have very limited space for kids to play ball.
16 And we all know the good reasons why children are
17 playing ball. It just keeps them out of other
18 things. And a lot of the gentleman who spoke
19 tonight, I'll add, I met on the playing fields of
20 Iva, South Carolina. And I haven't seen them in
21 years and they're here speaking out in favor of
22 something they did in their childhood. So
23 obviously doing something like that raises
24 leaders. So something to think about in
25 Powdersville. We're growing at a rapid rate and
26 where that Dolly Cooper Park is gonna be is the
27 entrance way into Anderson County. What a great
28 opportunity to showcase what we're about in
29 Anderson County, investing in young people,
30 investing in our citizens and having that nice
31 park up there. So a lot of us, we appreciate what
32 you do, we appreciate -- and as I agree with Mr.
33 Craft, you have a really tough job. Many of us
34 serve our county in many different ways. And
35 after work I go, I did for a couple of years, go
36 to the Hurricane Springs Park, pick up trash,
37 clean up restrooms, coach basketball, coach
38 baseball, coach football, get yelled at because
39 some kid didn't play something. And all these
40 people can relate to that. That's the way I serve
41 my community. And I think it's making a
42 difference. But we do need more facilities.
43 We're growing very rapidly. And thank you for
44 what you do.

45 TOM MARTIN: Johnny Soseby.

46 JOHNNY SOSEBY: Johnny Soseby from the
47 big metropolis of Powdersville, district six. I
48 appreciate all the support of local county
49 councilman, Mr. Ron Wilson. I'm here in support
50 of the ordinance also. And as president of Wren

1 Youth Association, we serve probably seven hundred
2 to a thousand kids depending on what sport and
3 what season we're in. And currently we only have
4 Hurricane Park. It's a wonderful park. It serves
5 a lot of kids. But it's four fields that serves
6 baseball, softball, cheerleading right now,
7 football, flag football, soccer. And so we'd like
8 to see the funding for Cooper Park, Dolly Cooper
9 Park, to be finished and just support our young
10 people as much as possible. As the guys from Iva
11 said and as Mr. Wilson said, I've been involved
12 with youth league sports for quite some time with
13 two children of my own. And as we see
14 Powdersville and Anderson grow, we see the needs
15 of having more and more facilities to serve our
16 kids. And there's no better way to serve our kids
17 than to provide for them. We need the funding.
18 We need the money. We need the help. And so we
19 appreciate any support you give us. Thank you.

20 TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.
21 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Hogg Road,
22 Williamston, district seven. Mr. Chairman, I hate
23 to bust the bubble of the people who are so in
24 favor of this extra ten million bucks, but the
25 first line of it says any one or multiple of the
26 money may be spent on. It doesn't say each item
27 will be done. It doesn't say everything will be
28 done. It says may. You know, we need parks for
29 kids. Hey, I lived across the street from the
30 Monkey Park in Pelzer. I lived in the Monkey
31 Park, 1 Park Street. I didn't play sports. A lot
32 of kids played sports. I have children who played
33 sports with the school and with the local
34 Williamston league, soccer and things. Yes. We
35 do need parks. The thing in Powdersville, I don't
36 even think council members voted to spend the five
37 hundred thousand dollars or whatever it was to buy
38 the land. You know, I have nothing against you
39 building parks, but this thing came right after
40 the budget was presented to you guys. If this
41 stuff was something that needed to be done, why
42 couldn't it have been listed, presented, added to
43 and a part of the budget. I remind the council, I
44 remind this county, thirty-eight million bucks,
45 ten years ago, to a hundred and forty-two million
46 dollars this year. Our roads are pathetic.
47 Business people who come into our districts and
48 ride our roads, if they have coffee in their
49 hands, McDonald's might get sued because there are
50 so many bumps and holes in the road. I don't

1 understand how we can go from such -- you know, a
2 decent county with a decent budget of thirty-eight
3 million, forty million, fifty, sixty, eighty,
4 hundred, hundred and forty-two, how we can spend
5 that much money increased year after year after
6 year. And then we have to have citizens come here
7 and tout what a wonderful job you've done and oh
8 please spend another ten million bucks. You
9 should have already spent the ten million bucks on
10 something other than newer buildings, remodeling
11 buildings. We bought a building across the street
12 that was ready to go. But yet we got a half a
13 million dollars in this ten million bucks to
14 upgrade it. Y'all were told it's ready to go. I
15 do not understand why we can't live off of what we
16 lived in the past. I do not understand why
17 everyone's cousin, uncle, and aunt has to be
18 employed by the government whether it be Anderson
19 County, the city of Anderson, the state. I do not
20 perceive why this is happening. And it hardens my
21 soul that we even have to have a resolution added
22 to our agenda to have families spend a night
23 having dinner with their family members. I think
24 what we ought to have is a resolution reminding
25 everyone which day of the year, what March, April,
26 May when we finish paying the taxes that we owe
27 the government. We have roads with holes in them.
28 We don't have sewer lines in places where people
29 are having sewer issues. We need water lines. We
30 have water issues. It's good. Build the parks.
31 We don't need a three hundred and fourteen square
32 foot building down on Lake Broadway. I mean you
33 can build a house for way less than that. And
34 it's just a building. We own the land. Yeah.
35 Build parks. But do it within the budget and quit
36 building bigger buildings and putting more
37 employees. Build parks. That's a good thing.
38 Thank you.

39 TOM MARTIN: Dorene Montepara.
40 DORENE MONTEPARA: Hi. Dorene Montepara,
41 district five. Okay. Well, I'm one of those
42 happy-go-lucky people that are saying let's go
43 forward with this. Let's do the third vote. For
44 many, many years I volunteered with the humane
45 society. I haven't for a couple of years because
46 it got too heartbreaking. Eight thousand animals
47 euthanized a year. Please. That's insane. Now
48 if these were children, now trust me I have
49 nothing against children, I have a couple of my
50 own. But if these were human beings that were

1 being housed and treated like these animals area,
2 trust me, everybody in this county would be
3 stepping forward saying spend, spend, spend. What
4 they want to spend on this shelter right now is a
5 drop in the bucket. Once you get this low cost
6 spay and neuter program up and running, you're
7 going to be saving money in this county because
8 you're not going to be feeding as many animals,
9 you're not going to be having to euthanize which
10 costs money. Then you have to take the bodies,
11 unfortunately, they go out to Starr landfill. So
12 let's just pass this and get it over with. And as
13 far as with the kids needing parks, I agree whole
14 heartedly. As some of you know, I'm the President
15 of the Homeland Park Community Task Force. I've
16 been having conversations with people lately.
17 More and more and more were noticing kids hanging
18 on the streets, nothing to do. So what do they
19 do? Well, let's all join gangs. Yes. It's
20 becoming a serious problem. We need to get these
21 parks up and going, but we need to do it for the
22 kids not for adults to hang out at and party and
23 drink. So let's make sure we do it or the kids,
24 design them for the kids, not for adults. Thank
25 you.

26 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.
27 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700
28 Woodlake Road, district one. I call your
29 attention to ordinance 2008-047, an ordinance to
30 prohibit the county administrator from executing
31 any county documents without Anderson County
32 council's review and approval. The duties of the
33 Anderson County administrator as well as every
34 other administrator were set by the state
35 assembly. Y'all do not have the authority to
36 overturn the general assembly. That item should
37 be pulled from the agenda and not even considered.
38 Second thing. Our museum is celebrating its
39 twenty-fifth anniversary on October 25th. Most of
40 y'all know, the vast bulk of the funds necessary
41 for the operation of the museum are donations.
42 The county merely provides the building and a few
43 employees. We're trying to raise twenty-five
44 thousand dollars, a very modest goal for the 25th.
45 Mr. Wilson and Mr. McAbee are going to be
46 participating with a Civil War Re-enactment and
47 other historical documents that day. We've got
48 Barnard E. B. Sword will be coming out. It'll be
49 a real interesting day going on. But we need some
50 funds. And I'd ask that tonight when y'all have

1 your little requests that you please consider a
2 thousand dollars a piece to go directly to the
3 museum to help offset this twenty-five thousand
4 dollars. And I thank you very much.

5 TOM MARTIN: Terry Chapman.

6 TERRY CHAPMAN: My name is Terry
7 Chapman. I'm in district two, Ms. Gracie Floyd's
8 district. And first I want to thank the council
9 members that give to the Little Joe's ball team.
10 But they had one regret. Something happened to
11 the camera. They didn't get to see their self on
12 TV last Wednesday. They heard them but they
13 couldn't see nothing. But they said thank you
14 very much again and appreciate it. But I wanted
15 to talk tonight a little bit on the bond issue of
16 the general bond and the revenue bond. I wasn't
17 going to wear my hat so everybody could see my
18 curly hair. But since tomorrow, Rick Driver, will
19 probably have that pot bellied, big mouth, veteran
20 wearing man on the program again. Cause every
21 time you talk about positive things going forward,
22 people always is going to be against it. When 85
23 was built, people hated it. When anything was
24 built, whether it be the library, the museum, the
25 Wal-Mart, somebody always fussed about it. But
26 we've got to have it. And to understand, you
27 know, why the budget raises from the last ten
28 years, look at the number of people. Look at what
29 was going on. Progress has got to be made. And I
30 think we've got to do it to the extent that we've
31 got to draw people. This revenue -- yeah, revenue
32 bond for the airport, I travel a little bit. My
33 wife and her friends travel a lot. They have to
34 go to Charlotte. They have to go to Atlanta.
35 They have to go somewhere to catch a plane. I
36 mean we have a few out there, but you're riding in
37 what I call a TTA, a tree top airline. They don't
38 ride that well. But it don't bring but so many.
39 But that would bring revenue into Anderson County.
40 And I believe it's a great thing. And I hope
41 y'all pass that on the first reading. But the
42 third reading for the general bond for building on
43 Broadway Lake, you know, we need it down there.
44 That lake has been around a long time and it's
45 brought a lot of people in. And the community
46 down there needs it to show that those folks can
47 be proud of it. And draw in -- if we're going to
48 bring in industry we've got to have somewhere for
49 them to go, something for them to do. And I
50 believe as county council has already voted twice,

1 I believe that's a great choice and we've talked
2 with the people in our community. And like I say
3 I don't live in the rich section. Most of them
4 are social security. But they want to see
5 Anderson grow. They heard the mayor one time,
6 Mayor Johnson say, this is a one horse town and
7 it'll stay that way until we get to moving. So I
8 think we're on the move and we ought to go ahead.
9 Not say what we need to do or gonna do. Let's do
10 it. I'm like the rest of the guys from Iva. I
11 could get into sports all you wanted to, fifty-one
12 years. But let's vote it and pass it and go on.
13 Thank you.

14 TOM MARTIN: Al Young.
15 AL YOUNG: Mr. Chairman, members
16 of the council, thank you for your service. We
17 appreciate all you do for our area. My name is Al
18 Young. I'm in district seven, Honea Path. In
19 2002, Anderson County school district two came to
20 the Town of Honea Path and offered the Watkins
21 School elementary school building to the town if
22 they would do one thing, if they would provide
23 services to the community and return back to the
24 community the services that the school had given
25 for so many years in a different way in order to
26 keep it. The Town of Honea Path agreed. They
27 formed a group including myself and several
28 members of the community to come up with a way in
29 which we could utilize this facility. The
30 building is a wonderful building. But it's just a
31 building. We had to put it to work. After a
32 period of time and a lot of planning we formed a
33 501(c)3 organization called Watkins School
34 Community Center, Incorporated. The center is now
35 an active, very busy place. Shortly thereafter we
36 agreed with the Town of Honea Path to lease three-
37 fourths of the building from the town for fifty
38 years. We have a written contract. The town uses
39 the rest of the building to house their
40 administration offices. A great deal of work has
41 gone into this project. A lot of hard work by a
42 lot of people. Today this building also houses
43 the Honea Path Arts Center which provides programs
44 not only for the children but for the adults as
45 well. In addition to that, Anderson County school
46 district one and two are now offering GED courses
47 starting tonight, the first night that they're
48 holding that. And they're also having a program
49 called WorkKeys. The Anderson employment security
50 commission is looking into opening a satellite

1 there which would provide a one stop center for
2 ASC workforce center. Parents Anonymous,
3 Incorporated working with parents and children.
4 And there's also funding been set aside for a
5 museum. With the assistance of Senator Billy
6 O'Dell and Representative Mike Gambrell, and
7 Advance South Carolina, funding was secured for
8 Tri-County Tech to renovate and equip four
9 classrooms which will be open this fall following
10 a variety of classes for personal and career
11 development, something our area desperately needs.
12 To date I would say that we have clearly met the
13 requirements as set out by the Town of Honea Path.
14 So far we have raised three hundred and twelve
15 thousand dollars in private funds and I emphasize
16 private. Not including the grants raised for Tri-
17 County Tech College. Now we're at the point where
18 we need to take the old cafeteria and turn it into
19 a multi-cultural center offering a variety of
20 services for the community. And we feel like
21 through the general obligation bond issue, these
22 things can happen. Thank you very much.

23 TOM MARTIN: Raymond MacKay.
24 RAYMOND MACKAY: Members of council, I
25 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you
26 tonight. First off, let me tell you how much I
27 appreciate your service. The three of you that
28 will be leaving the council at the end of the
29 year, I appreciate your years of sacrifice and
30 service to this county. Those of you remaining, I
31 also appreciate your continued service for the
32 county. I'm here to rise and support of the
33 general obligation bond and also the revenue bond.
34 You are charged with the responsibility, as you
35 are aware, of taking care of the essential
36 services necessary for this county. And I
37 understand and no one has mentioned this, and I
38 may be wrong, but I thought also the renovation of
39 DSS building floor is included in this general
40 obligation bond. And that's important. I know
41 Mr. Stan Brown out there at the DSS building, he's
42 got employees sharing desks, more than one per
43 desk. He's overrun and actually needs those
44 renovations to take place. And that's essential
45 services that are important to the citizens of
46 this county. And the rest of the -- or most of
47 the rest of the money is for quality of life
48 improvements in this county. And that's another
49 responsibility I believe you have as a council.
50 Because those quality of life improvements will

1 help with the economic development of this county
2 and are crucial in that regard. I appreciate your
3 service. I appreciate your consideration and
4 passage of the general obligation bond ordinance
5 on third reading and the special revenue bond on
6 first reading. Thank you.

7 TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

8 STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview
9 Estates, council district one. Mr. Chairman,
10 members of council, during a lot of the
11 conversations we've had so far tonight is there is
12 a great deal of support for the revenue bonds.
13 But in dealing with sometimes what we call
14 economic circles, you're dealing with what is
15 called scarce resources and that being the money
16 that's going to be involved. You've heard a lot
17 of needs and how we need to do a lot to help the
18 people of the county to help especially our kids.
19 At the same time we also have needs to help build
20 the road structure up, improve transportation.
21 The other means to gain incentives for economic
22 development. And then we come back again to where
23 is Anderson County right now? It seems like we're
24 still caught in the middle between trying to still
25 keep our small county atmosphere and to grow to be
26 a big county atmosphere like we would find in
27 Greenville. And they are two forces that are sort
28 of struggling with each other. Yes, we need
29 economic development. But then if you build in
30 the additional traffic that's been involved -- and
31 our road structure is not really equipped to
32 handle a great deal of increase in traffic. But
33 if you're going to spend the money to help the
34 kids then you're going to be short on this end.
35 If you put the money more toward the
36 infrastructure right in here then the kids are
37 gonna suffer. So in the middle we're caught in a
38 dilemma right now with what we have to work with.
39 We only have so much money we have now we have now
40 to work with. And money can be spent very, very
41 fast. And with the way that we've seen our
42 budgets growing, the people of the county really
43 want more accountability and more responsibility
44 in how this money is spent. This is something for
45 your consideration because as the county continues
46 to grow, we're still going to have more and more
47 expenses. Thank you.

48 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman. Those are the only citizens under
50 agenda matters.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
2 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Before we
5 move on any further I just wanted to stop and to
6 thank those of you who came out here tonight to
7 stand up and voice your opinion about what we're
8 trying to do here. Every since this thing has
9 come up it's just been one negative thing after
10 another. It had gotten to a point where I was
11 becoming very, very discouraged about our progress
12 for Anderson County and our plans. But your
13 showing up here tonight really has done a lot for
14 me. It has encouraged me to go on. It has shown
15 me that there are people out there on the other
16 side who want what we're trying to do here in
17 Anderson County. Night after -- meeting after
18 meeting we hear the negative comments. We hear
19 the things that are not the truth. We don't know
20 where it's coming from. But tonight you folks
21 have been awesome. You came tonight to talk to us
22 to let us know how you felt about it. You came
23 tonight when there was no television station here
24 filming this whole thing. So nobody will never
25 know that we have this many people out here
26 supporting us. When the television station people
27 are here, the front row there is crowded with our
28 negative folks trying to get on to pass all this
29 negativism over the airways. But I just want to
30 thank you. I just want to thank you from the
31 bottom of my heart. You have given me courage to
32 go on to work harder and to stand up for what I
33 believe is the right thing. Thank you.
34 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
35 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
37 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. I must agree with what Ms. Floyd had to
39 say and echo that. And she spoke of negativism
40 and misinformation as a matter of fact. I don't
41 know if it's a misconception or if someone is
42 deliberately attempting to mislead the public in
43 saying that this is coming up on the heels of the
44 budget, why wasn't it included in the budget? We
45 have a capital projects budget. We include these
46 items. The thing of it is when you have a capital
47 projects budget and you pass your budget, you then
48 must solicit the bonds and issue the bonds
49 themselves. And that requires a separate
50 ordinance. This is not something that was not

1 considered in our budget process. Thank you, Mr.
2 Chairman.
3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
5 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. Why aren't
6 we recording our meeting tonight as we normally
7 do? I noticed that last time at the end of the
8 meeting I realized that I don't think the camera
9 was even on. And then tonight we have no Charter
10 coverage.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think it broke. But
12 is that the case?
13 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, I'm not
14 quite sure why they're not here tonight. They
15 should be here. I don't believe they notified me
16 to let me know or Linda. But they should be here
17 to record our meetings and I'm gonna find out
18 tomorrow as to why they didn't show.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I just heard from
20 someone talking that it ---
21 JOEY PRESTON: But we are recording
22 the meetings. So if you want to play it back over
23 the air you certainly can do that.
24 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.
25 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
27 LARRY GREER: I too want to add my
28 thanks to those who came out and spoke in favor of
29 the progress and the improvements that we're
30 struggling to try to bring to Anderson County.
31 Having worked in the school system, I can see very
32 readily how important it is to take care of those
33 children. And some of the speakers alluded to the
34 fact that if you don't take care of them while
35 they're young that it's more difficult to take
36 care of them as they get older. And that indeed
37 is true. So to all those who came out and spoke
38 favorably for what this bond ordinance is
39 scheduled to do, I thank you for giving of your
40 time to come and speak tonight. I will remind you
41 that we're in a struggle. We're in a struggle
42 with those who want Anderson County to move
43 forward and grow. We're in a struggle with others
44 who seem to be happy with where they're at and
45 they don't care about anybody or anything except
46 their own little bailiwick. That's what it's all
47 about. So we need to continue to do the things
48 that we need to do to take care of our
49 communities, our children and our families. And
50 if we don't then we'll pay the price later. There

1 used to be an old oil commercial. You can pay me
2 now or you can pay me later. We can either do
3 this now or we can do it later to pay a higher
4 price. To those who came out tonight, thank you.
5 Word of caution. Don't stop. You've got to
6 continue to be vigilant. You've got to continue
7 to come forward. And you've got to continue to
8 speak favorably for those things that you want
9 Anderson County to do. Don't stop. Thank you.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item number
11 five, resolutions. R2008-038, a resolution
12 honoring and recognizing the Anderson County
13 employee ...

14 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... and other matters
16 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is
17 there a second?

18 CINDY WILSON: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We
20 are in discussion. Any discussion? Mr. Preston,
21 do you have anything to say?

22 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. After you
23 all vote, I'd like to ask that you come down, Mr.
24 Chairman. We've got several folks with us
25 tonight. And I'll read the resolution for you if
26 you'd like.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else
28 wish to say something. Hearing no one, the chair
29 calls for the vote. All in favor of resolution
30 R2008-038, please vote. Unanimous. And I'm
31 coming down, right?

32 JOEY PRESTON: Yes. Mr. Chair, I'd
33 like to ask John Ferguson and any of the county
34 employees and volunteers that assisted with the
35 air show to come forward, please.

36 JOHN FERGUSON: We want to thank you
37 for this honor. We were very proud and pleased to
38 bring this air show to Anderson County and to the
39 people of Anderson. And it could never have been
40 done without the work of these people behind me
41 and many more who are not here tonight. Fifteen
42 thousand people is the estimate that I've heard
43 fall in the front door to the Anderson community.
44 We always like to say the airport is the front
45 door to a community especially for business people
46 and people looking to bring jobs to a community.
47 And we didn't get a single negative comment. It
48 was a wonderful show. And it couldn't have been
49 done without Hugh Oldham, Sharon Gundrum, Angie
50 Stringer, Craig Smith, Taylor Jones, and Ike

1 Brissey, and Matthew Littleton and all the people
2 -- traffic control was just amazing. We got
3 probably five thousand cars on the airport and got
4 them out in a reasonable amount of time. And this
5 was just an amazing, amazing event. It took us
6 about five months to plan it. An air show
7 normally takes a year. So, thank you all very
8 much. And thank you county councilmen.

9 JOEY PRESTON: John, I'm gonna read
10 this now if you don't mind. Whereas the Anderson
11 County, South Carolina, a body politic incorporate
12 and political subdivision of the state of South
13 Carolina is deeply involved in and affected by all
14 the events and the lives of its citizens. And
15 whereas the Canadian Snowbird air show was held on
16 May the 7th, 2008 at the Anderson Regional
17 Airport. It would not have been possible without
18 the dedication of the employees and volunteers of
19 Anderson County and the financial support from
20 businesses. And whereas the civic pride of the
21 employees and friends of Anderson County is
22 exemplified by the volunteerism and dedication of
23 the employees and volunteers who gave countless
24 hours and personal resources to make the Canadian
25 Snowbirds air show at the Anderson Regional
26 Airport a huge success. Whereas Anderson County
27 wishes to acknowledge the volunteers and the
28 employees of Anderson County for their individual
29 and collective roles in the success of the
30 Canadian Snowbirds air show which brought eleven
31 aircraft to the Anderson Regional Airport for a
32 spectacular show, showcased the coordination and
33 teamwork of Anderson County and its citizen and
34 advanced Anderson County's reputation as a premier
35 location for such events. Whereas Anderson
36 County's Canadian Snowbirds air show not only
37 displayed the capability of Anderson County but
38 also showed the capacity and confidence of the
39 Anderson Regional Airport. More than fifteen
40 thousand people from surrounding counties and
41 states which will undoubtedly provide more
42 business and future expansion to the Anderson
43 Regional Airport. Whereas, Anderson County
44 desires to recognize those businesses that
45 supported the event and the volunteers and
46 Anderson County employees who help make the
47 Canadian Snowbird air show a great event. Now
48 therefore, it is hereby resolved by Anderson
49 County council in a meeting assembled that
50 Anderson County acting by and through its county

1 council hereby thanks each of the supporting
2 businesses and the individual Anderson County
3 employees and volunteer citizens who helped make
4 the Canadian Snowbird air show a resounding
5 success. This resolution shall take affect and be
6 enforced immediately upon enactment. Mr.
7 Thompson.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I just want to add
9 that not only this event but everything that the
10 county employees are involved in, they do an
11 excellent job. They always, in my opinion, go
12 above and beyond the call of duty. I'm very
13 thankful for all that county employees do for us.
14 Thank you very much.

15 APPLAUSE

16 JOHN FERGUSON: One more thing. Hugh
17 Oldham is a local Anderson boy. He is a
18 professional air show announcer. And he really is
19 the one who brought the Canadian Snobirds here.
20 He knows them extremely well. And when they asked
21 where can we do a mid-week show, Hugh said come to
22 Anderson. Hugh would you say something, please?

23 HUGH OLDHAM: I definitely will.
24 Ladies and gentleman, I had the privilege of
25 crossing this country from west coast to east
26 coast so far this summer. I have been as far
27 north as Watertown, New York and made it all the
28 way out to Cape Girardeau, Missouri doing air
29 shows. What I saw here put together by Anderson
30 County employees and volunteers was a world class
31 event. I was extremely proud to be associated
32 with this. Quite frankly, my stock in Canada has
33 gone up quite a bit since they've been here. But
34 we hear a lot of negative. But when it gets down
35 to the tax, the people of Anderson County can
36 produce. They can be successful. Thank you very
37 much.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Hugh, I didn't know you
39 had that in you all these years. If they want to
40 come back next year please tell them to do so.

41 HUGH OLDHAM: We will -- we've
42 already extended the invitation.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item number
45 six, presentation on Lewis Drive. Mr. Steven
46 Chapman. Mr. Chapman you have ten minutes.

47 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Ladies and gentleman of
48 the council, members of Anderson County, first off
49 I would like to say that it's a pleasure to stand
50 before you today. I'm a little disheartened. My

1 first time at an Anderson County meeting, the
2 first time I every had to exercise my civic duty,
3 I was classified into a group of people. But I am
4 here to tell you, I am with a group of people,
5 Anderson County. Members of this county. I have
6 a representative and I say that they're all of
7 you. And I'm here today to ask you if there's any
8 differences or in the politics that's going on to
9 put them aside and please give an open ear and
10 open heart and open mind that'll please of this
11 community that I'm representing today. And I pray
12 that I can represent y'all in the best of my
13 ability. A little bit of an overview of what's
14 going on here. This is my agenda. The overview
15 is I want to present some issues that we as a
16 community have brought forth in safety, property
17 value and discussion of the zoning of the ethanol
18 plant. Our situation at Lewis Drive is current
19 proposal for the abandonment of Lewis Drive.
20 Questions have arisen over the condition of the
21 railroad tracks that's going to be serving the
22 ethanol plant that's located in the proper -- in
23 the community. Evacuation procedures are not
24 currently in place. If they are the community is
25 not aware of them. Concern over environmental and
26 health concerns and the ability for the community
27 for the county to handle an ethanol fire, spill
28 and cleanup. Safety. Going to Greenville and
29 Western Railroad website, the section of railroad
30 was previously scheduled for abandonment and was
31 purchased by a Greenville based company. Since
32 the purchase of this railway there appears to be
33 little or no maintenance or upkeep to the
34 residence in this community surrounded by this.
35 The website says that they are currently, I
36 believe, trying to do so. But it doesn't appear
37 to be what's happening. And there's currently, I
38 believe, ethanol being shipped down this railroad
39 to different locations. We're also worried about
40 the environmental aspects of what's going on.
41 Here are some railway pictures that I've taken or
42 I've had taken. It shows some of the conditions
43 of the track within just a local stretch on
44 Sherard Road, cross Lewis to the other side of
45 Sherard. As you can see here, we are witnessing
46 some damage to some of the equipment. Again,
47 rotted ties and damage to equipment. These are
48 just a few of the pictures we've chosen. More
49 broken ties. Here, missing equipment, rotted
50 ties. Again more rotten ties and damaged

1 equipment. A coupling for the track we see loose
2 bolts. Missing components. As you can see here a
3 bolt is missing. This brings a very unique
4 position for us. Because we're in fear of what
5 could happen and what could happen with a possible
6 derailment, a spill and what would happen to our
7 community which brings us to our evacuation
8 procedures. We are -- I understand that they're
9 supposed to be a reverse 911 system. I've never
10 heard of it until recently it was brought to my
11 attention. Members of the community, we don't
12 know where to go, what to do if there is an
13 ethanol spill or a train derailment or any
14 existing incident could happen with the tank farm
15 that's already there. We're not aware of any of
16 this. We don't have -- we have children, elderly,
17 we have people with asthma. They're on oxygen.
18 We have immigrants in the neighborhood who are not
19 familiar with the area. And they don't know what
20 to do if something happens. They're talking about
21 closing this road. And essentially if you look at
22 the map for Sherard Road, I wish I had one with
23 you, it makes a complete loop to Highway 20.
24 Lewis Drive is a cut across from both ends of
25 Sherard Road. Now where they're wanting --
26 they're talking about isolating is this railroad,
27 they would isolate travel across this cutaway. If
28 an incident happens or an accident that blocks
29 either side of Sherard Road if this road is closed
30 you have essentially isolated members of this
31 community from any way of escape from anything.
32 Now if you look at the map, if an accident happens
33 at Sherard and Lewis, if the railroad abandons the
34 road, if we choose to abandon that road, there's
35 no other road to get off of Lewis except for
36 Sherard. There's not. So say if a truck wrecks
37 or there's a derailment and they got that blocked
38 and they call for an evacuation, there's only one
39 way in and only one way out. Environmental
40 concerns that we have, this is the website for
41 MSDS Sheet. On the first line I encourage you to
42 go look at it for some of the effects of what can
43 happen. We've spoke and letters have been sent
44 from Senator William H. O'Dell to the DHEC and to
45 the fire Marshall requesting information on what's
46 going on as far as the environmental impacts and
47 safety the persons and people living near this
48 area. We also have letters from Mike Gambrell
49 going to DHEC and to the fire Marshall.
50 Representative Mark Hoag is also aware of the

1 situation as well as United States Senator Lindsey
2 Graham. So just a few points on this MSDS Sheet,
3 like I said, I encourage you to go look at it, in
4 red, warning, causes severe eye irritation,
5 flammable liquid and vapor. Causes respiratory
6 tract irritation. This substance has caused
7 adverse reproductive and fetal effects in humans.
8 May cause central nervous system depression. May
9 cause liver, kidney and heart damage. Causes
10 moderate skin irritation. Target organs are the
11 kidney, heart, central nervous system and liver.
12 Distinguishing media. Sorry I can't read what I
13 have here on my monitor. It's going blank on me.
14 There we go. For small fires, use dry chemical --
15 dry chemicals, carbon dioxide, water spray or
16 alcohol resistant foam. For large fires use water
17 spray, fog, or alcohol resistant foam. Use water
18 spray to contain or cool fire exposed containers.
19 Water may be ineffective. Do not use straight
20 stream of water. All right. Physical and
21 chemical properties. The clear liquid is
22 colorless. It has a mild, rather pleasant lime
23 like or whiskey like odor. So it's not something
24 that if it's leaky or spills that you would go
25 what is that smell. It gives you any -- it's
26 actually very pleasant. You would never think of
27 it to be something that could be dangerous.
28 Epidemiology. I cannot pronounce this good. I'm
29 a good ole Southern boy. Ethanol has been shown
30 to produce fetal toxicity in embryo and fetus of
31 laboratory animals. Pre-natal exposure to ethanol
32 is associated with a distinct pattern of
33 congenital mal-form actions that have collectively
34 been termed the fetal alcohol syndrome. Fire
35 prevention. Anderson County fire chief statement
36 on firefighting ability and fire hydrants and
37 water availability. This is a quote from Billy
38 Gibson, the Anderson County fire chief. And he
39 says it's a new -- I'm gonna paraphrase here, that
40 it's a relatively new risk to firefighters, that
41 we currently do not have the equipment to
42 administer the foam that we need. He also states
43 in this that water is not a way to attack this
44 fire, that it's like pouring water on a grease
45 fire. And as far as water goes, we're in a
46 community where there's not a lot of water
47 pressure. There's no hydrants. We don't have
48 large water mains. People -- businesses -- one of
49 our local churches is looking at having a water
50 hydrant installed, having to pay for it. If we

1 did have the budget, which we don't, which costs
2 us somewhere around forty-five thousand dollars,
3 we would not have the availability to supply water
4 to them to fight a fire. These are the concerns
5 that the community would like to have answered
6 before this comes to us. Property value. I've
7 been told by appraisers and banks that property
8 value will drop. They say that the final decision
9 on this will come to the appraiser and the bank.
10 They could not give me a determination. They
11 could not say whether it would or it wouldn't.
12 But they said it would be up to the appraiser and
13 the situation. They'd have to see what it looked
14 like once it was done. But it could be a
15 potential risk. Summary. Bobs and Wows. I work
16 in an industry where I have to look at the good
17 and the bad. Bob, the best of best. Wow, worst
18 of worst. Best of best, this brings jobs,
19 industry, provides money, grows the community.
20 Nothing ever happens, nothing ever derails,
21 there's never a fire, everybody is hunky dory.
22 But unfortunately, we live in a world of
23 uncertainty. And we do have to plan for the worst
24 of the worst. You have a community whose life is
25 at stake. Their livelihood, their homes, their
26 children, they have a lot of unanswered questions.
27 We don't know what this stuff does. We're not
28 very well educated in what it is. But we hear a
29 lot of things. And as county council and our
30 representatives, it is unfortunately on your
31 shoulders to make sure we're taken care of in all
32 these matters. Now, I also would like to -- I'm
33 asking this for two things. The community has a
34 petition to stop this road closure. And I also
35 have several signed petitions and spoke to two
36 people who are actually on the Anderson County
37 Zoning Advisory Board who said they rode by, did
38 not see re-zoning signs for the thirty-eight point
39 eight acres. And members of the community who
40 signed the petition said they never saw the letter
41 or received a letter. And I would like to ask
42 that all permits for this development of this
43 ethanol plant and procedures for this road to be
44 closed, I'd like to ask that permits be put on
45 hold until further investigation into what the
46 effects could be done on this community, until
47 this can be got to the bottom of. I'm not saying
48 that this was done backdoor-wise. What I'm saying
49 is that like everything, there are loops, that
50 things to fall wrong, things do happen. Papers

1 don't get put out. There are some people who said
2 they did get mail. I ain't saying they're not.
3 There are those who said they thought they were
4 properly notified. I believe that this warrants
5 some further investigation.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chapman. Your time has expired.

8 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Thank you, sir. Thank
9 you council. Thank you, ma'am.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Presentation on Lewis
11 Drive, Ms. Amy Plummer. Ms. Plummer, you have ten
12 minutes.

13 AMY PLUMMER: My name is Amy Plummer.
14 I have lived in Anderson County for twenty years
15 coming up this December.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Speak in the mic.
17 Amy Plummer: I have lived in
18 Anderson County twenty years coming up this
19 December 1st. I am -- my real estate license is
20 with Allison Properties. We are on contract with
21 the Greenville and Western Railway Company for
22 their real estate and their economic development.
23 And I'm here to talk to you about the closure on
24 Lewis Road. First, I want to talk to you about
25 facts about ethanol. Ethanol is a renewable fuel.
26 Ethanol is a federally mandated additive used in
27 gasoline which results in cleaner burning fuel
28 with higher octane. Ethanol adds oxygen to
29 gasoline yielding a better level of combustion
30 reducing the level of toxic vehicle emissions. It
31 also reduces our dependence on foreign oil.
32 Ethanol as a blend in gasoline reduces emissions
33 produced by automobiles. Ethanol blended in
34 gasoline reduces carbon monoxide by as much as
35 thirty percent. Ethanol reduces volatile organic
36 compounds by as much as twelve percent. Ethanol
37 reduces toxic emissions by thirty percent. And
38 ethanol reduces particulate matter emissions by
39 more than twenty-five percent. Those people that
40 suffer from asthma benefit from us using ethanol
41 as an oxygenate in our petroleum products instead
42 of MTBE. The question is are we going to fund the
43 midwest of the United States or are we going to
44 fund the middle east? The United States imports
45 about sixty percent of the oil we currently use
46 today. One acre of corn can produce enough
47 ethanol to fuel seventy-two thousand miles on E10.
48 By 2010 the US ethanol production could displace
49 the equivalent of three hundred and eleven million
50 barrels of imported crude oil. E85 reduces carbon

1 monoxide emissions and provides significant
2 reductions in the emissions of many harmful toxins
3 including benzene which is a known human
4 carcinogen. Facts about the railroad. Railroads
5 are three times as energy efficient as trucks. A
6 train can move one ton of freight four hundred and
7 thirty-six miles while a truck can move that same
8 ton of freight only one hundred and twenty-six
9 miles on one gallon of fuel. Railroads are three
10 times cleaner to the environment than trucks are.
11 A single rail, intermodal train removes two
12 hundred and eighty to four hundred trucks from the
13 highway. That's the equivalent of more than
14 eleven hundred automobiles, reducing congestion
15 and pollution while saving energy. Truck fatality
16 rates are four times higher than train fatality
17 rates. Moving more freight by rail saves lives.
18 Facts about saving taxes. Moving more freight by
19 rail saves taxpayers money. It costs less than
20 one million dollars per mile to add capacity to
21 rail as opposed to ten million or more per mile to
22 add one lane to our highways. In reality, it
23 costs one hundred and fifty dollars a foot which
24 is really three quarters of a million dollars.
25 Reasons to support the closure of a Lewis Road
26 grade crossing. In 2007, grade crossing
27 incidents, two thousand seven hundred and fifty-
28 one highway rail grade crossing incidents occurred
29 in 2007. When I talk about a highway rail
30 incident, I'm talking about the impact between a
31 rail -- any type of railroad or rail engine or car
32 and a highway user at a grade crossing site,
33 whether it be an automobile or it be a pedestrian
34 and it's regardless of severity. Of those two
35 thousand seven hundred and fifty-one highway rail
36 grade crossing that happens in 2007, two hundred
37 and eighty-nine highway rail grade crossing deaths
38 occurred in 2007. This is a fifty-three percent
39 reduction in highway rail grade crossing deaths
40 since 1994. The reason for this is that there has
41 been an aggressive movement by our Department of
42 Transportation and our Railroad Administration to
43 reduce the number of grade crossings. Operation
44 Lifesavers. In 1972 when Operation Lifesaver
45 began, there were approximately twelve thousand
46 collisions between trains and motor vehicles every
47 single year. By 2007, the most recent year for
48 which final statistics are available, the number
49 of train motor vehicle collisions had been reduced
50 by more than seventy-six percent to two thousand

1 seven hundred and fifty-one. This is due to
2 public education and grade crossing closures. The
3 National Highway Safety Administration in 2007,
4 the B&SF railroad received the national highway
5 safety administration's highest safety award for
6 closing four thousand grade crossings contributing
7 to the safety of the general public. Reasons to
8 support use of rail versus truck. In 2007 truck
9 crashes, four thousand eight hundred and eight
10 people were killed in large truck crashes in 2007.
11 Three thousand six hundred and seven of those
12 people killed were driving automobiles that were
13 engaged in these accidents with these large
14 trucks. Four hundred and twenty-five of those
15 people killed were pedestrians or bystanders. The
16 US Department of Transportation says that an
17 alternative route should be within a reasonable
18 travel time and distance from a closed crossing.
19 The alternate route should have sufficient
20 capacity to accommodate the diverted traffic
21 safely and efficiently. I didn't make that up.
22 That came from the US Department of
23 Transportation. The US Department of
24 Transportation grade crossing closure
25 requirements, they require that there be a traffic
26 count of less than two thousand per day, cars,
27 more than two trains per day, alternative crossing
28 within one quarter mile, any main line section
29 with more than five crossings within a one mile
30 segment. Meeting the requirements. We have a
31 traffic count of less than eleven hundred cars on
32 Lewis Road per day. Two plus trains per day.
33 When this facility is opened we will be bringing
34 in one ethanol train three days a week and one
35 train to serve the existing industry on this rail
36 line. And it will have two trains a day. Multi-
37 track crossing. This is going to be a multi-track
38 crossing. And what that means is when an
39 automobile approaches that grade crossing, if
40 there is one train coming by and they see that
41 pass and go ahead and move forward and don't see
42 the next train coming, you're resulting in a
43 collision and likely death. Two grade crossings
44 are within one quarter mile of this crossing that
45 we're requesting to be closed. One tenth of a
46 mile on one side of Lewis Road and one quarter of
47 a mile on the other is another grade crossing.
48 There are six grade crossings in a one mile
49 segment from Lewis Road. This crossing meets the
50 requirements set by the United States Department

1 of Transportation to be closed regardless of the
2 industrial prospect. Analysis. In an average
3 year some twenty-three hundred, twenty-three
4 hundred people are injured and another five
5 hundred killed at the Nation's three hundred
6 thousand public and private highway rail grade
7 crossing. The chance for serious injury or death
8 in a train motor vehicle collision is eleven times
9 greater than for any other type of highway
10 crashes. Closure verses multi-track crossing.
11 It's going -- if we close this road it will reduce
12 the through traffic. One of the complaints that
13 has been made to me which I have no control over
14 is that one of the trucks from the tank farm was
15 driving down this road. Well, if this grade
16 crossing is closed these trucks will not be
17 driving down this road because it will no longer
18 be a through road. It will be cul-de-sac.
19 There will be less risk to the public and it can
20 potentially save lives. If we keep this grade
21 crossing open it will be a multi-track grade
22 crossing increasing the risk to the residents of
23 the community. There will be more potential for
24 accidents and there will be increased potential
25 for fatality. By voting to close this road you
26 will improve the safety of the children that live
27 on this road because it will stop the local
28 teenagers from using this grade crossing as a ramp
29 to jump their cars. The gentleman that spoke to
30 you just before I did, when he was a teenager he
31 used to jump that ramp, jump that grade crossing.
32 When they jump that grade crossing they take out
33 the front yard of that house that's sitting there
34 on the corner and it takes out the mailboxes.
35 It's only a matter of time before the house is
36 taken out. By closing this grade crossing it will
37 enable the railroad to improve safe operations
38 while taking more than twenty thousand trucks off
39 our roads. Please vote to close this road to help
40 keep our gasoline prices down. By bringing
41 ethanol in by rail, a railcar linked to energy has
42 been able to reduce the price of gasoline at the
43 pump. Currently Anderson County pays an average
44 of twenty-five to twenty-seven cents less per
45 gallon at the pump than the national average.
46 This is because we are able to reduce the
47 transportation costs by bringing in ethanol by
48 car. And we bring it in by five carloads now.
49 When we open this facility we will be able to
50 reduce the price of our petroleum anywhere from

1 fifty cents to a dollar per gallon below the
2 national average. Please vote to close Lewis Road
3 grade crossing. Please vote to close this grade
4 crossing for the increased safety of the residents
5 and the children who live on this road. These are
6 my sources. And I would like to address the issue
7 of the condition of the track. We have secured
8 funding for four million dollars of upgrades to
9 replace all of those crossties, to replace much of
10 the rail and to make many of the repairs that need
11 to be done. The evacuation procedures, we have a
12 reverse 911 system that is available to the
13 residents of this community so that if there ever
14 did have to be an evacuation that they would be
15 able to be called from our central dispatch and
16 told what to do and where to go. The
17 environmental risks are addressed by DHEC. They
18 give us rules and regulations by which to follow.
19 Yes, there are MSDS sheets on this product. There
20 are also rules that we have to follow in handling
21 this product. One thing that has not been
22 mentioned here is that there are regulations when
23 these tank farms are built. They are designed in
24 place to keep the -- if there is in the event of a
25 fire, to keep these fires contained.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Plummer, your time
27 has expired. Thank you. At this time we'll take
28 a fifteen minute break.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I had some -
30 - I -- will we be able to entertain questions when
31 we get it back from the ---

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You want to do it now?

33 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I wanted to ask
34 her a question. I wanted to get -- I'm kind of
35 concerned about something that he said.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You want to do
37 it now?

38 GRACIE FLOYD: It's just a short
39 question.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go ahead.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Ms.
42 Plummer, I have a question and you can give me the
43 short answer. Okay. The young man who spoke a
44 lot about fires in that area and that concerns me
45 as well. Could you tell me a little bit about
46 what type of things will be in place to offset the
47 fires or battle the fires or just whatever? Thank
48 you.

49 AMY PLUMMER: One of the things that
50 is required and that's what I was talking about

1 the MSDS sheet, there are requirements put out by
2 OSHA and by DHEC and that give us guidelines by
3 which these products have to be handled. There
4 are systems that are put in place in tank farms
5 too that will contain the fire in the event of a
6 fire. There are systems on the tank farms that
7 are designed to help put small fire out. In the
8 history of tank farms there is no -- any evidence
9 of any home or innocent citizen in any community
10 ever having a problem with a fire that has
11 extended beyond the tank farms. There are systems
12 that are required to be put in place in the
13 engineering to prevent these kinds of problems.
14 Now BP has already given ten thousand dollars for
15 a foam truck. I have requested from Jim Farish
16 (phonics) to also put in ten thousand dollars
17 toward this foam truck. I talked to Billy Gibson
18 and he told me that if they bought a used foam
19 truck that they could get it for twenty-five
20 thousand dollars. That's contrary to what has
21 been told now. You'll have to follow that up with
22 Chief Gibson. Ethanol is a water soluble
23 substance. And I think that a lot of this is
24 being over exaggerated. The MSDS sheet, the
25 listings of things that you heard about are the
26 same dangers that a pregnant woman undertakes when
27 she ingests ethanol. And my hope is that we won't
28 have anyone trying to ingest their automobile
29 fuel.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you,
31 Mr. Chair.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're taking a break.
33 BREAK

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are on ordinance's
35 third readings, 8A, 2008-033, an ordinance
36 amendment ordinance 99-004 of the Anderson County
37 zoning ordinance as adopted July 20, 1999 by
38 amending the Anderson County official zoning map
39 to re-zone from RM7 to S1 that parcel of land
40 identified as 740 Simpson Road consisting of about
41 2.04 acres in the Hammond School precinct. The
42 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

43 CINDY WILSON: Second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. Are we any
45 discussion on this? Hearing no one, the chair
46 calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance
47 2008-033 please vote. Unanimous. Thank you.
48 Ordinance 2008-036, an ordinance amending section
49 2-352 and section 2-492 of the Anderson County
50 Code of Ordinances pertaining to boards and

1 commissions and the economic advisory board and
2 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
3 approve. Is there a second?

4 CINDY WILSON: Second.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
6 discussion? Hearing no one, the chair calls for
7 the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-036,
8 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-037, an
9 ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of
10 general obligation bonds, series 2008, of Anderson
11 County, South Carolina in the principal amount of
12 not exceeding ten million dollars and other
13 matters related thereto. The chair moves to
14 approve. Is there a second?

15 BILL MCABEE: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion.
17 Mr. Preston and Ms. Humphries are the sponsors.
18 Do you guys have anything to say?

19 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. We recommend
20 approval tonight.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any other
22 discussion?

23 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

25 CINDY WILSON: I want to point out
26 that the list of projects that -- on page four and
27 also on the final page of the document, when we
28 were presented a lot of the information during the
29 budget, I want to note that Watkins School's
30 project was the only one along with the DSS
31 building and the Burn building that really had
32 specific numbers and appeared to be, you know, a
33 proper estimate and so forth. The others are very
34 nebulous. I want to point out that there's a
35 definite, definite need for a new animal shelter
36 and the spay-neuter clinic. But there's also a
37 need for a proper quarantine and holding facility
38 for large animals. We're getting more and more
39 large animals particularly in this economy, the
40 horses and the cattle. And we even get some
41 exotics like emus and so forth. And there's no
42 facility to quarantine these large animals. We
43 have an excellent rescue program available to the
44 county. But it's becoming more and more difficult
45 for these private organizations to take and
46 quarantine these animals for up to thirty days
47 before they're introduced into healthy
48 populations. I would like to request that we
49 would amend that part of what's presented tonight
50 and have the addition of the quarantine holding

1 area. And I'm also going to request that, for
2 example, I want you to be aware that the Broadway
3 Lake Community Center, there's already a
4 recreation center there. In fact, I believe the
5 county spent a hundred, two hundred thousand on it
6 about seven, eight, nine years ago. The real need
7 there is the actual bridge and the dam. We've
8 heard various estimates of up to thirty million to
9 replace the bridge and the dam. It would
10 certainly be more serviceable to this community to
11 put that nine hundred and fifteen thousand dollars
12 into matching grants for a federal grant for that.
13 And the other curious thing about the Broadway
14 Lake Community Center, in the presentations it was
15 estimated at nine hundred and fifteen thousand.
16 However, something came through the Dodge reports
17 recently that indicates the county's estimating
18 three hundred and sixty thousand dollars. Where's
19 the extra six hundred thousand dollars going? The
20 parks. There's really no tangible estimate on any
21 of those. There are just some real concerns here.
22 At this moment I would like to make a motion to
23 amend that we would strike the language, it says
24 currently to any one or more of the following
25 purposes. I think it would be more serviceable to
26 this county's taxpayers that we strike one or more
27 and put to any of the following purposes. And
28 that's in three different parts of this bond
29 ordinance. And I would like to put that in a
30 motion now, in addition to adding the specific
31 addition of the large animal quarantine and
32 holding area to the new animal shelter and also
33 having specific and clear estimates and plans
34 reviewed by council for these other projects
35 before we issue money from the bond. And that's
36 in the form of a motion please.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second for
38 Ms. Wilson's motion? Hearing ...

39 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I am going
41 to speak for the Broadway Lake project. First of
42 all, I don't know where the council member from
43 district seven is getting her information about
44 something with three hundred thousand dollars
45 again. I don't know what she's talking about.
46 Secondly, the bridge, she was wrong in that aspect
47 too. The bridge is gonna cost us not thirty
48 million but thirty-five million dollars. We have
49 talked with the feds, the federal people, about
50 some of the money and we were told that we made

1 the first cut. We're hoping that as it moves its
2 way through the process of getting this money that
3 we will make the second cut to get that money.
4 It's nothing -- we do not have thirty-five million
5 and by not building the building, holding nine
6 hundred thousand dollars, it would not help us one
7 way or the other. Secondly, the large animal
8 thing, when we were working on an animal ordinance
9 to try to take care of the animals in Anderson
10 County, we did not get much cooperation from the
11 council member from district seven. And I would
12 like for it to be noted that the large animal
13 population is important to -- well, I can't speak
14 for full council, but I can speak for me. It is
15 just as important to me as the dogs and the cats
16 in Anderson County that's taking over our county
17 and some of our neighborhoods too. It's just as
18 important. Also, the building down there, the
19 JEBCO, the council member from district seven was
20 in error again. The community center is not for
21 Broadway Lake. It is a public facility. It is a
22 voting precinct. It is located in the area called
23 JEBCO. It's a community right off of Broadway
24 Lake Road. It is not on the lake. Thirdly, the
25 Broadway Lake facility will be -- it's a county
26 facility that will be used for county and public
27 functions. And that's about it. A lot of the
28 information concerning this particular piece seems
29 to be always wrong. Also, I can't understand why
30 district two's project, Broadway Lake, is always
31 the target of the, of the people who do not want
32 the ordinance to pass.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Excuse me, Mr. Floyd.
34 Time has expired.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: I'll just end it there.
36 Thank you so much, Mr. Chair. I yield the floor.

37 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
38 extend by five minutes.

39 CINDY WILSON: Second.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Have a motion to extend
41 by five minutes and second. All in favor of
42 extending the time by five minutes, please vote.
43 Unanimous.

44 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
46 speak?

47 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

49 LARRY GREER: Thank you. I want to
50 clear some misinformation up in that numbers are

1 not prepared for these projects. I know of one in
2 particular that there's engineered drawings,
3 there's a budget, everything is in place except
4 for letting the contracts and getting the work
5 done. And that's the Parker Bowie complex. I'm
6 looking at Travis Burriss sitting in the back of
7 the room. I'm sure he has a set of those
8 documents. He'd be glad to show them to anybody.
9 I've sat in on the meetings where this has been
10 handled and proposed. I think I missed one
11 meeting this past week due to a death in the
12 family. So this statement that these projects are
13 not budgeted and that there's not a budget
14 prepared for them is erroneous. This project in
15 particular has budgets and everything is lined up.
16 And I fully support the Parker Bowie complex
17 project. My notion is that anybody that doesn't
18 support projects of this nature, you don't care
19 for our children. I'm just gonna say it pretty
20 plain. If you care for our children, you're
21 willing to provide the things that we need to
22 nurture them in a good environment. And that's
23 why I'm gonna continue to support this bond
24 referendum and its passage. But at the same time,
25 I've also been in communication with the City of
26 Belton and the Town of Iva and they have some
27 needs as well. So Mr. Chairman, at this time I'm
28 gonna make a motion to amend the bond ordinance to
29 add section 12, renovating and equipping municipal
30 and county agencies and offices located in the
31 city hall in the City of Belton in the amount of
32 two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And
33 section 13, improvements to streets, landscaping,
34 islands and sidewalks within the Town of Iva in
35 the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand
36 dollars, excluding street lights, street lighting,
37 in the Town of Iva. And that's in the form of a
38 motion to amend.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer has amended
40 the ordinance. Is there a second?

41 BILL MCABEE: Second.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee has second.
43 So you're moving to amend by five hundred
44 thousand.

45 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One second. Will this
47 increase the ten million, Mr. ---

48 JOEY PRESTON: I understand this would
49 be in addition to the existing projects, you're
50 adding those two?

1 LARRY GREER: That's correct.
2 JOEY PRESTON: Which would bring it to
3 -- we're gonna have to ask Ms. Humphries.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Humphries, are you
5 here?
6 JOEY PRESTON: What would that total
7 be? Your budget ordinance allows you to go up to
8 ten million. I think you're gonna be pretty
9 close.
10 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, sir, this bond
11 ordinance is not exceeding ten million dollars as
12 well ---
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are we exceeding ten
14 millions dollars with ---
15 GINA HUMPHRIES: -- to exceed ten
16 million.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are we exceeding with
18 his five hundred thousand?
19 GINA HUMPHRIES: Not with those two
20 projects.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The answer is no.
22 Okay. Ms. Wilson, you had a ---
23 CINDY WILSON: Very quickly. This is
24 absolutely astonishing to find out that the
25 Broadway Lake Community Center is not on Broadway
26 Lake but it's actually the JEBCO building. I
27 don't think anyone in the county realized that. I
28 don't know how many more roofs we'll put on there.
29
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, ---
31 CINDY WILSON: And also the estimate -
32 --
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, we are
34 talking about Mr. Greer's amendment.
35 CINDY WILSON: I'm about to get to
36 that.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.
38 CINDY WILSON: The three hundred
39 thousand dollars that we had as an emergency some
40 years back added to a GOB for Stevenson Road,
41 where is that three hundred thousand dollars, for
42 example, now? I've heard that it's in an interest
43 drawing account. But where is that account, Mr.
44 Preston?
45 JOEY PRESTON: Across the street in
46 the treasurer's office, Ms. Wilson.
47 CINDY WILSON: That's not an interest
48 bearing account; is it? I would certainly request
49 that we have some better numbers. And I would
50 also request that those projects that do have real

1 plans and specs and estimates, would it be
2 possible for us to have them maybe in the
3 conference room and allow those of us as council
4 members who would like to come review them and
5 members of the public who would have an interest
6 to come look at them. I would like to make that
7 as an amendment too, to this amendment.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you're amending Mr.
9 Greer's amendment by doing what again?

10 CINDY WILSON: Requesting the
11 accounting for the three hundred thousand dollars
12 for Stevenson Road and also requiring that the
13 plans and specs and estimates be put in a public
14 place so that members of council and the public
15 would have an opportunity to look at them.

16 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, let me just
17 make ---

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up, hold up. Ms.
19 Wilson has made an amendment to Mr. Greer's
20 amendment. Is there a second to Ms. Wilson's
21 amendment? Hearing no one, the amendment dies.
22 So we are back to Mr. Greer's amendment to add the
23 five hundred thousand. Mr. Preston, what did you
24 wish to say? Hold up. Mr. Martin has given me
25 the time out. Anyone wish to ---

26 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I move we
27 extend by five minutes.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Any
29 discussion? All in favor of extending for five
30 more minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Mr.
31 Preston.

32 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, I think I
33 can provide Ms. Wilson with all of the answers
34 that she desires. I've already provided them to
35 you at one point before. Be happy to do it again.
36 But to remind county council that you all have
37 adopted a budget and this GO bond has projects
38 listed and each one of those projects have a
39 budget. We're in the process now of developing
40 all of the final plans for that for each
41 particular project and they'll be moving forward.
42 And what you've done, is by adopting this budget
43 for each of these projects, you've said that
44 you're gonna spend this much money on each of
45 those projects.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right.

47 JOEY PRESTON: And I don't know
48 exactly what -- well, I do know what she's looking
49 for and I understand what she's trying to
50 accomplish here, but what I'm telling you is that

1 you already have that information. Each project
2 is listed and the amount of money you're -- it
3 lists the amount of money you're gonna spend on
4 each project. I'll be more than happy to give
5 that to you again. And as we bid these projects,
6 for example the Broadway Lake Community Center,
7 when we bid it, you'll know what that project is
8 whenever it comes in. And if it's over that
9 amount, well, guess what, we can't spend it. It
10 has to come up under that amount.

11 CINDY WILSON: Where does the
12 difference between three hundred and sixty
13 thousand that's in the Dodge report, the Reed
14 Bulletin, and the proposed nine hundred and
15 fifteen thousand go?

16 JOEY PRESTON: I don't know where the
17 Dodge report gets their information, but that's
18 not information that we ---

19 CINDY WILSON: That's the county.

20 JOEY PRESTON: Ma'am?

21 CINDY WILSON: It says Anderson County
22 provided the information.

23 JOEY PRESTON: Well, they could have
24 called someone who really didn't know exactly what
25 the question was about. But I'm telling you that
26 I haven't seen that. I'll be more than happy to
27 correct the Dodge report if you would like.

28 CINDY WILSON: I'd just like to see
29 real plans. I'd like to see contracts. If there
30 are any changed management plan. Any of the bid
31 information I'd like to see because some of this -
32 --

33 JOEY PRESTON: As we receive those
34 bids I'll be more than happy to send them to you.
35 And the contracts, you can certainly take a look
36 at them if you'd like and see.

37 CINDY WILSON: I'd like to see the bid
38 packages before it's bid out.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: We're already off the
42 subject anyway, but I've got to ask. Mr.
43 Chairman, is the council member from district
44 seven talking about seeing the bid packages for
45 Broadway Lake? Is this what she's talking about?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What are you referring
47 to, Ms. Wilson?

48 CINDY WILSON: I'm lost now. What is
49 your question about? Are you referring to the
50 information that's in the Reed Bulletin, part of

1 the Dodge Report?
2 GRACIE FLOYD: No, ma'am. No, ma'am.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You want to see bids.
4 What bids are you wanting to see?
5 CINDY WILSON: I would like to see the
6 construction plans, like architect's plans. I'd
7 like to see the specs. I'd like to see all of the
8 basic due diligence type information that goes
9 into the bid prospectuses and then of course the
10 results from the bids.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are all the projects
12 listed in this ---
13 CINDY WILSON: Yes.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. That's what she
15 wants.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, for all the
17 projects?
18 CINDY WILSON: For all of them.
19 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Preston, in
20 this packet there is a project in there for
21 district seven; right? What project is in there
22 for district seven?
23 JOEY PRESTON: Watkins School.
24 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I'd like to see
25 everything on there too.
26 CINDY WILSON: It's already in your
27 package.
28 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I want another
29 copy, Mr. Preston, okay? And I want you to go
30 back and add everything you forgot to add the
31 first time.
32 JOEY PRESTON: It's in your package,
33 just like the Broadway Lake Community Center is in
34 your package also.
35 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But I want
36 another one. And I want this thing that she's
37 talking about. Okay? I feel like my district --
38 Broadway Lake is being targeted for some reason.
39 All right. Everybody else, if you all get the
40 things that you need for your district, I
41 guarantee you district two will get what it's
42 supposed to get.
43 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.
45 RON WILSON: I call for the question
46 on Mr. Greer's amendment.
47 BILL MCABEE: Second.
48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
49 question and a second on Mr. Greer's amendment.
50 All in favor for the call for the question on Mr.

1 Greer's amendment, please vote. It is unanimous.
2 So we're gonna vote on Mr. Greer's amendment,
3 which is to add two hundred and fifty thousand
4 dollars for the City of Belton and two hundred and
5 fifty thousand dollars for the Town of Iva to do
6 various improvements and this does not exceed our
7 ten million dollars on the bond. All in favor of
8 the Greer amendment, please vote. We have four.
9 All opposed.

10 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I vote no and Ms.
12 Wilson abstains so it's four, one and one. So the
13 Greer amendment passes.

14 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ...
16 GRACIE FLOYD: McAbee.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah, McAbee. We're
18 back on the ordinance.

19 BILL MCABEE: Back on the ordinance.
20 At this time I move to amend the ordinance by
21 striking the language in paragraph F on page four
22 to remove item eleven, renovating and equipping a
23 community center room located at Watkins School in
24 the Town of Honea Path.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Give me those
26 coordinates again.

27 BILL MCABEE: Page four, paragraph F,
28 item 11.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Page four.
30 CINDY WILSON: This is very, very
31 rude. I've asked for information ---
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Paragraph F. What was
33 that last coordinate?

34 BILL MCABEE: Item 11.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 11.
36 BILL MCABEE: It would remove the
37 provision to renovate and equip a community center
38 room located at Watkins School in the Town of
39 Honea Path.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you want to
41 take out Honea Path, Watkins School? Okay. Is
42 there a second of the McAbee amendment? Is there
43 a second? Hearing no second the amendment dies.
44 So we are on -- we're back to the -- time. Time
45 has expired. The chair calls for the vote on the
46 amended ordinance as amended by the Greer
47 amendment. All in favor of the amended ordinance
48 of 2008-037, please vote. Five. Opposed?
49 Abstain. Five zero and one. The ordinance
50 passes.

1 APPLAUSE
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No hand clapping.
3 GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ordinance second
5 reading, district one application of Anderson
6 School District Five to amend the planned
7 development district covering the hundred and
8 twenty acres on Old Williamston Road across from
9 Cobb's Glen and other matters related there. The
10 chair moves to approve. Is there a second? Is
11 there a second?
12 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson seconded.
14 We are in discussion.
15 CINDY WILSON: I think that ---
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, please.
17 Mr. Preston and Mr. Ricketson, any additional
18 comments?
19 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. We recommend
20 approval tonight.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Ms.
22 Wilson, you wish to say something.
23 CINDY WILSON: And we're referring to
24 School District Five's new middle school?
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.
26 CINDY WILSON: I just want to
27 contribute my support for this in second reading
28 that we were unable to get a meeting together to
29 look at some alternative funding sources and ideas
30 that would have -- that would provide for sidewalk
31 and bike lanes and things of that nature. I've
32 been on the phone talking with South Carolina DOT
33 and Upstate Forever people and one of the
34 representatives of Upstate Forever wanted me to
35 invite members of council, the public and district
36 five to a symposium, I believe it's September 11th
37 and 12th, in Spartanburg, regarding siting schools
38 in communities. That's definitely the best plan
39 anymore, is to have our community -- schools in
40 our communities and have it organized so that
41 traffic can flow safely and efficiently in and
42 out, but also so that the children can walk to
43 school or ride their bikes. It can be a real
44 win/win situation for a community to have a school
45 in it. And Ms. Yon asked that I convey that to
46 y'all. I'm gonna try to go. And then I'm hoping
47 that prior to our third reading of this that we
48 can get together and look at some measures that
49 would help the traffic. Because when the Midway
50 School plan was in district seven, I worked really

1 hard to get all of this together and it went
2 nowhere and then we ended up pointing fingers the
3 opening day of school. It was a nightmare. The
4 county ended up spending money that was just
5 wasted. I think we spent about thirty-five
6 thousand paying a local engineering company to
7 tell us what was so obvious to all of us already.
8 And that amount of money could have gone a long
9 ways toward maybe building another lane or
10 improving the intersection. So I would just
11 respectfully request that with my vote for this
12 this time, that we make some time to get everybody
13 together and make this work well because I think
14 it can. Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

16 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

18 LARRY GREER: I'm gonna make some
19 folks unhappy.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Uh-oh.

21 LARRY GREER: But I've got to voice
22 my opinion on this. And it's probably long
23 overdue. I'm concerned that school district five
24 is moving schools north and west in their district
25 at the expense of the south and the eastern part
26 of that district. I am very concerned about that.
27 I'm of the opinion, and this is my personal
28 opinion, that this is a socioeconomic thing as
29 much as anything else. Ms. Wilson is talking
30 about roads. We have a four lane highway on the
31 east side of Anderson with land available to
32 construct a middle school. Why couldn't that
33 school be constructed on that eastern side of the
34 district rather than in the northern part of the
35 district? So I'm going to oppose this rezoning
36 for that very reason, that I believe that the
37 northern and the western parts of the district are
38 being taken care of at the expense of the south
39 and the eastern part of the district. Thank you,
40 Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I spent the last
45 time working with my constituents. As you know I
46 represent the south side of Anderson and the City
47 of Anderson. And I spent a lot of time talking to
48 my folks too and they are very unhappy about
49 what's happening to the schools. What they
50 perceive is happening. They have watched them

1 build schools out near the lake and they're
2 watching them now move schools to take it up to
3 the northern part. And Ms. Wilson was talking
4 about kids being able to ride their bikes to
5 school and walk to school. Well, the people in my
6 area would like for their children to ride their
7 bikes to school and walk to school as well. It
8 appears as if the children on that end of town
9 will spend more time on school buses going from
10 the south end all the way up to this area where
11 they want to build. And we already know that the
12 area is already congestion -- congested. We're
13 talking about the Old Williamston Highway across
14 the street from Cobb's Glen. It would be nice if
15 we could afford a school there as well as afford
16 one down on the south end too. But because I
17 represent the people on that end of town who are
18 very unhappy about their schools going all the way
19 up there, and they love their children just as
20 much as anyone else, and they want the best for
21 their kids too, so I'm gonna have to oppose this
22 as well.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Hearing
24 no one, the chair calls for the vote of ordinance
25 2008-038. All in favor, please vote. Three.
26 Opposed. Three. The ordinance dies. Opposing is
27 Ms. Floyd, Mr. Greer and Mr. McAbee. The
28 ordinance dies. Ordinance 2008-040, an ordinance
29 authorizing the leasing of space at the Anderson
30 Regional Airport and other matters related
31 thereto. There is a public hearing on this.
32 Public hearings, any person desiring to do so may
33 speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period
34 of time as long as he or she is speaking to the
35 issue under consideration. The chairman exercises
36 control of the public hearing to ensure that no
37 person abuses the public hearing process by
38 engaging in unreasonable lengthy comments, purely
39 repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive
40 or inappropriate comments. With this being said,
41 the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to
42 speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
43 state your name and address and the council
44 district in which you live. The public hearing is
45 now open. Anyone wishing to speak on this
46 ordinance? Hearing and seeing no one, the public
47 hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve
48 ordinance 2008-040. Is there a second?

49 CINDY WILSON: Second.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.

1 Wilson. Any comments, any discussion? No
2 discussion. Chair calls for the vote. All in
3 favor of ordinance 2008-040, please vote.
4 Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-041, an ordinance to
5 amend chapter 38 of the Anderson County Code of
6 Ordinance which relates to planned use and
7 development standards and other matters related
8 there. There is also a public hearing on this.
9 Same instructions apply I just read. With that
10 being said if you wish to speak on this, come
11 forward. The public hearing is now open. Name,
12 address and district number.

13 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell,
14 Williamston, Hogg Road, district seven. The very
15 honorable Ms. Cindy Wilson. You know, this
16 ordinance about standards and zoning and codes and
17 all that wonderful stuff, the disgrace that you
18 guys just did on not allowing district five, who
19 has done the studies, they've done the ---

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, you have to ---

21 MARK POWELL: I'm speaking on zoning,
22 I'm speaking on ordinances, I'm speaking on
23 standards for the zoning changes.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You have to speak on
25 this particular ordinance.

26 MARK POWELL: And it's about changes.
27 And it needs to be changed ---

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. You have to
29 speak on this ordinance.

30 MARK POWELL: The gentleman over
31 there spoke about wanting money for the museum,
32 which was not talking about the citizens comments
33 and it was not on the agenda. So if you will
34 pardon me for a second, allow me to do the same.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, you have to speak
36 on this ordinance.

37 MARK POWELL: District five did lots
38 of work and y'all guys change stuff and it's
39 pathetic that you do that because they did the
40 research. Don't get mad because you didn't get it
41 in your back door. They did the research. They
42 knew what they wanted. And this is a crazy setup
43 that y'all do to change zoning for people when you
44 want to and don't want to.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone wish to speak on
46 this land use and development standards ordinance?
47 Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is
48 closed. Chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-
49 041.

50 RON WILSON: Second.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We
2 are in discussion. Any discussion on this
3 ordinance? Hearing no one, the chair calls for
4 the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-041,
5 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-042,
6 number nine D, an ordinance amending section 2-492
7 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances
8 pertaining to the Economic Advisory Board and
9 other matters related there. A public hearing is
10 on this also. Same instructions apply. You must
11 speak on this particular ordinance. Anyone
12 wishing to speak, please come forward. The public
13 hearing is now open. Seeing and hearing no one,
14 the public hearing is closed. The chair moves to
15 approve ordinance 2008-042. Is there a second?

16 CINDY WILSON: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
18 discussion? Hearing no one, the chair calls for
19 the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-042,
20 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-044, an
21 ordinance to impose and post notice of a vehicle
22 weight restriction on Wilderness Trail, on Old
23 Greenville Highway and on Hendricks Road near the
24 Pickens County border and other matters related
25 thereto.

26 RON WILSON: Second.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're not there yet.

28 RON WILSON: I was.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: There's a public
30 hearing on this. Same instructions apply on this
31 particular ordinance. That being said, the public
32 hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak,
33 please come forward. The public hearing is open.
34 We're talking about the weight limits on these
35 roads.

36 MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Hogg Road,
37 Williamston, district seven. You're trying to do
38 this to stop the landfill. Highway 88 is a major
39 road for industrial growth. Last week Mr. McAbee
40 tried his best to get an ordinance passed to allow
41 zoning at the end of that Highway 88 in order to
42 have better industrial growth. By limiting the
43 weight, you're trying to stop the landfill,
44 whatever, but you're limiting, stopping, the only
45 direction to get to that area other than coming
46 from Liberty or coming from Anderson on 170
47 whatever. What, you're gonna limit the weight on a
48 road and nobody can use the buildings for
49 industrial use. That's great. Real good. Atta
50 boy.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

2 ANN SMITH: Yes, sir, my name is
3 Ann Smith and I live on Hamlin Road. I'm in
4 district six with Ms. Wilson. We just recently
5 had our road weight limited and like I said
6 before, those roads are just -- they're not real
7 thick. They're below four inches. They're not
8 your normal standard roads. They don't have a
9 gravel base. And the end of that road on
10 Hendricks Road actually comes out on Hamlin Road,
11 so you would have to go right or left on Hamlin.
12 So the trucks that come down Hendricks Road don't
13 realize that there is a weight limit on Hamlin
14 Road, which they end up back on Hamlin Road
15 anyway. So I would just, I would just ask that
16 you would weight limit those roads as well as
17 Wilderness Trail. Appreciate it.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
19 speak on this ordinance? Seeing and hearing no
20 one else, the chair -- the public hearing is now
21 closed. Chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-
22 044. Is there a second?

23 RON WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We
25 are in discussion. Mr. Wilson, you're the
26 sponsor.

27 RON WILSON: Well, I encourage the
28 council to vote for this. I think it's needed.
29 And everybody knows the problems we've had out
30 there and this is a remedy for it. So I encourage
31 you to support it.

32 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

33 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done, Mr. Wilson?

35 RON WILSON: I am.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. McAbee.

37 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr.

38 Chairman. I may be -- it may be important to
39 point out that the actual item as listed in the
40 public agenda is misworded. It's probably a typo.
41 It would read like this would impose weight
42 limitations on South Carolina Highway 8 -- 88,
43 rather, which we can't do. It is to be posted
44 where the road intersects, the county road is to
45 be posted where it intersects with South Carolina
46 Highway 88.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we're not closing
48 88, we're doing ---

49 RON WILSON: Wilderness Trail and
50 Hendricks.

1 BILL MCABEE: Exactly. But it's --
2 and it's clear in the actual ordinance, Mr.
3 Chairman. It's just that the caption on the
4 agenda is ---
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Misworded.
6 BILL MCABEE: Is a typo. It'll still
7 be eighty thousand pounds on 88.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. Now,
9 Ms. Wilson.
10 CINDY WILSON: Well, that explains it.
11 I was seeking verification of that. Thank you.
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That answers your
13 question?
14 CINDY WILSON: Yeah.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Hearing
16 no one else, chair calls for the vote, ordinance
17 2008-044. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.
18 Okay. Ordinance's first reading. An ordinance
19 authorizing and providing for the issuance of
20 airport revenue bonds of Anderson County, South
21 Carolina prescribing the form of bonds, limiting
22 the payment of the bonds solely to the revenues
23 derived from the operation of the airport and
24 pledging the revenue to such payment, and other
25 matters related there. The chair moves to
26 approve. Is there a second?
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We
29 are in discussion. Mr. Preston and Mr. Martin,
30 sponsors. Any words of wisdom?
31 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I provided
32 council members with a copy of the feasibility
33 study that was done by LPA which outlines our need
34 for the projects. I want to point out that the
35 additional hangars that'll be constructed, the
36 debt service will be paid back from revenues that
37 are generated at the airport. It is a revenue
38 bond. It is not a general obligation bond. All
39 revenues to be paid back have to be generated at
40 the airport.
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Revenues from the
42 airport.
43 JOEY PRESTON: I'd like to recommend
44 first reading of this tonight.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?
46 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.
47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
48 CINDY WILSON: If you will look on the
49 caption for this it refers to general bond
50 ordinance number 2008-045. And I've looked at

1 that real hard. I think that we need to maybe
2 strike general and just make it state that it's a
3 special source revenue bond. Would that be good
4 to clarify that?

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Where are you looking,
6 Ms. Wilson?

7 CINDY WILSON: It's in the actual
8 caption.

9 JOEY PRESTON: It's not a special
10 source revenue bond. Mr. Martin can answer --
11 address that.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: General bond ordinance
13 2008-045.

14 CINDY WILSON: So it's a general
15 obligation bond?

16 JOEY PRESTON: I said it was not a
17 general obligation bond, ma'am.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

19 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr.
20 Chairman, members of council. This ordinance and
21 the next work together. Any time that the county
22 is going to have a series of bonds, it issues a
23 general bond ordinance and then, in this case, the
24 first supplemental and in the next case it would
25 be second supplemental, third supplemental. The
26 general bond ordinance gives the general form of
27 the bond. The first supplemental gives the
28 specifics of the issue that is in question.
29 Please note that it doesn't say general obligation
30 bond ordinance. It says general bond ordinance.
31 Then you have the first supplemental ordinance,
32 which will be the next ordinance in order. If
33 this were a general obligation bond, it would
34 stand on its own merits. It would be a general
35 obligation bond and there would be no first
36 supplemental following. This is the same thing
37 that the county has done for every special source
38 revenue bond that it has ever issued, to the best
39 of my knowledge. I'm sorry. Mr. Preston noted,
40 it's not a special source revenue bond. That
41 wasn't what I'm saying. A special source revenue
42 bond is a revenue bond. It's what the county has
43 done for every revenue bond. The ones that you're
44 used to seeing are the special source revenue
45 bonds. But this is the typical way of issuing a
46 revenue bond. You have the general bond ordinance
47 and then you have the supplemental ordinances
48 giving the specifics. But it is not a general
49 obligation bond. The general bond up front isn't
50 nor is the supplemental bond.

1 CINDY WILSON: So this is strictly to
2 be repaid through the revenues?
3 TOM MARTIN: Yes, ma'am.
4 CINDY WILSON: There will be no
5 provision that it would come from the general tax
6 revenues?
7 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Martin.
9 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Ms. Wilson,
10 that's precisely correct. Just for the benefit of
11 the audience, I know that council realizes this,
12 the difference between a revenue bond and a
13 general obligation bond, the general obligation
14 bond pledges the full faith and credit of the
15 county. Basically it says, whatever we have to do
16 to pay this, we pledge the full faith and credit.
17 A revenue bond pledges only certain revenues. In
18 this case the revenues are detailed as the airport
19 revenues. So this bond does not pledge anything
20 other than revenues. It does not pledge the full
21 faith and credit of the county as a general
22 obligation bond would do.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?
24 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
26 LARRY GREER: Call for the question.
27 BILL MCABEE: Second.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
29 question. We have a second. All in favor of call
30 for the question, please vote. Did you vote, Ms.
31 Floyd?
32 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I did.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Five. How do
34 you vote, Ms. ---
35 CINDY WILSON: I'm opposed. I wanted
36 to ask another question.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five to one. We're
38 calling for the question. So it was five one.
39 All in favor of ordinance 2008-045, please vote.
40 Five. Opposed?
41 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining because
42 I was not provided sufficient information. Thank
43 you.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Five zero, with
45 abstaining, Ms. Wilson. The ordinance passes
46 first reading.
47 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
49 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chair, I
50 visited the airport when I heard that this was

1 coming down. I went to the airport to get some
2 more facts. In fact, I had to ask -- what's
3 John's name?

4 BILL MCABEE: Ferguson.

5 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Ferguson to please
6 allow me to come through Mr. Hopkins and through
7 Mr. Preston. So I went to Preston, he said yes.
8 I went to Holt and he said it was fine. And then
9 I went to Mr. Ferguson. And that is something
10 that I am encouraging each of you to do. That
11 place is remarkable. If you have not seen it in a
12 long time, council members, please go. What's
13 happening out there is phenomenal. I am so proud
14 of us. And by approving this bond, we're gonna
15 make it possible for other planes and other
16 business to take advance of what we already have
17 out there. We don't have any space. And that's a
18 good thing. That's a good thing. By providing
19 this bond, this revenue bond, we are saying that
20 planes can come to Anderson. We're gonna build
21 hangars for you and you're gonna pay us big money
22 to park your planes out there. So if you have not
23 had a visit out there, please go. And if we have
24 any new council members coming on board out in the
25 audience at this time, please make arrangements to
26 meet with Mr. Ferguson to get a tour of what you
27 will be dealing with. You have to go to Mr.
28 Preston and let him know what you're doing. You
29 don't need his permission to go, but you need to
30 let him know what you're doing and then you have
31 to go to the supervisor to inform him what you're
32 doing and then Mr. Ferguson was so cordial. He
33 didn't have lunch for us, but he was so cordial.
34 And I just thank y'all for that. It helped me
35 understand what would happen here tonight, and I'm
36 glad I went. And I thank you.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance 2008-046, a
38 first supplemental ordinance providing for the
39 issuance and sale of an Anderson County, South
40 Carolina airport revenue bond, series 2008, in the
41 principal amount of not exceeding two point two
42 five million, prescribing the form and details of
43 such bond, and other matters related thereto.
44 Chair moves to approve. Is there a second.

45 CINDY WILSON: Second.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We
47 are in discussion.

48 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston and Mr.
50 Martin, any additional words.

1 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. I think Mr.
2 Martin explained this well.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Wilson.

4 CINDY WILSON: I agree with Mrs. Floyd
5 and her statement that the Anderson County airport
6 is a remarkable and improving place, and I hear
7 nothing but good things about our Mr. Ferguson out
8 there. I do have some questions, as I've had with
9 the other bonds, that we have not been provided
10 all the information. One of the pilots out there
11 told me a while back there's definitely a waiting
12 list, no question of it. There were questions
13 about the prices for some of the projects and
14 maybe the need to do everything all at once. I'm
15 requesting that we be provided with the current
16 definitive cost estimates for all these proposed
17 projects and to include any changes in estimates
18 expected. I'm asking for the change management
19 procedures that Anderson County has in place. I
20 would ask for copies to be provided. I would ask
21 that copies be provided of the basis for design,
22 which would include, but not be limited to,
23 preliminary design, design contracts, design
24 scopes of service, design scopes of facilities,
25 design basis estimate documents, design and
26 construction cost contingencies, standards cost
27 codes documentation, deviation from design
28 procedures, targeted project schedules for
29 completion, proposed client or vendor costs for
30 projects, bids for design engineering of all these
31 projects, for any cost contingencies included in
32 the proposed contracts for bid, and also a list of
33 bidders and a schedule of release for bid
34 documentation. That's one of the main concerns I
35 have, is we don't have a real review of the
36 issues. I definitely support expansions and
37 improvements at the airport, but I don't think
38 that we have them defined as concisely as we
39 should. Thank you.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So are you requesting
41 this information?

42 CINDY WILSON: Yes, I am.

43 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, that's why
44 you have a county staff that's to do this and
45 that's why you have an airport advisory committee
46 to perform these tasks.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, give her copies
48 of whatever she asked for.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, is she
50 requesting that for all of us?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, for herself.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: That's for herself.

3 Okay.

4 CINDY WILSON: Well, if any of y'all
5 want to look at it -- I mainly just need a place
6 to go look at all of this and some times that
7 would be mutually convenient.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else wish
9 to speak on this ordinance? Hearing no one, the
10 chair calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-046. All
11 in favor, please vote. Five. Opposed?

12 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining until I
13 have a chance to review the information.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five zero and one, with
15 Ms. Wilson abstaining.

16 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

18 BILL MCABEE: At this time I move for
19 a ten minute recess.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
21 have a ten minute break. Is there a second?

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All
24 in -- we've gotta take a vote. All in favor of a
25 ten minute break, please vote. Five. Ms. Wilson.

26 CINDY WILSON: Opposed.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five and one. Ten
28 minute break.

29 BREAK

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are on item 11,
31 resolutions and proclamations. I missed one? Oh,
32 I'm sorry. We're on number 10-C.

33 CINDY WILSON: I would like to
34 withdraw that item from the agenda for this
35 meeting.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. 10-C
37 has been withdrawn. Item number 11, resolution
38 proclamation. A proclamation proclaiming the
39 fourth Monday of every September as family day, a
40 day to eat dinner with your children. Chair moves
41 to approve. Is there a second?

42 CINDY WILSON: Second.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion.
44 Ms. Floyd.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It was said
46 earlier that we shouldn't be up here talking about
47 having dinner with your kids, that is not as
48 important as roads and everything else. But in a
49 way it is. In a way it is. This is something
50 that I did a couple of years ago and every year

1 it's done. But please understand, the nay sayers,
2 please understand that this is not being done just
3 by Gracie Floyd. We were requested to do this
4 through -- Ms. Eddleman, would you please give us
5 the name of the organization that asked that we do
6 this, and they're doing it across the State of
7 South Carolina through county council. This is
8 from the National Center of Addiction and
9 Substance Abuse who has asked that we push this.
10 And since this is one of the things -- I'm a big
11 family person. This is one of the things that I
12 asked to do. So if you'll just indulge me. This
13 is a proclamation. Whereas, the use of illegal
14 and prescription drugs and the abuse of alcohol
15 and nicotine constitute the greatest threat to the
16 well-being of America's children. And whereas
17 thirteen years of surveys conducted by the
18 National Center of Addition and Substance Abuse at
19 Columbia University has ...

20 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

21 GRACIE FLOYD: ... it was illegal
22 drugs. And whereas, frequent family dining is
23 associated with lower rates of teen smoking,
24 drinking, illegal drug use and prescription drug
25 abuse. And whereas, the correlation between
26 frequent family dinners and reduced risk for teen
27 substance abuse is well documented. And whereas,
28 parents who are engaged in their children's lives
29 through such activities as frequent family dinners
30 are less likely to have children who abuse
31 substances. And whereas, family dinners have long
32 constituted a substantial pillar of family life in
33 America. Now therefore, the Anderson County
34 Council does hereby proclaim the fourth Monday of
35 every September as family day, a day to eat dinner
36 with your children, and urge all citizens to
37 recognize and to participate in its observance.
38 This will be adopted this 2nd day of September,
39 2008. So you do see where it does have a
40 correlation with what's happening in our county.
41 It's a good thing. Mr. Chair, I'll put this down
42 as a motion that we approve this.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
44 speak on this? Hearing no one, the chair calls
45 for the vote. All in favor of this proclamation,
46 please vote. It's unanimous. Thank you.
47 Appointments. The chair has an appointment. Mr.
48 Greer has resigned from the ACOG Board of
49 Directors so in his place I am appointing Mr. Ron
50 Wilson to sit on the ACOG in that regard. Anyone

1 else have any appointments? Hearing no one, we're
2 moving on. Requests by council member. Ms.
3 Floyd.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Appropriation?
6 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I feel as I
7 did when I was teaching and you call on a kid who
8 wasn't paying attention and they don't know what
9 was going on. Mr. Chair, I do not have any
10 appropriations at this time. And I apologize to
11 the audience.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Greer.
13 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. I have two appropriations tonight.
15 They're for one project. At this time I move to
16 appropriate fourteen thousand one hundred and
17 thirty-nine dollars from the district three
18 recreation account for improvements at the Mt.
19 Bethel Community Park and walking track. And also
20 to appropriate ten thousand four hundred and
21 thirty-seven dollars from the district three
22 paving account for paving, grading and drainage
23 improvements at the Mt. Bethel Community Park and
24 walking track. And that's in the form of a
25 motion.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Is
27 there any discussion? No discussion. Chair calls
28 for the vote. All in favor, please vote.
29 Unanimous. Is that it?

30 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr.
31 Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
33 LARRY GREER: None at this time, Mr.
34 Chairman.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: None for me. Mr.
36 Wilson.

37 RON WILSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman,
38 I have two requests. Five thousand dollars to the
39 Tri County Soccer Club out of the rec fund from
40 the sixth district. And three thousand to the Sam
41 Davis Youth Camps.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
43 discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in
44 favor of Mr. Wilson's appropriations, please vote.
45 Unanimous. Anything else, Mr. Wilson?

46 RON WILSON: That's it, Mr.
47 Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
49 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr.
50 Chairman. From the district seven recreation

1 account, I need to appropriate three items.
2 Twenty-five hundred dollars to the Town of Honea
3 Path, Watkins Community Center playground for
4 playground equipment and fifteen hundred dollars
5 to the Williamston Area Historic Commission for
6 their ball. And thirty-five hundred dollars to
7 the Town of Pelzer to replace their basketball
8 goals in their gym. And this is in the form of a
9 motion.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
11 discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in
12 favor of Ms. Wilson's appropriations, please vote.
13 Unanimous. Is that it, Ms. Wilson?

14 CINDY WILSON: No. I would also like
15 to appropriate twenty-nine thousand dollars to the
16 Cheddar Youth Center for their parking project
17 from the paving account. And then twelve thousand
18 and ten dollars and twenty-eight cents from the
19 district seven paving account which will join a
20 reappropriated seventeen thousand nine hundred and
21 eighty-nine dollars and seventy-two cents which
22 was the balance of funds from the Crestview
23 project. And that will total right around thirty
24 thousand to repave Stratton Lane. When the
25 Crestview project was done they damaged Stratton
26 Lane and they requested that they have it
27 resurfaced. And that's in the form of a motion.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
29 discussion? All in favor, please vote.
30 Unanimous. Is that it, Ms. Wilson?

31 CINDY WILSON: Yes. Thank you.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That is it.
33 Administrator's report. Anything to add, Mr.
34 Preston?

35 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. We have
36 scheduled next Thursday at eleven a.m. in front of
37 the old Kroger building the groundbreaking for the
38 Anderson County Courthouse Annex. I want to make
39 that public tonight. So eleven o'clock if you
40 could please put on your calendar to try to be
41 there and be present for that. Also, I just want
42 to note too, I handed out earlier copies of the
43 news release that was handed to me this afternoon
44 from community relations at the request of Holt
45 Hopkins that Cox Road is gonna close September the
46 16th for the bridge replacement. And Mr. Hopkins
47 is here and can answer any questions about it.
48 But I understand it's going to be closed, what,
49 Holt, through June 30, 2009, I believe. The
50 existing seventy-four foot long pony truss is

1 being replaced because of its twelve ton weight
2 posting. It restricts school buses, fire trucks
3 in its narrow eighteen foot width. The old truss
4 will be removed and stored by the county for use
5 at a later date. County bridge crews and
6 subcontractors will install a new ninety-three
7 foot self-weathering steel truss that will be
8 thirty-six feet wide, wide enough to carry two
9 lanes of traffic with six foot shoulders and the
10 roadway will be raised five feet so the roadway
11 and bridge will be above the one hundred year
12 flood elevation. The bridge has no weight
13 restrictions. And of course it's being funded by
14 the earmark that we received back in 2006-2007
15 from Congress. And I want to make council members
16 aware of that. I'm sure we'll get a few phone
17 calls about that. Mr. Hopkins can answer any
18 questions if you would like. And my report stands
19 as submitted. I'll answer any questions about it.
20 That's all I have.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions from
22 council?

23 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. May I?

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

25 CINDY WILSON: I notice where our 2007
26 CAFR -- is that for the year ending June 30th, '08
27 -- is now available and I would like a copy of
28 that immediately. I also would request that Mr.
29 Preston ---

30 JOEY PRESTON: Ms. Wilson, where do
31 you see that June 30, '08? I'm at a loss here. I
32 don't see that in my report.

33 CINDY WILSON: Well, I was asking if
34 it was for June 30th, '08?

35 JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am, it's not
36 ready yet, but it will be very soon.

37 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Was it for June
38 30th, '08?

39 JOEY PRESTON: The CAFR will be
40 presented in, I believe, January, I believe, which
41 the CARF in other words ---

42 CINDY WILSON: But if it's already
43 complete for June 30th, '08, I'd like a copy of it
44 really soon.

45 JOEY PRESTON: It's not complete for
46 June 30, '08.

47 CINDY WILSON: How did we get an
48 award?

49 JOEY PRESTON: That says June 30, '07.

50 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Well, I asked

1 you and you said -- you didn't answer that. Okay.
2 That answers that question. All right. I also
3 was requesting that you check in the transfers for
4 the month of June. You were gonna check on that
5 and let me know if there had been any transfers.

6 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am, those will
7 be presented very shortly because those are
8 directly associated with the CAFR ending June 30,
9 '08. And as soon as we finish closing out the
10 year, then they can really finish the audit and
11 that information that you're requesting can be
12 presented to you.

13 CINDY WILSON: How quickly can we get
14 a list of those transfers?

15 JOEY PRESTON: Within just a few days
16 after I receive those.

17 CINDY WILSON: Well, that's where it
18 gets real tricky, because you have to sign off for
19 them to be made, but now you've made the
20 circuitous little game of you don't announce them
21 to council until they come back to you after
22 they've been executed and that's really not quite
23 the spirit of the law.

24 JOEY PRESTON: Ma'am, I follow the
25 budget ordinance to a tee.

26 CINDY WILSON: Well, I know you
27 changed it to suit. But meanwhile every year for
28 the past several years we've had one to almost two
29 million a year transferred on the last day of the
30 year, the fiscal year. In fact, you even counted
31 some transfers that were made in October one year
32 as of June 30th. And that gets real confusing to
33 people. And I also wanted to make you aware that
34 even though you claim that you provided me with
35 the CD with the GLR110s, I didn't get that. I did
36 check again, and I didn't get it. And I'd like to
37 have those copies, please.

38 JOEY PRESTON: I'll provide you with
39 another copy of it.

40 CINDY WILSON: And really soon,
41 please. Thank you.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Citizens
43 comments. Mr. Martin. Instructions. Just go
44 ahead.

45 TOM MARTIN: Steven Chapman.

46 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Ladies and gentlemen of
47 the council, thank you again for the opportunity
48 to speak with you. Ms. Floyd, I want to commend
49 you on your resolution for eating with the family.
50 I think that is a great thing. I believe without

1 family values that's passed on that our world
2 today cannot instill these beliefs and values in
3 children. The second part, I would also like
4 again to advise you that you heard two stories
5 tonight on this situation in the Cheddar
6 Community. I ask you to take it upon yourselves
7 to talk to your local fire chiefs, your fire
8 marshals, find out the truth of -- I can go off
9 what I read, as you go off what you're presented,
10 but dig for the truth for yourselves. And once
11 again, remember that this is a community who's
12 asking you for your help. We do go through our
13 district representative, Cindy, and we're glad to
14 have her and she's helped us. But you service us
15 all and we ask all of you, please, please help us
16 in this matter. We feel that we are not properly
17 informed of what's going on. There's nothing
18 worse than having a community who's afraid. This
19 doesn't speak well for business relations or
20 community relations in the industry that y'all --
21 we would like to see grow. This does not speak
22 well for the community that we do not know what's
23 going on, that our fears are not being answered
24 and that we feel that we're being left in the
25 dark. I ask you, please, research this. Again I
26 ask you, please put these permits on hold until
27 y'all can look into this and assure the community,
28 and please again, like I said, I have a petition,
29 fight this road closure for this community. And
30 when this comes before council, I will have this
31 petition ready to present to you to look at, and
32 I'll be glad to speak to anyone individually. I
33 thank you for your time.

34 TOM MARTIN: Sophia Chapman.
35 SOPHIA CHAPMAN: Good evening. My name
36 is Sophia Chapman, district seven. Obviously
37 that's my husband and I live on 106 Ellison
38 Circle. Ms. Floyd, I have to say the same thing.
39 I commend you on that. That touched my heart
40 because I come from a divorced family and the
41 drugs and stuff were involved. And from anybody
42 that's ever seen -- and in the schools, you know,
43 it's definitely there. And I've seen it in my own
44 family. And we try to, in my household, we eat
45 dinner together and we do things together all the
46 time. But anyway, a little off the subject. But
47 thank you. I was just -- I was back there
48 thinking about what I was gonna say and of course
49 now I've done forgotten because it's getting late
50 and I'm tired. But I want to just restate what my

1 husband said about taking into consideration for
2 the families and stuff that he has stated, the
3 safety issues and response time from the fire
4 department. Again, I don't speak for the fire
5 department, but obviously for obvious reasons
6 anybody could look and see that that's a concern.
7 I'm sure you could get those times. I'm sure they
8 could be brought to you. And I look at it as, you
9 know, I know we need to make more money. I don't
10 have any problem with an ethanol plant. I don't
11 have any problem with a train. I have a problem
12 with -- I'm sorry, distribution center, not plant.
13 I have a problem with it when it is in my back
14 door. That's when I have an issue. Because there
15 are some issues, there are some health risks. And
16 you know, we cannot ignore those. Now, I think
17 it's wonderful if you could put it in a place
18 somewhere down the road where there's not as many
19 families and stuff where it's not so close.
20 That's great. That's wonderful. But you know, it
21 just worries me. I have two small children and I
22 love them, and speaking of families, that's why
23 I'm here, is for my family and for the community.

24 TOM MARTIN: Bennie Sue West.

25 BENNIE SUE WEST: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
26 Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of council, it
27 was stated that we don't care about our children
28 if we don't pass this ten million dollar bond.
29 But the fact is, growing government at the rate it
30 has grown in Anderson County, we will be drowning
31 future generations in enormous debt. I don't know
32 how many generations it'll take to pay our debt,
33 and I don't know really how much Anderson County
34 owes. When I think about the interest that is
35 paid, Mr. Chairman, on these bond indebtedness
36 things, that would pave an awful lot of roads;
37 wouldn't it? And in Alabama and California
38 they've had a county in each state to declare
39 bankruptcy. And I know we've had municipalities
40 in Anderson County that have had to do the same
41 thing. And I don't know anything about the one in
42 California and the only thing that I know about
43 Alabama is the fact that it's being watched
44 closely. However, I don't know who's watching it
45 closely. And last but not least, it will be so
46 nice when Bill McAbee grows up. Thank you.

47 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

48 BROOKS BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I heard a
49 couple of disturbing rumors. The first rumor is
50 that the new incoming council is gonna do away

1 with the balloon festival. They can't do this.
2 It's a private enterprise. Second, I heard that
3 the pilots took up a petition to ask to come back.
4 This is a wonderful thing, but it's a shame that
5 they had to think that they did that. This is
6 what negativism does to our county, folks. We've
7 got just a few people against the balloon festival
8 so they go out and talk about all the tax money
9 being spent when there's no tax money being spent.
10 None. This is a private enterprise. If the new
11 council coming in thinks they're gonna get rid of
12 it, they need to start looking at their own back
13 door. They need to concentrate on roads and
14 bridges, forget the balloon festival even exists.
15 If they don't like it, stay the heck away.

16 TOM MARTIN: Michael Deanhart.
17 MICHAEL DEANHART: I ought to talk about
18 my granddaughter whom I'm extremely proud of, but
19 I'm gonna talk about an issue that -- a crisis
20 that we're facing in our nation that I'm deeply
21 concerned about and the possibility that McCain
22 appointment as his vice president is gonna cause a
23 debate on this crisis that we're facing in this
24 nation and the world. And I'd like to say a few
25 words about this crisis that we must confront that
26 very few are willing to talk about. Teenage
27 pregnancies, children becoming parents. As most
28 of you know, I'm pro choice, proud of it. Pro
29 lifers are very adapt at using emotional words to
30 further their cause, but calling a fertilized egg
31 a baby does not make it one. Calling abortion
32 murder does not make it murder. The preachers who
33 rant and rave screaming abortion as murder should
34 not be surprised when a member murders some of the
35 staff or bomb a clinic that performs abortions.
36 The demand that unwanted children to be brought
37 into this world because of the desire of pro
38 lifers and their God who pays no attention to them
39 after they are born constitute idiocy in its worst
40 form, cruelty and a threat to human society. A
41 bumper sticker say it all. If you don't believe
42 in abortion, don't have one. Abortion should not
43 be a public issue. It should be a private matter
44 for the pregnant female. All others including the
45 government and religion and God left out. The new
46 drugs coming into the market will allow a woman to
47 make their choices privately even before
48 implementation. You can be sure that Godly folks
49 will do everything in their power to prevent these
50 drugs from becoming available to the public. On

1 one occasion a single mother with five children by
2 different fathers complained that she didn't have
3 enough money for her children. She was told,
4 madame, you have too many children for your money.
5 And that is a crisis that we are facing. And we
6 must begin to talk about it. And the issue is
7 through education.

8 TOM MARTIN: Doug Parham.

9 DOUG PARHAM: Well, I haven't been
10 here for the last couple of meetings so I've got
11 about four or five things I want to hit on right
12 fast. The first one, the gentleman that said
13 earlier tonight that ethanol has a very pleasant
14 smell. Let me tell you exactly what it smells
15 like. And I know because I worked with it back in
16 the eighties before it was cool. I worked with it
17 before most of you even knew what it was. If
18 you've ever been in a beer joint on Saturday night
19 where somebody's threw up in the floor two or
20 three times, that's what ethanol smells like. It
21 is not pleasant at all. I used to have it all
22 over me. My wife used to make me take my clothes
23 off outside in the carport before I could come in
24 the house at night. So now we've got that out of
25 the way. The second thing is, these people that's
26 scared of this ethanol plant and scared of this
27 tank farm, I worked over there for years. I'd
28 rather live inside one of those tank farms than I
29 had to live in some of the houses and trailers on
30 some of the curves on Highway 88 that I used to
31 run up and down with nine thousand gallons of gas
32 running sixty, sixty-five miles an hour. I could
33 have ended up in them people's front doors.
34 Because I drove like an idiot back then. Those
35 tank farms are safe. You don't realize how safe
36 they are and how many safety guidelines they have
37 to go through Gina Humphries. The third thing is,
38 Ms. Gracie's family day, the greatest asset
39 Anderson County has is our kids and grandkids.
40 They are a head and shoulder above any building,
41 road, bridge or any other project. I don't care
42 what you name. They're the greatest things we
43 got. Terry Chapman, his assessment of Rick Driver
44 and WAIM, dead on the money. The FCC gives Rick
45 Driver the right to sit behind his microphone and
46 talk about us the way he wants to and call us
47 names, but let me tell you this, he won't do it
48 face to face or none of his clan will either
49 unless they've got a lot of law enforcement
50 backup. Last thing I want to talk about is you

1 people sitting up there. County council, I don't
2 care if it's the sheriff, administrator, President
3 of the United States, whether you agree or
4 disagree with the person, that doesn't matter.
5 You still need to show respect for the job, the
6 seat. We're not seeing that. Mr. Preston is not
7 getting the respect he deserves by some of the
8 council people. Some of the council people's not
9 getting the respect they deserve. Our sheriff
10 sometimes don't get the respect he deserves. Our
11 new sheriff is probably not get it either. Our
12 President don't get it either. But I was taught
13 when I was in the military, you don't respect the
14 man, you respect the job, you respect the seat.
15 It don't make no difference whose butt is in the
16 seat, you respect that seat. Thank you.

17 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, those are
18 the only citizens signed under other matters.
19 Superintendent Bagley has requested to speak and
20 indicated that she did not realize that she was
21 supposed to sign up. I don't have the authority
22 to add them. I'll leave that to council.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have
24 basically a motion to amend the agenda to allow
25 Ms. Bagley to speak. Chair moves to amend. Is
26 there a second?

27 RON WILSON: Second.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
29 discussion? All in favor of amending the agenda
30 to allow Ms. Bagley to speak, please vote. The
31 question is to amend the agenda to allow Ms.
32 Bagley to speak.

33 GRACIE FLOYD: I need to speak on the
34 question.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Discussion of the
36 question, Ms. Floyd.

37 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. My only
38 concern is that we're setting precedence and you
39 know how I feel about that. This is -- we have
40 not allowed others to speak who did not sign up as
41 well. And we do this this time, we might as well
42 just go ahead and just open it up and instead of
43 having you sign in, you just come up. I'm sure
44 that Ms. Bagley can understand this, because she
45 too chairs a meeting every month and she has
46 outlines and guidelines for her meeting as well.
47 And but my only thing is that if we do this for
48 one, we're gonna have to do it for all. Thank
49 you.

50 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

2 CINDY WILSON: We actually did that
3 for Ms. Plummer a while back.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: I don't remember that.

5 CINDY WILSON: We did.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: I still don't remember
8 it.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We are voting to
10 amend the agenda to allow Ms. Bagley to speak.
11 Mr. Wilson.

12 RON WILSON: Yeah. I want to
13 encourage the council to give Ms. Bagley this
14 opportunity to talk. I personally believe we made
15 a serious mistake here just a little earlier. And
16 so I'm for hearing what she has to say.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to
18 speak on the question amending the agenda?
19 Hearing no one, the chair calls for the vote to
20 amend the agenda to allow Ms. Bagley to speak.
21 All in favor, please vote. Five. Oppose. One.
22 Zero, five and one. Ms. Bagley, you get to speak.
23 We need to determine a time limit?

24 TOM MARTIN: That is up to the
25 chair, sir.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A motion ---

27 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, in the
28 past when we've amended the comments under
29 citizens comments, other matter, we have limited
30 them to three minutes as all other speakers.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Three minutes. Is that
32 the consensus of council? Yes? Three minutes Ms.
33 Bagley, by consensus.

34 MS. BAGLEY: I'll talk fast. First
35 of all I want to make sure that you understand
36 that there is a new middle school being built on
37 Dobbins Bridge Road. It is a middle school for
38 eight hundred exactly like the sister school that
39 would have been built on Old Williamston Road.
40 The entire Southwood faculty, students, community,
41 will move into that new middle school on Dobbins
42 Bridge Road. The old Southwood will become a
43 magnet school for the arts open district-wide. It
44 will be a middle school there for sixth, seventh
45 and eighth grades. There will also be a high
46 school component there. Southwood will be a
47 change function, but it will be a viable living,
48 breathing building. We tore down West Market. We
49 rebuilt West Market. It opened just this month
50 for preschool children. Varennes will get close

1 to four million dollars. Homeland Park close to
2 four million dollars. Westside is getting eleven
3 million dollars worth of work to it right now.
4 The reason we chose the property on Old
5 Williamston Road is because McCants has sixteen to
6 eighteen portables right there. It is overcrowded
7 and we wanted property that was parallel to
8 McCants so that when we split that population
9 there would be diversity in McCants as well as
10 diversity in the new middle school. It was very
11 important to have it parallel each other. Not
12 like this. So that the rezoning would be obvious.
13 But by paralleling it, we will have diversity in
14 both, which is what we need to do. We are --
15 there sits the extension campus, old McDuffie High
16 School, that is an award winning school right now.
17 There's South Fant that was an elementary school.
18 Now it's an early childhood and we have a waiting
19 list of people who want to go to South Fant.
20 Concord is the next inner city school. It is
21 right now studying to be an IB School so that we
22 can keep people going to these older schools.
23 There's Calhoun that transformed into a magnet
24 school for the arts. So all of these schools that
25 are closest to the city, the inner city, is being
26 changed for a different function so that people
27 will gravitate back and will go to these schools.
28 And where we -- the hundred and forty million
29 dollars is being applied across this district.
30 There's not a school that's not going to benefit.
31 Whitehall will get approximately four million.
32 Centerville will get approximately four million
33 dollars. I mean, it's all being shared to where
34 all the schools are going to be brought up to the
35 same standard. No one is gonna be left behind.
36 And that we are -- your constituents' children
37 will either go to the new school that's replacing
38 Southwood or they may want to go to Southwood as a
39 magnet school or they may be zoned to go to
40 McCants or the new school that's going to
41 accompany McCants. And then when we have the
42 second referendum, we'll build a brand new
43 McCants, a brand new Lakeside and a ninth grade
44 academy as well as doing work to the extension
45 campus.

46 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only
47 citizens on the other agenda matters.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
49 Remarks from council. Mr. Wilson.

50 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman. I'm just gonna follow up what Mrs.
2 Bagley said. I think we screwed up here tonight
3 ...

4 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

5 RON WILSON: ... is going to lose
6 anything. And I hope that somebody who voted on
7 the prevailing side will make a motion to
8 reconsider before we leave here. And let's get
9 this thing right. And I think this has been one
10 of our better meetings this year. So that's all I
11 have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

13 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. Just a few thoughts here. I know, Mr.
15 Deanhart, you should be rightly proud of your
16 granddaughter. I know she's a real asset to
17 Anderson County. And I know you must be quite
18 proud. Mr. Parham, if he's still here, talking
19 about driving those tankers on 88. Are you the
20 one that ran through Katie Allgood's fence twice?

21 DOUG PARHAM: No, but a friend of
22 mine did.

23 BILL MCABEE: I thought so. I
24 appreciated your remarks. And in a previous life
25 I too am a truck driver, still have my CDL, still
26 have my health card. And you're right about the
27 tank farms. You're probably safer in there than
28 you are in your own home. And it's an industry
29 that prides itself on its safety record and
30 rightly so. And it's well deserved. And I
31 appreciate your remarks because of the experience
32 you've had there. I don't know about your -- what
33 you said ethanol smells like. I always thought it
34 smells like moonshine. But anyway. I always
35 thought it was pleasant. But anyway. Mr.
36 Chairman, I thought that I agree with Mr. Wilson,
37 this is one of our better meetings and I'm glad to
38 be here tonight.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

40 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I want to
41 talk about the school situation. Ms. Bagley, I
42 highly respect you and I think that what you're
43 doing, what you have done for district five is
44 wonderful. But on September the 14th will be my
45 fortieth year here in Anderson County. I have
46 been in district two for all of those forty years.
47 And by being there I have watched the neighborhood
48 schools leave our area going elsewhere. South
49 Fant is a really good thing now. It's a childcare
50 center. And it is really good. But I remember

1 the community fighting to keep South Fant open.
2 It was a big fight. In fact, South Fant was
3 closed before -- the idea of closing the school
4 was already in effect when we had to stop and back
5 up to have a public hearing about it. But these
6 kids now are going to -- they're going out to
7 Varennes and Homeland Park. They don't have an
8 inner-city school. And the section is still
9 crowded with children who are having to be bussed
10 to school. I watched McDuffie get closed down
11 with the same kind of thing. The community rose
12 up and said we wanted to keep McDuffie. Well,
13 those kids are bussed now to Westside and Hanna.
14 And McDuffie is an award winning school and it's
15 great. Now Southwood is scheduled to be closed to
16 make it a magnet school. These children will be
17 bussed where? We have to consider all of
18 Anderson. Now if I lived on Williamston Road and
19 my child had a chance to ride a bike or walk to
20 school, I'd be all for this. But I don't live on
21 Williamston Road. I live in an area where we are
22 losing everything. Not only have we lost
23 businesses and everything else, now we're getting
24 ready to lose our schools. If, Ms. Bagwell, we
25 could set up a meeting and if you could speak to
26 the people of district two, if they would agree to
27 have you talk to them now, now, after everything
28 has been done, maybe you need to go to them and
29 ask them to give me their permission to vote on
30 this thing so that you can build your school up
31 there. But because I live among people who do not
32 like this, they don't know how to come to you to
33 talk to you about it. They don't know where to
34 go. They will never go to the school district to
35 talk to them because they don't want to do that.
36 They don't want to do that so they talk through
37 me. And if you would come down to my district,
38 district two, on the south end of town and have
39 those people talk to me or tell me what they want
40 to do, if they want me to change their wishes now,
41 I'll change. But I don't think it's gonna happen.
42 I don't know -- I do not think we've made a big
43 mistake here tonight. We've made other mistakes
44 even worse. I don't think this has been a
45 mistake. But this is time to say, hey, what about
46 us down on that end of town. Also, I want to ask
47 -- I want to remind everybody, please come to the
48 Kroger Center. This will be the last time you
49 will hear the word Kroger Center after tonight.
50 Please come and watch us progress in district two.

1 We don't -- we're just now beginning to be
2 recognized in that area. We had a big fight over
3 the Kroger building. Remember they said not in
4 that district or down there. But I want you to
5 come and stand with me proudly as we work to do
6 something for the district. And Mr. Holt Hopkins,
7 Cox Road, didn't we do that already one time
8 before. There was a Cox Road bridge that we
9 worked on?

10 JOEY PRESTON: We had to close it to
11 install the sewer line through there.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, that's what it was.
13 Okay. I knew it was one reason. Okay. Last week
14 I was not feeling well and I had to leave early
15 and I read through the minutes and can you call
16 the person's name that said something?

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: It was said that why
19 did the county park police have to pick up the
20 council member from district two to bring her to
21 the meeting? Folks, that's picky. That's petty
22 to put out on this floor. That's just so petty,
23 but let me tell you why. Okay. The council
24 member from district two had to be picked up by
25 the park police to come to the meeting because I
26 didn't have any transportation. My car broke down
27 on me, my beautiful car broke down for the first
28 time since I've had it. I had no way to get here.
29 So what's wrong with the county policeman picking
30 up me from my house? I mean, you guys saved, you
31 saved money for ten miles not having to pay me for
32 travel to get here. Picky, picky, picky. And
33 about my ordinance, the family thing, thank you
34 for your encouragement. Thank you for saying that
35 to me. Okay. I yield the floor.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

37 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr.
38 Chairman. I'll be brief, I hope, which is unusual
39 for me. I want to talk about this school thing
40 for just a minute and I'll try to be as quick as
41 possible. I noticed that one thing was obviously
42 absent from Ms. Bagley's discussion of the
43 schools. I never heard the Nevitt Forest school
44 mentioned at all in her comments. And that school
45 is located on the east side. I'm also reminded as
46 we talk about schools that schools are really
47 community assets and they're community driven.
48 I'll point in particular to Wright Elementary
49 School which has won all kind of awards because it
50 has strong community support located in school

1 district two. And I'm reminded of what happened
2 when McDuffie was closed and the Hanna-Westside
3 Extension campus was created. I'm painfully aware
4 McDuffie was not closed, it was destroyed. All
5 evidence of McDuffie High School was removed.
6 Removed. There was plaques hanging on the wall
7 for state championship teams that I don't know
8 where they're at. There was plaques on the wall
9 honoring our World War II soldiers from Old Boys
10 High School. And all of those things. So
11 McDuffie High School was not just closed. There
12 was an effort made to remove it from memory. That
13 happened. I witnessed it. I worked in it. I
14 lived it. I watched it happen. And I'm concerned
15 that we're moving the schools away from those
16 communities. And that's why I hold the position
17 that I do. I know Ms. Bagley doesn't like this
18 and that's -- you know, we can have differences of
19 opinion. And that's my opinion. Abortion was
20 brought up tonight during the citizens' comments
21 on other matters. I am one of those who has the
22 opinion that life does begin at conception. I
23 firmly believe that. There is no doubt in my
24 mind. And I will give you some evidence to prove
25 that. When I was an undergraduate student at
26 Clemson University, I took a course called poultry
27 science. And one of the lab activities that we
28 participated in is we took incubated chicken eggs
29 and cracked them open and dumped them in a white
30 plate from day one through day twenty-one. It
31 takes twenty-one days to hatch a chicken egg. On
32 the third day of incubation when you crack that
33 egg open in the plate, you can actually see the
34 heart of that developing chicken beating in the
35 yolk of that egg. Now if there's no life there,
36 that heart shouldn't be beating. So in my mind,
37 my belief and my opinion, life does begin at
38 conception. I will take that to the grave with
39 me. I am against abortion. I will firmly stand
40 against it. That's my position. That's my
41 opinion. And I'm entitled to it. And I'll hold
42 it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

44 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr.
45 Chairman. Just a few comments referencing first
46 the proposed road closing. Customarily, a
47 councilman is notified prior to the posting of a
48 road. In this instance I never received
49 notification until I had very alarmed citizens
50 contacting me. Also, reportedly the tanks and

1 tankers that have been emptied with this ethanol
2 are very dangerous too. I want to point out that
3 we had very, very limited information when we
4 dealt with this proposed economic development
5 project. And at one point we say in one of our
6 comments that the county is determined after due
7 investigation. And I would like to see some of
8 the investigative materials. It also points out
9 in one clause of the economic development package
10 that the project would directly and indirectly
11 benefit the general public welfare and serve a
12 public purpose. And it goes on. I would really
13 request and require that we have some kind of
14 research or investigative work provided to the
15 county council and to that community as to what
16 they are facing. I mean, we were all on this
17 ethanol bandwagon hoping that it would be a very
18 helpful benefit to the county. But now, low and
19 behold, we're finding that this is a bigger
20 project than we were originally told. And it does
21 have serious liabilities as to the health and
22 welfare of a major community. The other item is
23 in referring back to one of our councilmen saying
24 that McDuffie High School was destroyed, and I
25 concur that was a very sad situation. But was
26 that not prior to our current superintendent's,
27 Ms. Bagley's, tenure. I'm also going to ask a
28 question right now as we stand here on the podium,
29 is it proper to bring up an item for
30 reconsideration when you had three opposed and
31 three for. I would like that question answered as
32 to parliamentary procedure.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, can you
34 answer that?

35 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman. Ms. Wilson, I will attempt to answer
37 it. I would like to be able to confirm this after
38 the fact by checking Robert's Rules of Order. But
39 the traditional standard is that only someone
40 voting on the prevailing side of a measure may
41 move for reconsideration of that measure. In this
42 case you had a three to three vote. But the
43 prevailing side would be that the measure failed.
44 So those voting in the negative, that is the three
45 who voted no on a measure which failed would be
46 the three who could move for reconsideration, in
47 my opinion.

48 CINDY WILSON: Well, I'm very
49 concerned about this. I've heard my fellow
50 council members describe situations in their

1 communities. And I think that we respectfully
2 should acknowledge those issues, too. But I think
3 we come right back to the problem that we've had,
4 is the planning issue, notifications, public input
5 and so forth. And I'm just wondering if we
6 couldn't possibly work together as a council with
7 our school districts and other very integral parts
8 of our county infrastructure and citizens and do a
9 better job of this. This is so sad because
10 obviously there's a lot riding on that. And quite
11 frankly I hate to see the congestion in my
12 community but it's a need. There's a need to have
13 our students being able to access the schools.
14 And I think there should be some measure or some
15 means that we could resolve the inner-city issues
16 with education as well as the hot growing areas
17 around the county. And I'm just so sad that this
18 didn't have better discussion and that we couldn't
19 have resolved this better than the manner in which
20 we did tonight. Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: This meeting is
22 adjourned.
23

24 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – September 16, 2008 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

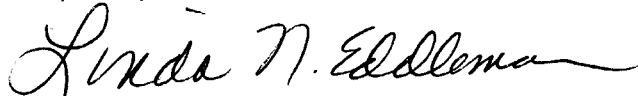
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular meeting, September the 16th, 2008 of the Anderson County Council will now come to order. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Ron Wilson, who is not here. Anyone wants to volunteer? Mr. Waldrep volunteers in Mr. Wilson's place. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: We gather to do your will. We ask, Lord, that you look into every heart tonight, every mind, every soul, and that you would be pleased. We ask, Lord, that we examine each and every piece of legislation that comes before us with thine eye and not our own eye and that you give us the willingness, the intellect, the wisdom to do what you would have us do for the benefit of all the people of Anderson County. We ask in Thy name.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have some changes to the agenda. Item seven and eight have been asked to be removed. Item 12D has been asked to be removed. So those three items are no longer on the agenda. With that being said we are on the approval of the minutes for August the 5th, 2008 work session. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are now in discussion. Little update here. We did in the minutes a couple of weeks ago or a few weeks ago based on just notes that the clerk had taken. Fortunately, the Independent Mail was present at that meeting and video taped the whole meeting. And so we had a transcript based off that video. So that's why we're doing this again if there's any question. So the minutes are verbatim from the video. Anymore discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of the minutes for August the 5th, 2008 work session, please vote. Unanimous. The chair moves to approve the minutes for September 2nd, 2008. Is there a second?

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Wilson. Any discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for the vote. All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Citizens' comments, agenda matters. Instructions. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon a representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to

the council chair. Come forward, give your name, address and the county council district in which you live and also identify what agenda item you are speaking on. That being said, Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Michael Montepara.

MICHAEL MONTEPARA: Good evening. Michael Montepara, Homeland Park, council district five. Good evening, council. I'm here to address your reconsideration of the school measure, 2008-028. Brief. No notes tonight. I think this is a bad idea to even bring this back up for reconsideration. You just approved a principal bond measure for some improvements for Anderson County. Now you're looking at a hundred and forty million dollars, is that correct, to build new schools that are on the far reaches of this county. My daughter currently travels more than an hour each way to school. She comes home, she's tired. She spends more time on the bus than she does in actual activities in the school. She's got forty-five minute classes. She spends more time on the bus. Now the schools that they're proposing to move her to are further away. I don't know why they're moving the schools further and further away to the more affluent neighborhoods instead of concentrating on where the children are currently living. I think this is a bad idea to even bring this back up to the table. There's other things that you just approved that we need to fund and pay for first besides a hundred and forty million dollar school measure. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Dorene Montepara.

DORENE MONTEPARA: Good evening, council. My name is Dorene Montepara. I live in Homeland Park, district five. I am also here due to the fact to the reconsideration on the school. I've got really, really bad feelings about this. I do not think that this needs to be brought back up for reconsideration. As my husband said, my daughter does travel an hour a day, each way, to school. Now my daughter has to be up by five forty-five in the morning. These kids are up before the teachers are, before anybody from the district is up. And then they come home and they have tons of homework, two, three hours worth of homework. She's not getting to bed until nine or ten o'clock at night. This has got to stop. Now if you stop bussing these children over to the north end of town and build this middle school or another school down in the south end of town then you won't have the overcrowding over

at McCants and Lakeside or anything else because you're going to be splitting these kids up. And as far as diversity, oh please. That is just as far as you can get. There is not going to be any diversity. These kids that -- the new schools are going to get the good kids, the kids that come from prominent families, and it's not right. It's just not right. I do not want to see another school built on the north end of town. All the schools are on that end of town. There is nothing except for Homeland Park Elementary School which is -- it's in bad shape. We need more schools on the south end to keep the south end alive and rejuvenated. I went to a meeting last week and actually the district five, that vote was talked about from everybody, even people that were there from Washington, D.C. It's become like their guidelines of where not to build a school. I just would like the council to reconsider the reconsideration. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Brianna LaChance.

BRIANNA LACHANCE: Good evening Chairman and council members. My name is Brianna LaChance. I live in Homeland Park, district five. Tonight I would like to address the council about school district five. I have to sit on a school bus for an hour to school and an hour back home. By the time I get to school it is seven fifty-five. I'd like the new school to be on the south side of Anderson. It would be easier for the kids on the south side of Anderson to get to school faster. I spend more time on the school bus than I do at school. I could be doing other stuff after school than I could be doing on the school bus. By the time I get home it is at least six or seven o'clock. But I could be at least in after school programs or I could be doing soccer or something like that. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Tom Allen.

TOM ALLEN: Can you hear me okay? I'm Tom Allen, 109 Wycombe Drive, Anderson, South Carolina, district four. I'm speaking on behalf of school district five and four, the issue that was brought up last week regarding the new school. Two weeks ago, several individuals got up here and spoke in favor of the ten million dollar bond issue. The primary point that was made is that they needed the parks. It's for the children. The children are our future. We must have those parks. We've got to pass that bond issue. Now, when a request though for land for a new school was made, it was denied. Now I'm

going to stick my neck out here, but I think education is a little more important than a playground. The second item I'd like to bring up, stranger yet was the fact that the school request was listed on the agenda as a zoning issue, yet zoning was never once mentioned as the reason for that denial. Never mentioned at all. Actually after sitting through that meeting then reading the minutes, I can't find any actual concrete reason as to why that school was turned down. I should also mention that about eighteen months ago, the taxpayers of school district five voted upon and passed that hundred and forty million dollar bond issue. It's their money in school district five. It's not the county's, it's not yours specifically, but it's those taxpayers in the school district that are going to be footing that bill. It's already been passed. That seems to me, the fact that it was denied, is kind of a slap in the face to the democratic process. The voters have already voted for it yet it was turned down here by council. And two of the three people who voted against that don't live in school district five, didn't even have a dog in the fight. I'd also -- I wouldn't be standing here tonight, I should say, had this denial been based on zoning. If a school could not have been put in that specific area because of zoning, that would be another question. But that was never the point at that meeting. Whatever the reason for denial, I hope that decision will be reversed tonight. And as one county council member stated last week, I think we made a mistake. I agree with that and I hope that decision is reversed this evening. One final comment, those folks that want schools in a different area of district five need to go to the district five school board meetings, not to the county council. That's where those decisions are being made. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Doug Parham.

DOUG PARHAM: I too would like to speak on the same topic. But I'm not here for the same reasons. I don't have a dog in this fight. We're talking about -- I'm here for grand kids that's going to be in these schools later on. I have one question for a fellow that's going to be sitting up there next year and he just got through talking. Is this school going to be built in district five? Is Old Williamston Highway out there at Cobb's Glen, is it district five? I'm not sure. I don't know. I'm just asking the question. But let me say this. There's a

whole lot of difference between ten million dollars for playgrounds and a hundred and forty million dollars for schools that have playgrounds built in and they're called football fields. And they cost a lot more than ten million dollars. If you don't believe it you go out there and check some of them out. And we need some schools that are schools. We don't need castles like the one on Highway 81 North. We can build schools a lot cheaper than that school was built. And it don't have to look like a castle. Believe it or not, we've got teachers in our school districts that they want pay raises, they want better benefits, they want easier working conditions, they want kids that are a little bit less hard to manage, a little bit more disciplined. But I've talked to a few, and I say few, that really care about the kids too. And they want the kids to learn what I want them to learn, to read, to write, and to make change for a dollar before they get that diploma. And most of our kids that are coming out of these schools today are not getting it. We're spending the money, but we're not getting the bang for the buck. I think it's time we backed up and looked at the whole situation. Are we getting a dollar's worth of education for a dollar's worth of our tax? I don't think so. I think the job could be done for a whole lot less. I think it could be done a whole lot better. And I think our schools are being put in the wrong areas. A community will survive or not survive depending on what is in that immediate area. You take the schools out of an area, you'll have more areas just like our mill villages. The areas will go down. And where the schools are put, they'll just keep increasing in value. We won't have anything but slums and high dollar hollers. We won't have no middle class. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700 Wood Lake Road, district one. I too want to speak about this reconsideration. I don't think that it's proper. According to Robert's Rules of Order, only someone on the prevailing side can ask for reconsideration. That's the three folks that voted no. Mr. Waldrep has no business bringing this up. It should not have been put on the agenda and should not be considered whatsoever. I read in the paper that it said that council would reconsider tonight. Actually, it should be changed to they can't reconsider tonight. And I

urge you, Mr. Chairman, to make a ruling as such.
Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Hogg Road, Williamston, district seven. You know, district five has a lot of people. Most of their people probably have Master's degrees from so many places we can't count. They're smart people. They don't just throw a dart and go, let's built here. They didn't look at that area -- and I don't live in district five, by the way. I don't have a kid in that school. But they didn't make a decision based on let's do it here for some lame brain reason like it was considered not to do the last time you guys voted. They made that decision because that is a growing area. There's a lot of people in that area. If you don't build a school in the areas that have the most population, kids who ride a bus are going to have to ride much farther. Because that's where the bulk of the kids are at. The consideration, you know, even the council members that I have deep love for, I think, have made bad decisions based on zoning. The zoning that you did down in Belton where this ethanol plant is going to go which you took off the agenda but it's there. You made the decision based on nothing. Someone said we want to do something with it, we want to use it for something. You changed the zoning from what it was to something that allowed anything to go there. I think that was a very bad decision on all your part. The school thing though, it was a zoning issue. But you guys listened to, I think it was four weeks ago, to the gentleman from your zoning department who said they were in favor of it. Your people were in favor of it. They said proceed because it meets all the qualifications for the zoning requests. Two of the people spoke very vividly of their reasons why not. Personal. Personal. Not good judgement based on decisions for the county. Not good judgments based on what district five has done and the money they've invested to do this. I rode a bus when I was in school. I drove a bus when I was in school. It is unfortunate kids have to ride buses. But if you live on the far end of where it starts to where it finishes or if you get picked up first or if you get picked up last it can take a while to get somewhere. That's not going to change based on where the schools go. Because if you don't bus them from this point to that point you're going to bus them from point A to point B

somewhere else. District five spent a lot of time and research. They did studies in the neighborhood and the neighborhood was good with it. And that's the only thing you guys can consider is zoning. Let this thing go. Let district five do what they need to do. They've studied it. They understand it. Don't make personal petty decisions. Make good thought out political for the county decisions.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under agenda matters, Mr. Chair.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chair, I would like to bring to the attention of the audience as well as the group that if you will turn to page forty-one and forty-three of last meeting's minutes, you will see where the council members referred to the flow of traffic and the efficiency of the traffic area in that new school area. On page forty-three, if you would look on page forty-three, you will see where we did talk about -- that was one of the issues I brought up, that the place was already congested in fact. But it's not so that it was not even mentioned. Also about the fact that we needed to go to the board meeting. That is correct. However, there are two things about this board meeting. It's held on the same night that we hold our meeting. It has been in the past. Number two, we have two elected officials on the school board that we thought was looking after the interest of the people that they serve. And just as I look after the interest of the people that I serve. But evidently, this wasn't being done. These people did not come back to us to tell us anything as I go back to my constituents to keep them informed of what's happened here in the county on county and throughout Anderson County. So you know, it's easy to say you should have, you shoulda, you shoulda, wounda, coulda done. But get the facts first. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

BILL MCABEE: One of the things that was brought out in this and I think it's a misunderstanding and needs to be corrected is saying that two of the council members that voted against this don't live in the district. That is true. However, every member of this council except for the councilman from district six represents part of school district five. And it

is our obligation to represent those constituents as we see fit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Moving on to item number five. Employee of the month. Mr. Derrick Singleton, Human Resource Committee Chair. Mr. Singleton, you have ten minutes. You're not Mr. Singleton.

MARIE RHODES: No. I'm not Mr. Singleton. He couldn't be here tonight. I'm Marie Rhodes with the MIS department. I'm also with the Human Resource Committee. And I am honored tonight to be here to recognize Alicia Lazure. I pronounce it differently than she does. But it's her name so I'll go with her pronunciation. She is with the MIS department. And we'd like to have her and her family come forward and Gail King, her supervisor. When you look at this little tiny package over here that, you know, we can't hardly see, but she works with our Technology Supports Department, meaning she gets to haul some of the equipment and set it up in the different offices. And the first time I met her I thought now that little bitty thing can't do all that. But yes she can. She lifts equipment with the best of them. And I am just really excited. I've been able to work with her. We've been working on an inventory system and trying to get the flow of our work orders to feed right into our inventory so that we'd be able to do a really good audit with that. She's always very flexible. She always works very well with others. And I've not met anyone in any of the other departments that doesn't know who Alicia is and isn't eager to work with her on different projects.

GAIL KING: Human Resources Committee and members of council, I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank y'all for recognizing Alicia and for the work that she does for the county. She came to work for us a few years ago as an intern. I contacted Tri County Tech asking for an intern to work a few hours each week. And Alicia was the first name that came up as being a candidate for us. And she started working and she has never slowed down since. We're proud to say that she is a full-time, part-time person on our staff. And we hope that come January 1, we had a position approved, and she will become a full-time Anderson County employee. But every department just wishes that they could have an employee like Alicia. She's never content if she doesn't have a lot of work to do. She cannot stand to be slowed down. And so I appreciate that and all of

our user departments appreciate that. She takes very good care of our employees and their computers. Thank you, Alicia.

MARIE RHODES: So it's my pleasure on behalf of the Human Resources Committee to present this plaque to Alicia for Employee of the Month for the month of August 2008.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number six, presentation, balloon pilots. Who's doing this? Here we go. Okay. Balloon pilots, you have ten minutes.

DAN STUKUS: Mr. Chairman and county council, my name is Dan Stukus. I am a local hot air balloon pilot and I also have been the balloon master for the Great Southeast BalloonFest that we recently had here in Anderson, South Carolina. With me, Robert Wilbanks, another local pilot, Debbie Porter, a local pilot and Steve Lambert, local pilot, and our favorite crew chiefs we brought with us to make this resolution this afternoon. I'm going to read this to Mr. Joey Preston and all of you. This is a resolution recognizing Anderson County administrator, Joey R. Preston, for his vision, dedication and contributions to the sport of Hot Air Ballooning and his success in making Anderson County, South Carolina the premiere ballooning community in the Southeast United States. Whereas Anderson County Administrator, Joey R. Preston, came to Anderson County as a novice with no hot air ballooning knowledge. And whereas Mr. Preston, fueled by his fascination and enthusiasm for hot air ballooning expressed great interest and support for the Greenville, South Carolina based Freedom Weekend Aloft serving as a board member there for six years. And whereas Mr. Preston, upon learning that Freedom Weekend Aloft was outgrowing its location in Greenville saw opportunity and vision to bring the sport of hot air ballooning to Anderson County. And whereas, Mr. Preston assembled a team to market Anderson County as the new home for Freedom Weekend Aloft and succeeded not only in bringing the event to Anderson County but also in helping grow it into a nationally recognized event. And whereas upon Freedom Weekend Aloft returned to South Carolina after nine successful years in Anderson County, Mr. Preston's unrelenting desire to keep a hot air ballooning event in Anderson County resulted in the birth of the Great Southeast BalloonFest. And whereas the Great Southeast BalloonFest has positively impacted all

involved. And whereas the Great Southeast BalloonFest officials, pilots and crews desire to honor Joey R. Preston for his outstanding dedication to hot air ballooning and fostering the love of the sport in Anderson County and beyond. Now therefore it is hereby resolved by the official pilots and crew of the 2008 Great Southeast BalloonFest, number one, the pilots of the Great Southeast BalloonFest hereby recognize Joey R. Preston for his vision, commitment, support and steadfast perseverance to the sport of hot air ballooning as well as to fostering the love of ballooning in the community of Anderson, South Carolina as well as the state of South Carolina. Mr. Preston, you truly exemplify the qualities of community leadership. Your vision for the tangible and intangible benefits of hosting the Great Southeastern BalloonFest not only provide a positive reward for your community but also impact the growth of the sport of hot air ballooning. Your dedication to our beloved sport and to the Anderson County community is evidenced by the success of the second annual Great Southeast BalloonFest and is recognized by our officials, pilots and crew. Thank you for allowing us to call Anderson County home during this wonderful Labor Day Weekend. Number two, the resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment. And we all signed this that we want to present to you, Mr. Preston, on the first day of September after we completed the second Great Southeast BalloonFest. Thank you so much for doing all this for us.

APPLAUSE

JOEY PRESTON: Dan, this really belongs to the committee people, the volunteers and the county employees, city employees, all those folks that help make it possible. Also, this county council that supported the BalloonFest the last couple of years and their support for Freedom Weekend. That's really who it belongs to. I'm very honored. Thank you. If you've never had an opportunity to work with a balloon pilot crew, you've missed out on something that's real special. These folks are wonderful. They're family members. They stick together. And it's a great event. I hope that the event continues on in the community in the future. Thank you, Dan. Thank you for your time.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Preston, I would like for us to recognize at some point, maybe the next meeting, I would like for us to recognize the people who worked so hard to bring this thing on. We know now, you did a lot of work. But we know you couldn't have done it without those people that almost lived at the Civic Center that week getting things done. So, I'm asking you, would you please on the agenda for the next meeting, would you please let's recognize and thank those people who worked with you on doing this for us.

JOEY PRESTON: Already being done.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. That's the second time. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number nine, proclamation proclaiming the month of September 2008 as Diversity Awareness Month. There is a proclamation in your books. The chair moves to approve on the proclamation. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms. Wilson. We are in discussion. Any discussion? No discussion. The chair calls for the vote on the proclamation. All in favor of proclaiming the month of September as Diversity Awareness Month, please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Michelle Strange. And if you want to go ahead and hit number ten, the award while you're up there, that would be fine with me.

MICHELLE STRANGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and council. I'm Michelle Strange, community relations director. My staff and I have the privilege to work with the human relations of council, about half of whom are appointed by you, the county council. The other half are appointed by municipalities to deal with diversity issues, discrimination, conflict resolution and community awareness for cultural and diversity programs. Each September, nationally, is Diversity Awareness Month. So thank you for recognizing that month. And during the month of September the Human Relations Council coordinates a program or a diversity forum. The last two years we've focused on movies that had a particularly interesting or diverse, diversity themes in them. This year the Fusion Warehouse is the host for those movies. Last night was the first movie. We had some really interesting discussion about the movie *Veronica Guerin*. The series continues tonight with the proclamation and then the local community diversity award. The series will continue tomorrow

night. Dinner starts at six and movie at six thirty, *In the Time of Butterflies*, which is a PG13 movie. It'll be shown at Fusion. And then on Thursday the movie *Selena* will be dinner at six and movie at six thirty with the dialogue immediately following the movie each night. And with that the community relations council, we have a few members here and I can ask Jessica Powell to introduce those members or they may want to introduce themselves. But they also have been working in addition to community awareness of the recognition of somebody who is doing some good things.

JESSICA POWELL: Good evening. I'm Jessica Powell and I'm the HRC coordinator. Tonight we have with us Janelle Ramsey, Janie Turman, Elise Hines and Angela Bruce. And they're all representatives from the county council districts. And tonight who is going to introduce the Cory White Diversity Award is Janelle Ramsey.

JANELLE RAMSEY: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, county council representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Janelle Ramsey on the board of the Anderson County Human Relations Council. Our mission is to build bridges and lower barriers among all the diverse groups in Anderson County. A little background on the award we're presenting tonight. When the HRC wanted a new logo, we sponsored a contest in the local high schools. The winner was a talented tenth grader, Cory Scott White. He worked with us to create a logo that best illustrated our mission. When he passed away in a tragic accident, we spoke with his teachers and learned more about what an outstanding young man he was. He was a caring young man and inclusive of all his fellow students no matter what their race or economic status. Cory White was an example of what every citizen in Anderson County should strive to be. The Human Relations Council honored him posthumously with the Cory White Diversity Award. We look each year for candidates like Cory White who builds bridges to all races, religions, ages, ability groups and social statuses. Mr. Scott White, Cory's father, will introduce the 2008 recipient.

SCOTT WHITE: I just want to start out by saying thank you council for having us. As she said my name is Scott White, my wife, Patti, my daughter, Beth. This year's award is done a little different. They usually go through the school system and have contests and essays. This year we decided to go with the law enforcement aspect of the community. And this year's

recipient of this award is someone that I know personally. I've had a chance to work with him in the past. I know what he contributes to our community. He's the type of person that he's constantly encouraging our community to work together, to come together regardless of their differences, and he shows everyone respect. I've seen him do this firsthand. It's an honor and a privilege to announce him as the winner. On behalf of me and my family, I'm very proud that he represents our community and I'm very proud that he is part of our local Police Department of Sheriff's Department. At this time I'd like to call up Deputy Josh Payne.

APPLAUSE

SCOTT WHITE: Josh, I'd just like to say one other thing. I appreciate all that you do. And I know Cory is looking down on you and I know he's proud of you. And I appreciate it.

APPLAUSE

JOSH PAYNE: Thank you very much.

GRACIE FLOYD: Is that it? I need to speak again. Do I have the floor?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Ms. Floyd. Go ahead.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Thompson, you aren't laughing at me, are you?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't think you were. Folks, I've got to say something. Tonight is just going to have to be my night, okay? But I have to tell you this. That young man is my baby. All right. That young man was at Honea Path Middle School when I was the Assistant Principal there. I watched him grow into the man he is now. I don't know the man. I know the boy. But this young man is from a rock solid family, the thing that it takes to build men like that. His grandfather is the infamous icon of the community, Archie Morgan. That's Mr. and Mrs. Morgan in the back over there. His sister is Hannah. She was one of my babies too. His mother, where's your mom? Did I not see her? Oh. Is she well? Thank you. Well, his mother was a driving force in the community as well as in the school district. People, in order to grow men like that you've got to have the kind of people behind him. But y'all just had to know that's my baby. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number eleven, spraying of pesticides. Mr. Richard Ellison. Mr. Ellison, you

have ten minutes.

RICHARD ELLISON: Thank you, county council. I'm Richard Ellison. I'm from Belton. I have a neurological problem so I have trouble remembering things. So bear with me please. What I'd like to speak to you about tonight is pesticide spraying for mosquitos. I was shocked to find out that the county sprays in the evenings like they did when I was a young man. I remember playing in the fog from the pesticide trucks when we were younger and only to find out later when the EPA was established that the spray was dangerous. I, like a lot of people in the council here, have had family members pass away with cancer and a number of other immune diseases. They have linked pesticide poisoning and cancer with ADD and ADHD with our children in school. Asthma is rampant among young people now. And they're having to medicate children as young as two years old for neurological problems and what have you. The pesticide industry which is the second only to the food industry have good sales people because that's their business. And they also were owned by the pharmaceutical companies which makes it even more profitable for them to continue spraying and people to continue getting sick. I would like the county council to do some more studies or have someone study more on the effects of pesticide spraying. My family and myself have all been affected. And there's hundreds of thousands of people that are affected every year because of people not knowing what really is out there. I've asked people several times about the chemicals that's being sprayed. And I get the same answer. Oh, it's made by the Bayer company. It's safe. And then if you do research on the chemicals that's actually in sprays, you find out that it is harmful. I just would like county council to appoint someone or to look into this matter. And there hasn't been anybody diagnosed with West Nile virus in the Anderson area. And I just don't see a reason why we need the pesticide spray. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: May I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

CINDY WILSON: May I ask Mr. Hopkins a question. I think he's the one who would be in charge of our spraying.

JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am. He would not be.

Greg Smith is.

CINDY WILSON: All right. Mr. Smith. We know we have to do some type of spraying. But I wonder if we could get some kind of a little brief report on the products that we use and the agents that are in those products and see if there's any substitute that would have less effect on neurological situations for people and animals if that's possible. I've heard from Mr. Ellison and a few other people expressing concern about these issues, so ... I know some of the sprays are a necessary evil, but I wonder if there's some way we could deal with that and maybe alleviate their concerns and so forth. Thank you.

GREG SMITH: Good evening, Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you want a comment from Mr. Smith?

CINDY WILSON: I don't know if he knows precisely what we spray with and when and if there are any things that could be substituted.

GREG SMITH: Yes, ma'am. It's called Aqua-Reslin. It's supposed to be safe to humans. I've got a data sheet. I can make copies for council. We are very careful in the areas that we do spray in. If we hear any kind of complaints, of course, we don't spray in those areas. We have thirty-four what we call no-spray zones in Anderson County either due to someone having a respiratory problem or honey bees. A lot of people don't want spraying around that. The product itself can do harm to honey bees. That also is working for mosquitos, biting flies and things of that nature.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: What would Mr. Ellison need to do to make his residence a no-spray zone?

GREG SMITH: Just contact our office. I'd be glad to meet with him and give him the contact to come meet with us.

RICHARD ELLISON: We have already done that. And they go within a quarter of a mile. The problem is the ...

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

RICHARD ELLISON: ... you've probably seen her, some of the people in the room has probably seen her around town. She has to wear a mask wherever she goes because she's so chemically sensitive now. It affects her differently than it affects me. It affects me neurologically. It affects her respiratory. She stays on a respiratory machine when she's at home. And we can without a doubt pinpoint from the time they start spraying until the time they start is when she's locked

in the home because of her respiratory problems. And if you look, this is the electric city, and you don't find any lightening bugs anymore. It's killing off the lightening bugs. It's killing off the frogs, the bees. And they keep throwing their hands up saying we don't understand what's happening to the honey bees. It's the spray. And if we kill off all the honey bees that pollinate all the food, we're not going to be able to survive. And anything that kills insects like that is eventually going to do harm to us neurologically. They've proven that it affects pregnant women and unborn children and infants. All chemicals that kill is going to affect different people. And it does affect your nervous system.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: But you have a data sheet saying that it does not supposedly harm humans.

GREG SMITH: It's told us and by the data sheet, the only harmful things, you don't want to spray directly into a water system or anything like that for fish and say for that nature. Usually for that there's a droplet thing. And if there's a request by a resident we go by and give them that and drop it in. It doesn't harm water or nothing like that. But it does kill the larva from the mosquitos. Like I said on honey bees and things of that nature, usually honey bees go back into their hives in the evening. We spray after dark, spray during the night, go out maybe twelve or one o'clock in the morning sometimes. But we try to be careful of areas like Mr. Ellison is saying. If we know somebody that there's an issue out there, we will not spray in that zone. But we do also, this is the first call I've kind of gotten on this today. But in the areas that we work in and all there's just as many people hollering we want you to spray, we've got too many mosquitos. We get usually during June and all the way through the end of October is usually about the time we're spraying. The number of calls we get a day, they get tremendous. And usually when there's an article in the paper, West Nile hit Oconee County or something like that, it rings off the hook. Actually our receptionist, that's all she does all day. And people are requesting to spray that area.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Mr. Smith, the -- whoever authored the thing that says it's not harmful to humans, who did that? Who issued that statement?

GREG SMITH: Basically through this and through the readings, it doesn't say. It says environmental hazards and things, it has no effect. It doesn't say anything about affecting humans in any way. It does say that be careful around -- about the bees. It says about -- and we can do more research on it. But it also talks about the lakes and the rivers that you don't want to be close to that. And we don't spray in those areas either.

RON WILSON: But I mean who put out the sheet you've got there?

GREG SMITH: It is the company that Mr. Ellison -- it is Bayer.

RON WILSON: Okay. So it's the producer of it?

GREG SMITH: Yes.

RON WILSON: They would likely say that.

GREG SMITH: Usually anytime you get a company, you get MSDS sheets. And that's what we're going by.

RON WILSON: As far as the bee problem, I mean the bee hives are collapsing in places where they don't spray and never have sprayed. So it's a much bigger problem than pesticides. But I certainly tend to err on your side, sir, in that I think we need a lot more looking into this type of thing. And I'd like to even see it broadened far beyond pesticides, other things we're doing in the county, herbicides, fertilizers, all kinds of things. So I think that we should be looking at this and looking at things that's much more environmentally friendly. And I would think that we ought to have a committee or something look into this stuff and report back, not taking what Bayer says. I mean taking that into consideration. But I think I would expect them to say what you just read.

GREG SMITH: Yes, sir.

RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GREG SMITH: We actually changed from a chemical that was Malathion which had an awful smell to it. And we were trying to use something safer and kind of researched it out through staff. But we can put something together and more research.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Smith, Mr. Ellison. Time has expired. Moving on to 12A.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Yes. At this time I wish to move to amend the agenda. I would -- this is really

more of a housekeeping matter to add an item, 14C, which would be a first reading on an ordinance. We'll have to get a number from the clerk. An ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a second amended lease agreement between Anderson County and Robert Bosch, LLC and adding Associated Fuel Pumps Systems Corporation as a sponsor and other matters related thereto. I think you received the ordinance since the agenda packet came out. And I move to amend the agenda to include that ordinance as item 14C.

GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Do we have a number, Ms. Eddleman? 51? Okay. We have a motion to amend the agenda and a second by Ms. Floyd. Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote on amending the agenda to make 14C ordinance 2008-051. All in favor of amending the agenda, please vote. It's unanimous. The agenda is amended. Now we're at 12A, 2008-040, an ordinance authorizing the leasing of space at the Anderson Regional Airport and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any discussion? Hearing no one, the chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-040, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-041, an ordinance to amend chapter thirty-eight of Anderson County Code of Ordinances which relates to land use and development standards and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I wanted to just be sure about what this means to the use and standards and other matters. What kind of changes in the uses and development standards are we discussing? Does anyone know?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr ...

JOEY PRESTON: Ricketson.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ricketson.

JEFF RICKETSON: This is a correction that was made or that is being proposed for the flood plane ordinance that you all amended a couple of years ago in, I think it was September of '06. It was an oversight. We caught it when we were reviewing our ordinance with DNR. They pointed out that there's a provision in there that says no development shall increase the base flood

level by more than two feet. It really should be that it shouldn't increase the base flood level at all. So it was an oversight and it just needs to be corrected. So our ordinance will be in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Okay. Where am I? 12B. Okay. The chair calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-041. All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-042, an ordinance amending section 2-492 of Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to the Economic Advisory Board and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of ordinance 2008-042. Please vote. Mr. Wilson. Yea. Okay. Unanimous. Okay. Very good. So, we're down to 13A which calls for public hearings. So at this time we'll take a fifteen minute break.

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance 2008-045, an ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of airport revenue bonds of Anderson County, South Carolina describing the former bonds, limiting the payment of the bonds solely to the revenues derived from the operation of the airport and pledging the revenues to such payment and other matters related thereto. There is a public hearing on this. Instructions for public hearing. Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing for reasonable period of time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue under consideration. The chairman exercises control of the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing process by engaging in unreasonable or lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With that being said the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please state your name and address before speaking. The public hearing is now open.

ANDREW PIERCE: My name is Andrew Pierce. I am a pilot at the Anderson Regional Airport. I have attended several of the Airport Advisory meetings.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Your address. I need your address. Your address.

ANDREW PIERCE: My address is Oconee County.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go ahead.

ANDREW PIERCE: I have attended several of these meetings in connection with the airport's desire to build additional hangars. I have studied the consultant's reports, twenty-eight page report that I understand each member of the county commission has received a copy of. I have written a letter to Mr. John Ferguson indicating my comments and my feeling that this is too risky of an adventure. Two point two five million dollars to be paid only out of the revenues of the airport. The airport for the last ten years, of course, has not had any profit. In fact, they have had deficits for the last ten years. Recently, John Ferguson has cut down that deficit from one hundred to two hundred thousand dollars to thousands of dollars. And for that he is greatly to be commended. However, my comments really are essentially to the report of the consultants, the aviation consultants who have indicated that construction of hangars can proceed. They have said it is feasible. Now there's one big problem with this feasibility report. We have within that twenty-eight page report several columns, several pages devoted to infrastructure improvements necessary to produce these hangars. These infrastructure improvements are in the nature of five hundred thousand, four hundred thousand dollars for each of the series of hangars. And yet, infrastructure has been excluded when we come to decide whether this project is feasible. If we had included the infrastructure cost together with the cost of the building, we would find that the payback necessary for the rental of these hangars would be so excessive it would place these hangars out of the reach of most pilots. Pilots do not want to pay anymore than they have necessary, just like everyone else. The present rate for a hangar at Anderson County is two hundred and seventy-five dollars. My calculations indicate that if they build the T-hangars they want to build and include the infrastructure cost together with that, they will have to pay approximately four hundred thousand dollars for rental fee. There would have to be a rental fee of four hundred thousand dollars just to pay back the loan. Since the airport has not ever in the last ten years had a profit, I don't see how they can expect to pay back the loan. If they can't pay back the loan, what happens? Is Anderson County taxpayers going to make up the difference? I don't think anybody wants that to happen. And I think the risk is too great to allow this to go forward. It has been approved in the last meeting of the county council on a vote of five

to one with Ms. Wilson abstaining. Tonight on the second reading I urge the county council to kill this bill or this ordinance. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm Cindy Wilson, a resident of Steeple Chase in district seven. At the last council meeting I requested some more information about the caption for this bond which said general bond. And I asked if this would be strictly paid through the revenues of the Airport Enterprise Fund. An enterprise fund is basically a business fund where the revenues pay for the cost of maintaining or operating that business. The Anderson Airport has made great strides in the past few years. The gentleman who just spoke acknowledged that. And I have seen improvements. However, there have been no surpluses of money out there. We haven't even broken even. When I requested whether the revenues would be used strictly to pay this bond, I only got really a half truth. What's really scary here is that buried in the language of this bond on page twenty-three, and it's part of section 6-8, it's the Operation and Maintenance Fund. Now we know we've already been in the red in the Airport Enterprise Fund. So there's not sufficient money to pay probably around, oh I think, sixteen, eighteen thousand a month payments on these hangars. And there's no clear indication that there will be enough people to rent these hangars. I know there's a backup, but perhaps maybe one T-hangar would be sufficient. I want you to open your books to page twenty-three and look at section 6-8. It says, provision shall be made for the transfers required to be made into the operation and maintenance fund. There shall be transferred from the revenue fund by the county into the operation and maintenance fund, a sum which, when combined with other available sources, is sufficient to provide for the expenses of operating and maintaining the airport for the ensuing month in accordance with the annual budget. Withdrawals from the operation and maintenance fund shall be made as required by the county from time to time in accordance as nearly as may be practicable with the annual budget. Now this next sentence is the one you better pay attention to. Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the county from appropriating and using any part of its available income or revenues derived from any source other than from the airport and paying any immediate expenses of operating and maintaining the airport. Ladies and gentleman, does this mean that we already know we will have insufficient funds to operate the

airport and pay the debt service? I think if you look at the CAFR from the past several years and you look at our budget, I believe that will be the case. And it would be very, very unwise and very foolish of us with what has taken place in the markets yesterday and today in this United States and across the globe to do anything that puts the airport into jeopardy. And I warrant to you that we've already passed a five hundred thousand dollar special source revenue bond that should be more than sufficient to take care of the T-hangar and other improvements that are necessary and should take care of the problem. Because to add another two point two five million dollars will certainly overburden this enterprise fund and ultimately cost the people of this county. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance?

?: I'll speak. And I want you to know before I get started, I know exactly nothing about an airport or a revenue bond.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name and address.

?: Hickory Lane, district three, Anderson.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name.

?: Like I said, I know nothing about an airport. I know nothing about a revenue bond. But a little common sense tells me this, if we don't build, if we don't rebuild, if we don't invest then we don't expand. We need to do one or two things just like a mom and pop grocery store on the corner. You've either got to make it pay or you've got to close it down. If we can't spend the money to make it profitable, then do away with it. It's as simple as that. Common sense.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-045. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We're in discussion.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I want to hear from the airport people about what was given -- about the information that was given to us a few minutes ago either from district seven or from the gentleman who spoke. I would like to have these issues discussed,

refuted or agreed with or something. But I would like to hear that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'm going to ask Holt Hopkins and John Ferguson to come forward. I think a lot of the issues or concerns the gentleman brought forth from Oconee County, he brought to the Airport Advisory committee, I believe, and was discussed last night. As to the legal language in the ordinance, I'm going to have to ask Mr. Martin to respond to that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Ferguson.

HOLT HOPKINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, one of the biggest issues the first speaker had is the not combining the infrastructure cost which is the grading, asphalt, the gravel, waterlines, power lines, any of that to get these pads ready, basically ready to build a building. Our instructions through LPA group which is with a one to five year contract for the airport's engineering design. They had to put something in there because -- in this report to show if we put this out to bid, how much it would cost. I think they used the highest number they could find on the grading and infrastructure costs. But to make this plan work and to keep the rental rates of the units we're trying to build as close as we could to what the market is bearing right now, which our projected rental rate on these is going to be higher than what we're currently charging. But we still feel like the market will bear and we will have these filled within the first six months to a year, completely filled one hundred percent. Because it's that many people out looking for hangars. But to make this plan work, and we mentioned this to you last time, or it's in here that we are hoping to do just the bear basics using county equipment to get the site ready. It's not like out at the airport that we can go across the road and find the perfect piece of property to build a building on. It's got to be in close proximity of those taxiways. To make that work, grading has to be done. Because if you've been out there you see all around it, it's rolling hills. We've got to fill those hills in. We've got to build some access roads to be able to get the people through the building. And then we've got to pave to get out of the building onto the runway. We're in contact with the state aeronautics folks. They're working with us on developing grant money to help pay for taxiways. They can't pay for the buildings, but they can help us pay for some of those

infrastructure costs. They can't pay for it all in one year. What we're hoping to do is use our road equipment to come in and do just the bare minimum, get the pad ready, get a gravel road up to the building. But we will have to pave out the back door so they can go on to the taxiway. We're not wanting to build everything that we need to build all at once. We're hoping to do it a little bit at a time. A year from now we'll come back and pave that gravel road coming up to it. We'll finish some of the grading to get other pads ready for future use. We've got to relocate some drainage facilities, storm drain ponds, retention ponds. There's a lot of work so we can maximize the real estate around that airport. But if we burden it and if you'll look at Oconee, and John can probably tell you more if you're interested, Oconee Airport, they're struggling to find a place to put a building even if they wanted to build one right now because they've got holes too. But their holes are a lot deeper and bigger than ours. That's to address that. John, I don't mean to steal your thunder, but I've been kind of pushing you on some of this. As far as the risk to the county, yes, there's a risk. If nobody fills -- if nobody goes in these hangars, we've got to take every available resource we've got at the airport to pay the debt back, just like any other business. But this report shows an analysis where they've checked other airports. They did some very conservative ciphering to see how many planes could possibly, what they think would be willing to come to Anderson and pay the price that we're suggesting. They projected more than what -- more would be willing to come than what units we're planning on building. That gave us a comfort level. In all this plan though, we have not -- and we have intentionally not put fuel sales, other maintenance sales, any other piece of our revenue in this. But we will get additional fuel sales out of having more planes there. We'll get higher on the priority list for the federal funds because we'll have more planes here. Those planes will be paying more county taxes to our schools and to the county government than the airport doesn't even get credit for. But yet they'll be paying more. Now, contrast a revenue bond like we're asking you to consider tonight versus a general obligation bond. The last three hangars that have been built have been built by general obligation bonds. There's no doubt the taxpayers are paying for those. They're having to pay for those buildings. We're asking for a chance to prove that we can pay our

own way by asking you for a revenue bond and let us prove to you that we can pay the money back. Or we still need to build or we do nothing. If we build using a general obligation bond, we don't even have a chance to show that it's paying its way because it will be put on the tax rolls. John, I'll let you echo.

JOHN FERGUSON: Over the past four or five years we have remained between seventy-five and seventy-eight airplanes based at the airport. The reason we have not been able to grow is because we have no place to put them. Nobody wants their very nice airplane with a very nice paint job to sit out on the ramp in the sun exposed to the weather, exposed to hail damage. They want hangar space. We are miles ahead of our surrounding airports in developing this plan to build hangars. Oconee is not building any hangars. Pickens County is only thinking about building hangars. It could be several years before they are ready to build. Donaldson Center. The Greenville Downtown Airport which has over two hundred and fifty based airplanes. They have no plans to build hangars. There's no place for those people that are identified in this report and the conservative number of forty-nine is desperate for hangar space. And we're building space for forty-one people. So we're not even meeting the demand that's out there. There are a hundred and eighty-five people on waiting lists all around. And this plan did a great job of analyzing how many of those hundred and eighty-five truly need a hangar space because many pilots will put their name, they're so desperate for hangar space they put their name on waiting lists at several airports. So that's why we feel that even though there's a hundred and eighty-five people on a waiting list that anywhere from forty-nine to fifty or fifty-five are truly desperate for hangar space. And we're not even going to meet that demand. We feel like this phase one is what we can comfortably fill. They'll be filled by the time we're finished or very soon thereafter. And if that's the case and we're making the rent payments, we may come back for phase two if there's the demand for it. That's what's driving this is the pent up demand for hangar space.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, the legal question that was asked.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of council. First, let me qualify everything I'm saying by noting I'm not a bond lawyer. I didn't draft these documents. They were drafted by Mike Burns

and Dan McLeod. And ultimately I would defer to them. But I think that I can at least address some of the issues. There are actually two ordinances before you tonight. The first one, the one that you're looking at right now is the general bond ordinance that authorizes bonds for the airport, revenue bonds for the airport, generally. That is the one, I believe, from which Ms. Wilson was reading the excerpt on page twenty-three. The excerpt is section 6.8, Operation and Maintenance Fund. But that is for the operation of the airport generally. Then you narrow the focus down to the second ordinance which you'll be looking at next, ordinance 046. That is specific to this project. And so the general bond ordinance doesn't issue bonds. It authorizes the issuance of bonds by other ordinances. The other ordinance 2008-046 authorizes the issuance of two point two five million dollars in revenue bonds. And again, let me distinguish here between the source of the bond and the use of the bond. The source of the bond has to be either revenue funds or general obligation funds. General obligation is a pledge of the full faith in credit of the county meaning raised taxes or simply take it from taxes whether they have to be raised or simply come from some other existing taxes. But it's a pledge to raise whatever taxes may be required. A revenue bond by definition and by the specific words of the ordinance can only come from designated revenue. In this case it is the airport revenue or at least it is when we get to the second ordinance. Then you get to the use of the bonds. The first ordinance talks about using the bonds generally for the airport. Then you get to the second ordinance, second in line, 046, which is the first supplemental ordinance, it is specific to the 2008 project. And on the first page of the ordinance, it defines what the 2008 project is.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You're looking at 13B?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. I'm actually going ahead to 13B. But on the first page of it, it defines a 2008 project as any one or more of the following. A is three T-hangars, B is two corporate hangars and C is one shade hangar. So that's a total of six hangars as the only authorized use of the funds in the first supplemental ordinance which is the actual ordinance levying funds or raising funds. So, you have to read both of the ordinances together. The first one is the general authority to issue bonds. The second is specific to this 2008 project. I may have confused

everybody on that. But I'll answer any specific questions that you have.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, did he answer -- were your questions answered?

GRACIE FLOYD: Partly. But I want to make sure that it's clear. Mr. Hopkins, when I came out there, and I hope I'm not the only council person who has been out there. But when I came out there to talk with you further to do my own research, you took me around and you showed me the places where these hangars were going to be built. You told me at that time, which is what you said just now, that the county would be able to do a lot of the work thereby saving us funds. Isn't that what you just said? Okay. You also showed me places where the county was preparing to do this by recycling other materials that's been going in to the dump and stuff we can use to built that up. Is that -- that is correct?

HOLT HOPKINS: There's one spot that we're filling up as we can.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. So, as it was said that the money for the infrastructure was not appropriated. And that's because we're going to do most of the work ourselves in order to get this thing done. That's correct. Okay. Secondly, Mr. -- Tom ...

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Martin.

GRACIE FLOYD: I knew that. Mr. Martin, am I to understand that what we were told by the council member from district seven is the same old, same old, you know, information to get you all excited over nothing? And that everything that we need to know about these funds, about the money that we're going to do the bond, has already been -- that it's not a thing that's going to scare us from doing this. That it's all above board, it's on the level and what we're doing can be done, and maybe in the past has been done. Am I correct?

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, may I note that time has expired.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair moves to extend discussion by five minutes. Is there a second.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Mr. Martin, please continue.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Floyd, please allow me not to characterize any comment. I'll simply note that airport facility revenue bonds as

these are, are commonly used throughout the United States and throughout the state of South Carolina. They are authorized by the constitution and the laws of the state. And these are drafted specifically to comply with the laws of the state, the constitution and to specifically address the 2008 project that has been presented, that is the six hangars. And so to my knowledge and belief and it will be stated in an opinion of bond counsel issued with these bonds, these are legally authorized legal and valid bonds. I would also note that these are going to be purchased on the market. I don't know that we have ever seen a credit market as tight as the credit market in the United States is going to be currently. And so there's going to be a second level of guarantee on these bonds and that is are they going to be purchased? If they're purchased by Wall Street, given the events of the past couple of days, that is an indication that Wall Street views them as valid. But they will have a bond counsel opinion attached to them saying they comply with all aspects of not just state law but the state constitution as well.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Well, fellow council members, I employ you to please think about the information that we have received from our people that we pay to do these kinds of things for us to help us make these kinds of decisions. And then look at what's best for this county. Please. Look at what we have to do to make this county grow. It's no secret that Anderson County is notorious for losing out on the good stuff. Let's not let this be one of the things we lose out on. I want this to come to Anderson County. I was out there. I've seen the need to have these planes covered. I'm urging you to please, let's support our airport. Let's help it to grow. And with that I relinquish the floor.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Martin, one of you three who probably can answer this question, I'll ask you to assert yourself. ...

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

BOB WALDREP: ... to feel some degree of comfort of the numbers and the figures. For example, you've said that there's a rental for a plane at this time is what around two hundred and forty? Correct? Around two hundred and forty dollars. Is that a month?

JOHN FERGUSON: Two hundred and seventy-five a month.

BOB WALDREP: Two hundred and seventy-five a month. Is that just a regular small plane?

JOHN FERGUSON: That's based on the hangar space itself. Any size airplane that would fit in the hangar, just the hangar space is two seventy-five, whether it's a small plane or a twin engine it's two seventy-five a month.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess I'm just trying to understand how the studies have gone. I guess you've indicated that you've done some kind of study from other places and that people are clamoring for these spaces. What kind of cash flow analysis, though, do you have that rental is going to be able to be sufficient to fund this bond without going back and going -- as I understand it from Mr. Martin, if it doesn't go well or if the planes crash, so to speak, then we've got a problem.

HOLT HOPKINS: We've looked -- I think to answer your question, on the T-hangar units, it's going to take three hundred dollars a month per unit to pay back the bond. It is our intention to charge three fifty a month for a profit and to help the cash flow in case there is a vacancy, those kinds of things. Not sure if I'm answering your question, but we will ---

BOB WALDREP: You're going to do this in stages now. Is that what I understand?

HOLT HOPKINS: What you're voting on tonight is a phase one. In the budget back in May we asked in the budget for authorization to come back to you and ask for up to five point two million. But when we started studying in detail, looking at the numbers, seeing how much the rent would cover and that kind of thing, that's why we're back down now to two point two five worth of building because we think that's the most we should build in the next year until we see the demand climb further. What we're building right now we feel like we can fill up within the first six months after they're open. I mean a hundred percent occupancy is our feeling.

BOB WALDREP: Now we have the ten million dollar bond that got passed. And out of that ten million dollar general obligation bond there was about a half a million dollars, was there not, that went to the airport?

HOLT HOPKINS: Yes. That's, that's ---

BOB WALDREP: And as I understood it that was presented to us as for the purpose of building a hangar?

HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir. It is. It's incorporated in the plans here, building that hangar plus everything else in there.

BOB WALDREP: So what was your rationale in getting a half a million dollars here and then having another two and a half million dollar bond plan? Why did you bifurcate that and not use one unit as you're making your financial presentation. Was there any kind of rationale that was used to ---

HOLT HOPKINS: We knew that without a doubt we needed one hangar. And that first five hundred is also helping, you know, to get ready for the rest of the hangars as far as some of the plan and that kind of thing. But we had no doubt, one, now that we have the plan worked out and we've looked at the numbers, the plan calls for more to meet some of the demand. It still doesn't -- I mean we thought we could build more and the demand would be there. But after looking at the numbers we couldn't.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess I was in favor of building another hangar because I thought that, you know, it was obvious that there was a demand. But I guess I'm a little bit overwhelmed by the numbers now of coming back with another couple of millions dollars, that you feel like you've got to do more. Are you asking us to just authorize that in the future and as we, as we develop this airport concept out there and as these hangars fill up then we kind of move onto the next step, or are you just wanting to build them all pretty much in one program?

HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Martin may have to help me here on this. It's my understanding, if you authorize two point two five million, we borrow two point two five million, we need to go ahead and build what we have planned in phase one which is a shade hangar, a T-hangar, additions.

JOEY PRESTON: Phase one is the two point seven million.

Holt Hopkins: Well, it's really two point seven million.

JOEY PRESTON: Back off the five hundred thousand of the GO bond issue. Then it's back to two point two.

Holt Hopkins: That's correct.

JOEY PRESTON: But to answer your question, Mr. Waldrep, what they did is they would be here tonight asking you for two point seven million if you all hadn't gone ahead and authorized that five hundred thousand GO

bond issue to come back and have said that now we believe that we can repay another two point two million dollars worth of bonds through leasing those by doing the revenue bonds which is about half of what the overall plan was which is over five million. So what they're proposing actually is ---

HOLT HOPKINS: We would have been asking for two point seven ---

JOEY PRESTON: That's correct.

HOLT HOPKINS: --- based on this plan, but we don't need the extra five hundred because you've already given it.

JOEY PRESTON: At the time they did the five hundred thousand GO bond issue, I don't believe the feasibility study had been completely complete. They completed it and they came back and they recommended over five million dollars worth of improvements. But they've looked at the revenue sources and backed back down to two point two million which is what they feel like they can pay back.

BOB WALDREP: So you're assuring us that this will pay for itself? Is that what you're saying?

HOLT HOPKINS: John Ferguson and I feel like our jobs are on the line if we don't. I mean ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: They are.

BOB WALDREP: Do you want to put that in the ordinance?

HOLT HOPKINS: If you need to ---

JOEY PRESTON: This is the best you can do right here is this feasibility study. And understand they use conservative estimates.

HOLT HOPKINS: Which is ---

JOEY PRESTON: Working with Gina Humphries, you cash flowed it out and when the payments come due you should have enough tenant space at least out there to where you can make the payments. Right?

HOLT HOPKINS: Correct.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. You done, Mr. Waldrep? Time has expired. Does anyone wish to extend time?

CINDY WILSON: May I make a motion to extend two minutes, please?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: How many?

CINDY WILSON: Two.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer says five.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. That's fine. Five minutes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five minutes. Is there a second? Mr. Greer seconds. All in favor of extending the discussion five minutes, please vote. Six. How do you vote. One no vote. Six to one. So we'll extend by five minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

CINDY WILSON: The fact remains that the airport in its current state is in the red. We've already voted to give five hundred thousand and I believe that we are reasonably assured that five hundred thousand dollars will fulfill the need. In your study it even states, although a review of the region's capabilities reveal that there were no facilities currently available, this in itself does not necessarily constitute an identification of demand. Some of the numbers scattered throughout are troubling because of the current state of our economy. I think that we need to go with our five hundred thousand dollars, build the most and the best that we can with that, and I think that we need to sit on this for a while. Do you have any idea how many jobs across this country have been lost in the last couple of days and will be lost in the near future. I know I'm involved in one business that's kind of a monthly boarding type situation and we're seeing people who can't afford it anymore. You're going to see the same thing with the pilots and the planes. You're going to see a lot of planes on the market. We've only begun to see the extent of this current state of economic affairs in this country. Why would we want to jump into this whole hog right now? Why don't we go with the five hundred thousand and do the best we can with it and try to get that airport fund into the black. It clearly states in this bond that we'll be transferring money in to cover this. Where will that money come from? It will come from ad valorem taxes. We're already transferring money in to run the airport. And I'm not fussing at you gentlemen because you've made a big improvement out there. I'm just saying that the cold hard truth and the reality of the situation is that we would be very, very stupid to go with anymore loans beyond the five hundred thousand right now. I think that we need to wait until after that five hundred thousand dollars is spent and it's already rented out and we know that. I'll be the first one to vote for another five hundred thousand or a million if we've got that filled and the airport's in the black. It's in the red. We're transferring money every year to run that

operation. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I want to approach this from a little different perspective. And I'm going to ask them questions as we discuss. Did you arrive at a number of planes that this potentially would increase the number of planes housed at the airport?

JOHN FERGUSON: It's in the report that they identified forty-nine airplanes that were, they felt comfortable was desperate for hangar space. We looked at -- a T-hangar houses anywhere from ten to fourteen, maybe sixteen airplanes. So a T-hangar unit may house ten planes. And for five hundred thousand dollars we could probably do one T-hangar. So out of those forty-nine we'd only take ten out. The report shows that there is a solid forty-nine pilots that are desperate for hangar space. I believe we are building space for forty-one.

LARRY GREER: So you're saying that there is -- there are forty-nine planes available to fill those forty-one slots?

HOLT HOPKINS: Just to clarify, having to get an extra number, we currently have thirteen planes in a community hangar. They'll be moving into some of those spaces opening that space up for jets. We want to start marketing jets but we can't get them because we have nowhere to move them into. So to answer your total how many new planes will come? We're projecting at least forty-one minus thirteen, twenty-eight planes addition.

LARRY GREER: Okay. So additional planes. All right. Answer this question for me if you can and I think I'm thinking right on this. If a plane is based or housed at a hangar at the Anderson Airport, then the property taxes on that plane are paid in this county. Is that correct?

JOHN FERGUSON: That's close. On a privately owned airplane, just an individual owned airplane is taxed on where the owner lives not where the plane is sitting. A corporate airplane and this is very ambiguous in the state law, but supposedly a corporate airplane is based -- a business owned airplane is taxed on where it sits, where the plane sits. So if we have two or three jets based at our airport, they will be taxed in Anderson County. For example, Mr. Pierce here, he lives in Oconee County, he pays taxes on his airplane

in Oconee County even though it's at the Anderson Airport.

LARRY GREER: Okay. All right. Following up on my line of thought then, it would potentially increase the property taxes derived from the planes housed at the airport, maybe not as much as I had anticipated, but it would increase it. The other thing that you mentioned that we have not explored is the increased maintenance charges and the increased fuel charges. A plane has got to have fuel to take off from the airport. So we're going to increase the revenue from that standpoint as well. Is that correct? Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: I have one other question. Okay?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. This question goes to Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins, I know for a while back there, I think before Mr. Ferguson came on, we really did have a problem with our airport being in the red and all that. But since that time we have worked -- how can I phrase it? Since that time we have worked, we have worked hard to increase the revenue base out there. Okay. Now there is such a thing as being in the red and being in the red. All right. Where exactly are we?

HOLT HOPKINS: I've been involved with the airport about as much time as John has, for about six years now, right? Seven. But this goes way beyond before we were involved. But since the airport was made an enterprise fund when Mr. Preston came here, it has not used a single tax dollar except for the bond issues when something was built out there. Yes. But operations, no money has been transferred into the airport from the general fund. We've had bad months. We've had bad years. We have been in the red just a little, a few thousand dollars. But we've also had land sales that was put in -- that money was put into the savings account for the airport and those bad years were subsidized out of the land sales. No tax dollars, and Mr. Preston, you may have to confirm that, before we were involved. But there's been no tax money coming from the general fund to keep it going.

GRACIE FLOYD: It's not like, it's not like we're in the red and we can't do this. We are making it on -- the airport is making it on its own at this time. Am I correct?

HOLT HOPKINS: Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: And if we go ahead with this new thing that we want to do, we stand even to make even more revenue that will pay for what we're doing here in Anderson. Am I correct?

HOLT HOPKINS: That's the whole purpose we're wanting to do this is to generate more revenue to where we can provide a better airport for the future of Anderson County. We're deferring some things such as that secondary runway. FAA won't help us pay to refurbish that. Somehow or another in the next ten or fifteen years or less we're going to have re-pave it for several million dollars or shut it down. We're hoping to figure out a way to get enough people renting and paying so we can start building our savings account up so we can pay for those kind of expenditures.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Folks will have you believe that everything is just so bad. Everything is so bleak. But council members, at the last meeting I encouraged you to go to the airport, look at these records for yourself, open them up. But at this council meeting, I'm going to challenge you to do it. I challenge each and every one of you. Go to the airport. Pin down Mr. whatshisname. What's your name? Ferguson. Pin down Mr. Ferguson and ask the questions. Find out for yourselves. Don't be told. Don't be mislead. Okay. And my name is forgetful Gracie. I forget names but I don't forget the good stuff. I'm challenging you, go to the airport. Look for yourself. Make your own decision here. Don't lean on somebody else's information. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Time has expired on this issue. Do we need to extend?

GRACIE FLOYD: No.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. The chair calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-045. All in favor please vote. Six. Opposed. Five, I'm sorry, can't add. Five, two. The ordinance pass. Ordinance 2008-046, first supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of an Anderson County, South Carolina airport revenue bond series 2008 in the principal amount of not exceeding two point two five million dollars. There is a public hearing for this ordinance. Same instructions apply. Come forward, give your name, address and speak only on this bond. With that being said this public hearing is open.

ANDREW PIERCE: My name is Andrew Pierce and I'm a pilot at the Anderson Airport. I live in Oconee County. The comments of Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Hopkins

fail to provide county council with information that you need to make the decision. And that is simply this. What is the average rent that you're going to apply to these hangars? And is this going to be enough? I maintain that before they are done building these hangars it's going to cost more than three fifty to pay back this loan. That being the case, I wonder where you're going to get the pilots who are willing to pay instead of two seventy-five, three fifty to four hundred dollars for a hangar? I can't say that there are too many that I know. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance?

MARK POWELL: I owned rental property in the past, still unfortunately still have ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name, thank you.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell. Williamston. Cindy's district seven. Sorry about that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

MARK POWELL: I've owned rental property. Still own it. I am shocked that we have forty-nine pilots begging for a place to put an airplane when we have thirteen only paying two hundred and seventy-five when we've got pilots begging to pay more than that. If I were the landlord I would kick out the ones who were paying two seventy-five because we seem to have forty something waiting to pay more. If they're in the red, if they're not charging enough for what they already have, I do not comprehend the logic of having to build something new to raise more revenue. I certainly can't comprehend that they're going to raise enough revenue by renting spaces to do multi-multi million dollar repaving projects. But I mean think about it. You've got a building that my tax dollars are paying for. I think y'all mentioned that when you built the original building. They're getting it for free as a landlord working that project and they're not charging enough for what they're renting the people to -- you know, that rent the spaces. But yet they have so many people begging to rent at a higher rate. I don't understand. There again it's government. You're going to build more buildings. You don't know how much it's going to cost you. You're supposedly going to use Anderson County equipment, Anderson County employees. That seems to cost us about a hundred and fifty-two million dollars a year to do something in this county. That's got to be a part of the cost of that. If you've got people wanting to rent spaces, if you've got a company running in the

red, kick out the tenants that you have, get new tenants who are willing to pay more, you'll have the revenue to do the things you want. The positive cash flow. You need to satisfy all the council members and then get all the money you need because you'll have a good landlord tenant relationship. Because whoever is willing to pay the most should succeed.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance? Seeing and hearing none the public hearing is now closed. Chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-046. Second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Mr. McAbee. We're in discussion.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chair.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I guess I'm just trying to understand. I want the council members to know that I thought this was a good idea to increase the capacity of the airport. But I guess the manner in which this was done, we had a budget procedure that we went through. And I thought that that was going to be in the ten million dollar bond and it was going to be a half a million, maybe seven hundred thousand dollars. And then I guess I see this as being, you know, a rather large program which is based on the hope that we're going to have people wanting to rent these airplanes. And I'm really conflicted here. For one thing I think about our sister counties. If this is such a wonderful idea I wonder why Oconee and Greenville and Spartanburg and places like that surrounding have not seized upon this idea. Or are we so unique in enterprising that we are going to be in the vanguard of this and particularly with, you know, again the economy. I'm looking for a half measure at least to say, yeah, we build one. But do we need all this? Why can't we build one hangar and see how that does. And then we can always come back and build another hangar and get another bond issue. And the bottom line on all this, with the amount of money that we're talking about, ultimately, am I correct, Mr. Martin, that if the revenue doesn't come in that the county will have to pick up the difference? Is that what's been explained?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I will have to confess, I don't -- I'm not positive of the

answer. But I believe that the answer is that this is limited to revenue only. It does not have to be just the revenue from the hangars. But it has to be airport revenue. I think that is the limited source of the payment. But as discussion continues I will search for that issue and hopefully have an answer by the end of discussion.

BOB WALDREP: Well, of course it makes it very palatable if it's purely a revenue bond and say the money doesn't come in and the revenue is not there and the bonding company does what, you know, at this point? Do they just simply say, well y'all didn't make the money so we don't get paid? That's what I -- I'm just trying to understand. I understood that most of these bonding companies are looking for ways that say there is a condition in there that says if you don't pay this you better get us some money from somewhere else. And the only other somewhere else I know of is the people in Anderson County that own real estate. Homes. And that this would end up being perhaps a mortgage that we would have to be paying. So that's why I just have concerns about this. I really love the idea of being entrepreneurial and progressive and all this, but I'm just a little cautious about this. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: What is the average monthly revenue at the airport? Do we have any kind of word on that? The reason I'm asking this, I did just a little bit of quick math here. It looks like debt service will be somewhere around eighteen thousand a month. And if we were lucky to get forty-one planes at three fifty a month, I think that's fourteen thousand three hundred and fifty dollars. Meanwhile, we have to pay the cost of operations. So that's going to have to come out of general fund if we don't meet all of the obligations. I'm sorry, Mr. Ferguson.

JOHN FERGUSON: If I remember off the top of my head, our monthly income is around ninety thousand -- averages around ninety thousand dollars a month based on rents, fuel sales, other fees. Now the forty-one airplanes, the forty-one T-hangar slots is just part of the project. There's two, what we call box hangars which we have two tenants that are very interested in renting those. And those two people have jets which would be at a higher rate, of course. It's whatever it takes to pay the bond off, that's what the rent is going to be. We have two companies. One has one jet. One

has three jets that are very interested in locating in Anderson.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we have four jets that are going to pay taxes in Anderson County?

JOHN FERGUSON: That's what we -- potentially. Yes, sir.

CINDY WILSON: And where will the funds for the infrastructure improvements that precede the actual building project come from? Does that mean that our county road and streets will go lacking so that we can prepare the infrastructure?

HOLT HOPKINS: We will be sharing their labor and equipment. It is our intention to get the grant money from the state to actually pay for the asphalt and gravel that needs to go. We would be placing it. So yeah, We would be pulling them off of some. But we do a lot of other projects around the county as well, other than roads. We're hoping that the materials get paid for out of grant money totally. We just do the work.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I'm still very concerned about this. I think that we need to go with our five hundred thousand dollars that's already approved and appropriated and do that and then come back after we've gauged the actual need. I'm concerned that if Greenville County, which is a stronger county perhaps than Anderson County, and Pickens and Oconee have failed to meet these pent up demands, I just wonder why we are right now. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? The chair calls for the vote on ordinance 2008-046. All in favor please vote. Five. Oppose. Five, two. The ordinance pass, with Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition. Item C, reconsideration of second reading of ordinance 2008-038. Mr. Waldrep, I need your motion.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to address the reconsideration issue. As you know, I was not present at the last meeting that we had. And the matter was really beyond my control to some degree. I had to be a delegate in Minneapolis. And as I understand it, the first thing that I could ask for would just be simply for this council to reconsider. I wanted to say from the beginning I've been trying to look at Robert's Rules of Order which gets kind of murky on reconsideration. It gets to be one of those issues that, I think we send off to some little lady in Olar or some place or something that's supposed to be the guru in reconsideration matters. And we've been through this

before, but I don't think we've ever been quite in the same situation that we're into this time. This was a situation where, apparently I tried and could not vote by proxy. So, I have not voted at all. So I'm not on either side of the issue. And I'm asking the chair and the council to allow a reconsideration -- a motion for reconsideration in this area. I would say that I think the council knows that this was a zoning matter. Hopefully we would understand that we are not in the business of deciding where schools go. If we were to do that we would probably run for the school board and get their big salary. I wanted to say that in speaking with school district five officials, I've been absolutely persuaded that these folks have done a yeoman's job of investigating, studying all of the ramifications that they have had to go through the hoops of the state of South Carolina, the Board of Education, well, the state Board of Education, the Highway Department. And we've received assurances that they've complied with every conceivable regulation that they have. And the only real issue, the only real power that we have here is in zoning. If we fail to reconsider this matter, then that puts a great deal of undue, unnecessary stress on school district five. And for what? The only thing we're going to do is going to be inconvenience them for a certain period of time. I think we all know that this is just a temporary battle. You might win this battle at this time, but I think you're ultimately going to lose the war. And who are we going to be punishing in this case but the very people that are elected to do a job. I guess I just have to say that somehow or another we've gotten, in my view, out of kilter. It gets back to the old maxim that was used by Thomas Moore. It's not what you can do, it's what you ought to do. And I just really believe and I would ask members of council if somebody, if this motion should fail, if they could find it within their good judgement to really look down the road, be cooperative with school district five and be on -- if you were on that side, if this motion fails then please come forward and make that motion for reconsideration. If the chair, and I understand the chair has got that look. I've seen a lot of judges give me that look before, you know, when you're asking for something you don't think you're going to get. But we're saying in heaven's name please be considerate of this motion for reconsideration.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you're moving to reconsider ordinance 2008-30.

BOB WALDREP: That's correct.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That is correct. All right. Okay. From Robert's Rules of Order, the green book that I handed out back in January or February of this year, page 134 under reconsideration, it reads as follow: Purpose to reconsider the vote on a motion. Only a member who voted on the prevailing side can make the motion. It needs a second. Debatable if the type of motion to reconsider is debatable. Requires the majority vote to adopt. Cannot be reconsidered. Then on page 135, two paragraphs down it says, again only a member that voted on the prevailing side can make the motion, although anyone can second. So Mr. Waldrep, since you were not present and you did not vote at all and you were not on the prevailing side, you do not meet the criteria to make the motion. Therefore, your motion is invalid and inappropriate and out of order.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Good. Mr. Chair, this is point of order here. Okay. Mr. Chair, I am asking that we take a recess at this time. That's a break. Can we have a break at this time?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: okay. So, I made my ruling and you want a break. Okay. We'll break for ten minutes.

BREAK

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to revisit this school issue. And I want to share some concerns, thoughts. I'm a firm believer in the community school concept. And I've spoken on that on several occasions. I believe that that's one of the areas in which our educational system has fallen short is it's moved -- at one time it was moving too far away from maintaining the community concept as it relates to its schools. Bigger is not always better. And as you move toward creating these bigger schools in some instances, you're closing other schools. And when you close those schools you create a void in that community. And it's bad enough to close a school in a community and create a void, but when that void also is removed from memory the presence of that school and that community then it's disastrous for that community. I've met with Dr. Bagley and Dr. Burriss twice since this was defeated on second reading with a tie vote. And Dr. Bagley in a meeting as recent as today has assured me that when a

school is closed if it is closed that steps will be taken to preserve the memory and the history of that school. And I'm thinking in particular she assured me today that she was taking steps to restore the honor and dignity that McDuffie High School possessed. And I feel like although you don't always satisfy everybody that efforts are being made to try to maintain these community based schools. I would encourage not only district five but all school districts, as you plan building programs and you plan to change the character of the school or as you plan to create a new school in a community that you go the extra mile to meet with the residents of those communities and deal with those communities and try to alleviate as many of their concerns as you possibly can. And Mr. Chairman, as I voted on the prevailing side of ordinance 2008-038, I move to reconsider.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer has moved to reconsider.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. So we are basically back in discussion on the second reading. Is that -- we need to vote. We need to vote.

TOM MARTIN: You need to vote on the motion to reconsider.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And this motion is debatable as I read moments ago. So yes, we are in discussion on the motion to reconsider. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I too have met with Mrs. Bagley and Dr. Burriss on two occasions. She accepted my offer to meet with my community members. And we had ten communities there. We thank her for coming. First of all, let me make it clear that my main reason for voting against the school thing was the congestion of the area. I have a map that shows the density of that area on this little narrow road. And believe me, it's going to be a problem. We've seen it before. But while I had the floor, I used that opportunity to talk to district two -- excuse me, district five about some concerns we had in district two. Okay. You have to strike when the iron is hot. If opportunity knocks, you have to open the door. And that's what I did. I am -- I know that referendum said that Southwood would be moved, Southwood would be moved to the outskirts of town on Dobbins Bridge Road. It would no longer be a community school. And in its place we're going to have a magnet school. For too long schools in district two have been taken out. We lost

Kennedy Street, Cleo Bailey, McDuffie High School, the old, well, TL Hanna was not in my district and the old McCants was. Nothing has been replaced back there. When they closed Calhoun Elementary down they built another school for Calhoun in the same area in the same district. But poor old district two, we're losing our schools. Now I have heard from some people saying, yeah, you were wrong about that. You should let them build that school. These were the people who live up there. Of course they would want it. I have heard from some people who live up there saying, no, don't build that school. We're already too crowded. The road is already too crowded. So, so here I am. District five, we have talked today and we realize that there's nothing that can be done now about Southwood because as South Fant was it has been lost. It has been lost. But district five, we have two other schools in district two and that's Nevitt Forest and the old McCants. Well, the old McCants is not really in district two. I guess we only have the one, Nevitt Forest. And I understand that plans are in the making to move Nevitt Forest somewhere. And you'll probably make that into some other kind of school but not a neighborhood school. District five, I'm going on record to ask you respectfully, as respectful as I can, before you move to take away Nevitt Forest and even McCants away from my side of town, please, please let us in on the plan. You keep telling me, oh this is going to be good for you. Moving Southwood to Dobbins Bridge Road is going to be good for the community. Don't tell me what's going to be good for me. Let me help you decide what's going to be good for me. Come to my area, talk to my people, let us decide what's going to be good for us. Just as the school on Dobbins -- on Williamston Road is going to be good for the people up there, the community school. Somebody up here was talking about walking to school, riding your bikes to school. And I keep saying I want the same thing for district two as you all want for your children. Now you may not agree with me, but I don't go along just to get along. I have to do the right thing for my folks. A lot of you came down and helped us fight to keep South Fant open. But that too was a done deal. So, all I'm asking you to do is to number one, look at the density on that street. Look at what it's going to do to the Williamsburg -- I'm sorry, to the Old Williamston Highway. Look at what it's going to do on that highway. And then, and then help me save my district, my community and my children in their

community schools. And I sure do thank you for listening to me.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are in discussion.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: I too was on the prevailing side last time. And as my distinguished colleagues, Mr. Greer and Ms. Floyd, stated in their concern for community schools, I share that concern. I'm a resident of school district four. And I feel school district four can be rightly proud of the community schools they have and in the fact that when schools have been closed over the years in district four, that when new schools are built they have actually resurrected the names of schools that have in fact been closed. My elementary school was Lebanon Elementary School. And the new elementary school district four just built, a community school, they resurrected the name of Lebanon and Mountain Springs which was the African-American school in our community, combined it and it's now Mountain Springs -- I mean, Mount Lebanon. District four has made a positive commitment to that and we should well be proud of it. We also got a bond issue on the ballot despite the opposition of one member of the County Board of Education. And it passed. ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

BILL MCABEE: ... something school district four can be rightly proud of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair calls for the vote on Mr. Greer's motion to reconsider ordinance 2008-038. All in favor please vote. Five. Oppose. Abstain. Zero and two. The vote is five, zero with Mr. McAbee and Ms. Floyd abstaining. The motion to reconsider has passed. Now we are in second reading. And now we are in discussion on second reading.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, let me clarify with the clerk. I am quite certain that there was a motion and a second. And so you are in discussion on second reading of ordinance 2008-038.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I call for the question.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Call for the question. Is there a second? We have a second for the call for the question. All in favor of calling for the question please vote. Unanimous. It is unanimous. So now we're voting on ordinance 2008-038 on the second reading. All in favor please vote. One, two, three, four, five.

Oppose. One. Abstain. One. The vote is five, one and one. Ms. Floyd voted no and Mr. McAbee abstained, so the ordinance passes on second reading.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I would like to make it known through the minutes that my vote was based on no because of the density and the road that this school would be placed. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Ordinance 2008-049, first reading. An ordinance authorizing, providing for the issuance of solid waste system revenue bonds of Anderson County, South Carolina prescribing the form of bonds limiting the payment of the bonds solely to the revenues derived from the operation of the solid waste system and pledging the revenues to such payment creating certain funds and providing for payments into such funds and making other covenants and agreements in connection with the foregoing. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second. Mr. McAbee, we're in discussion. Mr. Preston, any comments here?

JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, we recommend approval. This will provide the revenues for the Harris Bridge site, Slabtown site, Friendship, Shady Grove, Craytonville and Agnew Road.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And these projects were in the budget?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Very good. Anymore? Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: We definitely need to rebuild a lot of these convenience centers. On that there's no dispute. I'm concerned that we really don't have a level of accountability yet. I requested in an FOI for all of the current definitive cost estimates for all proposed projects to include any changes in estimates expected. I've also asked for what are the change management procedures that Anderson County has in place. I've requested for being provided copies. And so on down through providing copies of the basis for design which should include but not be limited to preliminary design, design contracts, design scopes of service, design scopes of facilities, design basis estimates documentation and on through to the list of bidders and schedule of release for bid documentation. We don't really have a system of accountability on our construction projects. I'm going to abstain on this one

because the solid waste enterprise fund which is a vital service to this county has been in the red most of the several years I've been on council. And even with raising our fees, we're having a bit of a struggle. And I don't see that we have the accountability issues resolved. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I was just wondering about these ordinances A and B. Aren't they really to be read together?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. They're similar to the airport bond. You have a general bond that, you know, we can do it and give the specifics.

BOB WALDREP: So if you vote for A, you ought to vote for B. Is that what we're saying?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's the idea.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. But the question that I have here is that I think we're all aware of the fact that last year, maybe it was this year, we went up from forty dollars to what? Sixty? Or was it eighty?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is it sixty? Solid waste fee?

BOB WALDREP: And added to that was the CPI, the consumer price index, as well? Is that correct?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. Mr. Smith is shaking his head yes.

BOB WALDREP: And that further means that is this -- my understanding is that the money from this increase fee is dedicated to the repayment of these bonds. Is that where that money is coming from?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Smith.

JOEY PRESTON: Let Mr. Martin answer that if you don't mind.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Waldrep, that is correct. Everything that has been said thus far is correct. These two ordinances work in tandem just like the airport revenue bond work in tandem. And that is consistent normally for bond issues throughout the state. You'll normally have a general bond authority. And then for each individual project or each individual issue, you would have a supplemental. So in this case, what you're dealing with right now is the general bond ordinance. Then you have the first supplemental ordinance. Skipping ahead again to the

first supplemental ordinance which again is the implementing force for this general bond ordinance, it limits the payment just to solid waste revenues. Now, it can be any revenue. A revenue is defined as not a tax or a tax like thing. It actually has to be a revenue stream. It can be any solid waste revenue. But as you've noted, the only really new source revenue is the increase in the solid waste fee.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, members of council, I do understand that the purpose of this bond is for the rebuilding of all these waste stations? Is that correct?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Smith.

BOB WALDREP: How many of those are we going to be building?

JOEY PRESTON: We've got the Harris Bridge site, Slabtown, Friendship, Shady Grove, Craytonville and Agnew Road. Five.

BOB WALDREP: Five. And you've got bid contracts on the construction of all those?

JOEY PRESTON: Not yet. After you all approve this then we'll go to design and go to bid. But we have budgets for each one of them. We have estimates that were provided to council during the budget process.

BOB WALDREP: Well, isn't this backwards though. Why wouldn't you find out what it was going to cost and then try to get the money. Instead of getting the money and find out what it's going to cost.

JOEY PRESTON: The purpose of developing a budget, you work with your engineers to come up with an estimated price for each one of them. You present that to county council. Council adopts a budget. You've adopted a budget which allows so much money to be spent for each one of them. Then at this point in time, then you go to the revenue bond issues, you get the money and then once you get the money and the bank working kind of together, you design them all and then you go to bid. And hopefully they'll come in under bid, under the budget price.

BOB WALDREP: I guess I'm just naive in that I thought you would try to figure out what something would cost before you ask for the money. When I asked for my allowance, my dad always wanted to know what it was for.

JOEY PRESTON: That's the purpose of developing a budget and working with your professional engineers to do that. And they've done that for each one of them, each site. They've gone out and analyzed

each site. They've come up with recommendations of what should be done and they've put a number to that.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, dad wasn't an engineer. So I guess that's why it worked out that way. But there's language in these -- and Mr. Chairman, if I could just give license to look at the whole package here that we're talking about. It has to determined certain matters relating that the chairman of the county council, that's you, and Mr. Preston, that's you, to determining certain matters relating to the disposition and proceeds thereof. What does that encompass? What kind of latitude does that give you to determine certain matters relating to the disposition. What does certain matters mean?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. Waldrep, are you reading from a specific section or is that ---

BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I'm reading from B, the last, well, next to the last line where it refers to giving the authority -- delegating the authority to the chairman and the county administrator to determine certain matters regarding to the disposition of the proceeds. That sounds like, I don't know what those certain matters are. Is there anyway for any kind of specificity?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. The specificity is actually set out in the bond ordinance itself. The authority that is given to the chairman traditionally or the chairman and the administrator or the administrator, depending upon the county, is normally to receive the bids to determine the low bid, that is the successful bid, to determine the trustee bank, to determine the depositor bank, to carry out the ministerial functions with regard to the actual bond itself, not to make a determination as to what projects to spend. If your questions is does this give them a ---

BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I see what you're saying and I appreciate that. I just want to be assured that this money that comes in, you know, goes to the payment of this bond and nowhere else. It doesn't get someway shuffled off into some other account or some other project that we're unaware of.

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. If you look actually at B which is the next one we'll look at one page one, it refers to the 2008 projects. The acquisition, renovation and equipping of solid waste convenient centers within the county. Then you look at

the disposition of the funds. And it's limited to the 2008 project. And then at some point in this ordinance, and I'm going to flip through it very quickly and see if I can find it, is the actual delegation of authority to the chair and the administrator to actually transfer the funds from the bond revenue fund into the actual account that's used for these purposes and to, as I've already said, to accept the successful bid -- or to determine the successful bid, then to accept the successful bid and to authorize the deposit of the funds into whatever bank is going to be the holder of the funds and the trustee.

BOB WALDREP: So that's what you say is the interpretation of certain matters relating to the disposition of proceeds. That would be your interpretation?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: All right.

TOM MARTIN: And if I could just add one thing in addition. Again, I think that you're reading from the caption and the caption doesn't have any legal effect. It's only the words that are actually in the ordaining language of the ordinance. And that's where you ---

BOB WALDREP: Those words are in there, though, aren't they?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: I understand. What happens in the event that there's a surplus? That we collect more than we pay back? How does that work? Does that just go over into the general fund or does that stay in the enterprise fund?

TOM MARTIN: I honestly do not know the answer to that, but I will find the answer and will get it to you.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Preston looked like he was trying to tell you.

JOEY PRESTON: It has to be used for solid waste convenient centers.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. So it's a dedicated fund.

JOEY PRESTON: It is.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?
Chair calls for the vote ordinance 2008-049. All in favor please vote. Six.
Oppose. Abstain. Zero. The vote is six, zero and one with Ms. Wilson abstaining. The ordinance

passes first reading. Ordinance 2008-050, a first supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sell of an Anderson County, South Carolina solid waste system revenue bond series 2008 in the principal amount of not exceeding three point two million dollars prescribing the form and details of such bond and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second from Mr. Waldrep. We're in discussion. Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-050. All in favor please vote. Six. Oppose. Abstain. Ms. Wilson abstains. The vote is six, zero and one. The ordinance passes first reading. Item C which was amended earlier, ordinance 2008-051, an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a second amended lease agreement between Anderson County and Robert Bosch and adding Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corporations as a sponsor and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are in discussion. Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote, ordinance 2008-051. All in favor please vote. The vote is unanimous. Resolution 2008-037, a resolution authorizing an agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina, Oconee County, South Carolina, Pickens County, South Carolina, Franklin County, Georgia, Stephens County, Georgia, Hart County, Georgia and the Department of Army Corp of Engineers for the performance of an economic impact study to be performed by the Corp pursuant to a planning assistance to state agreement to be entered into by and between Anderson County and Corp and for the allocation of costs associated with the study agreement among the counties pursuant to inter-governmental agreements to be entered into by and among Anderson County and each of the other counties and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. We have a second by Mr. Greer. Mr. Gray. Mr. Mike Gray, can you please come forward, please. I hope I'm not catching you off guard.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin. Yes?

TOM MARTIN: If I might note just for the interest of the county and I'm going to probably make him very mad also, but Mr. Gray's counterpart from across the river, Mr. Tom Coley, is also present tonight.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The gentleman behind him?

TOM MARTIN: Okay. Thank you, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: This is the impact study we've been talking about for about a year now. Right?

MIKE GRAY: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

MIKE GRAY: We visited here and we asked for a commitment from Anderson County several months ago. Since then we visited all the counties that you have mentioned and revisited and we're in the process now of having the contracts returned. It'll be inter-governmental contracts between Anderson County and each of those counties, agreeing that Anderson County will be the host county which will then enter into a contract with the Corp of Engineers. The only problem I saw with the reading of the resolution, the study will be done by the Strom Thurmond Institute and the Corp of Engineers. But the agreement will be with the Corp because they're matching funds. And that's the critical thing at this point is we get all these contracts signed, the agreement with the Corp so that their funds will be put in place. And the resolution that you're looking at tonight is to just move this process forward.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else? All in favor of resolution 2008-037, please vote. Unanimous.

MIKE GRAY: Thank you all very, very much.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Gray. Ordinance 2008-042, a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an equipment lease purchase agreement in the amount of not exceeding five million four hundred thirty-three thousand two hundred and thirty dollars to defray the cost of acquiring various equipment as approved in the county's 2008-2009 annual budget and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Mr. Greer. In discussion.

CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: We've had some discussion in the past. There's been mention of a very expensive boat for EMS. I think it was like three hundred and eighty something thousand dollars. And it was our understanding that that item had been removed from consideration, but it's still in the five point four three three million. Also, I've seen ads requesting

bids on some of the items. And I believe our administrator mentioned a little bit earlier that they don't bid out in advance. But it appears to me that in this instance there have been some items that are bid out in advance of this lease purchase agreement. For example, in our special populations, they already have a new van that was purchased in 2006. But yet we're now going to get them another one at thirty-seven thousand four seventy. There are items that seem to be a bit over the top especially when we've got this very strange economy that we're in right now. I talked with the auditor today and, for example, building permits in Anderson County went from like a hundred and ten down to, I think, thirty-nine. That's kind of like the canary in the mine. That indicates that we are looking at some tough times ahead. And we are more insulated in Anderson County than a lot of other counties because of our logistics and other wonderful resources. But I just think it's pure folly to do all of this -- purchase all of this equipment right now when we still have yet to address our roads. When we had a spring paving contract of only four hundred thousand dollars this year. When in 2000-2001 we spent five point four million not counting C funds to pave roads in this county. We still are failing to address the real needs in this county. I don't think that the hardworking people who pay their taxes and even the people who rent and pay indirectly the taxes of this county find it encouraging or amusing that we have county employees driving very expensive vehicles. Some of them are not necessary. It's necessary to buy vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. No question about that. It's necessary to buy some of the emergency equipment. But five point four three million dollars and we haven't backed out the items that we've been told that we don't plan to buy. I'm not going to vote for this. I think we have -- we don't seem to have anyone minding the shop here. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just wondered how many of these vehicles do we know of? I'm sure there's a list some place about -- some of this equipment does have to do with backhoes and things of that nature, as I do understand. Some of it is construction equipment. But as percentage-wise, are we not buying -- are we buying more police vehicles at this point? There's more? I thought that the last two and

half million dollars that we spent on the last year, I guess, to buy police vehicles, was that going to be part of that?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I think we've got five hundred and sixty-five thousand in here for replacement of vehicles at the Sheriff's office. They have to -- several have to be replaced about every three years.

BOB WALDREP: Yeah. Well, I understand that. And I'm just looking at some of these others.

JOEY PRESTON: We've got almost one point six million for the roads and bridges department for street work and that's a lot of heavy equipment. And we've got solid waste there for the -- we have to replace all that equipment that we pick up waste and run those convenient centers with.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess one of my problems is are we going to be doing this every year? It just seems like that we need to phase in some of this stuff and ---

JOEY PRESTON: That's the purpose of doing a lease like this is you're phasing it. You're spreading your cost out over three years. And we do ---

BOB WALDREP: Is that the expected life of a county vehicle, three years?

JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. It could be three to five years. It depends on the use mileage. The Sheriff's Department goes through them pretty fast.

BOB WALDREP: So, I'm just looking at some notes here. This includes, you say, all the waste equipment. And one of the big Caterpillar deals that you were purchasing, that's the county's waste facility. Is that for construction waste?

JOEY PRESTON: I think we've got a pretty big piece of equipment that's in here for the landfill.

?: Yes, sir. The piece of equipment we'll be replacing is the caterpillar down there now.

JOEY PRESTON: Down there, where?

?: At Starr C&D Landfill.
That's what the equipment is for.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. So, is that -- oh well. I won't get into that, you know, at this point. One question I wanted to ask, now this five point four three three million dollars, that's not included as part of our budget like we went up?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. It is. We've

already approved the payment and the budget.

BOB WALDREP: So this is part of the hundred and forty-nine.

JOEY PRESTON: The process you have to go through in order to do the lease. Every -- what you have here has already been adopted in the budget.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make a motion that since we were informed that that expensive boat was no longer in consideration that we delete the estimated cost, I think it was three hundred and eighty something thousand dollars. I'd like to make the motion that we delete that, and that we know for sure it's supposed to be off the table, and reduce the amount of the lease purchase. That's in the form of a motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Mr. Waldrep seconds. We have a motion to delete a boat at - - do we know a cost on that?

CINDY WILSON: Let me see. Three hundred and fifty-six thousand dollars. It's a response boat.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And to reduce the lease purchase agreement by that amount?

CINDY WILSON: Yes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And it was seconded by Mr. Waldrep. We're in discussion on Ms. Wilson's amendment to amend.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: One real quick question. Mr. Preston or whoever. I see Billy Gibson, the County Fire Marshall back there. It's my understanding that this boat that's part of the discussion was a fire service boat that would assist the lake area with fires and emergency activities of that nature. And this is the first I've heard of it being deleted.

JOEY PRESTON: I don't know where that came from. There's been no one that I know of to recommend deleting it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So it's still on the table.

JOEY PRESTON: It's always been there.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

JOEY PRESTON: And it's also to help reduce insurance rates, too.

LARRY GREER: I'm going to ask Chief Gibson if he would come to the mike and ---

JOEY PRESTON: Taylor Jones, too.

LARRY GREER: And address this boat and what it means to Anderson County, to the people of the county.

IKE BRISSEY: Council members, the boat was not part of county fire. It was a boat -- it is a boat that is a dual purpose boat. The three hundred and fifty-six thousand dollars included more than one boat. It is a fire boat. It was like a, for better description, a fire truck on water, along with the dual purpose of rescue. We have gone back now to our EMS commission and asked them to look at this. And that's where it stands right now.

CINDY WILSON: It was my understanding that the boat was not really appropriate that was envisioned for our lake situation. It was like a harbor type ---

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, what's your point of order?

LARRY GREER: I believe I had the floor and I had asked these gentlemen to discuss this boat.

IKE BRISSEY: The boat was going to be, Mr. Greer, was going to be just like our command post, another resource that we would let any of the agencies in our county use whenever they needed to.

LARRY GREER: Would you elaborate somewhat on the rescue aspects of this boat. It's my understanding that it could be used for dive operations.

IKE BRISSEY: That's correct.

LARRY GREER: For rescue and injured boaters.

IKE BRISSEY: Correct.

LARRY GREER: There's a loading platform that most boats do not have where you can load an injured person onto the boat instead of having to drag them up over the side of the boat.

IKE BRISSEY: That's correct. Both sides of the boat would fold down. Now this is the one that we just looked at. It's not the one that we have suggested that we purchase. This is just the one that we have looked at and had a demo on. And again, there was more than one boat that we had proposed on the three hundred and fifty-six thousand. That's not the cost of just one boat.

LARRY GREER: Chief Gibson, I'm going to put you on the spot. Do you think this is a good investment for the people of Anderson County?

CHIEF GIBSON: Mr. Greer, with limited knowledge of exactly what they were looking at, we do have the lake out there. We do have property along the

lake that does need water supplied and does need fire protection in close proximity being near the lake where we don't have fire hydrants. As to whether or not it's a good investment, that can be a matter kind of very subjective. But there are areas out there we could use such an asset.

LARRY GREER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: I want to talk with the -- I want to talk to the Chief, Fire Chief. Okay. Do you have any idea where the information came that it was taken out of the budget?

CHIEF GIBSON: No, ma'am. I can't speak to your budgeting process at all.

GRACIE FLOYD: No, no, no. I'm not asking to speak to the budget process. I'm asking you if you have any idea where the information came from. Is there somebody out there saying that this thing was taken out of the budget that you're aware of?

CHIEF GIBSON: Ms. Floyd, I have very limited knowledge to it and have heard nothing of it. No, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Then that brings me to the representative from district seven. Could you please tell us where that information came that it was taken out of the budget. Because as you were speaking, I had no idea what you were talking about. And I would appreciate it if you would just be as brief as you possibly can. Just tell us where the information -- where did you get that information?

CINDY WILSON: I will not violate a confidence. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: That's what I thought. I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? We are voting on Ms. Wilson's amendment to remove boats from the lease purchase agreement. All in favor please vote. Two. Oppose. Five. Greer, Thompson, Floyd, McAbee and Mr. Wilson are in the opposition. So the motion to take out the boats dies. We are back in discussion on the original ordinance. Call for the question. We have a second. All in favor for call for the question, please vote. Unanimous. All in favor of ordinance 2008-042, please vote.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a resolution.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Resolution 2008-042, please vote. One, two, three, four, five. Five. Oppose. Two. Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson are in the opposition. But the ordinance -- or the resolution passes five two. Acceptance of Video Warehouse Way into the county road system. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any discussion? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor of accepting Video Warehouse Way into the county road system, please vote. Unanimous. Appointments. Does anyone have any appointments?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I have an appointment to the ATAX committee. I think that's the way they pronounce it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: ATAX. Okay.

BOB WALDREP: It doesn't sound like a healthy committee, but it's a committee that does allocation, I think, of accommodation tax, I think, as I understand it. And the gentleman who is now currently the designee of district one has desired to step down. And I'm asking that the name of Mr. H.M. Craft be considered for appointment.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor of this appointment, please vote. Unanimous. Anymore?

BOB WALDREP: That's all. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Does anyone else have any appointments? Hearing no one, we're moving on. Requests by council members. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I have any requests unless Mr. Preston has got something. Is that the DSS thing that you ---

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I've talked to Mr. Hopkins about that. I think we've figured out a way to take care of that.

BOB WALDREP: You can deal with that okay?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Fine. I have nothing else.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I have two requests tonight, please. I would like to allocate two thousand dollars of district two's rec fund to the alternative school. They are needing scholarships to

help these kids move on to a trade or other training. And there's a possibility we're going to be able to get this training for them that's needed. The idea of these students going to the alternative school and coming out with nothing. Some of them come out with a certificate. Others come out with a diploma. But a lot of them have no plans on going on to college. So we've come up with an idea to channel these students into other programs that will give them a trade, an entry level position. And I think this is worthy of two thousand dollars of district two's money. This money will go to students in district two.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous.

GRACIE FLOYD: I have another one, Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: I would like to appropriate two thousand dollars to the Fusion Warehouse. I wish that, fellow council members, you would help me with this particular one. But if you don't then district two is willing to step up to the plate to provide money for the certification that's needed for a new program at the warehouse where it will train students in jobs. You're going to hear in the near future of a company who has been calling the Fusion Warehouse wanting students, wanting young people to come to work. But in order for these students to work they have to be trained. And in order to get the training, in order to give the training, Fusion will have to be certified. In order to get the certification they have to have two thousand dollars. This will not only benefit students in district two, but this will benefit students in all seven council areas. So I'm hoping that you could just -- if you could just spare five hundred dollars and I could back out five hundred, it would help. But right now, until this is done ---

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could I ask Ms. Floyd a question?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need to second her motion, which I do. Now, Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. The two thousand dollars is going for certification?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

BOB WALDREP: So you're asking the rest of us to ---

GRACIE FLOYD: To help me.

BOB WALDREP: Oh. Help you?

GRACIE FLOYD: Help me do the certification. Okay. Like I said, the cost for the certification is two thousand dollars. It's a national certification. Fusion don't have the money. Fusion doesn't have the money rather. But it's important enough for me to step up to the plate. And I'm hoping that you would step up with me. If you can spare five hundred dollars or whatever you can spare out of your money, so let's get the certification that we need then I won't have to pay the whole two thousand dollars. Do you understand?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I would comply with that and ask that if you would go back to me and I'll give a thousand dollars from my rec fund to the Fusion Warehouse.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

BOB WALDREP: I did want to say this if I had a chance. My Rotary Club had a chance to go look at the Fusion Warehouse. And I think it's somewhat of a miracle, in a way, that they've got volunteers, people that have created an atmosphere for learning for these people, the young folks that don't have any other place to go. And I think it's a wonderful, wonderful opportunity for us to serve in our community. And I commend Ms. Floyd for her passion for Fusion Warehouse. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. You still have the floor.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Waldrep, I want to thank you from the depth of my heart for those remarks. And I just thank you so much.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Don't be too sweet now. Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Waldrep, I'm the last person you've got to worry about.

BOB WALDREP: I know it. I thought so.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Floyd, you need to amend your motion to one thousand.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. I will amend that motion to one thousand dollars unless somebody else is going to step up and I'll go last.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to help out Ms. Floyd while we're at it?

GRACIE FLOYD: No. Not help out Ms. Floyd. Help out Fusion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Help out Fusion Warehouse.

GRACIE FLOYD: The students of Anderson County. Ms. Floyd's going to be all right. Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Floyd makes a motion to take a thousand dollars. I second it. All in favor of Ms. Floyd's motion, please vote. Unanimous. Very good. Is that all, Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Now we're going back to Mr. Waldrep who was taking a thousand dollars from his recreation account for the certification.

BOB WALDREP: Right.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The chair seconds that motion. Any discussion on that? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Okay. Very good. Now we're down to Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one request tonight and that's to appropriate seventeen hundred dollars from the district three recreation account to the Ebenezer Fire Department to purchase an AED.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Is that it? Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have four requests out of my recreation account. Do you want me to make them as one motion or...

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah. Do a list.

BILL MCABEE: Very well. Four thousand one hundred dollars to the Pendleton Fire Department for equipment for the new fire truck.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: He's doing a list.

BILL MCABEE: I'm doing a list. One thousand dollars to the alternative school for Ms. Floyd's scholarship program. Five hundred dollars to Pendleton High School FFA for Farm Safety Day. And six thousand three hundred ninety-five dollars and ninety-four cents to the Pendleton Recreation Association.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you second that, Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson seconds. Any discussion. All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

BILL MCABEE: Well, that's all for the recreation account. Paving.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Paving. Okay.

BILL MCABEE: Thirty thousand dollars for the town of Pendleton for paving, grading and drainage

of municipal streets within the municipal limits of Pendleton.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous. Is that it?

BILL MCABEE: That's it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. District five. I move to appropriate the following from the district five recreation account, two thousand dollars to the Rotary Club of Greater Anderson. Two thousand dollars to Electric City Rotary Club. And two thousand dollars to the Rotary of Anderson Club. Ten thousand dollars to the Homeland Park Fire Department. One thousand dollars to Crime Stoppers. And one thousand dollars to the alternative school for scholarships. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. Any discussion? All in favor please vote. Unanimous. That's all for me. Mr. Wilson. None. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. From district seven's recreation account, please appropriate twenty-five hundred dollars to the Cheddar Fire Department to count toward their phone budget needs and also two hundred dollars from the recreation account to Fusion Warehouse for their ongoing programs. And I wish their had been more funding available from district seven. But we have a lot more to cover. But I do applaud what y'all do.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chair seconds. Any discussion? Can you repeat that, Ms. Wilson?

CINDY WILSON: Two hundred dollars from district seven's recreation account for ongoing programs at the Fusion Warehouse.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: For ongoing programs.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: She says thank you. Anyone else? The chair calls for the vote. All in favor please vote. It's unanimous. Anything else, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: That's all. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Administrative report. I have a question.

JOEY PRESTON: Go ahead, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I notice on the county website there are some reports there. I think it ends in May. And then I received a disk for the latest reports. Is there any reason why we can't just put everything on the website and let people download them at their expense as they need them instead of doing all

this copying of disk and using county resources to make a blue million copies of the same report.

JOEY PRESTON: Love to.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Love to.

JOEY PRESTON: I think there might just be a little bit of a labor shortage right there.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Labor intensive.

JOEY PRESTON: No. We have one person that manages the website and everything else. We do the best we can with that, but that's a very good ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's an idea.

JOEY PRESTON: A good idea.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. That's all I have.

Anyone else?

JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chairman, I want to point something out here. We've got a -- we have had an employee that's been appointed to a national committee. It's a great accomplishment, and I want to single this employee out tonight.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

JOEY PRESTON: It's the finance director.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have her to come forward?

JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. She can stand up, though. Gina Humphries. She's been asked by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to serve on their Government Performance and Accountability Committee. The committee consists of CPAs working in local, state and federal government, members from academia and private sector accounting firms serving government clients. And it's an honor to be asked by the AICPA to serve on a national committee. And it speaks highly of Ms. Humphries's professionalism and commitment to excellence in the field of accounting. And I wanted to congratulate her publicly tonight and make you all aware of that. You all did get a memo from me, I think, announcing that. So, I just want to point that out.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Congratulations, Ms. Humphries. We appreciate you.

JOEY PRESTON: That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Citizens' comments. Do we have people, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir. You have three.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Instructions for citizens' comments. Meetings of county council are based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town

meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

??: ... You people have had some tough decisions to make tonight. And you've made them. You did your job. But let's lighten up a little bit now. You people are playing pretty well together now. It took a long time. It's a shame that you're going to be busted up at the first of the year. I'm looking forward to seeing how the new council plays together. I think it's going to be very interesting. But let me say this. You people, seriously, y'all have made some tough decisions tonight. You've made some people happy. You've hurt some people's feelings. But they'll all get over it one way or another. You did your job. That's what I've been asking you all year long to do. Get together. Get the job done. As Larry the Cable Guy says, get her done. And let me tell you something else. This is funny. I was accused this week of being intimidating. Does anybody on this council think that I intimidate you? Let me give you an example of how intimidating I am. I've got four granddaughters. I had all four of them at my house a couple of weeks ago. And they were getting into more than I could keep them out of. And I walked in and I was real stern. I said, all right, you girls are going to have to settle down. You know what's going to happen if I take my belt off? My eight year-old granddaughter says, yeah, papa, your pants are going to fall down. That's how intimidating I am. I turned around and walked out and let them get into what they wanted to. But I congratulate you, sure enough. You did a good job tonight, and I hope you keep it up. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Amy Plummer.

AMY PLUMMER: Mr. Chairman, council, I have two things I want to ask you tonight. First, I'd like to thank councilman McAbee, Chief Jack Abrams, Chief Billy Gibson, DSS Safe Kids and AnMed for working together with me to implement a new infant smoke detector program offered to all Anderson County new moms and dads. I'd like to invite all of you to the monthly fire chief meeting tomorrow at three o'clock at the City Fire Department where this new program will be unveiled. On a lighter note, now, last year when Santa got stranded in Anderson County, councilman Bill McAbee, Operation Life Saver and the Greenville Historical

Railroad Society worked together with the Greenville and Western Railway Family to help Santa make his connecting train in Greenville on the Polar Express back to the North Pole. During his ride on the Greenville and Western Railway, Santa visited with almost eight hundred children from all over Anderson County and as far away as Tennessee and Canada. I have been barraged with letters this year, phone calls and cards from children and children at heart all over Anderson County asking us to bring Santa back for a return visit. It was just this week that I remembered hearing a rumor that Councilman McAbee and Councilman Ron Wilson have a political connection -- political connections that reach as far as the North Pole. I have even heard that Councilman Ron Wilson actually knows the Jolly Old Saint Nicholas himself. So I'm here on behalf of all the children and all of the children at heart to ask Councilman McAbee and Councilman Ron Wilson if they would be willing to utilize their political influence to ask Santa if he would return for the second annual Anderson County, Greenville and Western Railway Polar Express on December 6th? I am asking all the boys and girls of Anderson County to write letters to County Councilman Bill McAbee and County Councilman Ron Wilson asking them to help us bring Santa back this year. Councilman McAbee and Councilman Wilson, will you help us bring Santa back to the Greenville and Western Polar Express?

RON WILSON: I can do more for you on the South Pole.

AMY PLUMMER: Oh my.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Plummer.

AMY PLUMMER: If you will consider that I will appreciate it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Hogg Road, Williamston, district seven. Thank you, Mr. Greer, for reconsidering the motion to bring back the district five. I have no kids there. I have no personal concern in it except for district five did a lot of work. It's interesting. It's a zoning issue. Y'all hold them ransom to make special deals in order to change your mind. That's kind of scary. I mean that's just personally kind of scary. But thank you for changing that. We heard two weeks ago about the ethanol plant. We didn't talk about it much tonight, but the road closing issue, I guess. We were told, and I hope the

council will make it happen because we were told that we're going to have a dollar savings per gallon in Anderson County if this thing is allowed to happen. That's on the record. It was stated. On a lighter side, it's interesting that y'all can be commended for working together. And it's really special because the person spoke against what you voted together on, finally to change the district five. Everything else was five to two. Come January it is going to be different. Some of you are going to be missed by some people. I'm looking forward to the new year coming and I'm glad that district five didn't have to wait till next year to revisit their issue that they had with the zoning issue. But I don't think that a councilman should hold anybody ransom on a zoning issue. Highway 81, the people who wanted and begged for zoning, got it, trying to keep Highway 81 from being developed into a small Clemson Boulevard. What did they get? They're getting Clemson Boulevard more and more everyday. Zoning is not an issue that help anyone in this county. It only helps the developers get what they want. It only allows the county to have more and more employees, to raise money, the cost of covering the zoning issue, putting out the signs, having the meetings. The interesting thing is the people who ask for it don't end up getting the thing that they wanted which is protection. All they get and from tonight, it's kind of scary but it seems obvious that it might be, bills are being cut. I'll vote your way if you'll do something for me. That is sad. Hope that changes next year. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: What was he talking about?

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under other matters, Mr. Chairman.

MARK POWELL: I'll answer it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. You walked away. Thank you, Mr. Martin. Remarks from council members. Mr. Wilson. Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought perhaps Mr. Wilson might explain how he has such political connections with Santa Claus.

RON WILSON: I'm afraid if I contribute to the sleigh he might crash.

BILL MCABEE: Oh. Is that right? Last time you contributed to the BalloonFest ... But, you know, I don't know, you know, political connections of that sort you have to use scarcely. It's rare political capital. So ... And you know, I couldn't help thinking about the fact that we'll probably now be getting a lot

of letters. But it'll actually be pleasant to be getting a bunch of letters about something other than the large animal shelter that I've been getting a lot about. So maybe some letters from kids would be pleasant. Also, mentioning the crash. You know, there's a long history of ballooning in Anderson County. In fact, at the Old Silverbrook Cemetery, there is a grave that is marked only by a headstone that said the woman who fell from the balloon. She was here. There was a balloon show going on at the early part of the twentieth century. She went up for a ride in the balloon, fell from the balloon to her death and the body was never identified. So at the Old Silverbrook there's a grave that's marked, the woman who fell from the balloon. Actually, I guess this year we should be thankful that there's not now also a grave for the man who fell from the balloon. Fortunately, he survived and made it to AnMed and is recovering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. Last council meeting, I had asked of our administrator where the three hundred thousand dollars from a general obligation bond, and I can't remember, it was either 2002, 2003 was, for Stevenson Road bridge replacement. And I was advised to go check across the street. We'd been told over the years it was in an interest bearing account. I want to let our public know that I did check this out and that three hundred thousand dollars is gone. It was never used for Stevenson Road bridge. So I would request to know where it actually went. The second item is there was a bid request in the newspaper with BP Barber Engineers for Cox Road Sewer. And is this project to benefit the rezoning development proposal that's at the corner of Cox and 29? Do we know where that sewer line is going, Mr. Preston?

JOEY PRESTON: Be more than happy to get you an answer on that.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I hope it's more in depth than the one I got when I asked a couple of meetings back. I requested information regarding the sewer enterprise fund. Because I still have grave doubts that we can meet debt service and our obligations to operate that fund. I had requested information regarding the daily treatment averages for Anderson County Six and Twenty Waste Water Treatment Plant and for the Rocky River Waste Water Treatment Plant. What I was given was an answer without backup for the Six and

Twenty Plant but nothing on -- no backup and nothing on the Rocky River Waste Water Treatment Plant. And I also asked for the projected costs and locations for pump station and sewer line replacement needs that we were told about. And I've gotten nothing from that. As it stands, it looks like this is another enterprise fund that won't be able to make all of its obligations in this budget year. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I wanted to get your excuse for not being here the last meeting. I didn't realize what an inconvenience it was going to cause to a lot of people. And it did give me a chance to study on reconsideration and consideration. And so that was a good thing. And all things -- all's well that ends well as Shakespear said. But I've wanted to report to you the pride that we had in the South Carolina delegation going to the Republican Convention in Minneapolis. It was a great event. And there were a lot of fine people that went there and a lot of discussion. And I know we're all looking forward to a great election in November. So I just wanted to tell you that Minneapolis is a nice place, and they serve grits. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I thank you. First of all, fellow council members and Mr. Preston, we need in the upcoming year, we need to work more with our delegation to help us help the fire department. We dole out a little bit of money from our rec account to help the fire department and stuff. We do the best we can. But I think that it's time we go to them and ask for an increase in the allocation for this so that they can have the money that's needed so that they won't have to beg for a little bit from us. And sometimes I believe what we give which is the best that we can give. But I don't think it's enough. I think it's a drop in the bucket. On that same note, Mr. Preston, I'm going to ask please that we get together to present the checks to the fire department that Mr. Greer and I worked to put in the budget for them. It's a little pittance again. But it's needed and it's going to help. Folks, we need to do something. We need to do something for our fire people. Now you know, we work with the Sheriff, but now it's time for them. And I want to tell you this. The Fusion Warehouse is a wonderful thing. We have over seven thousand of Anderson County students registered with their thumbs. If you don't know what I'm talking about you need to go and see it. But, but beware. We

have people coming in to see it and they want it. They want it. They want it and they want everybody who is surrounded by it. So if we don't step up to the plate, we're going to lose a good thing. Okay. And thirdly, I know that the decisions I make is not popular with everybody. Okay. And that's because I don't care about popularity. I don't care whether you like me. Some of you I do care that you like me. Some of you I want your respect. Others of you, I'm leaving it up to you. If I don't do things your way, then hey. I do things to represent my district. District two. I vote on their behalf as the new members will do when you come in. I can't hardly wait. I can hardly wait. And then you will see what I mean. If I have displeased you, tough. I am not defined by county council. It doesn't define who Gracie Floyd is. Some of you I love dearly. But I, I have to do what is best for my district. And I will take an opportunity anywhere I can find it to help the people in my district. And with that I sure do thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to say anything tonight, but I'm going to have to. And I may have to call Mr. Hopkins up to the microphone or Mr. Preston. But I'm quite tired of hearing about Stevenson Road. We've been working for a good number of years now to try to bring a solution to that problem. We've met with the communities. And tonight, someone was basically accused of doing away with three hundred thousand dollars. And that's not the case. So, Mr. Hopkins, I'm going to ask you to come to the microphone. And I know this is off the top of your head and you won't have exact numbers. But can you tell us approximately how much has been expended at this point in time in trying to find a solution to Stevenson Road and why it's taking so long in dealing with the Corp of Engineers and so forth and what our plans are for correcting that problem at Stevenson Road.

HOLT HOPKINS: The original three hundred thousand, we have used about half of it getting design plans, permits or ready for permits. We don't have the permits yet. But we will. We're just kind of holding back. From day one, though, we knew that three hundred was not going to fix that bridge. But we were able to do a lot of work with the Corp, looking for solutions. We pursued for a year trying to get federal grants through the Corp to help us with that situation. They finally turned us down a year later so we had to start

looking at other things. But half of that money has been spent on engineering costs, (unintelligible) costs, getting ready for permits. Because County Council dedicated a millage to our bridge program from now on. We have scheduled that bridge to begin at the end of '09, possibly early 2010. We will be finished with the earmarks which unfortunately had to be put ahead of that because they were earmarked. We had to do those first before we could come back to Stevenson Road. But it is in our schedule to start within the next, well, by the end of '09 using the bridge money that y'all have dedicated.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Preston, the statement that there is not an account for that three hundred thousand dollars, my guess is that the remainder of that three hundred thousand dollars is in the account that was originally established for the GO bond that that three hundred thousand dollars is a part of. So if you're looking for an account for three hundred thousand dollars, you would have difficulty finding something that doesn't exist. But if you look for the correct account and look for that amount of money in it, you would find it. Would you elaborate on that a little bit?

JOEY PRESTON: You're exactly right. I'll just have to get Rita to provide an accounting for that GO bond issue.

LARRY GREER: I want someone by the next meeting to have a detailed accounting of how much has been spent, where it's been spent, what it's been spent on and how much remains of that three hundred thousand dollars and what account it's in, what account number it's under, anything associated with that money. Can you do that, Mr. Preston?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir.

LARRY GREER: Put that on the agenda, please. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. I have asked for special privileges because folks, I want us to be really careful. A lot of misinformation came out in this meeting tonight. A lot of misinformation, a lot of wrong things went out on the air tonight. Don't know if we were able to fix it or to tell the truth about different issues. But please, please folks, don't believe everything somebody is telling you. Research yourself. Just because someone said, it doesn't make it so. Just look at the people who keep bringing this bad information, wrong information. They won't tell you

where it's coming from so we can kind of get there and correct it. But too much erroneous information is coming out of this council tonight. And I just thank you for that opportunity to say because it had to be said and I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: This meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – October 7, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

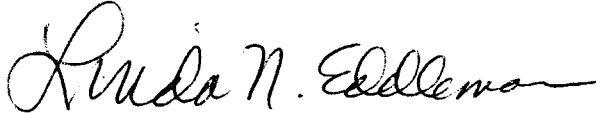
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... October 7, 2008. We'll
2 please come to order. Invocation and pledge of
3 allegiance, council member Ron Wilson.

4 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have approval of
6 minutes. August 5, 2008 work session, reapproval.
7 There were some amendments made and those amendments
8 were highlighted in there. And we also have the
9 September 16, 2008 meeting minutes. Taken together if
10 no one objects. Hearing no objections the chair moves
11 to approve the minutes for the work session on August
12 5, 2008 and the council member -- council meeting on
13 September 16, 2008. Is there a second to approve the
14 minutes? Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep. Yes, sir.
15 Three -- the stenographer or transcriptionist on page
16 thirteen of the minutes, those words in bold letters
17 were changed from question marks to words and I
18 believe the word a was added in there. Yeah, section
19 3A of the workshop, the work session, page thirteen
20 down at the bottom.

21 BOB WALDREP: Oh, I see.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The bold three words. And
23 that's the difference. Also, the date, she had the
24 date wrong. So the date was also changed.

25 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Fine. Thank you.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls
27 for the vote for the approval of the August 5, 2008
28 work session minutes and the September 16th council
29 meeting minutes. All in favor, please vote.
30 Unanimous. Okay. Thank you. Citizens' comments
31 agenda matters. I have instructions. Meetings of
32 county council are legislative meetings based upon the
33 representative form of government and are regulated by
34 parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings.
35 Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt
36 of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not
37 a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue.
38 Each person will be allowed not more than three
39 minutes to address the county council. You are asked
40 to please refrain from addressing members of the
41 audience by name. Please direct your comments to the
42 council chair and only to the council chair. And when
43 you come forward, give your name, address and the
44 county council district in which you live and which
45 agenda item you wish to talk about. Mr. Martin.

46 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 may miss this first one. Bhatt H. Woodard.

48 BRETT WOODARD: I wish to speak on the
49 agenda financial matters.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Give your name, address.

1 BRETT WOODARD: Yeah, my name is Brett H.
2 Woodard. I live in district one. I have a farm in
3 district three and I would like to speak on financial
4 matters. Recently having received the valuation from
5 the county, not only was I aghast at the fact that it
6 went up in the face of at best flat equity in 2006 in
7 homeowners and property, but in all reality probably a
8 disinflation. The problem is that as we raise the
9 valuation, we're gonna have to pay the pauper in 2000
10 -- when 2008 figures are used for valuation because
11 property values have decreased twenty to thirty
12 percent during that time period. I only have to look
13 at any article on the internet or newspaper to support
14 those numbers. This will be a bigger decrease because
15 you've raised the number. Twenty percent of a bigger
16 number is a bigger decrease. Bond issues which you
17 commit to today will have to be serviced and
18 shortcomings will come up for vital services which
19 individuals need. Additionally, raising the taxes in
20 face of flat equity is gonna put a great burden on the
21 lower level income people of our county.

22 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.
23 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake,
24 district one. I want to speak on Item 10D, which is
25 the fee in lieu for the Lincoln Oil. You all know
26 I've stood here for five years and told you that I'm
27 against fees in lieu. I don't know that you're aware
28 that the state sets the value of industrial property.
29 Then they turn it over to the counties to decide the
30 value of a mil. Every dollar that we give up to these
31 companies is a dollar that comes out of taxpayers'
32 money. We're looking at dropping from ten percent
33 down to six percent, maybe four percent. That's got
34 to be made up. We're on the brink of a depression
35 now, folks. We need to do something to work with the
36 state to do away with these incentives. Too often now
37 companies come in with their hand out and say, what
38 will you give us? We need to do something to turn
39 this around, show the value of Anderson County. We
40 need to show them that we've got trained employees,
41 good education in schools. Sale up on this and sale
42 down on the idea of any financial incentives which
43 will hurt the taxpayers. Y'all should figure out a
44 way to work with the delegation to get a bill passed
45 through general assembly to completely eliminate fees
46 in lieu. We can still compete with Georgia. We can
47 still compete with North Carolina. They're not coming
48 here solely for the incentives. That's just a habit
49 with them now. What is the incentives? What will you
50 give us? And it's time we struck a note and said,

1 look, daggum it, the taxpayers live here, the
2 taxpayers are supported here. We've been here longer.
3 We deserve some measure of respect. Let the taxpayers
4 come first. Thank you.

5 TOM MARTIN: Terry M. Norton.

6 TERRY NORTON: Yes, I'm Terry Norton, 120
7 Gaines Road, Honea Path, district seven. This is
8 concerning the railroad system that is involved in the
9 ethanol plant at Cheddar. They have come down to our
10 property, which I have a plat that shows the railroad
11 was abandoned. It has not been used in over twenty
12 years. They've cut trees. I have pictures of the
13 brush that they have left, that they're not going to
14 clean up, so they said. This land has reverted back
15 to the landowner when they abandoned the railroad
16 track. And they've come in and just made a big mess.
17 I have the plat showing it was abandoned. I have
18 pictures of how they have left it. And it's a danger.
19 My wife and I bought the property six years ago.
20 We've hauled numerous loads of trash, cleaned up the
21 highway. We keep the road right-of-way mowed. The
22 rescue squad also does that joins us. And now you
23 can't even cut the grass. It's nothing but brush.
24 And I have the pictures if you'd like to see those.
25 And I just don't like the way they're doing us. If
26 you'd like to see the pictures.

27 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, would you ask
28 him what railroad this is he's talking about?

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He's talking about the
30 judicial abandonment of Lewis Road and reimplementing
31 that railroad way. That's what he's talking about.

32 TERRY NORTON: This is in Honea Path, the
33 old Southern Railroad that was abandoned.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. I've been told no.
35 What railroad are you talking about?

36 TERRY NORTON: Abandoned Southern
37 Railroad. That's the one that runs down at Gaines
38 Road.

39 BOB WALDREP: Who's doing this activity,
40 I guess?

41 TERRY NORTON: I think it's Pickens
42 Railway and one is ...

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're gonna have to
44 talk during the break. Okay? All right. Thank you.

45 TOM MARTIN: Bill Brock.

46 BILL BROCK: Good afternoon, ladies and
47 gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the
48 council. I'm here to represent Honea Path rescue
49 squad and its employees. Rescue squad owns the
50 property adjacent to Mr. Norton. It's on the old

1 Southern Railroad right-of-way which has been lying
2 fallow for over twenty years. Yes, sir, that is it.
3 It was taken over by the Pickens Railroad, which is
4 now, I believe, the Greenville Railroad System, which
5 is involved in the ethanol plant at Cheddar. And they
6 are clearing this unused track bed and rails that were
7 left in place. Had trees that big in diameter in the
8 middle of the rail bed for use of storage of boxcars
9 and tank cars. Potentially housing hazardous material
10 right there adjacent to our property. Now the reason
11 I'm here is my employees, which there's twelve, don't
12 like the idea of sleeping within two hundred foot of a
13 tank car full of ethanol or any other hazardous
14 material. This railroad bed, like I say, was fallow
15 for over twenty years. These people come in and just
16 doing as they wish, when they wish, without contacting
17 anybody. The property was bought by the rescue squad
18 for administrative housing of the office and training
19 grounds. The plat of the person we bought it from
20 reflected squad's property going half way across the
21 rail bed. Same as Mr. Norton, since this Southern
22 Railway abandoned this right-of-way. These people are
23 just taking it back over, just at a whim. Maybe they
24 have the right, maybe they don't. But it doesn't seem
25 logical that you can just come in and bring highly
26 explosive material that close to a facility where
27 people sleep at night. I can understand why the
28 people in Cheddar are concerned about the plant up
29 there, because all of my employees are concerned about
30 their safety once these railcars start getting parked
31 there. Thank you. So any consideration you can give
32 us and the people living in this area adjacent to it,
33 we would greatly appreciate it. And as Mr. Norton
34 stated, they are not properly policing the area that
35 they're cutting the timber and the grass from.
36 They're pushing it across the road to people's
37 property adjacent to it, pushing it up against
38 farmers' fences. And Mr. Greer, you're a farmer. You
39 know what a tree limb against an electric fence does.
40 It shortens these fences out. They're just creating a
41 problem. Very poor neighbors. Thank you very much.

42 TOM MARTIN: Andrew Pierce.

43 ANDREW PIERCE: My name is Andrew Pierce.
44 I'm a resident of Oconee County. I'm a pilot and I
45 have my airplane at the Anderson Airport. I'm here to
46 speak in opposition to item number eight, Ordinances
47 2008-045 and 046, the Airport Revenue Bond. This
48 ordinance is up for a third reading this evening for a
49 two point two five million dollars amount. Now, I'm
50 no aviation expert. I'm not an aviation consultant or

1 a builder. But I think my opinion can be disregarded
2 because of that fact. However, I think it is merely
3 common sense that when the LPA Consultants Plan, the
4 twenty-eight page report that was provided to each of
5 the members of council, when this is considered and
6 carefully reviewed, I think it will be evident that
7 the plan is lacking in credibility. First of all,
8 because if you're going to base this revenue bond on
9 this plan, it is not a firm basis for doing this. So
10 I would ask the county council to be mindful of the
11 words of Dr. John Hunt, Chairman of the Anderson
12 Airport Advisory Committee, who said recently, general
13 aviation is under a tremendous amount of stress due to
14 the price of fuel. It could be a casualty of rising
15 gas prices. He would like to see us foster a general
16 aviation at this airport by providing hangars and fuel
17 at reasonable rates. I read this because we're
18 talking about providing new hangars at the airport,
19 new hangars which will be priced according to my
20 understanding at three hundred and fifty dollars per
21 month for a unit. This is tremendously high in
22 comparison with what hangars at the airport now are
23 priced at, which is two hundred seventy-five dollars a
24 month. So it is my opinion that the LPA plan, because
25 it is so questionable with respect to believability.
26 For instance, one of the problems with the plan is
27 that they give an estimate of the possibility of
28 building these T hangars, making their estimate based
29 merely upon the price of the hangar, the building only
30 itself. They don't include the site preparation
31 costs. And when these site preparation costs would be
32 added, instead of three hundred and fifty dollars a
33 month for a unit, it would probably come to about four
34 hundred dollars a unit. And this I think in the minds
35 of most of the airplane pilots is utterly ridiculous
36 and it's questionable whether there would be any
37 demand for hangars at four hundred dollars a month.
38 Thank you.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: John Hunt.

40 JOHN HUNT: Mr. Chairman, county
41 council, my name is John Hunt. I live on Littlecreek
42 Road. That's in district four of Anderson County. I
43 am the present chairman of the Anderson County Airport
44 Advisory Committee. We, at our last meeting, heard
45 Mr. Pierce make an appearance and a recommendation to
46 us that we not forward the recommendation on to you
47 for approval of the airport revenue bonds. Our
48 history is that for the last few years, really ever
49 since the opening of the last hangar about four years
50 ago, we have had very significant demand for

1 additional hangars. We currently have twenty-four
2 people on a list of people waiting for T hangars for
3 small airplane hangars. And even if half of those
4 would not materialize, we feel that we can reasonably
5 easily fill the twelve T hangars that are anticipated
6 on the basis of the revenue bond. We also are
7 anticipating fourteen shade hangars which is a hangar
8 with a roof but no sides. It's a little more
9 complicated with regards to corporate hangars, hangars
10 for jets or larger aircraft. We've really wanted to
11 have some of these available for businesses that
12 potentially would come to town because we feel it
13 would be a great economic inducement to a business to
14 be able to bring their aircraft here and headquarters
15 here. Since this -- since we had an opportunity to
16 approve this three months ago, and since your two
17 readings have transpired and since the economic
18 downturn has occurred, we have all gotten a little
19 heartburn about this, and we've scaled back what was
20 to have been twenty-four T hangars to twelve hangars.
21 And what was to have been two corporate hangars to no
22 corporate hangars without signed leases before they're
23 built. And so we would -- we, the Airport Advisory
24 Committee, would recommend the approval of the bond
25 issue, not for two point two five million, but for up
26 to two point two five million as it's written up. But
27 I think at the present time it's clear that we would
28 not be using all that, not be requesting all that,
29 because of the scaled back proportion of the project
30 because of these factors that we've mentioned. Thank
31 you.

32 TOM MARTIN: Thomas Henderson.
33 THOMAS HENDERSON: My name is Thomas
34 Henderson. I live at 512 Lewis Drive and I want to
35 say thank you for the council tonight for listening to
36 me. Cindy Wilson, I appreciate her for being my
37 district leader. But I've been living there for about
38 twenty-five years and I heard -- in the paper, I read
39 it in the Anderson paper, that it was said that the
40 people around there live close to the tanks. And
41 they're already -- why should they be worried about an
42 ethanol plant? Well, like I said, I've been there
43 twenty-five years. I've seen one of the tanks explode
44 to the inside. It never got us evacuated or anything
45 else. They took care of it. But the problem that I'm
46 worried about is my land. I've heard that nothing is
47 gonna be done about it. But if you look in the
48 Anderson County, there's a square and my land is right
49 directly in that square. And also, if they close the
50 road, I've got to go at least a quarter of a mile down

1 the road, back out and back up if I go to Williamston.
2 And then if I come in, I've got to come in a different
3 way. So I think the road closure would be a problem
4 to me as an individual and as a person that lives in
5 this county. I also worry about how much of my land
6 are they gonna actually try to take from me or are
7 they gonna take any? I've heard it two or three
8 different ways. Nobody has ever approached me about
9 what they're doing. The only reason I know, and come
10 to one of the first council meetings, was I seen a
11 little bitty sign that said they was rezoning the
12 field. Well, I come and all it said was it was gonna
13 be zoned commercial. Well, I thought, like any
14 individual, commercial is some kind of business that
15 would sell products like a Walmart or stores or
16 something like that. I never knew that it would be
17 ethanol. I figured that would have to come under
18 industrial, or some kind of industrial zoning, but it
19 didn't. So I didn't think no more about it. Well,
20 when they put the road sign, abandon road up, I
21 decided to come back. This is the first time I've
22 spoke. I've just listened and I've listened to y'all.
23 And I worry about the safety, the health of my kids,
24 my kids I've raised, and one of them will be sixteen
25 Christmas, one of them will be fourteen. We've never
26 had no trouble in the community. People there is nice
27 people. You don't have no neighbors that's
28 disgruntled or nothing. And I just worry about the
29 safety and the welfare of our family. Thank you.

30 TOM MARTIN: Dr. Leonardo Ortiz.
31 LEONARDO ORTIZ: Well, I had a speech here.
32 But Mr. Chairman, members of council, citizens of
33 Anderson County, my name is Captain Leonardo Ortiz. I
34 live on Belton Highway in council district two.
35 Rather than making a speech that I had preplanned, I'm
36 gonna read a couple of things here. First of all, I
37 do want to give attention to some misinformation
38 that's been given out regarding ethanol and explosions
39 and so on and so forth. That ethanol is about as
40 volatile as that Jack Daniels that most of us have in
41 our kitchen cabinets. There was also something I read
42 in the newspaper about that firefighters don't know
43 how to fight these fires with ethanol. Well, I'm a
44 former firefighter and I'm also a former first
45 responder from down in Georgia. I'm a level one
46 firefighter and we learned about -- as firefighters
47 we've learned about fighting fires way before gasoline
48 came around. Here's a quote, we can get fuel from
49 fruit, from a sumac by the roadside or from apples,
50 weeds, sawdust, almost anything. There is enough

1 alcohol in one year's yield of an acre of potatoes to
2 cultivate that field for a hundred years. And it yet
3 remains for someone to find out how this fuel can be
4 produced commercially. Better fuel at a better price
5 than we know now. That was Henry Ford. He said that
6 back in 1908. Okay. By the way, the other day I
7 filled up my truck, it cost me two dollars and ninety-
8 nine cents a gallon when regular gasoline was running
9 three dollars and eighty-four cents a gallon. That's
10 the benefit of having a little bit of foresight where
11 you can run E85 vehicle, a flexible fuel vehicle.
12 Here's another quote, they say we have foreign oil.
13 Well, how are we gonna get it in case of war? It is
14 in Venezuela. It's out in the east, in Persia. It is
15 in Russia. Do you think that is much defense for your
16 children? That was Francis Garvin, President of the
17 Chemical Foundation, 1936. Okay. One more thing that
18 I'm gonna go ahead and quote here. When considering
19 the economic benefits of ethanol production, ethanol
20 product costs in Brazil are the equivalent to crude
21 oil at nineteen dollars a barrel. That's from the
22 World Bank. Ethanol is by far the most energy
23 efficient method of producing liquid transportation
24 fuels. There is a net energy gain for ethanol
25 production versus an energy loss for other fuels as
26 follows. Ethanol, one hundred twenty-five percent.
27 Refined gasoline eighty-five percent. Methanol fifty-
28 five percent. And coal gasification forty-five
29 percent. That was the United States Department of
30 Agriculture. Thank you.

31 TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.
32 STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview
33 Estates, county council district one. Mr. Chairman,
34 members of council, I come to you now under the most
35 direst of circumstances. Looking at the markets
36 lately we are finding our country now entering into
37 what will most likely be a very severe recession. One
38 that we're not just going to recover from in a month
39 or months. It may be to the middle of next year or it
40 may be 2010 to dig our way out of it. Money is very
41 tight for a lot of people. And trying to meet just
42 normal family budgets are now becoming benefits rather
43 than things you could do. There are people right now
44 who are struggling just to keep paying their bills.
45 Watching the stock markets, which I'm sure certain of
46 you have done, most of the seniors who have monies in
47 401Ks are seeing the value of those 401Ks vanishing
48 now very severely. I myself, in my investments in the
49 market, have seen my portfolio drop in the last month
50 over twenty-five thousand dollars. This is not a good

1 time to be spending money, and we have to really turn
2 back our expenses. Everything we spend we have to
3 watch how we do it. And I notice here on the agenda
4 we have something dealing with travel. Travel now
5 should only be economy class. No first class, under
6 any circumstance. Make your reservations well in
7 advance to avoid this. And also with the credit
8 cards, there are many programs out there where most of
9 your credit card companies offer some type of rewards
10 program, which I think the county could benefit from,
11 especially since many of them also offer airline
12 miles, so you can get discounts on some of your travel
13 packages. And I would ask that the council really
14 examine the credit cards and see if they might want to
15 switch them to some that do provide some sort of
16 incentive or reward. But either way we look at it,
17 times are touch and they're going to get tougher.
18 What we're seeing now is only the tip of the iceberg
19 of the oncoming storm. And if we don't watch our
20 expenses, all the expenses will come back and haunt
21 us. Now is the time when we really have to tighten
22 our budgets severely and watch every single penny we
23 expend. Thank you.

24 TOM MARTIN: Sophia Chapman.
25 SOPHIA CHAPMAN: Good evening. My name is
26 Sophia Chapman, district seven, 107 Ellison Circle in
27 Belton. Obviously I'm speaking about the closure of
28 Lewis Drive. You know, I'm not here to fight. I'm
29 not here to be a pain for anybody. I know that our
30 economy can use ethanol. Now, this is not something
31 that I'm denying, nor is anybody else. My husband is
32 the same way. We don't have a problem with that. If
33 it's something that's gonna help us, we're a single
34 income family, that's great. This is the honest
35 truth, you know, I don't have anything against
36 anybody, but the fact is, these are my children and my
37 life, and this is right behind my house in a field
38 where they will be parking ethanol tanker cars. And I
39 know that they can only be there from, don't quote me,
40 I believe, ten to twelve hours, something like that
41 before they come back out. Either way, there's always
42 room for human error. What if something happened?
43 Not, oh, well, they haven't had an accident. Oh,
44 this, oh, that. Well, I'm sorry, but we all make
45 mistakes. Who's to say that somebody else is not
46 gonna make a mistake? Then what am I gonna do when
47 they do? So that's basically what I'm saying. Please
48 think about not just the benefits as far as
49 economical, because we have too, and that's great,
50 that's wonderful. But it's also, you cannot compare

1 economic development to a human life. I just hope
2 that you understand that and I hope that you take that
3 into consideration. I appreciate your time.

4 TOM MARTIN: Steven Chapman.

5 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Steven Chapman, 106 Ellison
6 Circle, district seven. It's a pleasure to stand
7 before you again. I hope to find y'all in good health
8 and good standing today. I'm here to speak on, I
9 believe, 10D, the fee in lieu of, and also on 11B, the
10 closing of Lewis Road. At this time, if I can, I
11 would like to give y'all a hundred and fourteen name
12 petition asking for y'all not to close the Lewis Drive
13 road. Thank you, sir. We as a community, again, we
14 site that response times, safety, when the fire
15 department has stood here and quoted the fire response
16 times. Also, interference for EMS traveling down this
17 road. We as a community ask that you hear our plea
18 not to have this road closed. And as far as the fee
19 in lieu of goes, we have talked with DHEC at this time
20 and we have a scheduled meeting with DHEC
21 representatives on October the 20th. And right now
22 they're not giving us -- they said they would like to
23 answer our questions. There are a lot of questions
24 that they need to hear and a lot of research that they
25 need to do to look into ethanol itself. I'd ask that
26 as my council members here and as y'all represent this
27 community, that y'all would consider postponing and
28 pushing back this vote on the fee in lieu of until at
29 least after the DHEC has time to come out and talk
30 with the community and answer our questions that we
31 feel that needs to be answered as to our safety and
32 what happens -- and I understand there's people holler
33 this stuff is safe as whiskey. But I understand this
34 stuff is also denatured. It does have a petroleum
35 product mixed with it. And if you think, a couple
36 hundred or a thousand gallon tanker car half full or
37 full or at one time had a petroleum byproduct in it
38 won't explode, then everyone I've spoke to on the fire
39 department has lied to me. Internet has lied to me.
40 Other sources has lied to me. And if that's the case,
41 then I apologize for standing here saying that this is
42 a combustibile material. But everything I've read and
43 everyone I have talked to said that this is
44 combustibile. And like my wife said, this is going to
45 be within a couple hundred feet of my home where me
46 and my children play in our backyard. And not just
47 me, but other people in this community walk these
48 streets. Kids play in their yards. And I ask y'all,
49 please, like we said, we're not trying to stand in the
50 way of progress. And I do -- hey, I believe in

1 ethanol. More independence off of foreign oil is
2 great for America. But at the consequence of homes,
3 safety -- like I said, we may be safe, but at least
4 have our fears silenced by DHEC and other members of
5 government come out and make us feel safe. That's all
6 we're asking for. And I want to thank you for your
7 time.

8 TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.
9 DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, members of
10 council, Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, county council
11 district seven, the High Point Community, and chairman
12 of the original Anderson County Taxpayers Association,
13 though I speak on behalf of myself tonight. I refer
14 to items on the agenda, numbers 7 and 8A. So we're
15 gonna take on another two point two five million
16 dollars in debt concerning the airport. I understand
17 this should be somewhat revenue neutral because you're
18 hoping that those hangars will pay for themselves, but
19 we've run the numbers and I'm not so sure that's going
20 to be the case, and they would have to be totally
21 occupied for that entire period of time for that to
22 come close to taking care of the entire cost of this.
23 But what this bond issue does, is it just brings us to
24 a historical perspective on how much money that this
25 council and this administrator has put upon us in
26 recent years. Let me go down the laundry list here.
27 Two point two five tonight, eight point five for the
28 Kroger building and the Piedmont Natural Gas building
29 that we were told would not need any major
30 renovations, but after the fact now we find out that
31 it needs about one million. Five point four lease
32 purchase on vehicles and equipment, and this is after
33 the bailout of the sheriff's department a couple of
34 years ago of two point five million dollars for
35 overspending. Three point two on the convenience
36 centers, three point two million, that is. Eight and
37 a half on the eight hundred megahertz radio system,
38 which if it works we're glad to have, but there was no
39 bid process, and Motorola, the one we've gone with on
40 this is now on the verge of bankruptcy. Something to
41 think about. Another ten million dollars for capital
42 improvement projects, which includes a Harbor fireboat
43 for Lake Hartwell. Doubt it could get closer to the
44 shore than about three hundred feet, but maybe it's
45 got a, maybe it's got a great cannon on it. All this
46 debt that we've piled on the citizens, and it's not
47 just us, we're piling it on our children. Just like
48 the school systems do, it's for the children. It's
49 gonna be paid for by the children. And the same thing
50 with what you all are doing here. It is an egregious

1 amount that you have put on the taxpayers of this
2 county just recently. This leads to the fact that
3 we've gotten our reassessment notices. They seem
4 quite out of place. Let me show you an example here
5 of why we have got to question the ability of our
6 county assessor and his office, fifty-nine thousand
7 dollars value on a piece of property that was bought
8 for thirty-five hundred dollars, not that long ago.
9 So that record is in the county books. How can this
10 possibly be, except for one reason, a county or
11 governmental entity can only borrow, without voter
12 approval of the people, can only borrow eight percent
13 of the total assessed value of property within those
14 boundaries. It is very obvious that this property is
15 being overpriced, over assessed, overvalued, so that
16 these councils and future councils can borrow more
17 money. The taxpayers of Anderson County need to
18 understand this and absolutely, positively vote no on
19 that one cent sales tax. It's not good sense, it's
20 bad sense, it's no sense. Thank you.

21 TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens
22 under agenda matters.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
24 Comments on Lewis Drive, Mr. Steve Chapman, you have
25 five minutes, sir.

26 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Thank you again. I wanted
27 to come and speak with y'all about this Lewis Drive
28 matter. Again, I just want to reiterate what the
29 community feels. I have been voted to be the
30 spokesperson for our community. And like I said, this
31 is a group of people, a hundred fourteen names on that
32 petition that I got signed, that are asking for y'all
33 not to close this road. These are the people who are
34 taxpayers of our community, looks to this county
35 council for y'all's judgment on financial matters for
36 this county. And we're coming to you, not just our
37 district seven councilwoman, but to all of y'all,
38 please, hear our cries, do not close this road. And
39 on the fee in lieu of, like I said, we invite y'all to
40 come to this DHEC meeting on October 20th at Cedar
41 Grove Elementary at six thirty. Please postpone this
42 vote. What's a little time gonna hurt? At least hear
43 the community's fears and make sure that we're
44 addressed properly to suit us to where we feel safe.
45 Time is not as precious as a safe community or fears
46 that's not being answered. Please, please, I appeal
47 to y'all. I'm not too proud to beg for this community
48 or plea for this community. Please hear this cry and
49 not close this road. Let's take our time on this fee
50 in lieu of at least until the community's fears are

1 quelled. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

2 CINDY WILSON: Excuse me. Mr. Chairman,
3 may I ask Mr. Chapman a question, please?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

5 CINDY WILSON: Would you have all the
6 people who are concerned about this Cheddar project to
7 stand up so we can see how many folks here are
8 concerned about this, please?

9 STEVEN CHAPMAN: I know we wasn't able to
10 get everybody here tonight due to work conflict
11 schedules, but this is just some of the members of the
12 community that's come tonight.

13 CINDY WILSON: I know I've been to
14 meetings where there were fifty, sixty people. I'm
15 really gravely concerned about this, Mr. Chairman.
16 I'm going to request that we postpone the vote tonight
17 on all of these items because we have not gotten the
18 answers. We've gotten no assurances that these people
19 are safe. We'll discuss this a little bit further,
20 but I just -- I'm very concerned. I think this
21 country needs to move forward with energy
22 independence, but not at the expense of assuring
23 people of their safety. Thank you.

24 STEVEN CHAPMAN: Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chapman.
26 Comments on Lewis Drive, Ms. Amy Plummer.

27 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we
28 should -- I move at this time to delete this item from
29 the agenda.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Delete the item from the
31 agenda. Any objection? By unanimous consent,
32 deleted. Financial matters, Ms. Wilson, five minutes.

33 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
34 think we really owe the citizens of this county the
35 time and the effort to look at the finances of
36 Anderson County. Today's headline in the Wall Street
37 Journal stated, Markets fall on doubts, rescues will
38 succeed, DOW closed below ten thousand. The first
39 sentence, the global financial crisis has taken a
40 perilous turn. As government efforts to tame it grow
41 more aggressive, markets are becoming less confident
42 those efforts will succeed. In Sunday's paper we have
43 an article about businesses to tight and squeeze on
44 travel expenses, and there's some tips on watching our
45 meal spending instead of eating at a fancy airport
46 restaurant to grab a sandwich. We'll have some items
47 coming up later in the agenda dealing with per diem
48 and so forth. Wednesday's Wall Street Journal last
49 week, the headline on page 3 -- D3 states, state,
50 local tax revenue stagnates. It says, as economic

1 storm clouds have darkened, state and local government
2 budget woes have gone from bad to worse. This picture
3 emerges from interviews with municipal finance
4 officials and a recent report by a Washington based
5 research group. New surveys indicate tax revenue
6 growth generally has slowed to a crawl in most states.
7 Increasing pressures on officials to cut spending, dip
8 into rainy day reserves, intensify crackdowns on tax
9 law enforcement, possibly raise taxes or turn to
10 various combinations of these options. State and
11 local budget officers are extremely concerned, says
12 Scott Patterson, Executive Director of the National
13 Association of State Budget Officers in Washington,
14 DC. Excuse me. Government officials already have
15 begun clamping down on costs, another sentence starts
16 out. For example, when the Federal Tax Administrators
17 recently discussed plans for future meetings, several
18 state officials replied their states had just imposed
19 travel spending freezes. The mayor of New York,
20 Michael Bloomberg, has ordered all city agencies to
21 cut spending by two and a half percent for the current
22 fiscal year and another five percent next fiscal year.
23 Their fiscal year begins July 1st. He says that
24 concerns about slower revenue growth have reverberated
25 around the nation for well over a year. And guess
26 what? One of the paragraphs begins that, meanwhile
27 the financial crisis has led to sharper, higher yields
28 on state and local government debt issues. That's
29 good news for investors, but it's not good news for
30 the taxpayers of Anderson County for us to have to pay
31 a higher interest rate. The State of South Carolina
32 has even stated that we have a huge budget shortfall.
33 I think it was projected at two hundred and fifty
34 million dollars. Accommodation tax expenditures, I
35 understand, collections are down. Why is your local
36 government planning to spend another twenty-one
37 million dollars of different types of debt this year,
38 borrow that amount of money? Have you looked at the
39 foreclosures in the local paper? Have you talked with
40 folks at the grocery store and at church? Have you
41 talked with anyone to understand the reality of what
42 we're doing here? I mean, it may be nice for us to
43 sit up here smugly because we have health insurance,
44 we have at least maybe nine hundred dollars a year,
45 which is not much, but it's more than ...

46 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

47 CINDY WILSON: ... people suffering in our
48 county. If we're looking for real economic
49 development progress, why aren't we curbing our
50 spending? We don't have always a revenue problem in

1 Anderson County. For twelve years we've had a
2 spending problem. Where is our fund balance? Can we
3 prove that we have a sufficient fund balance to cover
4 all this debt? Do you realize that two of the special
5 source revenue bonds that are on our agenda tonight
6 are from business funds, the airport and solid waste,
7 that have been in the red, folks, in the red ever
8 since I've been on council, going on eight years? And
9 we look at all of the ---

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, time has
11 expired.

12 CINDY WILSON: Where is the money coming
13 from? Thank you.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Ordinance's
15 third reading, Ordinance 2008-045, an ordinance
16 authorizing and providing for the issuance of airport
17 revenue bonds of Anderson County, South Carolina, and
18 other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
19 approve. Is there a second? We have a second. We
20 are in discussion.

21 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

23 CINDY WILSON: On page eleven of the LPA
24 Group Aviation Consultant report that was given to us
25 back in August, we had a waiting list in Anderson
26 County of thirty for T hangars. We've just received a
27 report that that list is down to twenty-four. The
28 consultants even noted that realistic demand was nine.
29 We now have Pickens County that's building one point
30 three million dollars in airport hangars. We have
31 five hundred thousand dollars in the recently approved
32 general obligation bond. I would move that we table
33 this two point two five million dollar bond request
34 until we have the half million dollars with the T
35 hangars and whatever improvements were needed done,
36 complete, and we know that those are filled up, and
37 then we take this two point two five million dollar
38 proposal and get real bids on projects that we know we
39 have pent-up demand. I think Dr. Hunt's suggestion
40 that the corporate hangars not even be built until we
41 have signed leases, is a very appropriate one. To
42 build some of these hangars, they're really not a
43 whole lot more involved than building a large barn.
44 Maybe a slightly more sophisticated one, but those
45 things can be put up, I would think, within thirty to
46 sixty days, if you have your infrastructure in place.
47 So why don't we look at tabling this two point two
48 five million dollar special source revenue bond
49 tonight and then do it in this manner. I also want to
50 point out before I make this motion that obviously

1 whoever wrote this general bond ordinance and then the
2 supplemental ordinance knew that we've been in the red
3 at the airport. And the special source revenue bonds
4 require that we pay our debt service from the
5 revenues. Since we've been in the red, that means
6 that our general funds and other resources are going
7 to have to be used to repay this debt. I now make the
8 motion that we table this special source revenue bond
9 until such time as the half million dollars has been
10 expended and we have that hangar filled up and have
11 another report from our Airport Commission as to what
12 the needs are at that point in time.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion
14 from Ms. Wilson to table. Is there a second?

15 BOB WALDREP: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second from Mr.
17 Waldrep. We are now in discussion. And I will take
18 the lead on this. If you will look at Item B -- I'm
19 sorry, my mistake. I have a motion to table and a
20 second. All in favor of tabling 2008-045, please
21 vote. We have two. Oppose. Five. Mr. Wilson, Mr.
22 McAbee, Ms. Floyd, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Greer vote in
23 the opposition. So the motion to table has died. We
24 are still in discussion on Ordinance 2008-045.

25 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I still have the floor. If
27 you will look at Item B in your packet, there is a
28 redline version of that ordinance there. And this was
29 in your packet. And there is a cover letter from the
30 McNair Law Firm explaining the changes that were made
31 to this ordinance. And basically the last paragraph
32 on the cover letter explains what's going on, and it
33 says, after discussion with county officials, it was
34 determined that this approach would be beneficial for
35 at least two -- I need to back up. Do provisions
36 provide -- I need to back up some more. Mr. Martin,
37 can you just give us a synopsis of what's going on
38 here?

39 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 The administration approached us and asked us to
41 review the ordinance so that the entire two point five
42 million -- I'm sorry, two point two five million would
43 not be issued as a single issue, but would be issued
44 as a series of a bonds, basically from time to time so
45 that the total aggregate would not exceed two point
46 two five million, and the ordinance has been amended
47 in that regard, to do two things. It would allow
48 financing for each of the projects from time to time
49 in response to fluctuations in the economic conditions
50 and demand for the hangars. And second, it would

1 allow the county to monitor the revenues as they come
2 in and the expenses as they go out for each one of the
3 projects before proceeding to issue additional series
4 of bonds to finance the construction of the remainder
5 of the project. So basically the amount of the bond
6 becomes a not-to-exceed amount, and the authority is
7 to issue in series as demand for the hangars is
8 actually realized.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we build as the demand
10 dictates? We build as we go along?

11 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So basically we will
13 obtain the objective of Ms. Wilson?

14 TOM MARTIN: Correct.

15 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

17 BOB WALDREP: I need to ask a couple of
18 questions about that, and that is that -- first of
19 all, let me say that initially I understood when we
20 had our budget proposal about this airport matter that
21 it was going to be around seven hundred and fifty
22 thousand for one hangar or so. Is my memory incorrect
23 on that, that we started out with that? Was that your
24 initial proposal in the budget hearings that we have?
25 There was just one hangar that I understood. Mr.
26 Hopkins, did you have other hangars?

27 HOLT HOPKINS: I don't remember that
28 particular figure for a hangar. But it depends on
29 what size, what type, that kind of things. It can
30 range from four hundred thousand up to six or seven
31 hundred thousand.

32 BOB WALDREP: Okay. But weren't we
33 talking about one hangar in the budget?

34 HOLT HOPKINS: During the budget we put a
35 number of five point two million in there for
36 expansion, in the budget itself.

37 BOB WALDREP: For the airport?

38 JOEY PRESTON: You might be referencing
39 the special source revenue bond that we did for that
40 one hangar.

41 BOB WALDREP: Maybe so. I just remember
42 that, as I was always under the impression that we
43 were dealing with one hangar. And I guess we've got
44 hangars coming out the ears now.

45 HOLT HOPKINS: In a previous bond issue
46 you did approve five hundred thousand for a hangar.

47 BOB WALDREP: That's right. Okay. And I
48 thought we were kind of done with that. And then this
49 is another proposal. I'm just trying to understand.
50 We get a lot of information. And this -- in my

1 packet, that you said was in our packet, I believe
2 this is the first time we saw this, was tonight; is
3 that correct?

4 CINDY WILSON: It was just handed to us.

5 BOB WALDREP: Is that something -- the
6 new and improved version of the two point five ---

7 HOLT HOPKINS: Yeah, the amended version.

8 BOB WALDREP: Yeah, right. Where did
9 this come from? Whose idea was this?

10 JOEY PRESTON: As Tom explained that the
11 county attorney -- we asked the attorneys to go back
12 and to take a look to see how we could accomplish what
13 you, Wilson and the rest of the council wanted to
14 accomplish so that we could pay as we go.

15 BOB WALDREP: All right. Now, having --
16 I'm trying to understand that. What is the plan for
17 the first phase? When would that go into effect or do
18 we just -- is that just something that we need to hear
19 from the administration? What is the plan?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Before you answer,
21 Mr. Hopkins, time has expired. Chair moves to extend
22 time by ten minutes.

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
25 favor of extending time by ten minutes, please vote.
26 Unanimous. Please continued, Mr. Hopkins -- Mr.
27 Waldrep.

28 BOB WALDREP: And I've just tried to
29 understand how this is going to proceed. Will we have
30 the opportunity on this council to vote whether or not
31 to extend this bond issue or not after January the
32 1st? Or are we -- is this supposed to be construed as
33 a done deal of a bond issuance authority?

34 HOLT HOPKINS: The way the amended version
35 is structured, hope you can keep me out of trouble
36 here, but the amended version allows that we don't
37 have to go out and borrow the whole two point five
38 million all at once. We can scale back our plan based
39 on some of the concerns and discussion that we've had.
40 We think -- and we're going to put some things out to
41 bid so that we have hard numbers to work with. And we
42 can come back and build a T hangar and a shade hangar
43 and do some renovations to the big existing hangar,
44 which would be less than a million dollars to do ---

45 BOB WALDREP: I understand all that, Mr.
46 Hopkins. My question goes to what happens after
47 January the 1st? And when we haven't constructed all
48 these, are we abdicating our responsibility once again
49 to the administration to say that, well, you've
50 already approved that in the last session and so I'm

1 going to go ahead and spend that money anyway?

2 HOLT HOPKINS: The amended version allows
3 the chairman of county council and the county
4 administrator to make that decision on how much to
5 borrow.

6 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, I just wanted
7 that to be in the record as our interpretation of
8 that. Do you agree with that, Mr. Martin?

9 TOM MARTIN: I do agree that that is
10 precisely what the ordinance says.

11 BOB WALDREP: Well, I don't know --
12 sometimes what it says and what it means and how we
13 interpret it sometimes are three or four different
14 things. So I just want it to be absolutely crystal
15 clear that the new council will be able to halt, stop,
16 redirect or to improve this after January the 1st, and
17 if those funds have not been expended that the new
18 council will have the opportunity to control those
19 funds.

20 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman, if I could
21 add one other thing.

22 BOB WALDREP: Is that correct, Mr.
23 Martin?

24 TOM MARTIN: It is correct to the extent
25 that it requires both the chairman of council and the
26 administrator to authorize the subsequent issuances of
27 the additional series of bonds.

28 BOB WALDREP: Well, are we saying the
29 chairman and the administrator by themselves, without
30 council approval?

31 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, that is correct.

32 BOB WALDREP: That's a heady amount of
33 authority to give two people in this county. Thank
34 you.

35 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins has something
37 to add. Go ahead, Mr. Hopkins.

38 HOLT HOPKINS: Well, one of the reasons
39 that I recommend to you to go ahead and adopt this as
40 amended, is that it allows flexibility again, that if
41 we have the demand, if we have somebody sign a five
42 year lease, we can immediately go and borrow the money
43 and build the building. It could take as much as two,
44 three months to come back and go through this process
45 to build, and I'm not sure some of our clientele will
46 want to wait that long. But again, county council
47 will have a say in it.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

49 CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. I would like to
50 first of all point out that this was handed to me as

1 we came up on the podium. There was insufficient time
2 to even review it. We either delay our vote, maybe
3 table it, or I would like to make the amendment that
4 we amend this ordinance to state that any bids or
5 anything that involved borrowing more money, that it
6 has to come back before council for an approval, and
7 that it could be done maybe with one vote, but that it
8 does have to have council review and council approval.
9 I really find it very disconcerting that the chairman
10 and the county administrator would make these
11 decisions without representation of the people. And I
12 think we have quite a few people here who would agree
13 with it. And judging from the primary numbers this
14 past June, they agreed, people got it. They want
15 their council members engaged. They want real
16 representation. So I now make the amendment that any
17 expenditures of the two point two five million would
18 require council approval.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson has made a
20 motion to amend Ordinance 2008-045. Is there a
21 second?

22 BOB WALDREP: Second.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on the
24 amendment? Hearing no one, chair calls for the vote
25 on Ms. Wilson's amendment. All in favor, please vote.
26 Two. All oppose. Four. Mr. Wilson, Mr. McAbee, Mr.
27 Thompson and Ms. Floyd oppose. Abstain. Mr. Greer
28 abstains. The amendment fails. We're back in
29 discussion of the original ordinance.

30 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: I call for the question.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, call for the
34 question.

35 JOEY PRESTON: We need to make sure that
36 we amend the existing ordinance to reflect the ---

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah, we're gonna amend 46,
38 but not 45.

39 TOM MARTIN: 45 requires amendment as
40 well. In the packet that was given to you, there are
41 redlines to both 45 and 46 to accomplish what I just
42 described, that is issuing in series as opposed to a
43 single bond.

44 CINDY WILSON: Does this still require
45 that the county use other sources to operate and
46 maintain the facility if there's insufficient funding
47 in that enterprise fund? I mean, you've given this to
48 me, there's been no time to look at it.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
50 floor to call for the question and there is a second

1 for the call for the question, but we have to amend
2 the ordinance, so we need to withdraw the motion to
3 call for the question. So Ms. Floyd, will you remove
4 your call for the question so we can amend this stuff?
5 And Mr. McAbee you remove your second. Okay. Now
6 we're back into discussion, we're back into discussion
7 on 2008-045. The chair moves to substitute the
8 redline version handed to us for 2008-045, which
9 basically we're gonna build and pay as we go along.
10 Is that the synopsis of it?

11 TOM MARTIN: That is a synopsis of it.
12 It obviously has more detail than that. That is a
13 synopsis of it.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair makes that
15 motion. Is there a second?

16 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, second, and I
17 request the floor.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Now we
19 are in discussion. Mr. Greer has requested the floor.

20 LARRY GREER: Mr. Martin, I'm hurriedly
21 reviewing this redline version and I find on page
22 nine, at the bottom of the page, at paragraph C, I see
23 language in there that says that the bonds cannot
24 exceed twenty-five percent of the revenue collected
25 during the fiscal year. Do you see what I'm looking
26 at? And my question is, does that clause in that
27 section, and I'm assuming it's in the other ordinance
28 as well, does that limit the amount that you could
29 actually borrow based on the twenty-five percent
30 revenue stream? So there is a limitation built in
31 based on that clause?

32 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Greer -- I'm sorry, Mr.
33 Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go right ahead.

35 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Greer, I should qualify
36 it by indicating I have not reviewed this ordinance.
37 This was drafted by Mike Burns, bond counsel for the
38 county. And for me to have reviewed the work of our
39 own bond counsel would simply have been redundant. I
40 have read it just as you have. I have made no effort
41 to verify any of the language. But my belief, my
42 interpretation of that phrase is, that is correct,
43 there would be a limitation on the amount of revenue
44 which could be used for these purposes.

45 LARRY GREER: My basic understanding then
46 is that whatever is needed to repay these bonds cannot
47 exceed twenty-five percent of the revenue stream from
48 the airport, and it specifically says, from the
49 airport.

50 TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, for a given year.

1 LARRY GREER: For a given year. Thank
2 you.
3 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
5 BOB WALDREP: Again, I understand that
6 this is new to you, Mr. Martin, but can you tell me
7 how you arrive at twenty-five percent and what's the
8 significance of that? Have figures been worked out
9 that we are unacquainted with, or the council is
10 unacquainted with as to how this revenue stream
11 comports with how the other revenue must be retained
12 by the council and that this twenty-five percent is
13 dedicated to the payment of the bonds? How were these
14 figures arrived at?
15 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.
17 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I
18 cannot answer that.
19 BOB WALDREP: Okay.
20 TOM MARTIN: I would have to defer to
21 county staff or I will attempt to contact the attorney
22 who drafted it.
23 BOB WALDREP: Well, do you think that
24 it's quite appropriate to kind of hit us with all this
25 at this particular meeting that we haven't had a
26 chance to discuss and for us to vote on it? Do you
27 think that's a good idea? You don't know? I
28 understand. I don't mean to put you in a spot, but
29 then again, I do. The other issue here, and you may
30 or may not know the answer to this, but I wanted to
31 assure myself and council members and the public that
32 in the event of a default on these bonds what occurs?
33 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
35 TOM MARTIN: First I would note that
36 time has expired. I would also, in response to Mr.
37 Waldrep's question, and in partial response to Ms.
38 Wilson's question, these bonds are being issued for
39 the construction of the hangars only, not for
40 operation of the airport. The question that Ms.
41 Wilson posed sort of blends two separate issues.
42 Language from the general fund goes toward operation
43 of the airport. These bonds can only be used for
44 construction of the projects as they're defined in the
45 ordinance, that is the hangars. If the revenue for
46 these is not sufficient, then the bonds would simply
47 be in default. No other source of revenue other than
48 airport revenue may be used for these bonds.
49 BOB WALDREP: Well, you know, default
50 usually means something like repossession. I mean,

1 would the bond holders actually take over the hangars?
2 I know of no other way that they would be able to
3 realize on their investment, so to speak.

4 TOM MARTIN: Simply using other examples
5 such as the Southern Connector toll road in
6 Greenville, I believe that alternate payment procedure
7 was worked out because of the impossibility of
8 repossession.

9 BOB WALDREP: So we could just say, well,
10 we're just gonna owe you the money and you can't have,
11 you can't have our hangars? But in the case of the
12 toll road that you illustrated there as an example,
13 what happened was they just simply went back and upped
14 and increased the fee. When you go down that little
15 road now, it used to be seventy-five cents and now
16 it's a dollar. So that's the obvious way that we
17 would have to do this. If we don't have enough money,
18 then we just have to increase the hangar fee or some
19 other fee to make this work. There's no other
20 solution; is there?

21 TOM MARTIN: That is correct, it can
22 only be paid from airport revenues, not from any other
23 source.

24 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion on the
26 floor to substitute the redline version for Ordinance
27 2008-045 and it has been seconded. All in favor of
28 doing that substitution please vote.

29 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, very quickly.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're doing the vote, Ms.
31 Wilson.

32 CINDY WILSON: I would be inclined to vote
33 for this if I had ---

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. You're out of
35 order, Ms. Wilson, we're taking a vote. All in favor
36 of substituting the redline version for Ordinance
37 2008-045 please vote. Five. Oppose. One. Abstain.

38 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining because
39 there's not even adequate time to read what ---

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

41 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The vote is five to one to
43 one. Mr. Waldrep opposed and Ms. Wilson abstained.
44 The ordinance to substitute has been approved. Now we
45 are voting on the ordinance basically as been amended,
46 is that right, Mr. -- okay. All in favor of Ordinance
47 2008-045 as been amended by the substitution, please
48 vote. Five. Oppose. Two. The vote is five to two,
49 with Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition.
50 The ordinance passes. We're taking a fifteen minute

1 break. Thank you.

2 BREAK

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're on third reading of
4 ordinance -- 8B, ordinance 2008-046, a first
5 supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and
6 sale of an Anderson County, South Carolina airport
7 revenue bond, series 2008, in the principal amount of
8 not exceeding two million two hundred and twenty-five
9 -- two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars,
10 and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to
11 approve. Is there a second? Is there a second? We
12 have a second. We're in discussion. Chair moves to
13 substitute the redline version in our packet for this
14 ordinance. Is there a second on that motion to
15 substitute?

16 BILL MCABEE: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to
18 substitute.

19 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are -- any -- now we are
21 in discussion on the motion to substitute. Ms.
22 Wilson.

23 CINDY WILSON: I reserve the same
24 objections that I issued awhile ago. On the surface
25 this sounds like an improved version, but we've not
26 been allowed adequate time to even look at these. I
27 mean, even if I had devoted fifteen minutes to doing
28 this during the break it would not have been
29 sufficient. I have another question, where are we on
30 the first half million dollars for the airport? Have
31 those construction plans been draw and bids let or
32 anything like that?

33 JOEY PRESTON: Holt Hopkins can answer
34 that.

35 HOLT HOPKINS: No, ma'am, we have not yet.
36 We've consolidated everything into this one plan as a
37 combined project. So we haven't proceeded on bidding
38 it out yet or anything.

39 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. Well, my
40 concern remains that with the state of the economy,
41 even business travel is down, any big ticket item is
42 being warehoused right now or shelved. We saw where
43 Pickens County has already initiated a building
44 project for hangars. We saw that even Dr. Hunt, who
45 is our chairman of the Airport Commission, said that
46 the waiting list has dropped to twenty-four, which
47 would mean that realistically we would only have maybe
48 six or seven who are firm candidates to rent that
49 space. It just makes no sense, no sense at all, to do
50 anything more than the first half million now and then

1 come back to council with plans -- we may even have to
2 adjust our plans to what the market, to what the
3 market might require. The plans that we may adjust to
4 may not even look at all like what is on this project
5 list. We're in some very turbulent times and it seems
6 that we need a lot more flexibility and certainly a
7 whole lot more review than five of us council members
8 are willing to put into this. Thank you.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The question on the floor
10 is whether or not to substitute, not to -- well, the
11 question on the floor is to substitute the redline for
12 the one in the book.

13 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

15 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to
16 get an answer here about whether that first half
17 million for the first hangar that I understood and
18 knew about, is that incorporated in the two point two
19 fifty?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston? Mr. Hopkins?

21 HOLT HOPKINS: That's in addition to.

22 BOB WALDREP: Oh, that's in addition to?

23 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

24 BOB WALDREP: So it's really two million
25 seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars that we would
26 be spending?

27 HOLT HOPKINS: If we built out the entire
28 plan that you have in your packet, it would be the two
29 point seven five.

30 BOB WALDREP: Okay. But right as it
31 stands now, Mr. Hopkins, we've approved -- already
32 approved the half million dollars; haven't we?

33 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.

34 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
35 Chairman, I just wanted the folks to know that I had
36 voted for that half million dollars initially and I
37 felt like that was a prudent thing to do. And to try
38 to do this in stages, I'm not a great believer in
39 build it and they will come, although we do have some
40 figures showing that there might be a pent-up demand
41 out there. But we need to take it in stages and I'm
42 just very concerned about the direction and abdication
43 of authority here to the administrator and one person
44 to go forward on this. So I cannot support it. Thank
45 you.

46 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, one other
47 quick question, please.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up, hold up, hold up.
49 Anyone else? Ms. Wilson.

50 CINDY WILSON: We were handed this package

1 as we came in. There's a cover letter from the McNair
2 Law Firm, a Mr. Michael Burns, but who can council
3 members ask question regarding legal issues of this?
4 Mr. Burns is the bond counsel. We don't have legal
5 representation that can answer these questions. Mr.
6 Martin has admittedly said that he hasn't reviewed any
7 of this. This is really troubling. We don't even
8 have a complete council that is willing to review the
9 paperwork we're given. We don't have an attorney that
10 can advise us as to the legal ramifications of these
11 items. This is very troubling. Very troubling.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls
13 for the vote.

14 GRACIE FLOYD: No. Am I too late?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're just gonna vote to
16 substitute. You can talk later.

17 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I was gonna talk
18 about the substitute.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Go ahead.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Mr. Martin, how
22 much time? Okay. We have two minutes.

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. When I look at the
24 substituted copy and compare it with the one in my
25 book that we've been working with now for the last
26 three meetings, when I look at it today, I really am
27 -- I really don't see that much, that much change
28 here. Some of the words that they look -- that the
29 redline copy has been taken out and put in is already
30 in this one, is already in this one. And the one I've
31 been reading, for example, if you will look on page
32 twenty-five, and by the way page twenty-five answers
33 the question that Mr. Waldrep had earlier, but if you
34 will look on page twenty-five, you will see where it
35 says, B, after giving credit for any amounts interest
36 redemption fund, it says the same thing, it says the
37 same thing. And further down, the next paragraph, it
38 says it's going to take out consultant engineer and
39 it's going to put in airport consultant. Well,
40 airport consultant is already in the one that was in
41 my packet, the one that I went over, the one that I
42 studied. So what do we have here?

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Much ado about nothing.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, it's the same thing.
45 It's the same thing. And if you had read page twenty
46 -- if you had read this at home, then you would have
47 seen where page twenty-five answers that question,
48 what happens if there shall be an insufficient to
49 satisfy the rate covenant? It was already answered on
50 page twenty-five, both in your packet and in this

1 book. In the new packet and in this book. So I'm
2 wondering what is the problem here? A lot of it is
3 just language that has been changed. And have I
4 missed something here? Are you following me? Have I
5 missed something?

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am, you haven't
7 missed anything.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I was jumped big time
9 over nothing. I did jump back. Thank you. All
10 right. I'm through.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time has expired. Chair
12 calls for the vote to substitute the redline version
13 for ordinance 2008-046. All in favor of the
14 substitution, please vote. Five. Oppose. One --
15 two. The vote is five to two, with Mr. Waldrep and
16 Ms. Wilson in the opposition. The motion to
17 substitute passes. Now we're voting on the ordinance
18 ---

19 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
20 extend by two minutes.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion to
22 extend time by two minutes.

23 CINDY WILSON: Second.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
25 favor of extending time by two minutes, please vote.
26 We have a unanimous. I take it you want the floor?

27 LARRY GREER: I do, Mr. Chairman. I have
28 a question of Mr. Hopkins or some of the airport
29 staff, Dr. Hunt, whoever needs to appropriately answer
30 this question. I'm looking at the definition section
31 on this last ordinance and it lists the projects. It
32 says projects shall mean the acquisition or
33 construction of any one or more of the following:
34 three T hangars, two corporate hangars and one shade
35 hangar. My question is real simple. What would
36 happen if we reduced the three T hangars to two and
37 the corporate hangars to one?

38 HOLT HOPKINS: That's kind of what we're
39 proposing. The reduced, the reduced plan, the initial
40 construction, is a T hangar, one shade hangar,
41 renovations to the big hangar. The other hangars that
42 were in the original plan, we're saying let's hold off
43 until we get these built and get them full, come right
44 back and borrow just enough to build the next set of T
45 hangars. We get a five year lease on a corporate
46 hangar, we'll borrow the money just for that corporate
47 hangar.

48 LARRY GREER: Okay. So what I'm asking
49 is in line with what you were thinking?

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

1 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir.
2 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you. Mr.
3 Chairman, at this time I move to amend to change the
4 language to -- on page one of --
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: 46?
6 LARRY GREER: -- 46, change the -- it's
7 under definitions, projects, move to change the
8 language from three T hangars to two T hangars and
9 from two corporate hangars to one corporate hangar.
10 GRACIE FLOYD: What page are we on?
11 LARRY GREER: Page one.
12 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Greer, you understand
13 that when you do that, that's all you can build
14 without a new ordinance?
15 LARRY GREER: I understand.
16 JOEY PRESTON: Okay.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Down at the very bottom in
18 the green. Okay. So we're going from three T hangars
19 to how many?
20 LARRY GREER: Two.
21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two. And two corporate
22 hangars to one?
23 LARRY GREER: That's correct.
24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And how many shade hangars?
25 LARRY GREER: One.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Keep that at one. So it's
27 the very last paragraph on page one. Everyone got
28 that? In the redline version. Is there a motion -- I
29 mean ---
30 CINDY WILSON: Second.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- is there a second? We
32 have a second.
33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on the
35 amendment?
36 BOB WALDREP: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I would
37 wonder how that translates to dollars and cents?
38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins? We don't
39 know. Less.
40 BOB WALDREP: We talking about a million,
41 two million, three million?
42 JOEY PRESTON: The issue will still be up
43 to two point two, but you'll only be able to build
44 what Mr. Greer has substituted.
45 BOB WALDREP: I understand that. But I
46 want to know what that -- do we know what that's gonna
47 cost?
48 JOEY PRESTON: When they go to bid, those
49 prices will be in there. It'll be certainly less than
50 two point two five.

1 BOB WALDREP: Well, I know it'll be
2 certainly less than that. But we just don't have any
3 idea? We just ---
4 JOEY PRESTON: You have estimates on what
5 the hangars can cost and ---
6 BOB WALDREP: What are those? What are
7 those?
8 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Hopkins, can you come
9 forward ---
10 BOB WALDREP: That's my question, Mr.
11 Preston. I'm asking a question trying to get an
12 answer and ---
13 JOEY PRESTON: I'm trying to give an
14 answer. Mr. Hopkins.
15 BOB WALDREP: What are we talking about?
16 This amendment has just been proposed by Mr. Greer and
17 I want to know how that translates into dollars and
18 cents.
19 HOLT HOPKINS: I don't have that by memory
20 of what each one of these costs. I mean, it's going
21 to be around five, six hundred thousand reduction by
22 reducing one of the corporate hangars.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: T hangar, what's a T ---
24 HOLT HOPKINS: One of the T hangars -- one
25 of the proposed T hangars was an add-on to one of the
26 existing hangars, five units, that was gonna be
27 probably another two hundred and fifty thousand for
28 just that one add-on.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So roughly eight
30 hundred and fifty thousand in reduction, thereabouts?
31 HOLT HOPKINS: And that's just ---
32 BOB WALDREP: That, in addition to the
33 five hundred thousand?
34 HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir, that's just ---
35 BOB WALDREP: So we're talking about one
36 point three million or so? Is that basically what
37 we're talking about? Give or take a hundred thousand,
38 you know ---
39 HOLT HOPKINS: A million and a half.
40 BOB WALDREP: Million and a half. Okay.
41 That's what I was searching for. Well, thank you.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? Time
43 has expired. Chair calls for the vote on 2008-046 as
44 amended. Oh, we haven't voted on the amendment? I'm
45 sorry. I'm slipping tonight. All in favor of
46 substituting the redline version -- okay. Where are
47 we? Oh, okay. Okay. I'll get there. All in favor
48 of Mr. Greer's amendment to go from three T hangars to
49 two and to go from two corporate hangars to one, all
50 in favor, please vote. We have three. Oppose. We

1 have three. We have -- abstain. Yes. The vote is
2 three to three to one, with Thompson, Floyd and McAbee
3 in the opposition and Mr. Wilson abstaining, so the
4 motion to amend fails. So now the chair calls for the
5 vote on Ordinance 2008-046 as substituted by the
6 redline version.

7 GRACIE FLOYD: May I say ---
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor, please vote.
9 Oppose. Four, three, with Mr. Wilson, Ms. Wilson and
10 Mr. Waldrep in the opposition. Four to three the
11 ordinance passes.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, may I say again,
13 please, that this thing that we received tonight, the
14 thing that we ---

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Speak in your mike.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: This thing that we received
17 tonight is the same thing that we were sent in our
18 packet last Friday. Same identical information last
19 Friday. I don't know how our secretary got it, but
20 evidently she got it, she put it in our things.
21 Everything that's in here is in here. These are the
22 redline, this is without the redline. So what was it
23 all about? Thank you.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance 2008-038, a
25 rezoning request for district one, application of
26 Anderson School District Five to amend the planned
27 development district covering one hundred and twenty
28 acres on Old Williamston Road, and other matters
29 related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a
30 second?

31 BOB WALDREP: Second.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
33 discussion? All in favor of ordinance 2008-038,
34 please vote. Six. Oppose. The vote is six to one,
35 with Ms. Floyd in the opposition. The ordinance
36 passes. Ordinance 2008-049, second reading, an
37 ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance
38 of solid waste system revenue bonds of Anderson
39 County, South Carolina, and other matters related
40 thereto.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, point of order.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Hold up. Point
43 of order. What is your point of order?

44 GRACIE FLOYD: My point is why don't we
45 give the district five people a chance to leave now
46 before we go on so we can all hear.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, I'm going to continue
48 with my instructions.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: There is a public hearing

1 on this ordinance. Public hearing instructions are,
2 any person desiring to do so may speak at a public
3 hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he
4 or she is speaking to the issue under consideration.
5 The chairman exercises control of the public hearing
6 to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing
7 process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments,
8 clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive,
9 offensive or inappropriate comments. With that being
10 said the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing
11 to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please
12 state your name and address before speaking and speak
13 only to the chair. The public hearing is now open.
14 Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now
15 closed. The chair moves to approve ordinance 2008-
16 049. Is there a second?

17 BILL MCABEE: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

19 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, may I?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

21 CINDY WILSON: Is there any land
22 acquisition contemplated in this three point two
23 million dollars?

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any land acquisitions?

25 JOEY PRESTON: I believe only one, Ms.

26 Wilson.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One what?

28 JOEY PRESTON: Which one is it? Slabtown,
29 the Slabtown site.

30 CINDY WILSON: Well, you know, I know we
31 need upgrades and expansions desperately. I have no
32 question whatsoever about that. But I remember in a
33 community meeting that Councilman Greer and I attended
34 in Friendship, I guess it's been about three years
35 ago, there were some recommendations that we discussed
36 with county personnel and it seems to me that the
37 total cost of all of that was around seventy-five,
38 seventy-eight thousand, to do all of that. And I
39 think that there was even an adjoining landowner
40 offering to sell another acre or so at a reasonable
41 price, that was one thing. And I see on here that
42 there were three engineering firms who have confirmed
43 the problematic structural integrity. We didn't need
44 three engineering firms to tell us which was visible
45 to any moron that you could see this. I'm just
46 wondering -- I know we found one -- I found one
47 engineer ...

48 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

49 CINDY WILSON: ... to do each one. It
50 just seems like we are so illogical and lacking in

1 common sense on a lot of this stuff. Again, I have no
2 question that we need to expand and upgrade. But
3 three engineering firms. I'd love to see those
4 engineering reports and how much we paid for them. I
5 betcha anything that that's about what the original
6 cost estimate was. Thank you.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls
8 for the vote on Ordinance 2008-049. All in favor,
9 please vote. Six. Oppose.

10 CINDY WILSON: I abstain.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Abstain.

12 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The vote is six, zero and
14 one, with Ms. Wilson abstaining. The ordinance
15 passes. Mr. Greer.

16 LARRY GREER: I move to reconsider
17 Ordinance 2008-049.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Motion to reconsider 2008-
19 049. Is there a second? We have a second to
20 reconsider. Now we're in discussion. Again. Call
21 for the vote on reconsideration. All in favor of
22 reconsidering 2008-049, please vote. Okay. We have
23 five. Oppose. Two. Five to two, with Thompson and
24 Mr. Wilson opposing. So the motion to reconsider
25 passes. Now we are in discussion again for 049.

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now, you wish to -- okay.

28 LARRY GREER: Yes, I do.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

30 LARRY GREER: I move to amend this
31 ordinance to insert the language that all five
32 projects be listed separately and that when we vote on
33 this ordinance on third reading that the projects be
34 voted on separately with the chairman polling each
35 member of council for their vote and with him polling
36 the member in whose the district it's located first.

37 CINDY WILSON: Now, if that isn't
38 something.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you have a page number
40 for me on this ordinance?

41 LARRY GREER: No. Just put it wherever
42 it needs to be.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You get all that,
44 Mr. Martin? Do you want to repeat that again for Mr.
45 Martin's sake and my safe?

46 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
47 think it's going to be easier to get it from the tape.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second on
49 Mr. Greer's amendment?

50 BILL MCABEE: Second.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second on Mr.
2 Greer's amendment. We're gonna list and I'm gonna
3 poll. Any discussion? Ms. Wilson, you had something
4 to say earlier.

5 CINDY WILSON: That is so wicked.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. We've got
7 wicked going on.

8 CINDY WILSON: Absolutely wicked. You
9 know, Friendship was supposed to have been done at
10 least three or four years ago. There's no doubt that
11 each of these projects needs to be done. I think that
12 we need to reign in the review and the bid process and
13 make sure the people of this county are getting their
14 money's worth.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

16 CINDY WILSON: And I would still want to
17 see the engineering reports that are referred to in
18 this ordinance. I think that would be very
19 interesting to see what we've paid three different
20 engineers to come up with the same idea.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else wants to
22 talk about the motion to amend ---

23 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- for listing and polling
25 in ---

26 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, am I correct
27 that in this vote that we're taking to fund the solid
28 waste system here, that that includes vehicles? Or
29 are we only talking about sites that ---

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're talking about the
31 projects for this solid waste revenue bond. Is that
32 right?

33 BOB WALDREP: But does that include
34 anything other than the physical improvement of a
35 property site?

36 JOEY PRESTON: No, sir. It does not.
37 Look over at your ordinance, you'll see exactly what
38 it is.

39 BOB WALDREP: Okay.

40 CINDY WILSON: Well, I think we can see
41 how this will be headed.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of Mr.
43 Greer's amendment for listing and polling, please
44 vote.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: All in favor you said?

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of listing and
47 polling. That's what he basically wants to do.
48 Three. Oppose. Two -- three. And Mr. Wilson
49 abstains. So the vote is three, three to one. The
50 motion to amend fails. So now we've got to vote on

1 the motion again -- ordinance again. Ordinance 2008-
2 049. All in favor, please vote. Six. Oppose.
3 Abstained.

4 CINDY WILSON: Abstain.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So once again it's six,
6 zero, one, with Ms. Wilson abstaining. Now we're down
7 to B, 2008-050, a first supplemental ordinance
8 providing for the issuance and sale of an Anderson
9 County, South Carolina solid waste system revenue bond
10 series 2008 in the principal amount of not exceeding
11 three point two million dollars. And there is a
12 public hearing on this also. Same rules apply. Speak
13 to the chair, only to the chair. Speak for a
14 reasonable period of time. And that being said, the
15 public hearing is now open. Seeing and hearing no
16 one, the public hearing is closed. The chair moves to
17 approve ordinance 2008-050. Is there a second?

18 BILL MCABEE: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Now
20 we're in discussion.

21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

23 BOB WALDREP: Once again, I always like
24 to ask this question. This is solely a revenue bond
25 and this is not going to be tacked on to anybody's
26 property taxes and make millage go up?

27 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir, that's true.

28 BOB WALDREP: That is true. Okay.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? All in favor
30 of Ordinance 2008-050, please vote. Six. Oppose.
31 Abstain. Six, zero and one, with Ms. Wilson
32 abstaining. Ordinance passes. Ordinance 2008-051, an
33 ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a
34 second amended lease agreement between Anderson County
35 and Robert Bosch and adding Associated Fuel Pump
36 Systems Corporation as a sponsor, and other matters
37 related thereto. There is a public hearing on this.
38 Same instructions apply. Speak to the chair, only to
39 the chair and speak for a reasonable period of time.
40 That being said, the public hearing is now open.
41 Anyone wishes to speak on this issue? Seeing and
42 hearing no one, the public hearing is closed. The
43 chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-051.

44 CINDY WILSON: Second.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
46 discussion?

47 CINDY WILSON: Very briefly. I'm just
48 very grateful that this great company that has been
49 such a good corporate neighbor and its Associated Pump
50 Systems adjoining is still doing well and still

1 remaining. I'm very grateful to them for being good
2 corporate neighbors and providing good jobs. Thank
3 you.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? All in --
5 chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance
6 2008-051, please vote. Unanimous. First reading,
7 ordinances. Ordinance 2008-048, an ordinance
8 approving a rezoning request by William J. Cooley,
9 Jr., owner to rezone zero point eight one acres at
10 2442 Whitehall Road from R20 to C2, to allow
11 conversion of the residential property to be used --
12 to a used automobile sales lot and office. There's a
13 public hearing on this. Same rules apply. Speak to
14 the chair, only to the chair, speak for a reasonable
15 period of time. And with that being said, the public
16 hearing is open. Name, rank and serial number.

17 BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake
18 Road, district one. I rise in opposition to this,
19 ladies and gentlemen, for two reasons. One, there was
20 a -- there's been a series of traffic accidents right
21 at this intersection. It's a very dangerous
22 intersection. You don't need to have a business
23 located there. Number two, the surrounding property
24 is all either R20 or RA. This is not meant to be a
25 commercial district. There does not need to be
26 another car dealership located in that area. It's
27 been denied, by my knowledge, by the planning
28 commission. This thing should be put to death
29 immediately and not resurrected. Thank you very much.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and
31 hearing no one, the public hearing is now closed.
32 Chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-048. Is there a
33 second?

34 LARRY GREER: Second.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
36 in discussion. Chair retains the floor. This piece
37 of property is in district five, which I represent.
38 If you will look in your packet, 10A, you would note
39 that the owner only made application for rezoning
40 after he was stopped from the work that he was already
41 begun, so it's hindsight. You would note that the
42 staff recommended denial. You will notice that the
43 district five Zoning Citizen Advisory Committee
44 recommended denial and the Planning Commission
45 recommended denial. And as the representative I ask
46 that you vote no. But just basically I would not want
47 to live next to a car lot and there are houses all
48 around this property. I see it as devaluing the
49 neighbors' property. So with that being said, that's
50 all I have to say. Anyone else?

1 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

3 BOB WALDREP: I just like to reinforce
4 from time to time that whenever we do get these
5 rezoning requests and they have been through the
6 gauntlet of two organizations that we hire and that we
7 appoint, that we give good weight to those decisions
8 and those recommendations. That's the only thing that
9 I guess I look at more than anything else. Thank you.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?
11 All in favor of Ordinance 2008-048, please vote.
12 Oppose. It's zero and seven. Everyone votes no.
13 Make it simple there. Ordinance 2008-052, an
14 ordinance amending Section 55-31 of the Anderson
15 County Code of Ordinance pertaining to travel and
16 subsidence and other matters related thereto. The
17 chair moves to approve. Is there a second? Is there
18 a second?

19 CINDY WILSON: Second.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
21 in discussion. I'm the sponsor on this, so if you
22 will look at 10B in your packet, 10B in your packet.
23 Basically what we are doing here, you have to refer to
24 Exhibit A, and what we are doing here is tying, we
25 called it per diem in the Navy, because that's
26 basically what it is, per diem.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Per diem.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Per diem. We're tying our
29 per diem with the Federal rate, so as Federal rates
30 fluctuate, our rates will fluctuate and we will never,
31 forever have to deal with this issue again. We will
32 always be current.

33 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

35 CINDY WILSON: Several questions. But the
36 first one is it refers to the Internal Revenue
37 Services Publication 1542. Will that Publication
38 number still remain the same, but maybe the rates
39 fluctuate with CPI or whatever?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Who can answer the
41 question? Ms. Humphries.

42 GINA HUMPHRIES: Yes, ma'am, you're correct.
43 The Publication number remains a constant.

44 CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you. The
45 other issue is, in reading over on page three, it
46 states about transportation costs and that employees
47 may be reimbursed upon proper receipt for all ferry,
48 bridge, road and parking tolls, receipts for taxi
49 fares are not requires; however, taxi expenses must be
50 itemized on the expense report. This goes back to our

1 county credit card problem that we've had recently.
2 We've found that it appears that some council members
3 and department heads have even used our credit cards
4 to dine at local restaurants here in town. So of
5 course that doesn't come under per diem, but it's
6 certainly a charge to our county credit card, and thus
7 to our taxpayers. And I want to point out that going
8 back to September of last year through March of '08,
9 there were many requests that I made to review all the
10 credit card billing statements and the backup, which
11 would include the county employee's name, expense
12 reports, receipts, et cetera. When we were finally
13 allowed in to look at the material on February the
14 6th, there was very little or no backup, billing
15 statements were totally jumbled up. There were -- the
16 few pages of the few card statements that were
17 provided to me in November '07 appeared to have been
18 -- some of them appeared to have been altered. I
19 think that in addition to this ordinance we need to
20 have a modification or amendments made to the county's
21 credit card use policies. I'm in support of this, Mr.
22 Thompson, but it does not go far enough. We need to
23 address the credit card issue too. For a county of
24 our size to have anywhere from twenty-three or more
25 credit cards in circulation and council members can't
26 even review them and there's the appearance that some
27 council members and some county employees may be
28 abusing these cards, then I would like to recommend
29 that we have that on the next council meeting's agenda
30 where we address these credit card uses.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So what are you wanting to
32 see regarding the credit cards?

33 CINDY WILSON: Well, I never got to see
34 all of them. And I never saw very much backup at all.
35 We need to require that there be a better control of
36 the use of the credit cards. We need to require that
37 the credit cards when used, that everyone, including
38 our council members, have proper receipts and expense
39 reports attached. I know at one point in our
40 personnel policy it states that the department heads
41 have to approve the use. I saw where one of our
42 employees used -- I mean, one of our county members --
43 county council members used various credit cards from
44 various departments. I think we need to reign that
45 in. When we're spending over two hundred thousand a
46 year on credit cards, and a lot of it appears to be
47 maybe alcohol purchases, I think we need to look into
48 that and make the proper adjustments. Don't y'all?

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Ms.
50 Wilson. Anyone else? All in favor of Ordinance 2008-

1 052, please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance
2 2008-053, an ordinance amending Section 55-38 of the
3 Anderson County Code of Ordinance pertaining to
4 retiree insurance, and other matters related thereto.
5 Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

6 BILL MCABEE: Second.

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. I
8 understand we have a presentation.

9 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a
10 quick question while they're setting up?

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

12 CINDY WILSON: Where is a copy of the IRS
13 Health Reimbursement Arrangements that this is based
14 on? I requested that this afternoon and never did get
15 it. All right. Thank you. This is per diem. This
16 is the per diem, not the IRS Health Reimbursement
17 Arrangements. Yeah, that's what I was asking for.
18 I've got the per diem. I got that when I came in. It
19 states in here that our most recent actuarially --
20 annual required contribution is two point one million
21 dollars. Oh, thank you.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Davis, Ms. Humphries.

23 GINA HUMPHRIES: I'm just gonna sort of kick
24 this off and let Rita and -- Rita Davis and Phyllis
25 McAlister walk you through this presentation. I just
26 wanted to remind council and perhaps members of the
27 audience too, that this was an issue that we talked
28 about in one of our budget workshops back in April.
29 In fact, some of the materials you see tonight you
30 have already seen. I'm sure you will remember it.
31 And we're just showing it again for purposes of
32 refreshing your memory. We had a team of employees
33 that have been -- they have worked on this ever since
34 April. We have come up with what we think is a really
35 solid solution to the, I won't say problem, but to the
36 funding situation with retiree health insurance. And
37 Mr. Preston did hand out publication 969, which does
38 deal not only with health savings accounts, but health
39 retirement -- or health reimbursement arrangements.
40 And also, Mr. Preston, that other stack there,
41 Publication 502, that's sort of a companion to the
42 969, in case you don't have enough to read already.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A lot of trees are dying.

44 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, you know, the IRS
45 loves their publications. Rita and I love to read
46 them. So without further ado, Rita, the Finance
47 Manager will walk you through this, and Phyllis
48 McAlister, who informs me that this is the first time
49 in nineteen years that she's ever had to make a
50 presentation to council. So y'all go easy on her.

1 Thank you.

2 RITA DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, members of
3 county council, thank you for this opportunity ---

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Speak into the mike, Ms.
5 Davis.

6 RITA DAVIS: Excuse me, sir. Yes, sir.
7 Thank you for this opportunity to talk about GATSBY 45
8 and this important financial matter that is facing the
9 county. In June 2004, the Governmental Accounting
10 Standards Board issued Statement number 45. And the
11 name of that statement is accounting and financial
12 reporting by employers for post employment benefits
13 other than pensions. They call that OPEB, other post
14 employment benefits, for short. What is that? It
15 includes retiree health, dental and vision insurance,
16 prescription and other healthcare benefits, long term
17 care insurance and life insurance. So any of those
18 items could potentially make a governmental entity
19 have an OPEB liability. Statement 45 requires that
20 local governments report OPEB obligations similar to
21 pension obligations. And uniformly throughout the
22 nation, state and local governments will be accounting
23 for these liabilities in a uniform and consistent
24 manner. If you -- if a governmental entity has an
25 expense associated retiree benefits, then this
26 statement is requiring us to provide for these
27 benefits on an accrual basis. If the employee is
28 working with the county, we are incurring an
29 obligation and an associated expense for that. So
30 therefore as the employees' tenure with the county
31 continues to build, our obligation will increase.
32 Currently we're on a pay-as-you-go basis. Monthly
33 Phyllis McAlister receives an invoice for the retirees
34 through their health insurance and she pays it. It's
35 approximately three hundred thousand a year. And
36 county council has budgeted for that. That's a pay-
37 as-you-go cash basis, if you will. Well, GATSBY no
38 longer wants that. They want it to be accounted for
39 on an accrual basis. Why are they doing that? So
40 that the expense associated with that retiree health
41 insurance will be provided for on a matching basis.
42 As Phyllis -- and like Jason Phillips, the treasurer,
43 as he's here bringing in revenue, they want to match
44 that expense with that revenue that's being generated
45 by the county. It's called the matching principal in
46 accounting. Statement 45 does not require a local
47 government to fund its other post employment benefit
48 liability. However, if we choose not to do so, it
49 will have dire unfavorable results in our financial
50 statements. By virtue of our rating agencies, they'll

1 look to see if we have chosen to fund this liability
2 and take that into consideration when they set our
3 bond rating. And you know how critical that is as far
4 as interest expense whenever we go to the market to
5 issue bonds. When is this statement effective? There
6 was a three tier implementation phase, and it's based
7 on a government's total annual revenues. We fell into
8 the second tier. Charleston, Spartanburg, the bigger
9 counties, was liable for the fiscal year we just
10 ended, June 30, '08. We're liable for the fiscal year
11 we're in now that started July 1, '08 and will end
12 June 30, '09. That's why we're here discussing it and
13 that's why it's so important at this time to make a
14 decision concerning this. Currently Anderson County
15 offers retiree health insurance. And that is provided
16 for in your Personnel Code of Ordinance, Section 55-
17 38, and that's what we're asking you to amend. By
18 virtue of us doing that, we are subject to GATSBY 45
19 and the OPEB liability. Statement 45 gets into some
20 real technical terms that usually you see in the
21 pension arena and it did require us to have an
22 actuarial valuation that council members were provided
23 during the budget workshop back in April. It's a
24 thick document. It had a blue cover on it. And it
25 had our numbers. They got data from us based upon
26 retirees and existing employees and they crunched the
27 numbers for us and came back with a twenty-four
28 million dollar obligation. It takes a thirty year
29 look, those actuaries looked at a thirty year basis,
30 and they came up -- our liability consists of two
31 components, what's already been earned by existing
32 employees and retirees, and what they will earn in the
33 future over this thirty year period. Again, they
34 looked at the retired employees and current employees
35 and what they're already earned, what they're going to
36 earn, and they made it a present value calculation.
37 They brought those future benefits back to today's
38 dollar.

39 CINDY WILSON: May I ask a quick question?
40 The twenty-four million dollars is projected out
41 thirty years?

42 RITA SMITH: For thirty years, yes,
43 ma'am. That's the present value of those future
44 benefits, plus what's being earned today. Twelve
45 million has been earned to date by existing employees
46 and retirees, and they project twelve more million
47 will be earned, twelve point two million actually ---

48 CINDY WILSON: Okay. Thank you.

49 RITA SMITH: -- in the future. That's
50 if we fund it. That obligation rises to thirty-eight

1 million if we don't fund it. If we fund it, they
2 assume that we're earning interest on those
3 investments. But if we choose not to fund it, that
4 amount rises to thirty-eight million dollars.

5 CINDY WILSON: Would this number be
6 impacted -- I read through here that a county employee
7 who's worked for the county for five years would then
8 come under this when he retires.

9 RITA SMITH: They were taken into
10 consideration in this calculation.

11 CINDY WILSON: So if we change that number
12 of years to maybe seven or ten years that you had an
13 employees, would that make the number less onerous for
14 the county?

15 RITA SMITH: Yes, ma'am, it will. It
16 surely will. And Phyllis will get into the mechanics
17 of what we're suggesting. But it surely will, and
18 we'll have to go back and have our actuary do that
19 calculation for us. But yes, ma'am, it surely would.
20 But what we're proposing may even totally eliminate
21 our OPEB liability. And she'll get into those
22 particulars in a minute. But yes, ma'am, we're
23 looking to mitigate or eliminate that liability on our
24 financial statement. There's a price tag involved,
25 but it will be substantially less than if we just
26 chose to do nothing or went to -- kept with our
27 current plan and stocked money away in a trust. We've
28 come up with something that we think is a better
29 mechanism to help mitigate or eliminate this
30 liability. In this actuarial evaluation, they had
31 something called an ARC, the Annual Required
32 Contribution, and ours came back from two point one
33 million dollars if we choose to fund it. County
34 council did appropriate this amount in the current
35 operating budget. So you provided for us to fund this
36 ARC. The ARC is -- if we do not fund it, it's two
37 point eight million dollars. We get to reduce it by
38 Phyllis's pay-as-you-go claims of three hundred
39 thousand. So if we got to June 30, '09, did nothing,
40 we would have a two point five million dollar
41 liability on our books. And again, GATSBY 34 looks at
42 a thirty year window to make that calculation. They
43 have what they call a net OPEB obligation and that's
44 what we just talked about. If we chose not to do
45 anything we would have two point eight million ARC,
46 minus three hundred contribution, or a two point five
47 million dollar liability on our financial statements
48 at June 30, '09, if we choose not to fund our
49 obligation. Again, if we choose not to do anything,
50 we'll be placing millions of dollars of liability on

1 our books. It'd be approximately two point eight
2 million liability that would be reflected and we would
3 have to disclose in our footnotes to the financials
4 that there's twelve million -- well, actually it would
5 be, I think, sixteen million if we chose not to fund
6 it. And again, our bond rating agencies look
7 unfavorably on that. And this following table comes
8 straight from that actuarial study that you were
9 provided in April. And you'll see the numbers we just
10 discussed. You see the first arrow? That's the
11 twenty-four million if we prefund it, if we choose to
12 put money in a vehicle to help fund this obligation.
13 If we choose not to, it will be thirty-eight million.
14 Of which it's broken into the two components. You'll
15 see twelve point one million on the right hand side
16 with the present value of future normal costs. That's
17 what's already been earned by our employees and
18 retirees and twelve point three million is what they -
19 - the present value of what they think they'll earn in
20 the future. If you sum that twelve point one million,
21 that twelve point two nine nine million, that totals
22 the twenty-four point four million that you see at the
23 first arrow. And again, there's our ARC. The second
24 arrow demonstrates what our annual required
25 contribution is. For the fiscal year we're in now,
26 council has provided for that two million one forty-
27 eight, eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars
28 to be paid on behalf of our employees for retiree
29 health insurance. Again, if we choose not to, that
30 will end up being a liability on our financial
31 statements and that amount will continue to grow and
32 grow each and every year, so of course it will
33 unfavorably impact our fund balance and our bond
34 rating.

35 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Okay. We're gonna talk
36 about what we actually have right now, our current
37 plan. Our current plan was passed in 2004 as part of
38 the new personnel policy. It says, all employees who
39 have retired from Anderson County with at least five
40 years of service and who qualify for retiree health
41 insurance under the state insurance system, shall be
42 eligible for retiree health insurance paid for by the
43 county for a certain number of years, as established
44 by the following schedule. All of you saw this
45 schedule in their handbook. What it does, it starts
46 off with five years. It says, five years or age
47 sixty-five, the great of the two. It goes all the way
48 through, as you'll see, six, seven, eight, nine, ten
49 years. So if you retire with five years and you're
50 forty-five years old, we would pay it till age sixty-

1 five. If you've been here twenty-five years, you're
2 only gonna get it ten years or to age sixty-five. So
3 that's what we currently do. Right now we have a
4 hundred and three retirees on the health insurance,
5 just so that you'll know. The proposed policy using
6 the HRA for the retired employees, in addition an HRA
7 will be established for each current employee
8 receiving benefits. We're not taking anything away
9 from the current retirees that are on the plan right
10 now, the hundred and three that are there. What is an
11 HRA? HRA is an employer funded plan that reimburses
12 the employees for incurred medical expenses. What
13 happens is, as you incur these expenses, you send it
14 to the third party administrator and they send you a
15 check for that. So you're getting paid as you go.
16 The advantages are, the money is set aside in that
17 employee's account and there's no limit on the amount
18 of money that the employer can contribute to the
19 accounts. That would be voted on each year during
20 budget, the amount of money that would be set aside.
21 And since it's set aside in that employee's name, they
22 have the flexibility and the option to spend the money
23 the way they want, along with the IRS guidelines.
24 Today as an employee, if I retire, it is mandated that
25 I'm on the state health plan and that is all that's
26 offered me. But with an HRA, if I can find a policy
27 that is as good or meets my needs better, it could be
28 at a lower rate or a higher rate, I can choose to go
29 on that plan. So I'm not locked into the state health
30 plan. So that's something that's really good about
31 it. The money in the account can never be used for
32 anything but reimbursements for qualified medical
33 expenses. We gave you the IRS guidelines for that.
34 Another is, because the employer funds the plan,
35 reimbursement dollars received by the employee are tax
36 free. They are consumer directed healthcare. The
37 employee determines when to access their account for
38 reimbursement. It's their decision. You know, some
39 people, every time they get a bill they want their
40 money right then. Other people like to do it
41 annually. Some people do it quarterly. It's entirely
42 up to them. They can hold that and do it as they want
43 to. Any unused amounts in that HRA can be carried
44 forward for later years, so there's a potential for a
45 long term benefit. As I told you, it's for ten years
46 or age sixty-five. It could last me a lot longer than
47 that if I'm controlling those funds myself. If I am
48 not sick that much, if I bought a cheaper plan, it
49 could last me till I'm seventy-five. So it's just
50 according if you're in good health or you shop around,

1 you can save money and have a benefit longer. The
2 longer the employee works for Anderson County, the
3 greater the potential for a larger fund. You start
4 putting the money in the day that they come to work.
5 You submit paperwork, as I said, to the third party
6 administrator for reimbursement, then they send you
7 the check. You receive a statement quarterly so that
8 you know exactly what your balance is, how much you've
9 spent, how much you've earned. Because it would earn
10 interest. What are qualified medical expenses? It's
11 per the IRS document you have there, it's for cost of
12 diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment. That includes
13 the cost of equipment supplies, diagnostic devices
14 needed for these purposes. What are the advantages to
15 Anderson County? The funds are actually owned by us.
16 They're in the employee's name, but they're set aside,
17 they are our funds. If the amount is not used upon
18 the death the balance will revert back to the county
19 to offset future contributions. So after so many
20 years the plan could be paying for itself. The
21 employee turnover and the interest earnings, the funds
22 could fund themselves. Right now our average turnover
23 is five years. So although we do have a lot of people
24 that have more time, the average turnover is five. We
25 start putting money in on day one. If they leave
26 before they meet, which we're recommending twelve
27 years, I'll get that to you later, but if they leave
28 before that, those funds are Anderson County's and
29 they go right back into the plan. So that's really
30 good. Establishing the HRA's will totally eliminate
31 the liability under GATSBY statement for current
32 employees. Establishing HRAs will help lower, if not
33 totally eliminate the liability owed on retiree health
34 insurance for prior employees who are already
35 currently retired. Proposed policy. We're not
36 changing anything for those employees that are here
37 today or will be hired by the end of this year. It
38 will still be the five consecutive years prior to
39 retirement. So that's going to be unchanged. What
40 we're going to change is we want to move that up to
41 twelve years. We talked with other counties. I'm
42 going to tell you what they're doing. We talked with
43 the people at the state. They've made some changes.
44 So that's the reason that we're making this. We're
45 wanting to say that if you come to work after December
46 the 31st of this year, which that would begin January
47 1, 2009, you would be here twelve consecutive years
48 prior to retirement to be eligible to get your HRA.
49 Retiree health insurance benefits for former county
50 employees who retired prior to, those people that

1 retire before the end of the year will be invested in
2 an HRA at least equivalent to their current benefits.
3 So no one is going to lose anything. The current
4 employees are protected.

5 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, just one
6 quick question. What is the impact of getting to be
7 sixty-five? I wasn't quite sure how that affects ---

8 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Well, the sixty-five won't
9 really play into it anymore. It'll be the twelve
10 years, twelve consecutive years that you've been here.
11 So it'll be the twelve years. So sixty-five is not
12 really a player. It won't matter. That'll be taken
13 out entirely. It's be -- it's just your service with
14 the county will be twelve years. At the end of that
15 twelve years and you're eligible to retire, you also
16 have to be eligible to retire, and you retire from
17 Anderson County ---

18 BOB WALDREP: Which is a period of how
19 many years?

20 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Twenty-eight years or
21 twenty-five for police officers or age fifty-five.

22 BOB WALDREP: I'm just trying to figure
23 out how this melds into social security and medicare
24 and all ---

25 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Right.

26 BOB WALDREP: It's independent ---

27 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: It is, that's correct.

28 BOB WALDREP: -- of medicare and medicaid
29 and all that?

30 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

31 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. How many more do you
35 have to go?

36 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: About three or four is
37 all.

38 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I've been holding my
39 questions until the end.

40 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Okay.

41 GRACIE FLOYD: But you only have three
42 more to go?

43 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Yes, ma'am, it's not very
44 much at all. I'll talk real fast for you.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Good.

46 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: HRAs. This is not
47 something new. The industry has been using it for
48 many years. It's just becoming popular for
49 governments right now, but it is not anything new.
50 Okay. What we're doing is, we told you that we talked

1 with the state. Right now the state -- well, right
2 now they've changed. But prior to May of 2008, if you
3 had been with the state for ten years or more, they
4 paid it one hundred percent. As of May the 2nd, 2008,
5 you had to be there fifteen years, and then they only
6 pay fifty percent. So there's been a big change
7 there. Okay. These are the other counties we talked
8 with, Chester, Lexington, City of Myrtle Beach, City
9 of Cayce, City of Monroe. You see what all they're
10 doing. They're all wanting to implement the HRAs at
11 different points in time. They're at different
12 stages. This is what we would like to do. We would
13 like to revise the personnel ordinance, fall of 2008,
14 put out the bid for the third party administrator,
15 contract the TPA, the third party administrator,
16 establish an HRA account for employees in the spring
17 of next year, meet with the employees and retirees and
18 explain it and then fund them by June of next year.
19 Now, we did meet with the human resource committee
20 who's made up of employees throughout the county and
21 we gave this same presentation. They were very
22 receptive to it. But those are the changes.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, you have
24 questions.

25 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you. She
26 answered one of my questions at the complete end.
27 Have you talked to the employees about it and how do
28 they feel about it?

29 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Yes, ma'am, we did talk
30 with them and they were very receptive. Now that was
31 just a committee. But as you can imagine, they've
32 gone back and they've said something in their
33 departments. We've had some phone calls in personnel
34 and ---

35 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Thank you.
36 Next question. You -- if you have folks in the system
37 already retired, are there any benefits that can be
38 given these -- will you have benefits for these
39 people?

40 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Yes, ma'am, they won't
41 change -- the only change will be, we will set up HRAs
42 for them. Currently they are on the state health plan
43 and they can remain there. But if they would like to
44 go out and buy coverage otherwise, they can do that.

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Along with the state health
46 plan?

47 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: No, ma'am, it would be one
48 or the other. Well, they could, but they would be
49 depleting their money faster, because it would be
50 their money. We wouldn't pay for the state health

1 plan and -- I mean, we would be paying for both, so
2 therefore the money would be coming down faster.

3 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So just as it is ---

4 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: If they wanted to buy a
5 supplement is what you're talking about ---

6 GRACIE FLOYD: Just as it is now, those of
7 us who have retired on the state plan, there's no --
8 there's nothing built in this new plan for us, we just
9 continue as we are?

10 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Yes, ma'am, if that's what
11 you choose to do.

12 GRACIE FLOYD: I don't have a choice.

13 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Well, as a statement
14 employee. But as a county employee, you would have an
15 HRA, you could decide to stay on the state health plan
16 or go out and buy another policy, one that suited your
17 needs better. When you get sixty-five and go on
18 medicare, you may want to get a supplement plan which
19 would run you about a -- I hear they run about a
20 hundred seventy-five to two hundred dollars. The
21 state health plan runs about three hundred and thirty-
22 six dollars. So that would be a savings for them,
23 which would make their account last longer.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Do you have many people in
25 our system who are on the state health plan as -- you
26 know, and not ---

27 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: We have a hundred and
28 three right now on the state health plan retirees.

29 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right.

30 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: And those people could
31 choose if they wanted to stay on it or go out and get
32 something different. We would continue to pay. The
33 only thing, it would come out of an HRA.

34 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I know time is over,
35 but when I was told about this plan I asked for two
36 things, number one, let's see how it's doing over the
37 state. And number two, about our ...

38 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

39 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Well, we'll go ahead and
40 talk with them. We'll start talking with them in the
41 fall about it, getting them ready and telling them
42 that this change will take place.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: This fall of 2000 ---

44 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: If it's passed and we put
45 out the bids and get everything then we will start
46 educating them right away so that they will know so
47 that they can be making a decision.

48 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, because I think that
49 needs to be done first before you put out a bid. I
50 think we need to talk ---

1 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: There won't be any change

2 ---

3 GRACIE FLOYD: -- to our employees first
4 though.

5 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: There won't be any change
6 for the current employees. Current employees will
7 still be on the state health plan.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

9 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: That's all we offer.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Time has expired.
11 Chair moves to extend time by, what, five minutes?
12 Anyone second that? I have a second by Mr. Waldrep.
13 All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please
14 vote.

15 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may ---

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. I'm still taking
17 a vote here. Who's voting to extend time? Okay.
18 Oppose. Okay. We have -- it's five to two, with
19 Floyd and Greer in the opposition. So the motion to
20 extend time by five minutes passes. Ms. McAlister, it
21 was said in the presentation there is no limit how
22 much the employer, Anderson County, can put in the
23 HRA.

24 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: That's correct.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there -- is this
26 basically rate of input into an individual's HRA based
27 upon some number or factor or variable somewhere?

28 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: That is something we've
29 been working with. Some ---

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But we're not going to
31 throw a couple million dollars in there; are we?

32 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: No. Right now you have
33 two point four? Two point one? Two point one million
34 has been set aside to establish. I'm not saying that
35 all of that will be used. But then each year during
36 the budget process there will be a recommendation made
37 to council as to how much needs to be set aside for
38 the following budget year and you would vote on it at
39 that time. But when it is established, you will look
40 at the employees to see what their year's service are.
41 Take someone that's been here ten years may get I'll
42 say ten thousand dollars. Okay? Someone that's been
43 here twenty-five years may get twenty thousand.
44 Someone that's been here five years may get two or
45 three thousand. So that's yet to be determined.

46 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

48 BOB WALDREP: When you say yet to be
49 determined, is there any experience that you go by? I
50 just wonder how you come up with these numbers of

1 allocating? For example, you've got five people in a
2 department, one makes a hundred thousand, one makes
3 seventy-five thousand, one makes twenty thousand in a
4 department.

5 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: But it wouldn't be tied to
6 their salary. It's tied to your service.

7 BOB WALDREP: So the more you make the
8 more the county ---

9 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: No, not the more you make,
10 the longer you've been here. It's your service, not
11 salary.

12 BOB WALDREP: So it doesn't have anything
13 to do with the amount of money that you make.

14 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: No, sir, it does not.

15 BOB WALDREP: It's ---

16 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: You would determine each
17 year how much we was going to put into the account
18 based on your service.

19 BOB WALDREP: Service. Okay.

20 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: So it would be no
21 different from Mr. Preston than it would for myself
22 except for years service.

23 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

24 PHYLLIS MCALISTER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

26 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

28 CINDY WILSON: I plead that this is a lot
29 to absorb and I wonder if we could have a workshop on
30 this to go over it in greater detail because it is a
31 large amount of money. We do have retirees that will
32 need this service. And I'm not quite sure I grasp
33 completely. I know in looking at this IRS publication
34 on page seventeen, it's referring to the HRA, but it
35 states that like a qualified HSA, which is a health
36 savings account distribution, this is a distribution
37 from your HRA that is transferred to your HSA. And it
38 says that it's dated September 21st, 2006. There's so
39 many questions I don't quite understand.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. McAlister and
41 Ms. Humphries, can you set up a meeting with Ms.
42 Wilson and help her to understand better? Will you
43 get with her after the meeting?

44 CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

46 CINDY WILSON: And anyone else who would
47 like to join me.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. I want to thank, I
50 want to thank Ms. Humphries, especially. Because when

1 this -- when I first heard of this thing I called her.
2 And we got together and she explained it all to me.
3 Took a little while, but she explained it to me until
4 I was satisfied. And when I gave her my comments --
5 thank you, Ms. Humphries for following through and
6 doing the things I asked you to do to give me some
7 comfort for it. I think it's a good plan. I
8 understand it explicitly. Thank you for your time and
9 we'll go with it. I think I'm too old now to jump
10 ship. But I'll be all right.

11 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask ---

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute. Ms. Floyd can
13 use her HRA as a county employee to buy a supplement?
14 Is that correct? I think that's where you were going
15 with your question earlier?

16 GINA HUMPHRIES: Well, the beauty of this is
17 that the employee has full control over what they
18 decide to use it for. They don't necessarily have to
19 buy a health insurance plan. They could -- they may
20 need a long term care plan. So that's the beauty of
21 the whole plan. It's very flexible.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair calls for the
23 vote on 2008-053. All in favor, please vote.

24 Unanimous. Thank you. I have a note requesting a
25 break. I'm sorry. Mr. Martin, what do we need to do?

26 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, very briefly
27 before the break, during the last break I was asked
28 two questions concerning the prior ordinance on the
29 airport revenue bonds.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

31 TOM MARTIN: I am prepared to answer
32 those at any time that you desire.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Answer them now.

34 TOM MARTIN: All right. Thank you. The
35 first question I was asked was why had I not reviewed
36 the ordinance. And the reason is just to avoid
37 duplicating services for the county. The ordinance
38 was drafted by Mike Burns, bond counsel for Anderson
39 County, and a member of our firm. It would make no
40 sense at all for me to review his work. That would
41 just cost the county extra money. The second question
42 I was asked really has already been addressed by Ms.
43 Floyd, and that is, was the ordinance, the redlined
44 ordinance, in the agenda packet? And the answer is
45 yes. The ordinance in the agenda packet was the
46 ordinance that you substituted tonight. And so it was
47 available in the agenda packet on Friday to council
48 members.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, it was.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Which I read.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ten minute break. Thank
3 you.

4 BREAK

5 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

7 BILL MCABEE: I will be recusing myself
8 for the next item. (*Recusal attached as Exhibit A*)

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. McAbee has
10 recused himself from Ordinance 2008-054, an ordinance
11 authorizing a fee in lieu of tax agreement on behalf
12 of Lincoln Oil Company, Incorporated and B & B
13 Properties, LLC, pursuant to a fee in lieu of tax
14 agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina and
15 the company providing for a fee in lieu of tax and an
16 infrastructure credit authorizing a five year
17 extension of the investment period for all investments
18 over the initial ten million dollar investment. To
19 amend Ordinance number 98-019 as previously amended by
20 Ordinance 99-029 and others, relating to the
21 industrial business park of Anderson County and
22 Greenville County so as to enlarge the park, and other
23 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
24 Is there a second?

25 LARRY GREER: Second.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are
27 in discussion. I understand we have representatives
28 from the Lincoln Oil Company. Please come forward at
29 this time. I'm sure there's lots of questions for you
30 people.

31 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute, please. You've
33 heard the concerns regarding ethanol. I know that's a
34 broad question. But can you just give us some
35 reassurance as to the state of ethanol and the safety
36 precaution and we're not going to have to worry about
37 the neighborhood coming down in flames. You're trying
38 to get the gist of what I'm trying to say here?

39 JIM PRICE. Mr. Chairman, if I could
40 ---

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Also identify yourselves,
42 please. I forgot your names already. Senior thing,
43 you know.

44 JIM PRICE: Mr. Chairman and council
45 members, my name is Jim Price. I'm with McNair Law
46 Firm and we represent the oil company and B & B
47 Properties. With me this evening is Mr. Jim Farish
48 who is the president of Lincoln Oil Company and
49 manager of the properties.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And use the mike so we can

1 hear you.

2 JIM FARISH: Good evening. As far as
3 the state of ethanol, ethanol is like a lot of things,
4 in the last weeks it's been dropping like a rock. And
5 the price on the street level, you're gonna see a
6 substantial change in pump prices for E10, which is
7 your ten percent blended gasoline, in the next few
8 days. Very -- supply is much better on gasoline now.
9 And I say much better, it is improving daily. We are
10 involved in ethanol and have been for a year and a
11 half. Ethanol is not like the traditional petroleum
12 in the sense that it moves the rail, large ship or
13 truck as opposed to the colonial plantation pipelines
14 out there at Belton. The logistics are much, much
15 different. We have proposed a unit train site which
16 will ship eighty cars at a time from a produced,
17 typically in the Midwest, where corn is a primary
18 source of ethanol at this point. We will -- all of
19 the tracks -- Ms. Wilson raised a question that they
20 are at this point inadequate to receive unit trains
21 and it's -- it is a requirement of the Federal as well
22 as CSX for all of the tracks that we will be crossing,
23 and this is coming from Greenville all the way through
24 this project, will be upgraded to meet unit train
25 facility. All of the ties, and I cannot tell you how
26 many, but this is eight or ten miles of rail that will
27 be upgraded. CSX told me as of last week that they
28 have received their budget approval to upgrade their
29 portion. Greenville & Western Railway has secured
30 their financing to upgrade their portion of the
31 tracks. And Lincoln Oil Company will be investing
32 some two and a half million dollars, in that range, to
33 upgrade our portion of the tracks, which are between
34 Lewis Road and that basically the property that I
35 purchased. We will be Federally regulated as well as
36 DHEC in many ways, so we have to meet ---

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Currently this ethanol is
38 being trucked in; is that correct?

39 JIM FARISH: Currently we -- there are
40 two methods. They come in from Greenville, which
41 there's a trans load facility on Washington Avenue in
42 the downtown Greenville area. We also -- we, as in
43 Lincoln Oil Company, bring rail cars into highway --
44 the other side of town out on Highway 76.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Yes. You have a
46 question, Ms. Wilson? Ms. Floyd.

47 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. Usually I get my
48 questions answered before I come. I go through my
49 packet. But I didn't know who to call this time, so I
50 just thought I'd wait. And Mr. Price, I guess it's

1 age again, but I do not remember way back in -- what,
2 April?

3 JIM PRICE: April, yes, ma'am.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. So you'll have to
5 deal with me while I start over. Okay. Now, you've
6 heard the people talking about the tracks and how bad
7 they were and all that. Now common sense dictates
8 that the tracks are gonna be fixed. It has to be in
9 order to put a railroad back in usage again. So that
10 wasn't my concern. But what I am concerned about is
11 the rubbish -- I'm concerned about what's being done
12 now. I don't know how much authority you have over
13 the tracks. I might need to talk to somebody else.
14 But I was a little concerned tonight when I saw the
15 pictures of the rubbish they left on the side or
16 pushed in somebody else's yard. Mr. Preston, is
17 something wrong?

18 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am, those
19 photographs tonight in that area that was talked about
20 is not even -- it's not this project. I think there
21 was some confusion early on. That ---

22 GRACIE FLOYD: It's a big confusion.

23 JOEY PRESTON: That's Pickens Railway and
24 that ---

25 GRACIE FLOYD: So your line is not gonna
26 come -- what we're talking about here is not gonna
27 affect what these people here are here for tonight?

28 JOEY PRESTON: Well, you have two, I think
29 you have two individuals come forward tonight and
30 speak about what Pickens Railway was doing down in
31 Honea Path. This is a totally different project.
32 There was confusion. I think they were confused early
33 on, Mr. Hopkins can speak to that. So those
34 photographs have nothing to do with this project.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. But your
36 line, your train line, will come up on Lewis Street,
37 the one that that group there is concerned about?

38 JIM FARISH: Yes, ma'am, that's correct.

39 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, we can just
40 move right along, okay? Because I have a question
41 about that. These people are concerned that those
42 cars will be sitting there, you know, right in behind
43 their houses when, you know -- is this type thing
44 going to happen? Will they be stored there like that?

45 JIM FARISH: Ms. Floyd, stored is not
46 exactly -- I didn't mean to mince words. But yes,
47 ma'am, these cars will be sitting on that track for
48 somewhere between twenty-four and maybe as much as
49 seven days. That is, that is the nature of trans
50 loading those cars. As far as Lincoln Oil Company, we

1 made an additional investment in property adjoining my
2 previous purchase as well as in the capital structure
3 of a switch inside of the -- on the tracks that did
4 not require us to make that road closure. At this
5 point, Lincoln doesn't have a dog in that game. But I
6 do know that the railroad has been very adamant to me
7 about the safety aspect of those cars and where
8 someone will know that that track is blocked and not
9 waste those few minutes if something came up. But
10 that is -- that issue is a railroad issue now and not
11 Lincoln's issue. How else can I ...

12 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm just chewing on that.

13 JIM FARISH: Okay. That's ---

14 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm just trying to mull
15 over that one. I think that what you're doing is
16 great. We do like the fact that you have chosen us to
17 bring your industry here. And we know all about
18 ethanol and how it can benefit everybody else. Okay.
19 But yeah, okay, we'll talk.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So it sounds to me like the
21 railroad company is requesting for Lewis Drive to be
22 closed for a safety reason? Am I right on that? Or
23 you're just not in that at all?

24 JIM FARISH: Mr. Thompson, originally I
25 was in need of that road closing because of the length
26 of the cars and the switch and everything required.
27 So I will not, I mean, try to say I wasn't. But I
28 cannot begin to address the safety issue that -- but
29 those cars will be sitting there. And in some way
30 it's going to be constructively closed or assess
31 blocked.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I understand. Mr.
33 Wilson.

34 RON WILSON: Yes. You mentioned that
35 it's a railroad issue and you're not involved. But
36 really you are. I mean, if you weren't there, there
37 wouldn't be any need for the closing.

38 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir, that's correct.
39 I'm not ---

40 RON WILSON: And my question is, this
41 couple that sits out here -- how long you been here
42 tonight? You been here the whole time?

43 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir.

44 RON WILSON: How can you address the
45 issues they raised about safety and about their
46 children and their property?

47 JIM FARISH: Well, we will be regulated
48 by DHEC, by EPA, OSHA, in full compliance. We're a --
49 you cannot run a business and be in open violation of
50 safety issues. And why would anyone in their right

1 mind want to do that? We currently transload rail
2 cars in twelve, fifteen different locations around the
3 southeast now. We have not had an incident. And a
4 railcar is still, and I'm not trying to be facetious,
5 but it is completed -- the construction compared to a
6 gasoline tanker is east to west different. Our cars,
7 when we come across the property there, across the
8 track, we will be traveling -- I think the railroad
9 has a limit, there's a Federal limit, of I think
10 that's five, eight miles an hour. Derailments
11 certainly can happen, but we're gonna have essentially
12 brand new track. That's gonna be taken care of in the
13 next hundred and twenty days prior to the first car --
14 the first cars coming across it. And if a derailment
15 occurred, it would be at walking speed. And again I
16 would not -- I'm not an engineer, but I would not
17 think that those cars are going to be manufactured to
18 the extent that if they rolled off of a track that
19 there's gonna be any -- they're not gonna burst open
20 at five miles an hour. They're not -- you would be
21 looking at trains going thirty to fifty miles an hour
22 when -- generally when -- and it's gonna be because of
23 tracks not properly maintained. That would be -- I'm
24 sure that's almost a hundred percent of any type of
25 rail derailment.

26 GRACIE FLOYD: I have another -- I'm
27 sorry.

28 JIM PRICE: (PARTS OF THIS STATEMENT BY
29 MR. PRICE WERE INAUDIBLE WHERE THE QUESTION MARKS ARE
30 LOCATED) Mr. Wilson, in talking to the railroads,
31 part of the purpose for the upgrade of the tracks is
32 to open it up for traffic. So this is not going to be
33 the only parties on the rails. So ?? that but for
34 Lincoln Oil these tracks ?? that's not going to be the
35 case. The tracks will be upgraded in that part of the
36 county for more development ??.

37 RON WILSON: Do you represent the rail
38 company as well as the oil company?

39 JIM PRICE: Lincoln Oil. I've just had
40 conversations with them.

41 RON WILSON: Okay. So what you've just
42 said indicates that you've talked to the rail company?

43 JIM PRICE: Yes, sir. I'd said that.

44 RON WILSON: But both of y'all believe
45 this is completely safe?

46 JIM PRICE: Yes, sir.

47 RON WILSON: Do you live next to one of
48 them?

49 JIM FARISH: No, sir, I don't.

50 RON WILSON: Well, I'm all for economic

1 development. But when couples like this show up, I'm
2 concerned. Because I have a similar situation in my
3 area. It doesn't have anything to do with ethanol.
4 But it's a landfill. And you know, when you have
5 people this irritated and this concerned. And
6 basically what you're saying is y'all are gonna do
7 your job but you're not sure whether the railroad will
8 do theirs or not. And I'm sure if we had the railroad
9 here they would be saying the opposite. So it puts us
10 in a tough situation here because we need jobs. And I
11 appreciate you answering the questions.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, may I,
14 please?

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. This is
17 friendly fire. Okay? This is friendly fire. All
18 right. How many homes are in this same predicament
19 out there -- no, no, no, how many homes? Is it one,
20 two, three, four or five, just one word? One word.
21 Four, four homes. Okay. All right. Good. Do you
22 know what would be a good idea? If you would go out
23 there and talk to those people and look at those homes
24 and come up with some kind of arrangement with these
25 people about ---

26 JIM FARISH: I will ---

27 GRACIE FLOYD: An arrangement that will
28 satisfy both entities. We want you here. We want you
29 here. We need what you're gonna bring. In fact, we
30 want you here so badly we're gonna do a fee in lieu
31 of, see. And the money that you save, the money that
32 you save on those taxes maybe could be extended to
33 these folks over here to, you know, relocate. So I
34 just think that we just all need to get together and
35 let's look at some creative solutions, you know, to
36 this problem. Because, you know, we're all concerned
37 about them. We've all very concerned about them. And
38 we're concerned about you too. Uh-huh (affirmative).
39 But they vote. Okay. Thank you.

40 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

42 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43 Mr. Price, do you know if the, I believe it's the
44 Greenville & Western Railroad, is currently
45 transporting these cars down on 76 between Belton and
46 Honea Path and they're offloading those cars there?
47 So your answer is, so your answer is that they're
48 currently transporting ethanol through this area,
49 through the Town of Belton and offloading a half or
50 mile or so toward Honea Path?

1 JIM FARISH: Mr. Greer, I cannot address
2 the exact route that the trains take. But are they
3 coming into that facility on the Belton, Honea Path --
4 yes, sir. And they are currently coming across both
5 the previously misrepresented through the Pickens side
6 as Pickens Railway, as also across the Greenville &
7 Western. And Lincoln Oil Company, CSX Railroad and
8 Greenville & Western will all be spending millions of
9 dollars to upgrade our section of that track. Pickens
10 will not be spending any money to upgrade across the
11 Norfolk & Southern. In fact, our track will be in
12 much better shape than the other route of reaching
13 this facility.

14 LARRY GREER: So your answer is that the
15 ethanol tank cars are currently being transported
16 through Belton on two separate sets of tracks, the
17 Greenville & Western as well as the Pickens?

18 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir.

19 LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you.

20 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

22 BOB WALDREP: I just wondered what other
23 options you have as to location. You know, I think
24 this apparently is a tough one here. But do you have
25 any other options as to location here?

26 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir, I have the option
27 of a CSX facility in Cartersville, Georgia. Also,
28 Robeson County, North Carolina, economic development
29 package there. But -- if that's what you're asking?

30 BOB WALDREP: Yes. I just wondered -- I
31 was hopeful in Anderson County if there was some other
32 ---

33 JIM FARISH: We have closed on the
34 property. We have purchased that property and it
35 would not be financially viable for me, and the
36 logistics of where it's specifically located, are all
37 of why we're there, not six miles away, something to
38 that effect.

39 BOB WALDREP: The other question I had
40 was about the safety factors in dealing with DHEC and
41 the permits that you're required to have. You
42 indicated that you're required to have some kind of
43 permitting from DHEC; is that correct?

44 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir, a storm water
45 permit, ---

46 BOB WALDREP: Don't go there. Let's go
47 to safety factors?

48 JIM FARISH: I'm not sure ---

49 BOB WALDREP: I'm talking about safety,
50 DHEC health, safety factors. Was there a permit

1 factor from DHEC?

2 JIM FARISH: I have an engineering firm
3 by the name of Fagan (PHONICS) Engineering located in
4 Greenville that did all the permitting for me, Mr.
5 Waldrep, and I'm sure that we could not proceed
6 without whatever required permitting.

7 BOB WALDREP: The other question I have,
8 if you were granted this opportunity to put this here
9 at that location, is it fatal to your operation that
10 you not be able to close that road? Or is this more
11 of a convenience factor?

12 JIM FARISH: Until I invested in
13 spending substantial different -- additional funds, it
14 was fatal to me. I would not have made the turn there
15 in the length of track we had to do it in. At this
16 point I have made that investment and it is now a
17 safety issue per railroad. And in the -- the trains
18 are going to sit crossing that rail, crossing Lewis
19 Road, for days at a time.

20 BOB WALDREP: So they're able to actually
21 block the roadway and just sit there and block the
22 roadway without ---

23 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir. I mean I ---

24 BOB WALDREP: Is this a paved road that
25 goes across that?

26 CINDY WILSON: It is.

27 BOB WALDREP: It is a paved ---

28 JIM FARISH: Yes, sir.

29 BOB WALDREP: -- county road that goes --
30 is there like a railroad intersection sign there with
31 an arm going up and down or anything like that?

32 JIM FARISH: No, sir, and that is why we
33 -- you know, why the railroad, I am told, and I am not
34 speaking for the railroad, make sure that ---

35 BOB WALDREP: Right.

36 JIM FARISH: I have no financial
37 interest in that railroad and he has none in Lincoln
38 Oil. But that is why I am told that they want to
39 close that road, so there's not any question about the
40 safety of that crossing.

41 BOB WALDREP: But that's not a deal
42 killer, though, is it, as far as you putting your
43 plant there?

44 JIM FARISH: Not at this point, no, sir.

45 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

46 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Ms. Wilson.

48 CINDY WILSON: This facility is to be
49 built in district seven and I've been very distraught
50 to be the last person to know any of this stuff. I've

1 requested two U.S. Senators, one U.S. Congressman, two
2 South Carolina State Senators and two South Carolina
3 Representatives, to find me a set of federal and state
4 regulations that regulate such a facility in a
5 residential context. While there may only be four or
6 five homes immediately adjoining this project, there
7 are thirty to forty within maybe six, seven hundred
8 feet. If you were just way off in a field and not so
9 closely joining residential properties, we would
10 probably all be rushing to embrace you. But so far
11 none of the U.S. or Federal representatives or State
12 Representatives can find any regulations that will
13 assure these people that they're safe in their homes.
14 There are so many issues, and I respectfully request
15 that you and the railroad company meet with these
16 people, and I think we'll be able to set up a date,
17 including, but not limited to the DHEC meeting. I
18 talked with DHEC this week. They have no regulations
19 to take care of people's health concerns or safety
20 concerns. There's nothing. There's not even any
21 provision in the paperwork that was delivered to us
22 last night to deal with resizing the waterlines.
23 That's another issue. Nothing to deal with the fire
24 department being adequately prepared, equipment and
25 training-wise, to deal with such a facility. The
26 railroad issues are something separate that we'll go
27 into further on the next item after you, or within a
28 few items, but I didn't even ever get any information
29 on salary and benefit structure for the five
30 employees. This got withdrawn because there were no
31 employees at one point. We need some help on this. I
32 mean, we do need economic development in this county
33 and we do, as a nation, need to have independence --
34 energy independence, but I'm not willing to accept any
35 of that if these people's families are in danger, if
36 it reduces the values of their property. I mean,
37 we're in a global financial meltdown. It's affecting
38 you, it's affecting me, it's affecting all of us. Is
39 there somehow we can get this information prior to
40 voting on this and getting people knowledgeable in
41 understanding what your operation is and assure that
42 they're not in jeopardy. Is there anyway we can work
43 this out?

44 JIM PRICE: Ms. Wilson, when I met with
45 y'all in April asking for the inducement resolution,
46 it was actually passed before he bought the property.
47 That was part of the purpose of that resolution and
48 inducement agreement, was to cause him to enter into
49 this project. He had other projects he was looking
50 at. At that meeting there were three things that you

1 asked me for. One was what are the current taxes
2 being paid on the property. Right now the thirty-
3 eight acres that he's acquired are being converted
4 from agricultural use to ---

5 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Price, respectfully,
6 please forgive me for interrupting. You answered the
7 questions then. We had no concept of the scope or how
8 this would relate to families. And quite frankly, if
9 I had know this then, I would have voted against you.

10 JIM PRICE: And that's certainly your
11 prerogative. I was gonna try to answer your
12 questions.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Excuse me one moment. Time
14 has expired. Chair moves to extend ten minutes.

15 CINDY WILSON: Ten minutes.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

17 CINDY WILSON: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of extending
19 time for ten minutes, please vote. Four. Abstain --
20 vote no?

21 GRACIE FLOYD: That's too long. Five
22 minutes ---

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyway, time has been
24 extended for ten minutes. Please go ahead.

25 JIM PRICE: The answer to the first
26 question you had asked as far as what were the current
27 property taxes, the 2007 property taxes since the
28 thirty-eight acres were at agricultural use, totaled
29 fifty-seven dollars. The adjusted taxes should be in
30 the range of hundred to a hundred and fifty thousand
31 dollars after the credits that we've asked for that
32 you had granted in the inducement resolution. Jobs
33 that you -- as far as the jobs that you asked about,
34 Mr. Farish and I talked about those. He would have a
35 manager on site, roughly around sixty thousand dollars
36 a year, two mid level employees at the forty thousand
37 dollar range, and two lower tier at thirty thousand
38 dollars. Another thing that you had suggested was
39 that they show good faith in the community. You
40 suggested that he might help out the fire department
41 with their foam truck, and he has contributed money to
42 that fund. Those are actually the three things that
43 you raised at that time that I could not answer.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

45 CINDY WILSON: I haven't relinquished the
46 floor yet. Are there any issues involving your
47 facilities in other locations? I've heard that
48 there's something that may be going on at Edgefield.
49 Is that ---

50 JIM FARISH: We are in the process of

1 putting the facility -- a smaller scope, simply
2 because we have less track, in Warrentville, and that
3 is very close to Edgefield.

4 CINDY WILSON: And what are the issues
5 there?

6 JIM FARISH: Other than we are not in
7 operation, we have already invested in the upgrade of
8 that track some seven or eight months ago. We're off
9 the main line of the Norfolk & Southern as opposed to
10 the CSX and we adjoin a biodiesel manufacturing plant
11 or it's in the process of startup in the next few
12 months.

13 CINDY WILSON: Have you encountered any
14 concerns or opposition from community members in that
15 area?

16 JIM FARISH: No, ma'am. They're working
17 on the air permit. But that's -- we have not started
18 any operations there whatsoever.

19 CINDY WILSON: A lot of that county is
20 pretty desolate. So are there any homes adjoining
21 that facility?

22 JIM FARISH: Adjoining, Ms. Wilson, I
23 cannot visualize it, but it is -- Warrentville adjoins
24 Graniteville, South Carolina, and there are towns --
25 we are around those facilities.

26 CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make a motion
27 that we table this until after the South Carolina DHEC
28 community meeting that will hopefully answer a lot of
29 these questions on October 20th. I don't have a
30 calendar, but this should at least still keep this
31 going currently, but at least allow us some time to
32 get all the information that we need to assure people
33 that they're safe and so forth. I'd love to just say
34 -- raise my hand, as I do on almost all economic
35 development projects. But when we have concerns about
36 people's safety in their homes and in their yards --
37 there are even a couple of little welding shops next
38 door to this project. I just -- I have some concerns
39 and they're telling me they have concerns and I can't
40 in good conscience vote for any of this until we have
41 these questions answered. And I think that we can all
42 work together within the next couple of weeks to get a
43 lot of this stuff resolved. And you have my devotion
44 to that task. I'll make every ...

45 END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of tabling
47 Ordinance 2008-054, please vote. Two. Oppose. One,
48 two, three, four. Two to four, so the motion to table
49 fails.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

2 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you. I
3 too am interested to hear what DHEC is going to tell
4 those citizens out there. But we don't have to table
5 because we can approve this on first reading and then
6 we'll have time to come back on the second reading
7 after we've gotten this information and we have the
8 third reading to do. So there's no sense in tabling
9 this. We just need to go ahead and make a decision on
10 it and then wait for the next -- wait for this
11 meeting. And I'm calling for the question.

12 LARRY GREER: Second.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have call for the
14 question and a second. All in favor to call for the
15 question, please vote. Five. Oppose. One. Five,
16 one, Ms. Wilson in the opposition. Anyway, call for
17 the question passes. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-
18 054, please vote. Five. Oppose. Okay. Five to one
19 with Ms. Wilson in the opposition. But anyway, the
20 motion passes -- the ordinance passes. Thank you.

21 CINDY WILSON: And I will be in touch with
22 y'all. Thank you.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Resolutions. R2008-
24 041. And Mr. McAbee has rejoined us. A resolution
25 authorizing and supporting the application by Anderson
26 County for all available Federal and State grant funds
27 for which matching county grant funds have previously
28 been made available by Anderson County Council through
29 the Anderson county operating and capital budget or
30 for which matching funds are not required, and other
31 matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve.
32 Is there a second?

33 LARRY GREER: Second.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

35 CINDY WILSON: Very quickly, may I?

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes, ma'am.

37 CINDY WILSON: I would like for our
38 council members to be made aware, when we've applied
39 for a state or federal grant and also made aware of
40 what dollar figure the match would be required. And
41 I'd like to make that in the form of a motion, that
42 we'll just simply be notified, in a timely manner.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you amending the
44 resolution that in addition to you want to be
45 notified?

46 CINDY WILSON: Yes. That we would be
47 notified of when we're applying for state and federal
48 grants and what the matching grant dollar amount for
49 the -- that the county has to come up with.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Does that -- okay.

1 CINDY WILSON: I mean, I'm not asking that
2 we have to approve it. I'm asking for notification.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second?
4 BOB WALDREP: Second. And I would want
5 to ask a question.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Waldrep.
7 BOB WALDREP: What kind of notification
8 are you talking about? How would you ---
9 CINDY WILSON: In a timely manner,
10 something that's sensible. If they get an opportunity
11 to apply for a grant in the morning and they've got to
12 get it on out, they can at least notify us that that's
13 been done and what the projected dollar figure for the
14 match is. I know for example on Broadway Lake ---
15 GRACIE FLOYD: Here we go.
16 CINDY WILSON: -- there was -- there's a
17 projected cost of replacing that bridge and dam for
18 over thirty million and I think I saw somewhere we may
19 have to come up with ten million. And then again, you
20 know, some of the PARD Grants, it's just like maybe
21 twenty-five hundred dollars for a twenty-five thousand
22 dollar grant. But still I think we need to just be
23 made aware.
24 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. ---
25 CINDY WILSON: I'm not requesting that we
26 have to approve. I'm just asking for being notified.
27 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
29 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Broadway Lake is
30 thirty-five million. Okay. I don't know anything
31 about a ten million. And every grant that district
32 two has applied for that requires a match, we know
33 already, it hasn't been an issue where we have not
34 been told or whatever. Now I don't know about the
35 rest of you guys, okay, and lady, but every grant that
36 we have gotten, I know about it and I have come here
37 to you to tell you about it, because we have to vote
38 on it.
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You done?
40 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I am.
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The same for me. I applied
42 for federal funds for Murphy Road and I was kept
43 abreast of it. So I don't have an issue with kept
44 being informed. Anyone else on Ms. Wilson's motion to
45 amend? All in favor of Ms. Wilson's motion to amend
46 Resolution 2008-041, please vote. One, two. Oppose.
47 Okay. Five. So her motion to amend fails. How much
48 time left, Mr. Martin?
49 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you have
50 three minutes.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? We're
2 back to the -- or we're back in discussion on the
3 resolution. Anyone else? Hearing and seeing no one,
4 the chair calls for the vote on Resolution 2008-041.
5 All in favor, please vote. It is unanimous. Thank
6 you.

7 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee recuses himself
9 once again.

10 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution 2008-043, a
12 resolution expressing an extent to cease county
13 maintenance on and to authorize county consent to
14 judicial abandonment of Lewis Drive and other matters
15 related there. Chair moves to approve. Is there a
16 second?

17 LARRY GREER: Second.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
19 discussion? Mr. Wilson.

20 RON WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, unlike
21 the ordinance which has three readings, I'd like to
22 move that this be postponed until the next meeting,
23 which I think will be after the DHEC meeting and we
24 can take it up at that time. So I'll make that
25 motion.

26 BOB WALDREP: Second.

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
28 postpone this vote. Mr. Martin.

29 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, just purely
30 as a point of clarification, that would be a motion to
31 table until the next council meeting?

32 RON WILSON: Yes, sir.

33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we have a motion
34 to table Resolution 2008-043 until the next council
35 meeting and we have a second. Any discussion on the
36 -- no, there's no discussion. I do that a lot
37 tonight; don't I? Having a bad night. Sorry. All in
38 favor to table this Resolution R2008-043 until the
39 next meeting, please vote. It is unanimous to table.
40 Okay. So that ordinance is tabled. Mr. McAbee has
41 rejoined us once Again. And for your update the
42 resolution has been tabled, Mr. McAbee, until the next
43 meeting. Resolution 2008-045, a resolution amending
44 the Anderson County emergency medical services bylaws
45 and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to
46 approve.

47 LARRY GREER: Second.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We're in
49 discussion. They say they want to go from monthly to
50 bi-monthly, I believe. Anyway, anymore discussion?

1 All in favor of Resolution 2008-045, please vote.
2 Unanimous. November 4th, county council meeting,
3 please bring your calendar with you. Okay. So get
4 out your calendars, look at November the 4th. That is
5 election day. By law all county offices will be
6 closed. So we need to either reschedule or cancel,
7 and just speaking for myself, I would think we want to
8 reschedule. If that is the wish of the council, the
9 following Tuesday is off limits because that is a
10 holiday. So we cannot have it the following Tuesday.
11 The Tuesday after that is the 18th, and that is a
12 regular scheduled council meeting.

13 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're in discussion about
15 what we want to do here. And Mr. Greer has asked for
16 the floor. Mr. Greer.

17 LARRY GREER: What's the possibility of
18 having the meeting on November the 3rd, which is a
19 Monday, the day before election day?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have no problem with
21 that. Does anyone have any problems with rescheduling
22 this to November the 3rd?

23 CINDY WILSON: I do.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a problem. We have
25 two problems.

26 CINDY WILSON: The library is having their
27 programs on November the 3rd in my district and I have
28 some other conflicts.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. The 5th is church
30 night. What about the 6th, which is on a Thursday?

31 LARRY GREER: I have a conflict on
32 Thursday.

33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'd move that
34 we just cancel the meeting.

35 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to cancel
37 and we have a second. All in favor of cancelling the
38 meeting for November the 4th, please vote. We have
39 two cancel. Oppose. One, two, three, four. Abstain.
40 Okay. So we're back to the starting. Give me another
41 date.

42 LARRY GREER: Monday the 10th.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Monday the 10th. Anybody
44 have any concerns with Monday the 10th? Monday the
45 10th.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Can we have a short
47 meeting? Do we have to go to ten o'clock?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I wish all of them were
49 short, Ms. Floyd, but it don't work out that way.

50 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, yes, it does, because

1 he can decide that.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We will have a full agenda;
3 right? I mean, I mean ---
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Now, it's gonna be a short
5 meeting, abbreviated meeting, let's say until nine
6 o'clock. Fine.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We can't do that, can we,
8 Mr. Martin? I mean, the agenda is what the agenda is.
9 BOB WALDREP: No meeting is the shortest
10 meeting.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.
12 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, it is always
13 up to the discretion of council when to adjourn the
14 meeting. I don't know that you -- I guess you could
15 set a time limit in advance, but it still would
16 require a motion to adjourn at that point.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there anything
18 preventing us from meeting earlier than six o'clock?
19 LARRY GREER: No, sir.
20 CINDY WILSON: That day is not convenient
21 for me.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The 10th is not convenient?
23 CINDY WILSON: No.
24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, would the 3rd be
25 convenient if we met before six o'clock?
26 CINDY WILSON: Well, then that's not very
27 convenient for me and it's not convenient for a lot of
28 the citizens.
29 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbbee.
31 BILL MCABEE: I suggest November 6th, a
32 Thursday.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer has conflicts on
34 Thursdays.
35 BILL MCABEE: I see. I withdraw my
36 suggestion.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, are
38 out. That leaves us with Friday the 7th.
39 BOB WALDREP: I renew my motion, Mr.
40 Chairman, we cancel the meeting. We can't even agree
41 on when to meet, so I think this would be the easiest
42 way to do it.
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
44 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep has made
46 another motion to cancel. Is there a second?
47 CINDY WILSON: I'll second.
48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to cancel.
49 All in favor of cancelling the meeting, please vote.
50 Three. See, you got one. Three. Oppose. One, two,

1 three. Abstain, one. Three to three tie. Okay.
2 Again, we've back to square one. Someone make a
3 suggestion. So far we eliminated that whole week.
4 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.
6 BILL MCABEE: I again make the motion
7 that it be -- the meeting be held on November 3rd.
8 Let's vote on it.
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion ---
10 CINDY WILSON: You can't do that. We've
11 already got a problem.
12 BILL MCABEE: I'm making that motion.
13 LARRY GREER: Second.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Hold up.
15 BOB WALDREP: For what day? I'm sorry.
16 BILL MCABEE: The 3rd.
17 CINDY WILSON: That was the Monday the
18 3rd, and I've got a conflict that evening.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. There's a motion on
20 the floor to have the meeting on November the 3rd.
21 Mr. Greer has seconded that motion. So now we are in
22 discussion. Ms. Wilson has made known that she has a
23 conflict for the 3rd. Okay.
24 CINDY WILSON: It's in my district.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Would it be possible, would
26 it be possible for the 3rd if we moved the time?
27 CINDY WILSON: I don't think that's fair
28 to the citizens. You know, most people -- I mean,
29 these are some very, very important issues.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Other than Ms.
31 Wilson, does anyone else have an objection to changing
32 the time? Hearing no one ---
33 CINDY WILSON: But wait a minute, you've
34 got issues that we have on the agenda this week that
35 we've tabled and these are important issues to
36 citizens. They can't get off work and come.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.
38 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, that's not --
39 November 4th is not the next meeting.
40 CINDY WILSON: November 4th is the
41 election day.
42 BILL MCABEE: Right. But there's an
43 intervening meeting.
44 CINDY WILSON: Yeah.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor of
46 rescheduling to November the 3rd at six p.m.? Yep, at
47 six p.m., please vote. One, two, three, four -- hold
48 up. Four. Oppose. Two. Four the meeting for
49 November -- I'm sorry, did I miscount?
50 GRACIE FLOYD: No.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Six.
2 GRACIE FLOYD: You didn't put that down.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm sorry.
4 GRACIE FLOYD: For the record.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Floyd abstains. So
6 the vote is four, two, with Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson
7 in the opposition and Ms. Floyd abstaining. Anyway,
8 the majority vote is that we reschedule to November
9 the 3rd at six p.m.
10 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I can't amend
11 that motion?
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, we've already voted
13 and it's already passed and we need to move on.
14 BOB WALDREP: Okay.
15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Appointments,
16 various boards and commissions. Does anyone on
17 council have any appointments to make? Mr. Wilson has
18 appointments to make.
19 RON WILSON: Zoning Advisory Committee
20 of district six, I want to add Hoyt Thompson, Ann
21 Smith and Debra Sheridan. Thank you.
22 CINDY WILSON: Second.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
24 discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor,
25 please vote. Please vote. Unanimous. Anymore
26 appointments?
27 RON WILSON: No, sir.
28 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
30 BOB WALDREP: I have two appointments.
31 One to the Economic Advisory Commission, Mr. Billy
32 Wilkes, and one to the Broadway Lake Commission, Mr.
33 Ron Haskell.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair seconds both
35 those appointments. Any discussion? Chair calls for
36 the vote. All in favor of those appointments, please
37 vote. Unanimous. Anyone else? Seeing and hearing
38 none, we're moving on to Item B, WorkLink WorkForce
39 Investment Board, and I do believe Ms. Coleman is in
40 the audience. Please come forward. She has presented
41 a list of names. 13B. Do I need to get there? Give
42 me a moment. I had requested that we be given a
43 variety of names, you know, if you have five give us -
44 - I mean, if you have three, give us five names. But
45 we don't have that. So can you help me along here?
46 MS. COLEMAN: Yes. Mr. Chair and council
47 members, the reason we do not have more names than
48 this is it is difficult to find members in the private
49 sector, especially who are willing to commit the time,
50 and we working to get more names. But these are all

1 the names we have been able to acquire at this time.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So the pickings are slim?

3 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, sir.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair. Am I looking at
5 this name, Joe Garcia, these are the names you are
6 giving us to consider?

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right. Each ---

8 MS. COLEMAN: Yes, ma'am.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: There are four of them?

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You are required to have
11 people from certain sections or sectors of the
12 community. So under business we have Jose Garcia and
13 Brian Buchanan and then Ms. Gilstrap is a partner
14 representative. What does that mean?

15 MS. COLEMAN: We are required under the
16 WorkForce Investment Act Regulations by the federal
17 government that we have a partner -- partner
18 representatives, one of which is from the Employment
19 Security Commission, and that's who Terry Gilstrap
20 would be represented. There is a nomination letter in
21 there from the State Employment Security Commission.
22 And that is the same also for Sandra Grist who would
23 be the appointed person recommended by Vocational
24 Rehabilitation from the area.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So Ms. Gilstrap and
26 Ms. Grist, they're pretty much a requirement; right?

27 MS. COLEMAN: We're required to have
28 them, so if don't have them represented from Anderson
29 County, then we would go to the other two counties to
30 request representation from their areas, which of
31 course with the One Stops Employment Security
32 Commission, the past three years has been represented
33 by Oconee County.

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Rozakos, Economic
37 Development. Is she a requirement or is that a
38 partner?

39 MS. COLEMAN: We are required to have a
40 partner representative from the Economic Development
41 area and we spoke with the Economic Development
42 Commission and that is their representative.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. And then
44 we have additional people who have agreed to serve.
45 Ms. Brock, Mr. West and Ms. Dutton. Are these
46 required people or they just have been nice enough to
47 volunteer?

48 MS. COLEMAN: They have already been
49 serving on it and they -- for these past three years,
50 you voted to have them on it for the past three years,

1 and they have agreed to extend for an additional three
2 years if you vote them in.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So basically we just
4 have one vacancy to fill.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Well, all of these have to
6 be voted. Every single one of these have to be voted
7 on by you and county council to let us know that you
8 are approving them again. What would happen, to give
9 an example, is if you determine that one of these
10 people would not be voted in, then we would have to
11 either leave that position vacant or we would have to
12 go out and try to find additional members.

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there anything stopping
14 the council from finding our own people?

15 MS. COLEMAN: No, sir, there is not. The
16 one thing that just for you to be aware of is there
17 are certain requirements. We can only have one
18 community based organization per person representing
19 the council. And that's what Christi King Brock is
20 representing a community-based organization.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: But if we find other
22 business people, is there anything ---

23 MS. COLEMAN: We definitely have one more
24 position that we need filled for the business sector,
25 yes. And we would love for you to help us with that.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. Ms.
27 Floyd.

28 GRACIE FLOYD: All right. I understand
29 what you're saying about Ms. Brock. But if there is
30 another community-based organization person that would
31 like to serve, we could do that; am I correct?

32 MS. COLEMAN: What would happen is if you
33 nominate or elect someone else, then Ms. Brock would
34 go off, Ms. King-Brock would go off. Yes.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: And Steve West, the same
36 thing for the business sector?

37 MS. COLEMAN: If he goes off then we
38 would have to find other people to fill his position.
39 And he right now is the chair of the board. And of
40 course Ms. King-Brock is the chair of the youth
41 council right now.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else?

43 GRACIE FLOYD: No. But do we have to make
44 a decision tonight on this?

45 MS. COLEMAN: No, ma'am, you do not.
46 That is up to you. This is for you. If you want to
47 gather more information, if you want to ask more
48 questions of me, that -- definitely.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Council members, I make a
50 motion that we table this until we ---

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Until when?
2 GRACIE FLOYD: Until the next meeting.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Next meeting?
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative).
5 Until we have time to look at them and maybe see what
6 we think.
7 LARRY GREER: Second.
8 GRACIE FLOYD: This is the first time
9 we've had this opportunity to actually do our own.
10 And I think it's one that we need to take time with.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Motion to table and
12 we do have a second. All in favor of tabling this
13 until the next council meeting, please vote.
14 Unanimous. We're gonna vote on the next meeting.
15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Requests by
17 council members. Mr. Waldrep.
18 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, thank you. I
19 have requests from the recreation fund for seventy-
20 five hundred dollars to go to the Centerville Fire
21 Department for their equipment.
22 LARRY GREER: Second.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
24 discussion? All in favor, please vote. Ms. Wilson.
25 Okay, thank you. Unanimous.
26 BOB WALDREP: And one more and that is a
27 thousand dollars from my recreation fund to go to the
28 Solicitor's Office drug fund incentive plan.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
30 discussion? Please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?
31 BOB WALDREP: That's all. Thank you.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. Ms.
33 Floyd.
34 GRACIE FLOYD: No.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No?
36 GRACIE FLOYD: Just wanna go home. It's
37 ten o'clock.
38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wanna go home. Okay. Mr.
39 Greer.
40 LARRY GREER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have
41 two requests. At a previous meeting, I believe it was
42 last year, we had moved to appropriate thirty thousand
43 dollars for paving of D.R. Simmons Road and road
44 maintenance has run into some unanticipated concerns
45 with this road and it needs to be looked at a little
46 further. And they are recommending that this thirty
47 thousand dollars be deposited back into the district
48 three paving account and I so move at this time.
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair seconds. Any
50 discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.

1 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
2 have one other. At this time I move to appropriate
3 thirty-five thousand dollars to the Town of Belton for
4 road paving, grading and drainage and thirty-five
5 thousand to the Town of Iva for paving, grading and
6 drainage on non-state roads. And that's non-state
7 roads for both of them.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
9 discussion? Please vote. Unanimous. That it?

10 LARRY GREER: That's all. Thank you.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

12 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, the only
13 thing I have is to make a motion to amend an
14 appropriation I made last meeting, and that was an
15 appropriation in the amount of four thousand one
16 hundred dollars to the Pendleton Fire Department. It
17 should have been four thousand. And at this time I
18 move to amend that previous appropriation to four
19 thousand dollars.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
21 discussion? Please vote.

22 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I object to
23 him taking money from ---

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: He's overdrawn.

25 BOB WALDREP: I know it, but he's taking
26 money away from them. Okay. I think he could put
27 that in himself.

28 BILL MCABEE: Perhaps I have.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor, please vote.
30 Unanimous. That it? Is that it?

31 BILL MCABEE: That's it.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's it. Chair moves to
33 appropriate two thousand dollars from the district
34 five recreation fund to Westside High School athletic
35 department for the Anderson County Invitational High
36 School Wrestling Tournament to be held December 12, 13
37 at the Civic Center of Anderson.

38 BILL MCABEE: Second.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
40 discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.
41 And also -- Will's in that tournament; isn't he?

42 BILL MCABEE: Yes.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Also Chair moves to
44 appropriate five thousand dollars from the district
45 five recreation account to the Homeland Park Community
46 Task Force. I am very proud of this task force. It
47 was created by me and Ms. Floyd and they are making
48 great improvement to the Homeland Park Community.
49 Will you second that, Ms. Floyd? Will you second my
50 motion?

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I'll second it.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?
3 CINDY WILSON: Is that a 501(c)(3)?
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. I encouraged them and
5 Mr. Foster did the paperwork and they do have their
6 number. And that is something new that we've done.
7 All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Thank you.
8 And that is it for me. Mr. Wilson.
9 RON WILSON: None at this time.
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Wilson.
11 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
12 would like to make the motion that two hundred dollars
13 be paid to the Traditional Country Music Association
14 of the Upstate pending their -- providing Ms. Gilstrap
15 and our finance department, their 501(c)(3)
16 designation, they've claimed that they did. And it's
17 an education foundation and they seek to not only
18 entertain but educate young people and so forth in the
19 Belton, Honea Path areas with traditional country
20 music. And this would come out of the district seven
21 recreation fund.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any
23 discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.
24 Anything else?
25 CINDY WILSON: That's all. Thank you.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Administrator's report.
27 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
29 BOB WALDREP: I had a question I need to
30 ask Mr. Hopkins on my paving account. Mr. Hopkins,
31 can you tell me about the paving issue with the fire
32 department out on Williamsburg Road? Have we approved
33 the paving of that?
34 HOLT HOPKINS: No, sir, we're still
35 awaiting your decision on ---
36 JOEY PRESTON: You have an estimate in
37 your packet.
38 BOB WALDREP: I think it was around
39 forty-one thousand. Is that correct?
40 HOLT HOPKINS: I'm trying to find that. I
41 believe ---
42 JOEY PRESTON: That's pretty close to it.
43 It's in your packet right there.
44 BOB WALDREP: Okay. You know, when you
45 say it's in the packet, it's like finding a verse in
46 the Bible here and I don't know whether it's Exodus or
47 Genesis, but anyway, how about ---
48 JOEY PRESTON: You want me to find it for
49 you?
50 BOB WALDREP: No. I think Holt's got it.

1 HOLT HOPKINS: I can't find it right this
2 minute, but it's right at forty-one thousand.
3 BOB WALDREP: Well, approximately forty-
4 one thousand out of my paving account for that. I
5 would ask that council approve that paving for the new
6 fire department. I think it serves Ms. Floyd's
7 district and Ms. Wilson's district.
8 GRACIE FLOYD: No, sir. No, sir. It's
9 under the name Broadway Fire Department, but the fire
10 department in my district is the first Broadway Fire
11 Department and the Homeland Park. I think this is the
12 only one that you have in your district. And I'm sure
13 it'll cross boundaries if needed.
14 BOB WALDREP: Well, if you're on fire,
15 Ms. Wilson, we'll -- I mean, Ms. Floyd, we'll come.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Waldrep, if I'm on
17 fire, I don't want you nowhere near me.
18 BOB WALDREP: Well, that might be in the
19 hereafter, Ms. Floyd. But anyway.
20 GRACIE FLOYD: Then you'll be there by
21 yourself.
22 HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. ...
24 HOLT HOPKINS: I did find the estimate.
25 With the grading and the gravel and asphalt, it's
26 forty-seven thousand eighty dollars.
27 BOB WALDREP: Thank you.
28 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a
29 question, please.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.
31 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Preston and I seem to
32 be going back and forth over my request for the GLR153
33 and this is a compilation of all the revenues and
34 expenditures by fund and department, account, sub-
35 account. And he continues to claim that he will not
36 give this to me until after the audit is completed.
37 Prior to this request, I think as recently as 2004, I
38 was able to get it unaudited. And it's no problem to
39 run this thing. All they have to do is run it in the
40 computer and print it out on the green bar sheets.
41 And if the green bar sheets are a hardship, I'll go
42 buy a box from Office Depot. But I don't understand
43 why you don't want me to see it unaudited. I do know
44 that one time before I got it, I found a lot of
45 things, expenses paid out of accounts that didn't seem
46 to have anything to do with it. Maybe that's your
47 objection to my obtaining that. But I do request that
48 and I do require it and hopefully you can provide
49 that. I've been requesting it since, I think, early
50 August. Is there any hope of my getting that, please?

1 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, is Mr. Waldrep
2 going -- just a second, Ms. Wilson. Did you make a
3 motion for that money for the -- it hasn't been voted
4 on yet. I'll be more than happy to answer ...
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of Mr. -- he
6 said you seconded it?
7 LARRY GREER: But I will.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Greer seconded.
9 All in favor of Mr. Waldrep's motion, please vote.
10 What's the motion? What's your motion? We all
11 forgot.
12 JOEY PRESTON: Approximately forty-eight
13 thousand. Broadway Fire Department substation.
14 BOB WALDREP: Broadway Fire Department.
15 JOEY PRESTON: Old Williamston Road.
16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: From where are these funds
17 coming?
18 JOEY PRESTON: Road paving.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. All in
20 favor of Mr. ---
21 LARRY GREER: I know this is nitpicking,
22 but how much is approximate? He said approximately
23 forty-eight thousand. We need to have an exact
24 number.
25 HOLT HOPKINS: Our estimate is forty-seven
26 thousand eighty dollars.
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Forty-seven thousand eighty
28 dollars.
29 LARRY GREER: That's not approximate.
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And you second that?
31 LARRY GREER: I second that.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
33 appropriating the money from his account, please vote.
34 I'm sorry, district one.
35 LARRY GREER: Paving account.
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It is unanimous. District
37 one paving account. Are we ready for citizens'
38 comments? Mr. Martin, citizens comments.
39 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
40 there are three citizens under other matters.
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Before you continue,
42 let me read the directions. I'm sorry. Meetings of
43 county council are legislative meetings based upon the
44 representative form of government and are regulated by
45 parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings.
46 Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt
47 of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not
48 a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue.
49 Each person will be allowed not more than three
50 minutes to address the county council. You are asked

1 to please refrain from addressing members of the
2 audience by name. Please direct your comments to the
3 council chair and only to the council chair. Now, Mr.
4 Martin.

5 TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Withdrawn.

7 TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mark Powell. Not present.

9 GRACIE FLOYD: Gone home.

10 TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Dan Harvell.

12 DAN HARVELL: Well, I'll make this short.

13 But with three minutes I don't have any choice but it
14 be short anyway, so ... During the break, based on
15 some comments that I said during the first opportunity
16 to see, Mr. Freeman and I, the county assessor, had
17 some quite terse words with one another back there.
18 Of course, he was lamenting the fact that I was
19 basically inferring to the fact that there are many,
20 many inaccuracies in these reassessment notices that
21 are going out, and I have personally had either
22 fifteen or sixteen calls to me from people asking
23 questions. And he said, well, what are they calling
24 you for? Well, I guess they're calling me because
25 they feel like they might get a little straighter
26 answer from me or be able to understand it the way I
27 explain it. I don't know. But anyway, that's kind of
28 how it goes when people get themselves in a wad over
29 their taxes, which many of them have a reason to be.
30 I just want to comment here about Act 388. Everybody
31 in governmental bureaucracy and many of the elected
32 officials are lamenting Act 388. I see it practically
33 in the paper everyday, somebody's wanting to say, oh,
34 what the General Assembly has done to us, what they've
35 done to us. Well, let me remind the citizens, anyone
36 that might be listening, that Act 388 was nothing less
37 than a victory for the taxpayers. House bills that
38 were passed, 44-49 and 44-50, I practically slept with
39 those bills with that initiative in legislation for
40 two years before this finally came to fruition and we
41 only got half of what we wanted in the reform, but we
42 did get a lot. It made a difference to the homeowners
43 of six hundred and seventy million dollars the first
44 year. The General Assembly didn't want to do this.
45 They were forced to do this because four people turned
46 into two hundred thousand and formed nohometax.org and
47 put pressure on them like they had never felt before.
48 I know that the Association of Counties is doing
49 everything they can to unravel all the reform that we
50 were able to work on and we were able to get passed.

1 But as far as the figures that are coming out of the
2 assessor's office, and I have very good reason to
3 suspect that these evaluations have a lot to do with
4 the eventuality of how much can be borrowed without
5 public vote. The assessor is responsible for what
6 comes out of his office. The buck stops there. And
7 he said, well, you know, just use the appeal process
8 like you did. Well, yeah, I did and I was somewhat
9 successful in my appeal process years ago. But, you
10 know, it just bothers me to no end that we just
11 constantly have to fight our own government. I mean,
12 we own the government. It's supposed to work for us.
13 We've not supposed to have to come here and fight
14 against it. And for that reason I said the things I
15 said about the reassessment notices that went out.
16 And I know some people that work in the assessor's
17 office and I know that they're good people and I know
18 they're trying to do a good job. But the buck does
19 stop with the assessor. And it's one reason that I
20 took an idea to Columbia five years ago that was
21 introduced and never made it out of the house
22 judiciary because they said, well, you know, we don't
23 want to interject politics into the county
24 courthouses, if you can believe that was their reason.
25 But that was the fact that we need to elect our
26 assessors just like we do the treasurers and the
27 auditors and I still stand on that idea that that
28 would be good for the taxpayers. Thank you and good
29 night.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. At this time the
31 chair moves to go into executive session to discuss
32 obtaining legal counsel about a pending contractual
33 claim.

34 BILL MCABEE: Second.

35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
36 favor of going into executive session, please vote.
37 Five. Oppose. Abstain. We've got two abstains.
38 Okay. Let's meet over here in the conference room on
39 the second floor as soon as possible.

40 EXECUTIVE SESSION

41 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're not there yet.

43 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, where is our
44 administrator? There were some more questions we had
45 before we adjourned?

46 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, we can't
47 begin discussion of anything until we move to come out
48 -- make a motion to come out of executive session.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I know that.

50 BOB WALDREP: He knew that.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm trying to get myself
2 together here.
3 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move that
4 we come out of executive session.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, I was gonna do that,
6 but you can go right ahead.
7 BILL MCABEE: Second.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. All in favor to come
9 out of executive session, please vote. The vote is
10 unanimous to come out of executive session.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, point of
12 order.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson -- I'm sorry.
14 Ms. Floyd, what is your point of order? And I do
15 apologize.
16 GRACIE FLOYD: That's okay. No problem at
17 all. Mr. Chairman, after we finish this piece of
18 business, I'm going home. It's a quarter till ten
19 o'clock and this has been too long for me. And I
20 apologize. Quarter till eleven? My God. It's a
21 quarter till eleven ...
22 END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 1
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... there were -- no
24 decisions were made in the executive session. Each
25 member was allowed to speak their beliefs and all that
26 stuff, but no decisions were made. We went into
27 executive session to discuss obtaining legal counsel
28 about a pending contractual claim against Anderson
29 County. I presented three people, three attorneys,
30 and from just our discussions, I believe that based on
31 our discussions, the chair moves that the county hires
32 Thomas A. Bright from the Ogletree, Deakins Law Firm.
33 LARRY GREER: Second.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And we have a second.
35 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, let me remind
37 you that this is a personnel contractual and legal
38 topic, so please use your questions carefully.
39 CINDY WILSON: I believe we were
40 discussing about seeking a consultation and not
41 necessarily hiring.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Correct. Yes, ma'am.
43 CINDY WILSON: So I think we need to make
44 that correction, if you don't mind.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, you are correct
46 and I do apologize.
47 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, but did we
48 say that? I don't think that was said. I think it
49 was suggested. But ...
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Hold up. Hold up.

1 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, my second was
2 on hiring this person as the firm to deal with this.
3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And my motion was to hire.
4 Okay.
5 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
7 BILL MCABEE: I call for the question.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Call for the question. All
9 in favor to the call for the question, please vote.
10 Five. Oppose. Two. All in favor of ---
11 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I do
12 apologize. Was there a second?
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer made the second
14 and he stated such, and he clarified that his second
15 was to hire.
16 LARRY GREER: I will second the call for
17 the question. I will second the call for the
18 question.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So it's five, two.
20 All in favor of hiring Mr. Thomas A. Bright of the
21 Ogletree, Deakins Law Firm, please vote. Five.
22 Oppose. Abstain. Two. Okay. I will ---
23 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, the hour is
24 late. I move that we adjourn.
25 BILL MCABEE: Second.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Motion to adjourn. All in
27 favor to adjourn. We are adjourned.
28
29
30 Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, ANDERSON COUNTY

FROM: Bill McAbee

DATE: October 7, 2008, October 21, 2008 and Nov. 3, 2008

RE: Recusal from County Council participation due to potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety

Resolution R2008-043 - 10-7-08

Ordinance 2008-054 - 10-7-08, 10-21-08, 11-3-08

Pursuant to Section 8-13-700, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, I am hereby giving notice of my abstention from the matter regarding the issue of Fee-in-lieu for Lincoln Energy and Lewis Rd Closures as it appears before Anderson County Council on See above, 2008.

The potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety for which I am recusing myself and abstaining from participation is: on going business relationship

(for example: a personal or financial interest in the matter in question; a conflict or appearance of impropriety due to business or other relationships with one or more of the parties involved; and so forth).

This document is to be filed as a matter of public record, and is to be included with the official minutes of the County Council meeting at which the matter in question was brought before Anderson County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

W.H. McAbee



Attachment A
to minutes of
10/7/08 ✓
10/21/08
11/3/08

Post Office Box 8002 • Anderson, S.C. 29622-8002
(864) 260-4000

www.andersoncountysc.org

#3

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – October 21, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP

CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

GRACIE FLOYD: Go to your higher power as I go to mind and let's all pray together for our needs and for the needs of this county.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of minutes for October the 7th, 2008. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second from Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? Hearing no one, the chair calls for the vote on approval of the minutes for October the 7th, 2008. All in favor, please vote. Mr. Wilson. Unanimous. Citizens' comments. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address the county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. And when you come forward, give your name, address and the county council district in which you live and which agenda item you wish to talk about. Mr. Martin. How many, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: There are twelve citizens under agenda matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Proceed.

TOM MARTIN: Elizabeth Peace.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry, Ms. Peace. If you're speaking on an item that has a public hearing, you have the option of waiting till that public hearing to do so. Ms. Peace, please proceed.

ELIZABETH PEACE: Mr. Chairman, members of council, Mr. Preston and citizens, I am Elizabeth M. Peace of the Hopewell Precinct. I am here tonight because I am very confused, as I see agenda item 11 to

be discussed this evening. It is my understanding from the news media releases that the letter from attorney Robert Hoskins given to council members was marked clearly to be confidential. Perhaps I grew up in an era very different from the present day, for I was raised and taught that if I accepted any information whatsoever marked or stated to be confidential, if I am an honest person, an ethical person, my acceptance of this confidential information in essence is my ethical promise and my bond that I will keep this information confidential until such time permission is released of the said information that has been given to me by the one that has asked for this confidentiality. So I have a question. Will the members of council please clarify to my confused mind why you have not been held to this same standard of ethics and character that I was raised by simply because you personally have decided to release the information or either bring it to discussion when it was supposed to have been confidential personnel information. I thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Terry Chapman.

TERRY CHAPMAN: My name is Terry Chapman. I'm in district two, Ms. Gracie Floyd's district, and I thank the chairman and county council and those that give me the opportunity to be up here. I too, like Ms. Peace, I'm concerned about item 11, not for the confidentiality or whatever, but the way it's come about and the way things are handled. I don't know a whole lot about nothing really, but I do know -- I think a little bit about the bible. And I was thinking about the bible or the way churches is run. You know, we're all serving the same Lord, but there are so many denominations that's got all the truth. It's about that way sometimes in government. But I've not read the whole letter because it don't really concern me. What concerns me is, Mr. Preston, if he chose to resign, I'd back him a hundred percent because I can't understand why a man wants to take the abuse he takes. Just like some of the council members, and especially from misinformed people. I don't mind -- and Mr. Preston, I consider you my friend. And I hope you consider me. Of course, last time I said that I wound up on a radio show. But that's all right. But I hope that that's not what the letter means, and I hope we clarify it tonight and I hope that some people just, you know, will stop worrying about everybody else's jobs and what they're

doing and their business and mind their own. I think Mr. Preston has done a great job. Do I agree with everything he's done? I doubt it. I've had a wife for thirty-five years. I don't agree with everything she says and does. But when it comes down to it, we come victorious at the end. And I appreciate the job that he's doing, and Mr. Martin, I wish I had a half a mind you got with all this stuff you remember and do, and for what y'all do for the county. The county council needs to unite at one, not this side against that side. And like the chairman said, I'm not gonna call any names because that wouldn't be right, even though some do. But I can say the number one and seven. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Doreen Montepara.

DOREEN MONTEPARA: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and council. I'm here tonight also to address item number 11.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Address.

DOREEN MONTEPARA: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm from Homeland Park. I'm district five, Michael Thompson's district.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

DOREEN MONTEPARA: I'm here tonight to address the agenda number 11. For one thing, I am so, so ashamed of certain council members who try to use their position on this council to smear the reputation of good people who work for this county. I cannot believe that a council member actually took a letter that was marked confidential and mailed -- and faxed it, excuse me, faxed it to the press. Which, by the way, we all know who did it, so there's no sense in trying to say you didn't. The only fault I have is why? What did you think you would gain out of doing this childish behavior? My eleven year old wouldn't do this. I just wish this person could actually go up in front of the ethics committee. After all, we already know we have one member going up in November, so we might as well make it two. They can car pool, save gas. We also -- I'd like to take the time to thank Mr. Preston for what he has done for Anderson County. I actually have a list here of just awards and things that have been given to him since he has been here with us for the past eight years. Everybody automatically wants to turn around and go, oh, God, no, he's done something wrong. Nobody has showed me anything in black and white that this man has done anything wrong. Until I see it in black and white,

I'm backing my county administrator. I believe he's doing a good job for the county. He's brought jobs here. He's done wonderful things. And if people don't see the difference, trust me, as most of these people, especially on the radio, have a habit of saying, these Yankees move here, yes, I moved here almost ten years ago. And I remember what it was like ten years ago. And I have seen Anderson growing. But it's not gonna continue to grow as long as we have dissension among the ranks. It's not gonna happen. For one, we need to stop this school yard bullying because, oh, I didn't like what you did so now you're on my hit list. It needs to stop. It just can't continue. And the one thing I do have to say, is for the upcoming council, please do not come into the council just because some of your constituents say, well, you gotta get rid of Joey and come in here with that mindset. Wait to see the facts in black and white before you make a decision. And once again, in my closing I'd like to say to Mr. Preston, thank you for what you've done for us.

TOM MARTIN: Michael Montepara.

MICHAEL MONTEPARA: Good evening, everybody. Michael Montepara, Homeland Park, district five, Mr. Thompson's. I actually brought notes tonight. Sorry, guys, you're gonna have to bear with it. Tonight I'm speaking with regard to an item on tonight's agenda, number 11. Normally I'm very supportive of this council. Most of the stuff you do, I'm very positive and welcoming what you do to this county. You do a lot of worthwhile things. I have deep respect for many of you on this panel. However, there's an underlying issue that I need to talk about. I refer to the tiresome digression of select members of this very council regarding public versus private conduct brought into this public forum. For several years these members have brought an endless crusade which has taken more twists and turns than Lombard Street in San Francisco. This county has faced deficits, lawsuits, legal fees, reductions in services, huge budget increase and ever-rising taxes because of less than desirable procurement of special interest projects. All the while public attention has been diverted by the railroading and debasing of our important manager of our province instead of the real issue of poor council management and operation and political posturing. I am not alone in this observation. We've got a full house here tonight,

guy. This is reflected not only in personal views, but the media, radios, blogs, websites, community discussion groups, we all have the same opinion. You guys are not getting on board with this. You're being viewed as a bunch of self-serving buffoons. I'm sorry. It is clear there's powership issues here. You are not coordinating your efforts as a public entity. You're all working on your own little agendas. That's not the way political things should be done. We've not back in Tammany Hall, guys. This is the 21st Century. I'm deeply ashamed -- and I did not copy her notes, this is my own notes, I did these days ago. Obviously the feelings are the same. To condone this kind of behavior for any council members for what's going on, is simply shameful. I'm brought to the old days where, if there was a woodshed back in the back of this building, there would be whuppings had tonight. Our administrator, Mr. Preston, has done fine work for us all. I'm not here to blow smoke up anybody's skirts. His work stands for itself. There is no public wrongdoing brought to public light. It's all innuendo accusations. Also, when I see the same black and white that this man is doing wrong, sure I'll get on board with having his removal. In the meantime, he is a contracted private individual, not an elected official like yourselves who are subject to the public scrutiny, ridicule, shame and things brought onto your families. This is a private individual. You should show more respect. If you don't this reflects on the business environment in large and they see that and they don't want to bring business here, because if that's the way you treat this man under your employ, what are you doing with business? They're not gonna come here. Thank you very much.

TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

BROOKS BROWN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake Road, district one. Again, on item 11, this is a personnel matter. I understand that it is the privilege of any member of council to put whatever they want on the agenda. However, this does not mean a public lynching. This should be handled in executive session. You do have the authority to order that. And I would assume that when the time comes you will request executive session and not allow this to go public in any manner, way, shape or form. Anything discussed in executive session stays in executive session. Thank you, sir.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Hogg Road, Williamston. Ms. Cindy Wilson's district. Buffoon, that's an interesting word. What we have coming up in January is a change of control. Praise God. Politically correct, we're in Anderson County, we don't need a moment of silence to the higher -- our own higher power. There's only one higher power and that is God, Lord Jesus Christ. It's scary that we have to say a higher power in Anderson County tonight. Lewis Road. Only to give them a lieu in fee of. Get real. They've already bought the land. They've already started the contracts to grade. They've already started spending money. Why do we need to take tax monies that they were willing to give us because they've already signed the deal? I do not understand how and why any county within any state would give someone like the Kohl's, they were already here, they already broke ground, they already had their building finished, and someone had the audacity to ask for a fee in lieu of. No. You're here, you're coming, we don't need to beg you. We don't need to hand out a cooking to get someone to come here when they've already spent all the money. Quit giving tax breaks to people who've already said I'm coming here. If it takes it to get them here, I'm still not good with it, but that's okay, somewhat. Agenda matter 11 I had no clue until I got here tonight that that was on there. Yahoo. Here's the cheering section for the other side. I have no clue what all has gone on in the last twelve years. I have not, as a citizen, been as involved as I needed to be. And the citizens of this county has not been involved as much as they needed to be. How can we sit back and go from thirty-eight million to a hundred and fifty-two or a hundred and forty-eight, ever how you want to look at it, million dollars in twelve years? We have roads that are falling apart. We have bridges that are falling apart. In my own area there's a bridge the state keep pushing back. And I know there's state and county bridges. We have so much infrastructure problems within the county, the roads we ride on, not the buildings that your employees here at this county who seems to, if I can get any logistical number, tripled in the last twelve years. We don't need more faces in these places. We need more businesses in this county. We don't need that building across the street full of people, because we all know as soon as we fill it and

we fill the Bailes Building over here with new employees, we're gonna have empty buildings here that we're gonna fill up. We've gonna finish filling the buildings that we're starting to fill. Please, get on board, the ones -- one of you who are going to be here and the one of you who hopefully is not gonna be here. Next year we're gonna have a change in what's going on. If the king is naked walking down the road, you need to tell him to put some clothes on. And that's what that item 11 is about.

TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman. My name is Rick Freemantle, from the White Plains precinct. I also would like to speak about item number 11. I'd like to thank Liz Carey over at the Anderson Independent for making this little confidential document public. Isn't it strange that the Independent Mail always seems to give all of the administrator's confidential things? You know, it says in here that part of his problem is he's being prevented from carrying out his duties as a county administrator. Perhaps that's why he's behind in his GL65 reports, his GLR110 reports and he's still failed to produce the GLR153 report. Are we the taxpayers going to have to pay the bill for this ridiculous action? In here it states, the news of the agenda of certain members of the council is discouraging to Mr. Preston. Pity. And from the standpoint of the good people of Anderson. I agree with the administrator there is an agenda. It's called an open, honest government. For the guy who told we the people anywhere, any time in regards to the use of our Denali, you have a lot of nerve acting like we support you. I don't know where Mr. Preston was this past June when the good people of Anderson spoke up. They told him, as well as three of his enablers, you're finished walking all over us. It is extremely disappointing that the administrator views working in an atmosphere that would demand accountability to the citizens of this county an assault. Those sound like the words of a dictator to me.

TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one. Well, part of my thunder got stolen away, but one of the words we have heard in this council a lot was open and honest government. Now personally I can make no, I can make no charge against our administrator. The

administrator does not work for me. I did not -- he is not an elected official. But his responsibility and his duties lie under the jurisdiction of the county council. And the county council reports to we, the people. We've heard a lot about open and honest government. But what people do not like is a county council that gives a blank check to the county administration whereby you are simply saying, do what you feel is best for the county and then just tell us what you've done. We want -- a lot of the times what the people want are answers. We don't have a bad tendency to forget our history, where we've been and the roads we've traveled. And we need really to get back on track. Now, we've heard a lot about, you know, words that say this, anticipated that you won't be able to do your duties. Well, what that is, is a new county council that's gonna come in and say, we want answers. No more what -- no more free reign. Do something, tell us what you've done. Because while we the citizens cannot bring any charges against our administrator, we can against the county council. We the citizens can demand answers from the county council as to why are you letting these things go on, why are you not, you know, holding more accountability. And there's another buzz word, accountability. Finances, you know, who's watching the store? A lot of the things in this county we've done to ourselves. And now the chickens are coming home to roost. So what we've done we've done to ourselves. What we really need, though, more than anything else is for county council, yes, to work together where the administration is responsible to the county and the council is responsible to the people. That is what open, honest government is all about. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Steven Chapman.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Steven Chapman, 107 Ellison Circle, district seven, Cindy Wilson. I'm here to speak tonight on two things on the agenda, 13C and 14A. For 14A, starting off, we've heard the railroad claim that they have the right to block that in the last session by a Mr. Farish. I believe he made that statement. And I want to give to y'all for y'all to look over from the www.fra.dot.gov where it states, South Carolina permits standing trains to block crossing for a maximum of five minutes. The person in charge of the train must be notified before the five minutes commence. South Carolina Code and it gives

the code. Under penalty it states, for every such offense a person shall pay not less than five or more than twenty dollars. It's considered a new offense for every twenty-four hour period the blockage continues. Yes, the fine is not great, but -- Mr. Preston, will you please hand that out for me. The fine may not be great, but it speaks to any reason, that I feel, when I say this is my feeling on this, that anyone, any railroad, any business says, I will blatantly break the law, I have the money to pay the fine. How does that speak for community relations? As far as the fee in lieu of, we spoke last night with the fire marshal, with DHEC. Nowhere could they -- they talked about the safety of the facility, which I feel the facility itself will be safe. But no one spoke about the safety of the trains that's gonna be stored within two hundred feet of our residence and my neighbors' residences where children walk the streets and play. No one addressed the water main, fire issue. My understanding is that we're still working off the zoning codes that was agreed upon in 2000 -- just got agreed upon in 2008, according to what a fire marshal told me. None of this has been addressed to the safety of the people that's gonna be staying right next to these storage containers of ethanol. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Sophia Chapman. Doug Parham.

DOUG PARHAM: My name is Doug Parham. I live on Airline Road, district three. I want to talk about item number 11, too, but I want to go at it from a different direction. I've stood up here and I've listened to people support our county administrator. I've heard people talk about Lincoln Oil Company and how they have enough money to buy anything they want, and they do, believe me, because I worked for Jim Farish years ago and I know how much money he's got. If he wants it, he'll get it. I heard one gentleman up here say that we don't have a right to know, y'all need to go in executive session. I don't agree with that either. I think we do have a right to know. And I think it should be laid out here. But I think it should be laid out by ten people. You seven and the three new people coming on. I think you all need to get up here tonight and tell us what you want, what you expect of our county administrator and let him decide whether or not he can come across with it. Give this man an idea of what's gonna happen after the

first of the year before he makes a decision. I think he's too valuable to lose. I think if he worked for a Fortune 500 company, he would probably be making about a half million dollars a year. I think Anderson County will never have anybody like him again for what we can afford to pay. I think he's done more for us. And I don't say this as somebody that worships our county administrator. The first time I came up here I was dead against him because I was listening to the wrong people. And I stood up here and made a public apology when I found out that I was wrong. Because I did do a lot of digging and I did do a lot of research. And I found out the real truth. And let me tell you people, if you think things are gonna be better after the first of the year, you'd better wait and see, because we're gonna have about four people in charge of what you think is gonna be yours. And I don't think things are gonna be going in the direction that you think they should be going. I think that if things go down like I think they're going to, we're gonna be in one hell of a mess. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Mike Freeman.

MIKE FREEMAN: Mr. Chairman, members of council, Mike Freeman, 207 West Wind Road, County Assessor. Last council meeting a couple of gentlemen stepped to the microphone and stepped all over my and my staff's integrity, credibility, character, accusing us of doing things that we wouldn't dream of doing. I've been working in this county for forty-three years, and I take it very seriously. I guess you could say in some cases you consider the source. But I have a letter from one gentleman that pretty much put it in writing. I'll quote a few words from that letter. Somewhat out of touch with reality. The value decreased is between fifteen and thirty percent. This does not pass the fairness test or reason at this time of national low home value lapse and home owner crisis. A recall of county government and replacement with in-touch officials that recognize reality may be needed. There's a little piece of paper I think that y'all got with your agenda packet from the South Carolina Department of Revenue. My numbers have to pass a revenue ratio study, and they did, ninety-nine point nine percent. Now having said that, I'm not sure -- you know, I'm sure there's a problem here and there. If there are, that's what the appeal process is for. One of those gentlemen that spoke has used it very well. And he knew that. The gentleman that was

quoted in this letter, and I will respond, believe me I will respond, and he's coded under appeal, you know, he'll appeal. But there's a little thing called the MLS. Let me see if I can get my figures correct here. We put his market value on this property at a million eighty-nine six. He's gonna be taxed at seven hundred and seventy thousand dollars. He has it on the market for one point six million dollars, the recent ad. And I'll just finish by saying, I take integrity very seriously. We did what we were supposed to do, the way we were supposed to do it. That's the bottom line. If anybody's got a question or wants to appeal or wants to talk, we're there to do it. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under agenda matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Proclamation. A proclamation to commemorate the month of October as Anderson County Museum Month. Ms. Michelle Strange. Is there a proclamation we need to vote on? Yes? In my packet I bet.

MICHELLE STRANGE: Number 5.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. I signed that. Chair moves to approve the proclamation celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Anderson County Museum. Is there a second?

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of the proclamation, please vote. It is unanimous. Ms. Strange.

MICHELLE STRANGE: Mr. Chairman, council and Mr. Preston, it is my -- indeed my pleasure to be before you today to let you know that this is the 25th anniversary of our local history museum. About twenty-six years ago the then sitting council heard from local interested historians about how important they thought it was to preserve the history of Anderson County and to educate the citizens and the visitors and we've been able to do that now for two and a half decades thanks to the support from you and the support from the community. And we have several members of the advisory committee which are appointed by you and members of our friends of the museum board and a few of our staff and other volunteers. So if all of those folks who are volunteers or board members of the museum would please stand.

APPLAUSE

MICHELLE STRANGE: If you would give them a hand. And staff.

APPLAUSE

MICHELLE STRANGE: And I said the staff should stand too, because they draw a paycheck, but we do ask them to work evenings and weekends and do extra projects and take things home. We're slave drivers, you know. But it is our pleasure to be before you tonight. We're excited about some of the things that are happening, not only this week, I know that there is sometimes a perception that museums are stagnant, and we are here to tell you tonight that the Anderson County Museum is not stagnant. We have a lot going on this weekend. We hope that anybody whose schedule permits will join us on Saturday for our 25th celebration. During that celebration you'll see a brand new exhibit on some Manse Jolly family letters. They're pretty interesting if you think of how life is now versus how it was at that time period. We also will have some Civil War reenactments from three camps. We have an anniversary exhibit highlighting things that have come into the museum's possession during the past twenty-five years. And one of the greatest highlights is the Bernard Bee sword. It's here. It's in Anderson. It'll probably go in the case in the next forty-eight hours. And that exhibit will be available for folks to see from Saturday through I think it's March. March 30th. That came from the South Carolina State Museum and it's a wonderful, wonderful artifact. A few folks have gotten the opportunity to visit and see that piece. It's lovely. And we'll also have some barbeque plates, so come on out. All the proceeds from barbeque plates are gonna go toward permanent exhibits. We have a lot going on. In addition to our anniversary Saturday, Tuesday will be CreepFest, which is a family night with a local author who does ghost stories, so it should be a fun event. And then November 14th and 15th is I believe our fifth Mistletoe Market and that'll be about thirty upstate artisans who are showing their wares and showing what talented craftspeople we have here. So I'm hoping that all of you will join us. We're very thankful. On behalf of the board and the volunteers and the staff, thank you for supporting us and allowing us to preserve history everyday and to educate folks about that history. We do have more than ten thousand visitors come through our building at 202 East Greenville Street every year. And we hope to continue to increase those numbers. So thank you for your

support and we appreciate the proclamation.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Employee of the month, Mr. Derrick Singleton, Human Resources Committee Chair.

Mr. Singleton, you have five minutes.

DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of council, Mr. Preston, on behalf of the Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present Employee of the Month, September, 2008, Teresa Bannister. Teresa, on behalf of the Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present this chamber check and a plaque that says congratulations Teresa Bannister, Employee of the Month, Anderson County, 2008. Mr. Preston.

JOEY PRESTON: This lady here is probably extremely uncomfortable because she's gonna have to say a few words to the public. I tell you, I think the county employees that are here, the division heads and department heads that attend council meetings and staff meetings, county attorneys, especially the county council members that interact with my office daily, understand and appreciate just how important Teresa Bannister is to Anderson County. I want you to know I'm proud of you for this. I want you to know I had nothing to do with it. Adrienne, are you out there somewhere? Stand up. You need to come up here too. Teresa Bannister is dedicated to Anderson County. She's dedicated to her family. I know, because I hear about it everyday. She's committed to Anderson County. She's committed to her family. I tell you what, guys, y'all need to really appreciate this lady. She cares about her family, her children, her husband, her mom and her dad. Well, she fusses about her husband every once in a while. I do hear that. She has a love for her community and she's very decided to this county. We're fortunate to have Teresa Bannister. Teresa, how many years now? Eighteen years working for Anderson County. I think she even worked for this guy over here once when he was county attorney a long, long time ago. You probably should be up here too saying a few words. With that I'm gonna say, I'm very honored to have worked with you. Adrienne, thank you for that nomination. Teresa was selected by a committee. Every month they meet and they talk about employees that are nominated. And I'm certainly glad to see this. Congratulations.

APPLAUSE

TERESA BANNISTER: Members of council, everyone enjoys a pat on the back or an attaboy for a job well done. And it is especially an honor for me to be here because coworkers nominated me for this and gave me the support. It's real exciting to know a coworker knows your work. Preston will tell you, I'm a behinds the scenes person. But I am currently serving my eighteenth year of employment with Anderson County. It's ironic that I received Employee of the Month for September, my thirteenth anniversary. I've worked with three county administrators and county attorneys so I've been around quite a while and seen lots of faces on council. But I want to say publicly, I appreciate the job Mr. Preston does because I've been there through ruts with them and I know what's going on. In closing I want to read to you, members of council, I want them to ponder this quote. I have this quote taped inside my desk drawer and I read it daily. This quote is by W. D. Howell, and it says, ... performance is worth a whole world of promise. Tonight I want you to take it home and think about what you do for our county.

APPLAUSE

JOEY PRESTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Introduction of JPS Composite Materials personnel. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: What?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Introduction of JPS Composite Materials personnel.

GRACIE FLOYD: I'm sorry. My mind wasn't there because I really needed to see Angie Stringer before she leaves. So if somebody could please tell her not to leave until I talk with her. But Mr. Chairman, with your permission please and permission of the council, I would like to withdraw item number 7 from the agenda. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Pride awards for students who completed the basic welding course at Fusion Warehouse. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This has my attention completely. And this is something I'm very, very proud of. And I know that you citizens of Anderson County will be proud of it too. Over at Fusion Warehouse they have a class, and the name is a basic welding course, a basic welding course. We have students who have gone through this course and have finished. These were kids who were down on their -- was just having a rough time of it. These kids are

now -- some of them are working, some of them had jobs even before they were through with the course. Some of them have gone now to college. They are here tonight so that you can tell them how proud you are of them and for their county to present to them the -- it's called the Anderson County Pride award, because we are proud of these kids. If I need to put this in the form of a motion that we accept this, I would like to do this. It doesn't have to be -- okay. May I ask the Fusion Warehouse staff consisting of Randall Brown and his staff and these students to please come up. And as they come up, folks, the last time we did this somebody got up and said they were mechanic students. It's not mechanical students. These are welding students. And if you know anything about the job market, you know that there are jobs out there in welding. Okay. I want you to know first of all how proud I am of you. You took an opportunity that someone gave you and you have made such a wonderful thing out of it. You've used it well. Your parents are proud of you. But more so than that, we are proud of you. You need to know that. You live in Anderson County and your county is so, so very pleased with the work that you have done. I want to give you this award. This is the staff of Fusion Warehouse. You've heard me talk about them and talk about them. And folks, I will talk about them as long as I live in Anderson and until the day that I die. Because these people here are making a difference in Anderson County. And if you have not been down there to see where seven thousand students are registered to go, shame on you. Let me introduce the staff. This is the keeper of the vision, this is Randall Brown. He is the CEO, director, chairman, water boy, garbage can emptier. This is Datrick Jefferson. Datrick takes care of the money. He's the finance person. This is Juan Brown. Your name is not Brown? This is Juan Lavine. Juan is the person who goes out and calls you on the ...

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

GRACIE FLOYD: ... works with Juan in his endeavor. The mike is yours.

RANDALL BROWN: Mr. Chairman, members of council, Mr. Preston, I can't thank you enough for bringing recognition to these students. We actually have six who graduated this class. Four others could not be with us tonight. And we've now had twenty-seven that has graduate our welding certification

class. And as Ms. Floyd referred to, we're now approaching the number of eight thousand youth that are now registered at the Fusion Warehouse, around forty-four percent of Anderson County's youth.

APPLAUSE

RANDALL BROWN: I just can't thank the citizens of this community, the council. All that you guys do for this community is wonderful. We are only to succeed by the support of the community and our council members. And I will say this, there's one thing for sure, Ms. Floyd and council members and Mr. Preston, it's obvious that you guys care about our community. I thank you so much for what you have done for our community and for our students. As a result we have a certified welder standing before you today and we're so excited. This is the first two ladies that have graduated our class. Congratulations.

APPLAUSE

RANDALL BROWN: But I would like to take this opportunity to invite any one of you, please come and visit. It is a must see. We have such a great, great community. And as a native of Anderson I believe in this community. And as a result of everyone pulling together, Fusion Warehouse has been such a success in this community. We're reaching out to literally thousands of youth. A lot of people may see it as just a fun place to hang out on the weekends, but if that's all you think it is, please come and visit us. We call it fun with a purpose. Programs, we have culinary arts. We have welding certification. We have budgeting classes, thanks to Upstate Federal Credit Union. We have partnered with Tri County Technical College to be able to come and instruct these students and they earn college credits while they're taking the course. And through WorkLink and WorkForce Investment Act, WIA, we are able to put on this welding program. And I thanking everyone. Thanks to all that are involved. It is truly an amazing thing to see. So please come down to see us at any time. We're there everyday during the week and late on the weekends because that's when the youth are there. So come and see us. And thank you so much.

GRACIE FLOYD: We look forward to you bringing the next group down. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Discussion of Lewis Drive. Mr. Steven Chapman. You have five minutes.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

county council. At this time we have a few residents from the Cheddar Community or anyone involved. Would you please stand and be recognized. These are a few of the people that was able to make due to the conflict of work schedules. As a community we feel - I say this again, that we feel that last night's meeting was not beneficial as far as answering our questions. Speaking to the fire marshal later that we was told that are far as water lines go that we are at the mercy of the water company and that there's talk of going from a six inch water line which feeds the community to an eight inch water line that'll feed the plant. Still we do not have any assurances that if a fire did break out that they had the capability to handle a fire, large fire properly. As far as the safety goes to the storage yard, not the facility itself but the storage yard, no safety guidelines was laid out and there's no really rules going out as far as how to handle this or how to protect the community. And again I say there will be -- especially in my family, I can speak for my personal case, my children and me will be within two hundred feet of trains carrying ethanol. And no one can guarantee my safety or guarantee that my property value will not be damaged. They said that's all up in the air, nobody can quote off this. There's no real legislation going on as far as zoning or laws of how far this has to be away from a residence. DHEC has nothing. The only thing that could answer us last night was air permits. That's all they could answer to was the actual air permits. And again, I gave the piece of paper for it to be presented about what the federal law says, FRA, about a train occupying a line. We've heard time and time again that they can occupy and block this road. And it was brought up last night in the meeting that the length of train, by Mr. Farish, the calculated time for a crossing was eleven minutes, what they calculated. If they close Lewis Drive, and a fire department has to cross Sherard, it just so happens to be the time that a train is crossing, it can be blocked for eleven minutes. They said, at which point they would either have the option to turn around and go a different way or call for backup. Another issue was just recently they blocked off Highway 20 because of some construction at the tank farm where they ruptured, I believe I was informed, a natural gas line. And it just so happened to be that they diverted the traffic from 20 down Lewis Drive. Not

around Sherard, but down Lewis Drive. Like I said, these are issues that's concerning this community no one still have not answered. They've talked about the safety of the facility itself. We've talked about the nature of fighting ethanol fires. We've covered the fact that there is no water supply. We've covered the fact that we don't necessarily have the equipment to handle an ethanol fire, large ethanol fire. And like I said, they still cannot address the safety of this community. I ask you once again, please, we have to decide what's more important, is it the safety of the community, even if it is just one person's life, is it worth more or less than the price of business. I'm all for business, but I do not think it should be adjoined to a residence, especially a business of this volatile nature. I thank you for your time. And I pray that y'all will vote with an open heart and open mind and see this from both sides and help this community because we're asking for your help. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Discussion of Lewis Drive, Ms. Amy Plummer, you have five minutes.

AMY PLUMMER: Twenty-seven hundred and fifty-one highway rail grade crossing incident occurred in 2007. Two hundred and eighty-nine of those were fatalities.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Plummer, speak into the mike. I can barely hear you.

AMY PLUMMER: Two hundred and eighty-nine of that twenty-seven hundred and fifty-one grade crossing incidents were fatalities. This is a fifty-three percent reduction in the highway rail grade crossing deaths since 1994. Truck fatality rates are four times higher than train fatality rates. Moving freight by rail saves lives. This ethanol is already coming into this community by truck. The chance for serious injury or death in a train/motor vehicle collision is eleven times greater than any other type of highway collision. 1972 when Operation Lifesaver first began, twelve thought -- there were approximately twelve thousand collisions between trains and cars or trucks every year. By 2007, because of their efforts to improve grade crossings, close grade crossings and put better signs up, that has been reduced by more than seventy-six percent, to twenty-seven fifty-one this year -- or in 2007. The Greenville & Railway Company puts your safety first. The Jake Award with Distinction is awarded by the

American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association to member railroads who achieve an employee injury frequency severity index, an FSI, of zero. Greenville & Western Railway earned the award for the calendar year 2007, but has actually worked accident and incident and injury free since the start-up of October 21st, 2006, two years ago today. Greenville & Western Railway is a CSX short line partner. Railroads are the safest mode of ground transportation for transporting hazardous materials. This is stated by the federal government. This is their rules. For every billion ton miles of hazardous material transported truck operate an over inherently more dangerous public highways are involved in more than ten times as many accidents as the railroads. CSX and the Greenville & Western Railway Company put your safety first. The CSX personnel work hard to improve safety performance throughout the company's twenty-one thousand mile system. Each year CSX transportation moves over three hundred thousand shipments of hazardous materials. The Greenville & Western Railway Company has worked consistently and diligently to continually maintain and improve their safety performance. To minimize the potential for accidents, CSX has developed some of the most effective programs in the rail industry aimed at moving these materials safety from shipper to destination. The low number of incidents illustrates a CSX commitment to continually improve their safety and safety record. Their service and safety record. As a result of a team effort by all CSX employees and short line partners, CSX is the leader among all major rail carriers in train accident prevention. The great GLRW is committed, that's the Greenville & Western Railroad, is committed to putting safety of their employees, customers and the communities they serve first, as is evidenced by their FSI index of zero. The GLRW also puts your safety first, requiring safety certification for all of their employees by working year around to improve grade crossings and keeping trees and vegetations cut back, giving approaching motorists a better view. The GLRW is making more than twelve miles of improvements to their railroad tracks in order to bring the line to class two safety standards, all of which is in Anderson County. The U.S. Department of Transportation says that alternative routes should be within a reasonable travel time and distance from a closed crossing. We meet the requirements that are

put out by the FRA and by the transportation -- excuse me. Traffic count on this road is less than three hundred and forty a day. There's two plus trains per day five days a week when this facility opens. It will be a multi-track crossing. And it's not just to bring trains into the facility, but it's also to keep industry moving in our community. That includes bringing the materials that Owens Corning has to have to stay functioning and to stay producing. We have two grade crossing that are within a quarter mile of each other. And there are more than -- there are six grade crossing over in a one mile period. We meet all of those requirements. In conclusion, by closing this grade crossing, it will enable the Greenville & Western Railway Company to continue to improve safe operations while taking more than twenty thousand trucks that are currently on the road, off of our roads. Now I wanted to show you a video.

VIDEO BEING PLAYED

AMY PLUMMER: We're just asking you to close this crossing for the safety of the community.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Plummer, time. Thank you. We'll take a fifteen minute break.

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I need a little housekeeping here. The assessor said that he misspoke a while ago and asked me to correct his error. He said that the property was on the market for one point six million and he should have said one point eight million. And so I said I would do that for him. So there we go with that. And also I want to remind the audience that this is a legislative body so the audience is to be quiet at all times unless you are asked to come to the microphone to speak. Moving on to number 11.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, what is your point of order?

LARRY GREER: As stated in the heading for item 11, it involves pending claims against Anderson County. This involves potential legal matters and it's my opinion that this should not be discussed in open session. And at this time I ask that it be removed from the agenda.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a motion to remove the item from the agenda. Is there a ---

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. We have a motion on the floor to remove the item from the agenda. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Now we are in discussion.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chair, something has been said here today, and if you'll look at your seat here, you will find a letter here written to us from our administrator. And in this letter he's talking about a committee that was appointed to study something else. One of our people here tonight mentioned something that turned on a lightbulb with me about a personnel committee. Mr. Chair, remember back in January when you appointed a personnel committee? You remember that? All right. So we do have a standing personnel committee here. Okay. Mr. Chair, I think, fellow council members, I think that we have done -- we are making a mistake here because if we have a personnel committee and we only have two people that we can count as personnel for council and that's Ms. Gilstrap and Mr. Preston, so if we have a contractual matter, should it not go to the personnel committee first for the personnel committee to look at this, to study this and to do the necessary things that needs to be done and come back and make a report for us? What's the need of having a committee if we don't use it? Now, you appointed that committee. That committee was appointed back in January. But we have never convened it. And right now I'm making a motion that we convene that personnel committee. We send all this information to them and let they do -- let them do what they're supposed to do first.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, point of order, please.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, what is your point of order?

LARRY GREER: Ms. Floyd's motion is pertinent to the discussion. But in order for that motion to be accepted and considered, it should be properly made after you've handled the motion to remove this item from the agenda.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So Ms. ---

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- Floyd, will you remove your motion so we can deal with the motion to amend the agenda?

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. But I will get a chance to bring my motion up again; right?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: And I thank you.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So the motion to send this to the personnel committee has been removed and we're back to amending the agenda. And we have Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're talking about amending the agenda.

BOB WALDREP: Yes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right.

BOB WALDREP: I think that what Mr. Greer has said has some foundation and I certainly have no intention of treading on anything that would be confidential or exclusive as far as contracts are concerned. I just wanted to relate the fact that I received first notice of this letter at the last October 7th meeting. The letter from Mr. Preston was dated September the 25th, which was of course days before that. The only way I finally got a copy of that letter was to contact the chairman through the clerk to get me a copy, because when we went in to have an executive session, we did not even have the letter. Now, we go into that executive session, and of course, I'm not going to talk about what goes on in there, with the exception of what happened in there, and that was that the five members of this council unanimously selected Mr. Tom Bright of the Ogletree Firm, which I think is fine. Now, I've contacted Mr. Bright and Mr. Bright, as I understand it, was supposed to be here tonight. Is Mr. Bright here this evening? Mr. Bright? Mr. Bright, if you're here, please raise your hand. Now, I'm a little bit surprised at that because Mr. Bright's office indicated that he would be here. Now, my only intent was to say that, first of all, I don't know how this letter got disseminated. Apparently other people got the letter before I got the letter. Next, I want to make it clear that I do not want to get into any kind of discussions about the merits of this matter. But I think from my understanding and just a simple amount of research that this council, not a personnel

committee, the claim is not against a personnel committee, it's against this council, and I think that we need to act, that this kind of particular claim requires this council to act. Now, I'm not trying to intimate what that action would be. So my point is that I would ask that we go into executive session for the purpose of trying to clarify just what it is that the claim is about. Because I think it's extremely important. Again, we only have two employees. Mr. Preston is our premier employee. We certainly want to treat him with respect, give him every opportunity to be heard. And we can go through this process. But I would also say that when you get a letter from an attorney regarding a claim, it kind of takes it out of the ordinary course, I think, with all due respect from the council woman from district two is referring to, I think we've gotten beyond that. I think we've gotten to the point where we have our attorney, Mr. Tom Bright, they have their attorney, Mr. Preston has his attorney, Mr. Hoskins, and we need to go in and determine what is the intent of this council? And I think that's extremely important because my understanding is we do have to respond. We do have to act. Failure to act in this case could be fatal to the taxpayers of Anderson County. So that's my remarks on this. And again, we have a motion on the floor about a point of order. If this item is removed from the -- from our discussion and we do not go into executive session or attempt to deal with this matter, I think we will simply be in a state of denial that we have a problem. We will just be postponing something that is quite inevitable, and I don't think that that's wise or beneficial. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I received a copy of this letter which had the date of September 25th, and it said, via hand delivery and it had each and every council member's name on it and their address in the council chambers. And mine was delivered October the 10th at two thirty in the afternoon. I also want to point out that our own Codes of Ordinances involving the agenda support and actually states that every council member has the opportunity, the privilege, the right to put an item on the agenda not to exceed forty-five minutes. So I want to point out that I don't know exactly what all is involved with this item, but I think it would be out of order to take it

off the agenda, to withdraw it, without the permission fo the person who put it on. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair calls for the vote on the motion to amend the agenda by taking item 11 off. All in favor of removing item 11 from the agenda, please vote. Four. Opposed. Three. The vote is four, three, with Thompson, Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition, so the motion to remove the item from the agenda passes.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: May I make my motion now?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chair, fellow council members, I make a motion that we convene the personnel committee, first of all, to look at this problem to talk to both sides and to come back to the council members and answer all the questions that they can and advise us on further procedures on this matter.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So Ms. Floyd is making a motion to defer this issue to the personnel committee. The chair seconds. We are in discussion. Any discussion on deferring the item to the personnel committee?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Thompson. Might I ask a point that who composes the personnel committee at this time?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ron Wilson is the chair, Bill McAbee and Mr. Greer. And I've made that -- I formed that committee February or January of this year.

BOB WALDREP: And having formed that committee, is that committee charged with returning and communicating with the rest of the council?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. They will make a recommendation to the council.

BOB WALDREP: And do we have any particular time frame that we're operating on or are we just gonna wait and hope that they will act?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, do you want to amend your agenda to a time frame or ...

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I can. That's not -- that won't be hard to do. But we can -- I think that the first -- the second meeting in November should give them enough time to meet, to talk to the different people involved in this, open it to both sets of lawyers in this thing and to narrow this whole

thing down for us to make some kind of sense out of it and to bring it back so that council can decide then what we want to do.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, well ---

GRACIE FLOYD: So our second meeting in November.

BOB WALDREP: Would the rest of the council be privy to this chamber of meetings that this personnel would be ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think the three members of the personnel would do their homework and then make a recommendation to us. Otherwise you have four members of council meeting at one time. Then you get into Freedom of Information issues, which will ---

BOB WALDREP: Well, we've certainly had Freedom of Information issues here, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, anyway.

BOB WALDREP: To a great degree. And that's why I'd like to have the opportunity to at least be present at some of these meetings?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I would recommend that you will call or meet individually with the personnel committee members and express your concerns and provide them with your questions and then they can respond back to you individually with the answers.

BOB WALDREP: We would like notice of when they meet.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

BOB WALDREP: I think that's a fair thing to ask.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Rules of Procedure dictate that the committee meetings must be advertised twenty-four hours in advance of the meetings.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. See, there you go. Anything else?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Greer. I'm gonna hear about that one. Won't I? Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: No. I remember, though, the time I was chair and when I was trying to get the names straight, I remember all these eyes going, my Lord. It's not that easy; is it?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. But Mr.

Chair, you know, I was sitting here thinking and listening to this conversation back and forth and I am concerned that we work through this committee now so that we can all get the same information in a timely manner. Now, when everybody is calling the attorney, you get different information. He says one thing this time and the next time something else is being said. So, you know, I just wanted to make sure that we're going to work through this committee. The lawyers will work only through these people and that we will get all the information back that we're gonna need. I care about what's happening here. But I want to get to the bottom of it. I want to get to the bottom of it. And I need people that's going to bring it back to me that I can ask them questions without going to the -- Mr. -- I can't go to no other attorney. But they probably can. And you can bring it back to us and set us straight.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question, please?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

CINDY WILSON: As two of the personnel committee members have been fired by their respective constituencies and we're within ninety days of a changing of the guard, it would seem to me that there would be contractual issues with that and also some concerns -- some other legal concerns.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I am not an attorney, but I have been doing my homework on this issue. And the Supreme Court ruled, I don't remember the year, but it says the council presently holding the power has that power without circumscribed limit or boundary. So, no, ma'am, there's no limits on this. Anyone else? Mr. Martin is calling for time. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of deferring this issue to the personnel committee, please vote. We have five. Oppose. Two. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition. So item 11 is being deferred to the personnel committee and Mr. Wilson, I need to get with you to pass on some information.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, at this time I want to say to the person in the audience that -- thank you. See, we do listen when you talk. I'm out of order, but that's all right.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, you're out of order.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I did that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, ma'am. We are third reading of the Ordinance number 12, an ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of solid waste system revenue bonds of Anderson County, South Carolina and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Greer. We are in discussion. Anyone wish to discuss.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer called for the question. Mr. McAbee second it. All in favor of calling for the question, please vote. We have five. Oppose. Two. Calling for the question. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-049, please vote. Five. Oppose. One. Abstain.

BOB WALDREP: Abstain.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five, one and one with Ms. Wilson voting no and Mr. Waldrep abstaining. So the third reading passes.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, a point of personal privilege, please.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am. Item B, 2008-050, a first supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of an Anderson County, South Carolina solid waste system revenue bond, series 2008 in the principal amount of not exceeding three point two million dollars. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Thompson, have the floor?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please let me finish.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I tried to a while ago.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you do not have the floor at this time. Let me please finish. Mr. Greer second the motion. I lost my train of thought. We are in discussion.

CINDY WILSON: And I've asked for the floor.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now, Ms. Wilson, please.

CINDY WILSON: As this all regards the general bond ordinance, I wanted to point out that one

of the convenience centers, when there was a community meeting about two years ago, the cost was estimated at seventy-eight thousand, I believe. Now it's estimated at five hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And that was to upgrade, expand and to make safe. I also want to point out for public knowledge that as the solid waste fund has operated in the red for some years, even with the increase of the fee, with the problem that we have right now with economics around this country, I think the citizens of this county should find it very unnerving that with it going in the -- being in the red and we've got a new tax increase for it, we have written into this bond that the county can take funds -- well, first of all, they have to pay out of the revenues to pay the debt service on these bonds. But because the poor little solid waste fund hasn't made money in many years, even though the landfill was supposed to save us a lot of money, that we -- it says here, nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the county from appropriating and using any part of its available income or revenue derived from any source other than from the system and paying any immediate expenses of operating and maintaining the system. I guess Mr. Greer didn't want his constituents to know that it's already anticipated that we're gonna have to take money out of the general fund to pay to run the fund in order to service the debt. I would like to make a motion that in this bond ordinance and in the supplemental budget that we have county council to review and we need to approve all plans and contracts prior to any expenditures for this special source revenue bond. In other words, I believe, and I think that it may be proven out with some due diligence, that we can probably build these convenience centers for far less than the five hundred and fifty thousand to seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars apiece and save the county a lot of money in a very difficult time and give the citizens the convenience centers that are safer and more efficient. And I put that in the form of a motion, please.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can you narrow that down into ten words or less?

CINDY WILSON: Yes. Let's see. Okay. I'll read the caption first. It says the first supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of an Anderson County, South Carolina solid waste system revenue bond, series 2008, in the principal amount of not exceeding three point two million

dollars, prescribing the form and details of such bond authorizing the chairman of county council and the county administrator to determine certain matters relating to the bond, providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof and other matters related thereto. I propose that we have written in there where it says prescribing the form and details of such bond and have the language to then read, that the county council shall review and must approve all plans and contracts ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: What page are you on?

CINDY WILSON: Well, this is actually 12B, Mr. Chairman. This is the caption.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: What page in the ordinance are you referring to? You're reading from ---

CINDY WILSON: It's the caption, the very first page.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

CINDY WILSON: And I'm suggesting or making a motion that rather than putting -- authorizing the chairman of county council and the county administrator, that county council must review and determine all matters relating to the bond, including reviewing plans and contracts.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Is there a second for Ms. Wilson's motion? We have a second. Any discussion? Hearing no one, chair calls for the vote on Ms. Wilson's motion to amend. All in favor, please vote. Oppose. Okay. Mr. Wilson, Mr. McAbee, Ms. Floyd, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Greer are in the opposition. The motion to amend fails and we're back in discussion on the ordinance. Anyone else? Hearing no one, chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-050. All in favor, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson are in the opposition. The ordinance passes third reading. Ordinance 2008-052, an ordinance amending section 55-31 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to travel and subsistence and other matters related thereto. There is a public hearing on this. Instructions for a public hearing. Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue under consideration. The chairman exercises control of the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments.

With that being said the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please state your name and address before speaking and speak to the chair and only to the chair. Public hearing is now open.

STEVE POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one. Mr. Chairman, members of the council, in reviewing part of the IRS publication, which I believe it's 1520, part of what it deals with, the per diem allowance, which according to the tables would be about a hundred and forty-four dollars a day. And as far as it's written, it's giving permission to stay at the hotel of the convention. Well, one time when I attended a convention one time, I couldn't stay there and I had to take a taxi from where I was staying to the convention site. The convention generally lasted all day long. But when it was over, well, time for me to go back to my room because I had a great deal on a room that cost me only -- it had a special discount, worked with the hotel, I only had to pay twenty-five dollars a night as opposed to the ninety dollars a night that the other people in the group I was with were staying. And you may find, you know, if you can, find out either there are many hotels or whatever and they offer a discount. But if you could, you could stay with a discount card at some of these other hotels close to the convention center, not actually at the site, and each time you stay you also build up points. So when you go to another convention sometime you have points built up on that card and you can get a free night. And that would save the county money in the long run. Thank you.

MARK POWELL: Mr. Chairman, my name is Mark Powell from Williamston, district seven. I worked in industry for twenty-seven years as a salesman. I worked for three different companies during that time. The first company was like Anderson County, they had their head in the sand on how the expenses were paid out by the salesmen and other employees who had company credit cards. You were given a card, you spent it. You were required to turn in a call report with detailed information. I do believe Anderson County has that in an ordinance for everyone who has an Anderson County credit card. You have to turn in a detailed credit card list. That company, on occasion, over my twenty-three and a half years being employed with them, chose on two occasions

to withhold our paycheck if we didn't turn in the needed paperwork. It was in the company policy. We all knew it. I don't know if you guys have any punishment for those abusing or using, misusing, the credit cards or not. But, guess what, if you didn't turn in your credit reports correctly, your paycheck got withheld. If you turned in credit cards that were illegit, you had to pay it out of your own pocket. The reason you have that in process is so that everyone will understand, you're spending my money, you're spending these people's money, you're all members of Anderson County, you're spending your own money. Now, the last time I looked at Anderson County's website, I saw a flow chart, who's in charge of who. Top of the food chain is us, we the people. Next in line under us are you, the council members. The next in line under that, there's a horizontal line, strangely enough, attached to your guys' box are a few committees. I forget exactly which ones they were. The next under the food chain was the administrator and underneath the administrator was everyone else. If you have a policy that says you must turn in an itemized, detailed -- I didn't say itemized, I went to lunch with economic development interests in mind. You have to give who you were there with, and I understand there's some priority -- whatever word that should be -- reasons that you don't necessarily want to give the information. Okay? But if you don't do the work, you either don't get the pay until you turn in the paperwork. And I understand the biggest problem we have in this county is people not doing the job of turning in the expense reports. I would like to see all the paychecks withheld of every employee in this county who owns a credit card who doesn't do due diligence of turning in what is required by ordinance. If I break the law, you come and get me. You will not only come get me, you send me a little blue piece of paper, a fine, a ticket. I don't know if you have something in place for how much money you need to pay when your employees don't perform their job, but you need to create one. The second company I worked for, you spent your money. You had to turn in call reports. Guess what? They'll give you your paycheck. But if you spent money, you didn't turn in a call report within thirty days, it was your money and they didn't give it back. That would be a good process for Anderson to go to. Third company had another policy. They give you a company

issued credit card with your name on it. You're responsible for it. You turn in an itemized statement. If it is approved by your manager, which for everyone in Anderson County, you're the managers, no one is above you except for we, the citizens, you can't give it to us, we've elected you. So if you turn in that, if they don't follow what you say, didn't give you, the council members, what is required, you don't give them their money to pay their credit card bill that month. They did it as an automatic bank deposit. I would like to see Anderson County go to -- I ain't gonna say an accountability. I'm gonna say responsibility of how you're spending our money on per diems, how you're spending our money on hotels. I understand when you go to a convention. You know, no one wants to get in the car and have to travel, you know, miles or minutes to get to a convention. It's nice to stay in the four, five, six, seven, eight hundred dollar Taj Mahals. It's nice to eat an eighty, ninety, hundred dollar meal. I've done it, very few times when I could get away with it. But basically the factories were paying for it, so they had to deal with the call report expense account, not me. Look at your own Anderson County website and see, the only people above you with any authoritative control is we the citizens. Every last one of you are next in line top of the food chain. Not anyone underneath you. This going to a committee on things that are going on, this is a legal issue. Perhaps these people are on that committee, and that's all good, and they all spend money, so this is all still on the budget, I'm still in the deal here. You really need to consider that everything you guys have done before this administration was in control, you're spending our money. Okay? When y'all get letters saying that you shouldn't do anything, look at them, say, I'm your boss. Shut up or go away. Okay? It's that simple. Stand up, make them do what is required by the county ordinance. You give me a fine, you give all these citizens out here a fine when we break an ordinance. Do something to the people who don't fill out -- and if they have ones that aren't filled out correctly currently employed, hopefully uncurrently employed soon, make them fill it out or withhold some kind of pension plan, withhold some kind of last paycheck. Get the paperwork finished. Require them to fulfill your own ordinance that you guys put into place. Thank you.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

?: ... restrict that stuff too. We have a lot of waste that's going on in this county. And it's been found out by pulling teeth. The more we -- the more teeth we manage to pull, the more dirt we manage to see. You wonder why the people are so mad at what's going on, so made at you -- the five and two vote. Because you've shut your ears. You don't hear us. You don't care what we think. You've become arrogant. You're supposed to be serving us. We elected you to do that. We elected you to look and watch and make sure that the tax money that we all work hard for us spent wisely, frugally, especially in times like this. So I would hope that this situation here would better what we've had in place up to this point. I don't know if y'all are gonna talk about it and explain to us any benefits to this as opposed to what we have. You did at the last meeting. I would hope you would expand on that. Thank you.

GARY THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, my name is Gary Thompson. I also work for a government agency and occasionally they send me out of town for training and different stuff. When I have to leave to go out of town, they give me -- I have to make out a request for what I think my expenditures are gonna be. They give me a per diem per day. I believe it's up to thirty-nine dollars a day for meals. If I'm traveling in a vehicle of my own, I have to pull up a mapquest, give them from my location to the location of where I have to go. If there's any deviance, guess what, that's out of my pocket. You know, if we eat -- if I get stuck somewhere and I have to buy a hundred and something dollar cheeseburger, whatever, guess what, I better hope I didn't spend all them thirty-nine dollars because, guess what, it's coming out of my pocket. They don't care, they don't wanna hear it. That's all we've asking. And maybe this ordinance is gonna help that, sir. I really don't know. That's all we're asking as taxpayers, is for accountability and oversight, because we just don't feel like we've been getting it. And that's all we really are requesting out of our council members. If we agree with you or we don't agree with you, you're still our councilmen, and that's what we're wanting. You know, we can handle disagreements and opinions on how things happen. We may have different political views. But we don't feel like we're getting the oversight. We

feel like we're being kept in the dark, and that's all we don't want. We want you to be accountable. That's all I've got to say. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wishes to speak on this item? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-052. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are now in discussion. Chair retains the floor. There was a comment about credit cards and people going out and all that kind of stuff. I want to address that issue. Credit card policy of Anderson County. All Anderson County credit card charges and purchases made utilizing an Anderson County credit card are to be reported to the finance office and accompanied by a detailed receipt and a written report, the format of which is to be designed and determined by the county administrator or his designee. The written report shall contain sufficient detail to show who made the charge, what the charge was for, when the charge was made, where the charge -- okay. When the charge was made, where the charge was made and why the charge was incurred. Charges incurred for or associated with economic development projects must still be reported as addressed above and accompanied by the receipt and report described above, but may be reported by a project code name until such time as the project is public announced or finally terminated. And to add a little more to this, our staff, county employees, they get twenty-eight dollars a day. Anything over twenty-eight dollars a day comes out of their pockets. So that being said, does anyone else wish to talk on this issue?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, when we had a discussion of this sometime back, I understood that there were some cards that were, I guess, special cards that would allow a deviation from this policy. Are we saying by this ordinance that this applies to everyone or does this just apply to certain employees and other employees are -- have other criterion?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: What the audience were talking about really has nothing to do with this issue. What we're wanting to do with this ordinance is tie our per diem and travel, I believe, with the federal per diem and travel, so that the council does not have to keep going every year addressing this same

issue. As the federal per diem and travel fluctuates, Anderson County's per diem and travel will fluctuate. Therefore we are always in sync and this issue will never be a problem ever again.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I understand that. And it sounds like it's a step in the right direction as long as it applies to everyone. In other words there are no special little darlings out there.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Everyone. Everyone.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. I just want that to be reflected in our minutes. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So reflected in the minutes. Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Would it be possible maybe to add an addition to this? I know you're saying that this will be an increased per diem that will fluctuate with the federal code regarding that. But we have in place right now a county personnel ordinance dealing with travel expenses and credit card use. And unfortunately, even those few requirements have not been met. When I finally got to see the credit card billing statements after asking for them for six months, there were no expense reports. The very few receipts were like the total receipts and not the itemized receipts from like Sullivan's. You'd have several hundred dollars, several thousand sometimes, and it would just be like a receipt and what the gratuity was. We have council members that their names were on some of those credit cards. I think it would be prudent for this council to have some kind of credit card measure in place. Would you prefer that maybe we do a separate ordinance for that maybe for the next council meeting?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: If you wish to do a separate ordinance, please feel free to do so.

CINDY WILSON: I think I will do that. I mean, I have no problem -- I know that in the real life that the per diems that we have in place currently are not adequate except for maybe local use. When one goes to Washington or New York, it costs about as much for breakfast as the entire per diem. But by the same token, we have county employees who use credit cards right now that pay like a hundred and seventy-five dollar tip for a waitress. She must have been real cute. But anyway, it's very egregious, especially when we have the current economic crisis.

I don't think our citizens who have to scrap and scrape to make ends meet and to pay us to be here find it amusing. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I've got to address this. I'm sorry. This hundred and seventy-five dollar tip, I've heard that before. And I'm gonna think back to a recent event that I participated in and paid the bill. And I gave a hundred dollar tip. There was seventy-six people involved. The implication that was made here tonight is that this hundred and seventy-five dollar tip was for one individual. I think that's a falsehood. I don't have the documentation in front of me, but I feel sure that if I dig into it I'll find that that is absolutely false. They may have been a hundred and seventy-five dollar tip. How many people was involved and what was the event and what was it for? You've got to have all of the information before you can make an accurate assessment and decision. All you've heard is a hundred and seventy-five dollar tip. That's all. So what were the circumstances involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman. I think that

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold it, hold it, hold it. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'm concerned about this one hundred dollar hamburger that I keep hearing over and over and over again. And a lot of times we just let it go on and we don't say anything. And I was always taught that silence means consent. Well, I'm not gonna consent to that by being silent. I don't know of anybody -- I've never heard of anybody from this area and on council who ordered a hundred dollar hamburger. Now, I don't know -- you know, several of you said it out there. If you have seen it yourself, not being told by somebody else, but in your own thinking you know this because you have seen it, I sure would like to know about it. And I sure would like to know who ordered that hundred dollar hamburger. And I sure would like -- if you don't know this for sure, yourself, not having been told about it, but if you don't know this yourself, I would just, I would just appreciate it so much if we wouldn't parrot bad information from people. I would appreciate that very much. Mr. Chairman, I'm gonna

call your attention to a member of the audience, someone I've had problems with in the past, please, as I speak. But anyway, please, please, folks, check your facts before you come up and talk about things that you're not sure of. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: If I recall, and I'm always subject to correction, as any of us should be, I think that was a meal in Philadelphia. I don't think it was Bookbinders, but it was some restaurant. And I think the total bill was four hundred and seventy-five dollars. It was on a credit card charge. But maybe some of us will have time to dig it out and show it to y'all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Wilson. Let me remind the audience that this is a legislative body trying to do the business of the county. Please act accordingly. If you need to make gestures or talk, please go outside. Anyone else wish to speak?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the question. Is there a second?

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in favor of calling for the question, please vote. Unanimous. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-052, please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-053, an ordinance amending section 55-38 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinance pertaining to retiree insurance, and other matters related there. There is a public hearing on this also. The instructions are the same. Please come forward. You may speak as long as you stay on topic. Do not speak to the audience. Do not call any council members out by name. Speak to the chair, only to the chair. And that being said, the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishes to speak on this issue? Give your name and address when you come forward.

MARK POWELL: My name is Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven. As a citizen I have been coming to these things as frequently as I can for the last couple, two or three months. I've only missed two meetings. I wish, like this ordinance, and there may be something somewhere hidden that we the citizens or at I do not know how to access to know exactly what these things are all about before we get here. This one seems to be about employees and retirement. A

lady was here tonight, eighteen years, what a great service. We appreciate that. Those who have been hired -- I think our employment has tripled in the last twelve or so years. If you've been twelve years or less, I hope you don't receive retirement from Anderson County. I hope the next council has enough nerve to cut our county back to the administrative size that is within budget that will be way under a hundred and forty-two thousand dollars. I'm sure this is only about retirement, but I am certainly sure and hope that the next council will have enough nerve -- I'd like to see a person hired just to watch over each department. Watch it, see how much waste there may be there as far as employee duplications of jobs. Since this is about retirement, I think we could cut our future cost of doing business in Anderson County. I don't know that we can get rid of all two-thirds that have been increased in the last twelve years, but I hope we can get rid of a huge number of them. I've got nothing personal against a single employee of this county. Running the gigantic machine that is here among us today, runs rather smooth. Speaking of that, we could save a lot of time and go home a lot earlier when y'all vote if you could put in the official agenda that five to two with -- everyone knows who it is. We could save a lot of time without having to wait on you to read those same five names every time. But, you know, retirement, you know, losing jobs is bad. We work in the industry. A lot of people in this room have lost jobs. A lot of people who sat at homes, the family members in this room have lost jobs. I hate the fact that some Anderson County employees need to lose their jobs. But we need to cut back to a regulated size, that we can do the things that need to be done, then maybe -- because I mean, you figure each employee's thirty thousand, fifty thousand, unless you're special and pretty you may have an eighty thousand dollar job, I don't know. But you know, if you take thirty thousand per each by the time you do the benefits, which includes retirement, you do ten of those, that's a half a million bucks. If we've tripled our employment, and that means nine hundred now than it was approximately three hundred maybe, I'm not sure about these numbers. I apologize if they're wrong. You do six hundred, okay, we just said, you know, ten of them's a half a million, think how much money we could cut out of this budget if we let a lot of heads roll come next year and the year thereafter

to cut us back to a manageable size. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is closed. Chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-053. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Greer. We are in discussion. Ms. -- I'm gonna get your name. Phyllis McAlister, okay, our human resource department head is here to answer any questions pertaining to this issue. Ms. McAlister, will you please come forward. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Ms. McAlister, I just had one or two questions and it has to do with the fiscal impact of this change. What is the fiscal impact generally?

PHYLLIS MCALISTER: I'm sorry, but Ms. Humphries or Ms. Davis neither one are here right now.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: If I may, I -- if we pass this and extent -- we used to call it vested to twelve years, this will save Anderson County somewhere around twenty-four million dollars.

BOB WALDREP: Is that your understanding, Ms. McAlister?

PHYLLIS MCALISTER: I believe that was in the presentation made last week. I think I recall that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have Ms. Rita Davis from the finance department, one of our CPAs.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. Mr. Waldrep, the fiscal impact, county council will approve two point one million dollars in the '08-09 budget to fund other post employment benefits according to GASBY 45. And that's what we had asked in regards to this that you consider the implementation of health and retirement accounts for our employees that offers flexibility but the good news is that in the long run we anticipate that it will help fund itself due to turnover, interest earnings on assets that we've invested for these arrangements. So in the long run it will be a much better instrument than what the current personnel ordinance provides for. And the twenty-four million that you eluded to, that is the liability that our actuaries calculated that currently exist for Anderson County. And our -- what they call our annual required contribution, our ARC, is the two point one million for the current budget year that we're in now.

BOB WALDREP: So that's taken out of each individual's account and they contribute to this ARC?

RITA DAVIS: That is put into the employee's account, those that qualify.

BOB WALDREP: All right. Does a person participate in this or is this purely council money?

RITA DAVIS: It's employer contribution only.

BOB WALDREP: Employer contribution.

RITA DAVIS: ... not allowed to contribute.

BOB WALDREP: Is this in coordination, I guess you might say, with the state fund?

RITA DAVIS: No, sir.

BOB WALDREP: It's purely Anderson County's funds?

RITA DAVIS: That's correct. Anderson County will own the assets that are set aside for this purpose.

BOB WALDREP: And is it backed up by any private insurance company or anything of that nature?

RITA DAVIS: We will direct -- the county will direct the investments. Of course, it will be according to state statute what is legally acceptable according to the state treasurer's office.

BOB WALDREP: Uh-huh (affirmative).

RITA DAVIS: So right now they're -- most of them we understand are invested in money market funds. But they have some federal obligations so they're totally insured by the federal government.

BOB WALDREP: Don't buy any stocks right now.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir, I understand that.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-053. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Thank you. Ordinance 2008-054, an ordinance authorizing a fee in lieu of tax agreement on behalf of Lincoln Oil Company, Incorporated and D & B Properties LLC pursuant to a fee in lieu of tax agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina and the company providing for a fee in lieu tax and infrastructure credit and other matters related thereto. Mr. McAbee has to recuse himself. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a public hearing on this. Same instructions apply as to the two previous public hearings. You may come forward and speak as

long as you stay on topic. Speak to the chair, only to the chair, and don't be redundant. With that being said, the public hearing is now open. Give your name and address when you come forward. Public hearing is open.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Steven Chapman, 106 Ellison Circle. I'm here to speak on this matter of fee in lieu of. I understand that we have not voted yet on this tax incentive package. And as a member of this community, again, I know you don't want us to be redundant, but I feel it's redundant to say that until safety, not just at the facility, which I understand is pretty safe, but the storage yard that's gonna be located near these homes, unless zoning can come out that affects directly for ethanol, something that is related to it being this close to a residence and how it's going to affect us as homeowners and our safety, that we do not vote to give them tax incentives until they can guarantee safety of the people. Thank you.

TERRY THOMPSON: Terry Thompson, district three. I think someone said it earlier, probably better than I will. The company is already here. I don't see much reason for giving them a fee in lieu of. We have lots of small businesses here who would probably love to have a fee in lieu of. And I just don't see the wisdom in doing that. Everything seems to get pushed onto the homeowner and onto their property taxes. And just for a business, again as I said, that's already here, already guaranteed to come here, it just to me makes no sense whatsoever. That's my opinion. Thank you.

STEVE POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview Estates, district one. As I mentioned before, one of the problems I have here as we talk about economic development and having looked through it, one of the things that concerned me most was, as far as job creation, that they're only promising a total of five, five jobs. And I began to realize and I looked and I asked myself, what is the real benefit to Anderson County economically with five jobs? What is this going to do exactly for Anderson County? And one question which I would love to be able to ask is, what is the difference, the dollar difference amount, between the fee in lieu and the actual taxes? Thank you.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Mr. Chairman, my name is Rick Freemantle from the White Plains precinct. I'm also against this fee in lieu of especially in light

of the recent reassessment of the property here in Anderson County. I have one such property that was reassessed at a hundred and sixty-five percent. I drive by this site almost everyday. This man is moving dirt like there's no tomorrow. He doesn't need our fee in lieu of. He's not gonna go anywhere if you say no. All you have to do is think about the record oil profits that we've heard of in the last two years. He would probably like to have the fee in lieu of, but he doesn't need it. He especially doesn't need it as bad as the people in this county need a break on their taxes. You know, we've got a hundred and forty-nine million dollar budget this year, another twenty million dollars in bonded indebtedness. I understand that we have five thousand houses up for tax sale or pieces of property up for tax sale, just this last go-around. Enough is enough. How dare you give him a fee in lieu of and turn your backs on this citizens of this county. How dare you.

CINDY WILSON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and members of council, I'm Cindy Wilson and a resident of district seven at 129 Steeple Chase. I have written to our U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham and our other U.S. Senator. I received a letter today copied by Senator Graham's office to me from J.I. Palmer, Jr., Regional Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. It states, Dear Senator Graham, thank you for your August 26th, 2008 letter on behalf of the Honorable Cindy Wilson, Member of the Anderson County Council, concerning a proposed ethanol project in Anderson County, South Carolina. My staff contacted the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and learned that an air permit application has been submitted for an ethanol transfer and storage facility in Anderson County. This facility will be subject to emissions limitations to ensure the site maintains minor source status as well as subject to the federal requirements and storage vessels for volatile organic liquids. For further questions regarding specific project details and the permitting process, and they give me a name of a person at DHEC. It goes on to say regarding federal regulations governing the proximity of a facility such as this to residential areas, EPA does not have regulations addressing this matter. The Department of Transportation or the Department of Homeland Security may have regulations requiring setback buffers from residential areas for facilities

storing hazardous or combustible materials. In addition state or local fire codes may also require separation. We hear these words, combustible, volatile, explosive. That's a big concern for someone who has to live or be next to that. Looking at a few headlines the past few years, I want to call your attention to one that took place in Baltimore last May. Driver killed in fiery tanker crash. And it goes on saying, killing the driving, sending a burning stream of its load of ethanol into the street below, igniting a row of parked vehicles, authorities said. Then disaster in western Pennsylvania, massive rail cleanup and New Brighton investigation begin into derailment of twenty-three Norfolk-Southern tankers carrying ethanol. It goes on and talks about explosive ethanol from overturned railcars while several other derailed tankers blazed nearby. And it talks about an alarming report about the growing list of environmental violations committed by the players in the rapidly expanding ethanol industry. June 18th, 2006, Missoula, Montana, train derails, Missoula residents evacuated. Follow-up article, derailment prompts concerns. September 25th, 2005, two thousand gallons of ethanol spilled onto a roadway and into a storm drain when a tanker truck overturned. May 2nd, 2005, Ontario, Canada, a freight train sideswiped a tanker at a railroad yard crossing causing about fifteen thousand gallons of ethanol to leak into the area, resulting in the evacuation of nearby residents. February 12th, 2004, Woodbridge, New Jersey. Three railroad tankers, each carrying twenty-eight thousand gallons of ethanol fuel additive derailed. Twelve to fifteen homes were evacuated as a precaution. January 29th, 2004, Port Kembla, New South Wales, Australia. It talks about hundreds of workers run for their lives after a ten a.m. blast. September 13th, 2002, Atchison, Kansas. Firefighters learned that the phone they were using wasn't working and they needed to cap a plug to shut off the flow of alcohol. And it talks about one of the biggest concerns was averting a secondary explosion from the large amount of alcohol. April 26th, 2001, police close the area because of the danger of fire or explosion. And it says here in another article, it is obviously a combustible fuel since it is used to -- used in internal combustion engines. The articles are numerous. The concern we have here is it seems we went backwards on this. We had a rezoning application that stated that a farmer

wanted to rezone his property industrial. And I, like a fool, raised my hand, never thinking that this was going on. But there were two members of council who knew this was going on. I have a copy of a letter here from the Greenville & Western Railroad Company dated December 24th, 2007. It says, Dear Mr. Hopkins, with reference to my September 7th, 2007 correspondence requesting your assistance with the closure of Lewis Drive in the Cheddar Community and at the direction of Councilman Greer and Councilman McAbee, I am attaching a drawing that illustrates the Greenville & Western Railroad's proposed closure limits for said closure. The road was not posted -- well, the road was posted before I, as the council representative, was even informed. In your package you will notice there was a list of proposed partial abandonment comments. I called. My name is not even on there, yet Representative Gambrell and -- oh, there were other government people who called, their names are on there. Mine is not on there. How many others were not counted? Now the most puzzling thing about the road closing, which I'll mention quickly before I go further, is that in 2004 there were three hundred and twenty-two trips -- I mean, excuse me, 2004 there were more than four hundred trips. I want to point out to all of you that South Carolina DOT, their numbers for Lewis Drive coming into West Calhoun, which is a state road, indicates approximately twenty-four hundred cars a day.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: This is still on the subject, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm not following you. We're talking about a fee in lieu of and you're talking about closing roads and ...

CINDY WILSON: This is all part of the package, Mr. Thompson.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm not following it.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I'm sorry you're having trouble following, but if you'll allow me to continue I'll wrap this up.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I don't think you're on the topic.

CINDY WILSON: I most certainly am. There have been no assurances for the people living in this community, sir, that they're safe. I've just cited to you numerous articles about explosions, evacuations, and these people live, a lot of them, within two

hundred feet and a lot of them within a thousand feet. We have no regulations dealing with this. South Carolina DHEC does not have regulations dealing with this. Our zoning ordinance, our setbacks don't deal with this. So I'm going to make a request that -- and I'll do this from the floor -- that we table this until we address this issue. If we work diligently we can address this issue and give these people the safety assurance they need. I have never, to my recollection, voted against an industrial type economic development request or fee in lieu of in this county. But when we are looking at the value of life, the value of quiet enjoyment, and that is a legal term for real estate, for our citizens living next to this proposed project, then we -- it's incumbent on us to make sure they're safe in their homes. And I want to point out to you that according to some of the statutes I've read, we individually have a personal liability if we vote for this without taking measures to ensure their safety. I want to make sure our people are safe. I think that's the least we owe the people of our county, and I certainly desire industrial and economic development, and I think we can have both if we work together on this quickly. Thank you.

BENNIE SUE WEST: May I, Mr. Chairman?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Uh-huh (affirmative).

We're still in public hearing. Your name, please, and where you live.

BENNIE SUE WEST: Bennie Sue West, 1308 Hanover Road, ward one, precinct two. I've been listening to all this about Lewis Road, Mr. Chairman, and it seems like the homework has not been studied.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're talking about the fee in lieu of, item 13C.

BENNIE SUE WEST: Well, what's more important, the fee in lieu of, or the lives of the people that live in that area? You all need to go back to the drawing board and research this issue thoroughly. They've already had to use this road in an emergency. Do your job.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on the fee in lieu of, item 13C?

BROOKS BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I'm Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake Road, precinct one. I'll remind council that you're under a contractual obligation to pass this fee in lieu. You gave the man an inducement. The gentleman said he's here, why does he

need a fee in lieu. He's here because y'all agreed to give him a fee in lieu. Y'all know I've spoken against every fee in lieu that's come up in five years. I don't have a dog in this fight. But I do not want to see my taxes go up by ten, fifteen or twenty times to pay the gentleman's attorney and the settlement he's gonna get if you do not pass this. Ms. Wilson talked about legal liability. The council as a whole stands liable individually. You lose your limited liability the minute you vote against this or refuse to take action. So please, when the minute comes up, vote for this thing, vote it in, and let's put this thing to rest. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak during the public hearing?

LEONARDO ORTIZ: Mr. Chairman, members of council, my name is Captain Leonardo Ortiz. I'm in county council district two out on Belton Highway and I have to agree with what Mr. Brown just said. Earlier this year y'all approved a fee in lieu for these folks, and some of the folks that are going against it are some of the same folks that voted in favor of the fee in lieu. So anyway, if you retract now, there has been some harm caused if it gets retracted. And yes, it's gonna cost the county taxpayers a whole pile of money. Now, what I also have to agree with is councilwoman Floyd, at the last meeting I think it was, just made kind of a suggestion that these folks with Lincoln Oil, kind of sit back and have a little talk and see if they can figure out some kind of arrangement with those folks. And I have to agree with councilwoman Floyd's suggestion on that. Other than that, I do believe that ethanol is a viable alternative. It is not as volatile a fuel as gasoline and we have gasoline -- I think those tank farms, weren't they -- I think those tank farms are gasoline or they used to be gasoline or something. And so that's much more of a volatile safety hazard than ethanol. Ethanol being alcohol, alcohol fuel. That's the only difference. Some of y'all ancestors might have run some of their cars on alcohol fuels. I know I talked with a bunch of moonshiners up there in the Spartanburg area in an area called Dark Corners. I don't know if y'all ever heard of Dark Corner, but I've been around the Dark Corner area and those folks used to fuel a lot of their cars with ethanol. One thing I'd like to kind of mention here real quick, I filled up my truck -- I've got an E85 truck by the

way. I bought an ethanol fueled vehicle back in 2000. It was a 2000 Ford Ranger with a 3.0 liter V6 and that was a dual fuel vehicle. And the reason I bought it was because I saw the times were coming when gasoline prices were gonna be up higher and when we were gonna be facing gasoline shortages either by design or by actual shortages. A few weeks ago we had problems in Greenville County. Greenville County was almost out of gasoline. There were folks from Greenville County having to come down to Anderson County to get fuel. I didn't have that problem because there's a lot of vehicles don't use the 85. My vehicle does use the 85. I filled up my vehicle today, by the way, got my receipt right here, exit 32, that's Hickory Point out there, and I'm not throwing a commercial here, but I'm just stating facts here, that way you can check on it, I paid two dollars and nine cents a gallon. A couple of weeks ago, the last time I filled up my vehicle, which I fill up my vehicle about once every two or three weeks, I don't drive a whole lot, but I do drive a little bit more now than before. The last time I filled up my vehicle gasoline prices, this was after this hurricane hit, Ike, hit down in Texas and gas prices were about three dollars eighty-five, three dollars eight-nine cents a gallon, I paid two dollars and ninety-nine cents a gallon. That's all I'm gonna say.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Mr. Chair, I believe I can -- do I have the right to speak again?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir, one time.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Oh, one time? In that case I apologize.

CARRIE HUCKABY: My name is Carrie Huckaby, 600 Lewis Drive, district one. I have kids right there, so giving them a tax break, my kids' safety comes more before taxes. I'd rather pay more taxes than lose my kids and everyone else I believe would want the same thing. And congratulations to the guy who got cheap gas, because his gas don't matter to me or my kids. That's all.

SOPHIA CHAPMAN: Sophia Chapman, district seven, 106 Ellison Circle in Belton. I'm not going to tell you whether to or whether not to do the fee in lieu of or whatever. I think you know in your hearts what's the right thing to do. And there's plenty of people done give you their own opinions. However, I will say that I do not have a problem with economic development. And I'll tell you why. I didn't get a

chance to tell you why before. I didn't have that much time. And a lot of people -- I've mentioned here that my dad is in the military and I know a lot of people are probably tired of hearing that, but that's okay because I'm proud of him. He went, after this war got started, to Kuwait. Now, as we know, we want independence from foreign oil, correct? And I know that our troops are in a lot of places and we depend on some of that. Well, as anybody I do not want us to be dependent on foreign oil. When my daddy left, he left for almost a year, and there's been talk about him having to go back. He didn't just go into Kuwait. He went into a little bit of Iraq. Now, I'm sorry, but I've also got a lot of friends and family, but just to let you know it's not because I'm trying to be one way or the other about it, it's just the fact that I don't want it to be misunderstood that I do not support economic development. It's quite the opposite. But we were discussing, you know, being next to that stuff. If you walk out in my backyard and you look in my backyard, and any of you are welcome, by the way to come by, just call me first in case my house is a mess, I won't let you in. But if you walk outside, here's my backyard, here's my fence, here's the road. The first thing my three year old said, because I have a three and a five year old sons, look mama, it's dirt, I want to play on the dirt. I said, no, baby, you could get killed you climb over that dirt. Okay. Here's the dirt, here's where the tracks are gonna be. My son loves Thomas the Train. We even took him to Dillsboro to ride Thomas the Train. Now I'm sorry, the likelihood of him getting over there, because I had an ADT security system, I'm an extremely protective parent. Some people call me a little bit silly. But still, we know we see on the news all the time accidents where kids get hurt because if you have children you know yourself, they're quick. They can get somewhere in a flat second if they wanna be there. So I just kind of wanted to put that in the back of your minds. Like I said, I'm not gonna tell you one way or the other what to do. You know what to do. But I appreciate your time.

THOMAS HENDERSON: Thomas Henderson and I live at 512 Lewis Drive. And also when they're talking about the barriers, they're on each side of the field. One is protecting the tanks, looks like. One is protecting these people's property. Well, I have --

in later ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

THOMAS HENDERSON: ... like Amy said it is dangerous nowadays. But also if you look back, when they took -- years ago and took the survey and said there was a lot more trains and car collisions, well nowadays there's not as many trains. Now they're starting to bring the trains back or trying to bring the trains back, so therefore you're gonna have more accidents. Well, I don't think the road ought to be closed because I've been there a long time. But it's not just the roads, it's the money you're talking about giving them. What about the people that live there. Is our taxes going to go up to pay for this? Or is it going to come down to accommodate us as the people that live right beside this is the ones that's it's gonna put millions in their pockets. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

DOUG PARHAM: I'd like to say a little bit about this fee in lieu of, but first I'd like to give you a little background on how I know about what will happen if you go back on your word. I worked for Jim Farish when he first came to Anderson County. He had a two truck operation hauling nothing but gasoline. His father gave him the money to guy hauling rights from an old oil company in Anderson to get him started. He was a very young man. I was a lot younger then too. I'm a little older than him, but back then we were both real young. Jim Farish is a very rich man today because he's a very smart man. If you people promised him a fee in lieu of and you think he will build that if you go back on your word, you're mistaken. The man don't need you. You need him a lot worse than he needs you because he's the one with the money. He's got a lot of money. He'll move that thing in a heartbeat to Georgia, and I know he will, because I've seen him do it before. He'll cut his nose off to spite your face. He'll also sue you. Jim Farish will go the extra mile as far as safety. He always did. He gave me some of the safest equipment I ever worked with, and I worked with petroleum for almost forth years. The man has got enough money, he has to be very careful. He cannot afford a liability. A lot of people think in terms of thousands of dollars, hundreds of thousands of dollars. This man stands to lose millions if he has a major liability. He is a very big player in the petroleum industry. You don't really realize how big

he is. His whole family is involved in the petroleum industry. So before you go back on your word in this fee in lieu of, you better do a little checking because this man will cost you more than it's worth. Thank you.

KEN EPPS: Ken Epps, 408 Lewis Drive. I don't have money. I've got trains sitting in my backyard. I don't want this. Give the man what you promised him and tax me, the man without money.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven. I've been involved in real estate. I'm not a real estate mogul. I've got low level property. Okay? I've been involved in Greenville city, Greenville county. My taxes went from three hundred and twenty-four dollars to twelve hundred and eighty-nine dollars in one year due to the wonder city council and Greenville county council giving so much fee in lieu of. You guys work off a pie. It's a chunk of change, a huge one hundred and forty-nine million, depending on how you want to look at the budget. That chunk of change is there. If you give fee in lieu of, you're not gonna lower my taxes. But if you lower taxes that they're gonna pay, you're gonna have to come to me because the chunk of change has to be paid, the pie has to be fill. My taxes went from three hundred and twenty something to twelve hundred and eighty something because of fee in lieu of. As far as this lawyer, I, poor ole white boy from Pelzer, went up against Greenville's premier law firm representing myself, courthouse behind us, and I made a five hundred and fifty dollar an hour lawyer look just as stupid as he was. Don't be scared of lawyers. It was a multi, multi thousand -- hundreds of thousand dollar lawsuit and it went away and I didn't owe him a dime, on my own. Don't worry about lawyers who come up and talk about other lawyers. Oh, wow, support your own, yes. You know, I have no clue what really may happen if you vote no on this as far as a lawsuit. I don't really care. Fight it tooth and nail. I've been in sales. I go to the table, I cut a deal, the guy's already agreed to it, I'm sitting there and I'm fixing to ask for the paycheck, which is an order. You guys giving fee in lieu of after the fact, deal's closed, the land is done, it is being tilled, it is being manipulated, it is being built, giving a fee in lieu of after the fact is about the stupidest business practice there is in the world. You've already cut the deal, he's bought the land. Let's speak about

ethanol for a moment. I have no clue on the energy efficiency of E85 cars. I do know the energy efficient of cars older than two years. One of our local TV stations did a report on this last week, hope a bunch of you watched it. I got way out of my way not to guy that trash, and I say that literally because E85 which is this fee in lieu of, ten percent ethanol, which is what this fee in lieu of will produce and help support, it's twenty-five percent on the average less fuel mileage. Okay? You say two or three cents, whupdeecrap. You're getting ten, twenty-five -- I get twenty-one percent less. I check my mileage. I don't know if you guy do or not. Check it. Quit supporting -- for instance, Hickory Point on Highway 8, that's all he sells you is ten percent ethanol. You get twenty-five percent less mileage. Check your own mileage. Our government has hoodooed us on this. It's the great wonderful green thing to do. They have pulled the blanket over our eyes. Our mileage has gone down, so not only are our taxes potentially going up in fee in lieu of, our gas bills. Now this -- a person in this room stated a month ago, month and a half ago, that we will save a dollar per gallon. You save five cent per gallon, and at twenty-five percent less gas mileage, do the math. You're paying sixty cent, seventy cent, dollar, dollar ten extra per gallon every time you fill up to use the crap. Okay? Understand that ten percent ethanol is pathetic. We need to not use it. As far as this fee in lieu of, guys, be real. He's already cut the order. Tell him to spend his money or hopefully go to Georgia. Take his whole little cart with him and the land he has give back to the people they lied to when they assumed it most probably. Get this thing over with. Vote it down as no. Please don't go five to two. This is not the thing to be doing. This is not good for us as society. We do not need to pay higher taxes so that rich people, filthy stinking rich from what I understand from the last guy, does not need to save a little money on my back. He don't need to save it on your backs. You know, the amazing thing is each one of you pay taxes in this county also. You know, I can't understand. If this thing does happen, let's do what our great vice presidential republican nominee Sarah Palin did in her state, if you're gonna do this to these people living there, let's impose some type of tariff or some type of tax to give the people whose homes are gonna be at jeopardy or are gonna have to

sell them. Give them money off this gravy train deal from this multi-billionaire who only wants to destroy people's potential lives if something goes wrong. I don't know if any of you watched Gone in Seconds. A fuel tanker, (phonics) blew up three, four city blocks. These guys live a few hundred feet from this location. Now, is it a good thing to have five jobs? I heard five jobs. That may be wrong, so I don't mean to misunderstand if I'm incorrect on how many jobs this thing is gonna create. But I can't image many more than that needed to do there. Except for maybe we need -- we mandate that they have more to decouple these cars and get them off the tracks. Or get with our legislators and force them to change the fine from twenty something bucks to three, four, five, six thousand bucks per minute. If they're gonna back millions off of our backs, force them to put an extra employee over there. I mean, maybe Joey can hire one of them for them. Force them to put an extra employee to decouple cars. If a car sits there, decouple it. If you want to raise revenues for this county to take taxes off our burden, put a fine on it for state ordinance. I mean, forget the federal, skip state, write an Anderson County ordinance that says if a car with flammable fluid is on a track longer than x number of minutes, put an employee there collecting money and paying our bills without having to be on our backs. Let the rich guy take care of it for us. Thank you.

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, Belton, county council district seven, Highpoint precinct. As a long time observer of government and a long time hesitant taxpayer concerning fee of lieu -- fee in lieu of agreements, there's several points I'd like to make concerning this particular one and it applies to all of them as well. Number one, there's never been a fee in lieu of given that did not fall back on the backs of the homeowners and the business owners. Sometimes they've been more fair than others. This one seems incredibly unfair. Five jobs is all I've ever heard mentioned out of this, and even if that's only at startup and it doubles, this is an incredible amount of taxation to forgive on behalf of employing that few people in a new kind of way in Anderson County. Beyond that, when we look at the historical track of the fee in lieu of agreements that these councils have made over the years and we look at the contractual requirements of

many of those, which does involve one or two, sometimes both things of increased investment and equipment and/or more employees being hired, we can see that a lot of these renewals do not ever result in the plan that they called for. This situation goes a little beyond some of the others because we have a situation where granting this fee in lieu of and promoting this business is going to put in peril the lives of people that were there, property owners that were there, before this came about. Now I know you can say those tanks were there before these people came there and perhaps for the most part they were. But many of those tanks have been in an unused state for quite a few years now. Apparently a lot of them still are going to be, even after this takes place. We hear that often used, and if there's one phrase that the bureaucrats love and the governmentals just worship, it's that quality of life phrase. Every time it's convenient, every time government wants to gain an advantage over the taxpayers, the quality of life is thrown at us, that phrase. Well, quality of life involved a whole lot more than walking tracks, ball fields and community festivals. It also involved looking after the residents of the communities that fund the governments of those communities. And this particular fee in lieu of agreement, I think, is incredibly exemplary of that point. As far as backing out of this deal, let me remind you that Kohl's was well on their way of building in Anderson when you jerked the rug on that particular situation, and some of you up there didn't have a problem with that. There's no reason for us to be afraid of lawyers in this county, not after all we've been through. Probably the most heavily litigious county in the state of South Carolina, record spending on legal fees that compared to Charlotte/Mecklenburg County. So we're not afraid of lawyers here. But what we shouldn't be afraid of doing is doing the right thing. Please honor this community. This company may be coming, they may be coming no matter what. But please at least honor them by thinking twice about doing this and granting such a huge, such a huge benevolent benefit for the sake of five jobs. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance?

AMY PLUMMER: Ethanol is safer than gasoline.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name, address, ---

AMY PLUMMER: My name is Amy Plummer. I live in your district.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

AMY PLUMMER: Ethanol is safer than gasoline. Flour is more explosive than ethanol. Read the MSDS sheets for flour or for common table salt, you'll read that you're to wear goggles, gloves, boots, covered from head to toe, and that if you ingest it, you are to be taken immediately to the hospital to correct whatever problems that could be taking place. Any substance that we're gonna bring in -- any commodity that we're gonna bring in use for either manufacturing or use in our cars, is going to be an explosive product. If we were to take this facility and locate it someplace away from the tank farms, it would be spreading it out. We're trying to keep it close to the tank farm. I wanted to correct a few things that were mentioned here. Ms. Wilson talked about a great deal of accidents. I don't know if you noticed what I noticed when she was talking about the accidents. But she consistently said things like evacuation. The people had to be evacuated from the area. Those tank farms are already there. The liability is already there. Ethanol is already coming in. And if there was an accident there would have to be evacuations. That's already there. That danger is not going away whether this ethanol train facility comes in or not. What is going to happen is that these ethanol that's coming in by truck now is gonna come in by rail. It's gonna take twenty thousand of those trucks off the road. Now the one that was the most compelling of what Ms. Wilson was talking about about the train hitting the tanker truck and the explosion, what she didn't tell you is that the tanker truck was propane. And that the truck driver tried to race the train across the tracks. The train was pulling ethanol cars. The ethanol cars didn't explode. What exploded was the propane tank. The driver was killed on a train and from the truck driving the propane tank. That grade crossing wasn't closed. People are dead because of the irresponsibility of that particular truck driver racing the train. People are gonna -- if you are in a car accident with a tanker truck, the tanker truck is going to explode. That's -- we see it on the road all the time. We are reducing our liability that is already in place by taking those tanker trucks off the road and putting them on the railroad who has a much

higher safety record than truck drivers do. Also I wanted to point out that the difference between the Kohl's project and this project is, is this project already has an inducement agreement. The Kohl's project did not. There's already been an agreement made. Sometimes it's very hard to make decisions on projects like these. We have everyone screaming because we didn't have gasoline after the hurricane. How are we gonna get it here? We have the problem of having petroleum shortages or OPEC charging us four and five dollars a gallon for the gasoline that we need to put in our car. We need to have diversity in our petroleum and in our energy use products. Thirteen percent of the corn today that is being produced is being used in ethanol. It is not the only factor affecting our food. It is a very small factor. We stop producing ethanol, that corn's going to Japan and it's not gonna change anything. What we've done as Americans, is we are taking control away from OPEC and putting it back into our bread basket. For the first time in fifty years our farmers, our farmers are actually profiting. They're not having to ask for welfare. They're not having to ask for loans so they can plant their crops. There's industry that is growing. There are thousands and thousands of Americans that have jobs at ethanol production facilities. One of the biggest announcements made in South Carolina this year was the barley ethanol project that was brought here by Governor Sanford. Governor Sanford promotes -- or approves of ethanol in South Carolina. Now I don't know if you all know about this. Two years ago we almost ran out of gasoline right here in Anderson County, but it wasn't just Anderson County. It went from Charlotte all the way down to Atlanta. Because the only place that you could bring ethanol in by train was in Atlanta and Charlotte. We called it the Christmas debacle. And that was when the commissioner of agriculture started trying to find a solution. The tank cars that were being delivered to Atlanta, the trucks were being unloaded in Atlanta and Charlotte, and those trucks were being brought in by truck into Anderson, South Carolina where it is blended with the petroleum product and sent back out into the market. Well, they couldn't get those train cars changed out in Atlanta or Charlotte and we almost ran out of gasoline. Now once you've changed over there is a mandate, it's a federal mandate, that ten percent of our gasoline be

mixed with an oxygenate. What an oxygenate does with your gasoline is it causes it to burn cleaner. Ethanol causes your gasoline to burn more completely and to burn thirty percent cleaner than MTBE, which is currently being used as a petroleum product. MTBE is so dangerous in our water supply that it actually bonds with the gasoline and it is able to bond with our water faster and get into our water supply. MTBE is a major cause of birth defects and it has been mandated from the federal level that we stop the use of MTBE and phase it out and start using ethanol. Ethanol is going to be the oxygenate of choice at this point. It burns cleaner and it's safer. So we have to have this in our gasoline and we have a choice. We can choose to run out of gasoline every time they can't get it into Atlanta or we can go ahead and bring it into our market instead of bringing it in by truck. Truck is so much more dangerous than train. I'm hoping that you will consider that, yes, this -- we may -- if we have an accident we may have to have evacuations. But we have the facility and the technology in Anderson County to take care of that. We have reverse 911. I've heard a lot about reverse 911. You know, there are requirements for fire safety protection for these tank farms. These tank farms aren't designed to just explode. They're designed to implode. The tank cars that have been specifically developed for ethanol have wonderful safety standards. They have built-in new impact resistance. And I just came back from talking to Trinity who built these railcars and Republic. They have more impact resistance in the designs if the trains were to be impacted. They are stronger and for puncture resistance. And you don't see the problem -- like I said, the explosion that Ms. Wilson was talking about was a propane tank explosion and it was a driver racing the train, which happens all the time. So I'm just asking, when you're considering this ethanol to consider all of the things that are involved. Consider that we are the solution to the entire upstate as far as making sure that we have the oxygenate that we need to sell the gasoline. If we have gasoline and don't have an oxygenate, we can't sell it. That's the law. So I hope you'll consider voting for this fee in lieu.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak on this ordinance, the fee in lieu of?

LISA MEEKS: Lisa Meeks. I live at 104

Ellison Circle in Belton. And Ms. Plummer states that the ethanol is coming in on the train, but it's being offloaded onto tankers. So she keeps saying that they're trying to get away from getting the trucks off the road. But if it's still gonna have to be that way, then it's still gonna be hauled on the road. And I'm not gonna get a tax break on my taxes. My property value has been dropped tremendously because of this and my taxes gone sky high.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, no, one time. Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-054. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. Greer. We are in discussion.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I want to point out that we have Mr. Robert Galloway in the audience representing Anderson County on this issue, so if you have any legal questions regarding the ordinance, please address them to him. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Galloway, got a couple of questions. Mr. Galloway, some questions have been made here tonight with regard to a prior agreement that Anderson County has. Would you detail that for me a little bit, give me an explanation of how the -- apparently we're talking about two different ordinances or two different contracts in someway. How do they meld together? What's the relationship here?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: Yes, sir, Mr. Waldrep. I was asked by the county to review the documents in this transaction from, I guess you would say, it's inception. In April county council adopted an inducement resolution approving the inducement agreement for this transaction. Just to give you a little background as far as the law is concerned and how this process works, which you're undoubtedly familiar with, but if you'll allow me I'll just run through it. The process provides that an ordinance is to be adopted to formally approve a fee in lieu of tax arrangement of this nature. Because an ordinance is a time consuming, sometimes unwieldy process, depending on the circumstances, the fee in lieu statutes recognize a concept of an inducement resolution which is a one time action, a resolution, a one time vote by county council which enables that county to express its intent and expectation at that time as to what it intends to do and agrees to do with an industry as far as providing an incentive. That again is something in

the interest of time. A lot of business is done based on the fact that a county adopts a resolution and enters into an inducement agreement. And that's just the way the process works quite frequently. However, it does take an ordinance to actually implement the final transaction. In this particular case, this is really no different than the ninety-nine point some percent of transactions of this nature in South Carolina. It started out with an inducement resolution adopted by county council in April, approving an inducement agreement with this particular incentive. It says in there that the county agrees to provide the fee in lieu of tax benefit and infrastructure credit in a related multi-county part benefit. It does provide in that document that it is subject to the final adoption of an ordinance. Very clear in the document that that is a condition, that an ordinance, a subsequent ordinance has to be adopted to put the actual formal transaction in place.

BOB WALDREP: Well, Mr. Galloway, on that particular point, I think that seems to be a very salient point in that when the inducement was made it was understood and part of the overall contract that in the event that the ultimate contract or ultimate fee in lieu is not approved, then that would not give this company the right to sue; would it?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: Well, it's clear to me in the documents that the county's agreement is subject to the adoption of an ordinance. Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Right. Okay. I don't mean to press you too hard on that point. But on the other hand, the particulars about how much fee in lieu of are we talking about here? Are we talking about four percent, five percent, six percent, or do we know?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: As I recall it's six percent, a locked millage rate, and there also is a twenty percent infrastructure credit for, I believe, ten years, and Heather may correct me if I'm not right on that. That's the benefit in the document.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Now there's one point here that I'm trying to go back in my memory about twenty years ago when I was looking at these statutes about corporations that come into Anderson County. Is it still true that Anderson County provides something like a five year moratorium on any new corporation that comes in to the county?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: On manufacturing projects, which quite frankly I'm -- and maybe Heather could

tell me this. I don't know if this is considered manufacturing or not for those purposes. But that particular benefit for manufacturing is mandated in the constitution. It's not an optional thing that Anderson County and any other county would give to an industry.

BOB WALDREP: Right.

ROBERT GALLOWAY: It's constitutional. However, the fee in lieu statutes provide that if a company is to enjoy the benefit of a fee in lieu arrangement that they would forego that five year exemption.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. Those are the only questions. Thank you very much.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I want to point out that maybe someone in the audience who've spoken earlier misunderstood, and I also have some other items that we need to go over. Driver killed in fiery tanker crash. That was May 13th, 2007, a tanker rig overturned and burst into flames yesterday evening on a curving interstate ramp over Baltimore's South Hanover Street, killing the driver and sending a burning stream of its load of ethanol into the street below, igniting a row of parked vehicles. And so on. So I think that was a misunderstanding. I'm not here tonight to stop economic development, but I do think that we owe the citizens of this county and particularly those folks living in close proximity to this proposed project the assurance that they're safe in their homes. And unfortunately ethanol, which we can look at it in the positive side, will help in reducing our dependence on foreign fuel coming in, foreign oil, it's also a very volatile, very combustible, very explosive product. If we can't assure these people that they're safe in their own homes, then we should at least slow down this fee in lieu of taxes until we can put some measures in place, have a conference perhaps with DHEC and the EPA. Admittedly, they are not accustomed -- they've not dealt with this for very long. Why are we going to rush this through and put these people in peril? Why can't we get our planning department, our planning commission and some experts from this dealing with ethanol to work together with the people who live out there and create some setbacks and some guidelines that will ensure their safety. I just -- I can't

imagine that we would do this to a group of citizens who are already struggling. What will happen if the worst scenario happens and there's an explosion out there? From what I've been reading, ethanol burns clear. People would be on fire before they even knew that there was a fire around them. It's clear. This is just unbelievable. We've got signatures on a petition, more than a hundred people asking to keep this drive open, that's the second part of this -- third part of this deal. Why are we ignoring the citizens in this county? And a correction, also, while they would -- Lincoln Oil would enjoy a six percent reduction in -- I mean to a six percent assessment value, they would also secondarily be receiving a four million dollar special source revenue bond and their debt service would partially come out of the fee in lieu of taxes. So that effectively reduces what they pay the county of four percent. I wonder if this company has sufficient bonding if the worst case scenario happens, someone gets hurt out there or worse yet, killed, for many people. Does this company have the bonding to cover such a disaster as that? You know, if we're not accustomed or not prepared to deal with this, then why are we gonna dump it on the citizens to deal with? This is unconscionable. I'm making the motion right now that we table this until we can provide these people the assurances they require. I make a motion that we table this pending our getting the people together just as I've suggested and we can figure this out and then put it back up for a vote.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to table. Is there a second?

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. All in favor of tabling Ordinance 2008-054, please vote. Oppose. Abstain. The vote is two, three and one to table, so the motion to table fails.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I have the floor one more moment, please?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak before Ms. Wilson speaks again?

RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember two weeks ago at our meeting that Ms. Wilson said she wanted to get with this whoever the fellow was that with Lincoln and wanted to work out some things. My question is, have you done so?

CINDY WILSON: No. I have not had the

opportunity.

RON WILSON: Two weeks, you haven't had an opportunity?

CINDY WILSON: No, I haven't.

RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I do intend to get with him if it can be arranged. In fact he told me at the meeting that he probably wouldn't be able to have much time in the next two weeks and of course I ended up under a very heavy load too. I want to point out that one member of our council, who has recused himself, the nature of his recusal has changed. He originally said he had a trucking business, I think, relationship with the subject company and now he has a continuing business arrangement. He has been all over the place with his business associate which also happens to be his appointee to the economic development advisory commission. They have been to all our elected officials' offices. They've been to SCDOT demanding this, demanding that. This whole thing really is an unsavory situation. Not just for our council, but for the people who live out there. This is just -- I just can't begin to explain how difficult this is that we're putting these people at risk. We don't care. But a few people are gonna make a lot of money. They don't care that other people are in danger. And I have to ask why did members of our council, who evidently knew this was in my district, began working on this for more than a year ago, and I only find out when these poor constituents call me because they've seen a road posting sign. This does not look very clear and transparent of our council, but maybe that might be because -- it may be because we've got new people coming on the council and the citizens voted that they believe that we're not managing things very well or very properly up here.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. At the last meeting we were waiting on additional information from DHEC. I talked -- well, I understood that there was gonna be a meeting with DHEC and they was gonna answer a lot of the questions that I had. The meeting did take place. The meeting did take place. But I was unable to attend that meeting, knowing that I would get my information that I needed to do this. Okay. Now, Mr. Chairman, it's been a long hour, but now I

need to maintain the floor until I finish. And I thank you for that. I'd like to ask Mr. Chapman, come to the microphone.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, time has expired.

CINDY WILSON: I'll make a motion to extend by ten minutes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson made a motion to extend by ten minutes. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: I'll agree to five.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer says five. Is there a second on five?

GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second on five. All in favor of extending by five minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Floyd, you have the floor.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chapman, please answer only what I ask, okay, without any additional information. Did DHEC come?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. You were concerned about what issue that you discussed with DHEC?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: My Concern was the location as to how far away it can be away from a residence and the danger it poses.

GRACIE FLOYD: And what did DHEC say?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: They said that they didn't have anything over that. That they were only there for air permit purposes.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. Thank you.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Sit close. Sit closely. I'd like to ask Ms. Plummer, please come up to the mike as quickly as you can. Okay. Ms. Plummer, did you attend the DHEC meeting?

AMY PLUMMER: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: What did DHEC say?

AMY PLUMMER: They just talked about the air permitting that was required and, you know, what the regulations were and that's about it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Were there any other safety issues discussed at that meeting and by whom?

AMY PLUMMER: Fire safety issues were discussed. There were the fire marshal, I believe, and ---

GRACIE FLOYD: What did he say?

AMY PLUMMER: They felt -- well, they really addressed the road closure and they were talking about that they felt like that it was a safety issue to close the road, but they also said that they met all of the requirements required by the state and local fire marshal.

GRACIE FLOYD: Repeat that now. They said what, now?

AMY PLUMMER: There were requirements that had to be -- an application had to be sent to the fire marshal up to the state level, and that those requirements were met.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Chapman.

STEVEN CHAPMAN: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: What were they?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: HAZMAT was asked about spills and what was done and ---

GRACIE FLOYD: And what did HAZMAT say?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: HAZMAT said that they have the working -- or have plans in place in case a spill does occur. Our safety was issued. The topic of railroad safety did come up, but also about water lines and we were told that we're at the mercy of the water company. And I was also told that we have six inch water lines, and that the oil company wants to go to an eight inch line but are not required to have hydrants unless they do build, which is in the plan but not at this time gonna be built, but if they build storage containers then they will have to have fire hydrants.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Thank you both. Okay. Mr. Galloway. Yes, Mr. Galloway, please. Quickly as you can get there.

ROBERT GALLOWAY: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Galloway, the first time this resolution -- this inducement was done, it came before council, am I correct?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, ma'am. Okay. Do you remember the vote that night?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: I don't. I was not present.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. Mr. Preston, do you remember the vote that night?

JOEY PRESTON: I believe it was six, zero, I believe.

GRACIE FLOYD: Six to zero.

JOEY PRESTON: I believe we had one not vote.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: He recused himself.

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, he -- okay. So six to zero during that inducement; right? Okay. Mr. Galloway, that company came here to us because of the inducement agreement that we offered?

ROBERT GALLOWAY: I can't speak to what the company did or didn't do. I could certainly speak to what county approved in a document.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. All right. Is the attorney for that company here tonight? Thank you. All right. Mr. Galloway, stay close. Sir, ---

JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Price.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Price, did the company come to us or did they start their work here based on that inducement that we gave them?

MR. PRICE: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: They did? Okay. The inducement voted on six to zero that they could come and get started on their work here; right?

MR. PRICE: And in addition to the work, they did not buy the property until after the resolution and the inducement agreement.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Galloway, how many jobs are going to be affected -- how many jobs will be -- thank you -- brought to Anderson? Did I say Galloway? One of you tell me how many jobs? I might have said Galloway.

MR. PRICE: We've committed to a minimum of five.

GRACIE FLOYD: Five jobs. Okay. Ms. Plummer, come on quickly. All right. Ms. Plummer, are there other jobs coming out of this thing?

AMY PLUMMER: Yes, if you read the GSA, which is the Greenville Economic Development newspaper, I think it's called the GSA ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead.

AMY PLUMMER: They've already hired thirty-five people.

GRACIE FLOYD: Gonna do what?

AMY PLUMMER: They've already hired thirty-five people in relation to this facility.

GRACIE FLOYD: Are there more things coming -- more jobs coming?

AMY PLUMMER: Yes, ma'am. There's already a trucking industry that has hired people and brought jobs for that to deliver the product.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chapman, where are you? Come on quickly. All right. Mr. Chapman, did you get a chance to talk with the owners, the CEO or Mr. Price here?

STEVEN CHAPMAN: We spoke only on the issues at the meeting. But as far as terms as to the relevance of my property, it has been strictly professional at this time.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. I know what I'm going to do. I have -- I could not make a decision what was gonna happen here, but you have all answered my questions. I thank you for the way you did it and as fast as you did. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-054. All in favor, please vote. Four. Opposed. Two. Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson opposed. The ordinance passes second reading, four to two.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I need a break. I need a break.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I am going to ask -- I'm going to insist, if I can, and I'm going to plead with the people that's close to that facility and the CEOs of that place get together in the next two weeks. We have one more vote and it's not over yet. We have one more vote. And folks, we can work this thing out by coming together and trying to get an agreement that would please both people. We don't have to fight like this or come up here with all kind of innuendos and all kind of false information. We are human beings. We are mature adults. We can work this thing out. Please, Mr. Price, Mr. Galloway, Mr. Chapman and your neighbors, get with these people. Talk to them. In the next three -- two weeks, if it's not done, then it's over. Okay? Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ten minute break.

BREAK

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're on Resolution 2008-043, a resolution expressing intent to cease county maintenance on and to authorize county consent to judicial abandonment of Lewis Drive, and other matters related thereto. This item was tabled on October the 7th until tonight. At this time the chair moves to take from the table Resolution 2008-043.

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to remove from the table. We're back in discussion.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee has recused himself. Mr. Martin has a statement to make.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you have a motion and a second. You have to vote on the motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. It's late. We have a motion to remove from the table and a second. All in favor to remove from the table this ordinance, please vote. One, two, three. Three. Oppose. Two. Abstain. One. So the vote is three, two and one. The majority is to remove from the table, so we are in discussion.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I had asked for the floor originally.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. There's several difficulties to this, primarily because I was informed that we had a traffic count for that road from two years ago that indicated more than four hundred cars per day. I talked with the district engineer with SCDOT and this is really important, because all the traffic in all these areas has increased dramatically so it's really strange that they go from more than four hundred to three hundred and twenty-two. SCDOT says that approximately twenty-four hundred cars a day pass where Lewis Drive comes onto West Calhoun. They also told me that currently about twelve thousand cars a day pass by the tank farm. They tell me that we need to get another traffic count, that they don't believe that three hundred and twenty-two number. They've also informed me that a certain councilman and his business association/economic advisor appointee came in and demanded that they close this road. And they indicated that they would not. I want to point out to you some of the information that came from the South Carolina Attorney General's Office today, and I've glanced through. I'm just gonna read a few clauses. From the South Carolina Code, and I guess this must be annexed, 57-3110, it states that the highway system that roads can -- that the needs have to be considered, the needs and the desires of the public have to be considered in these issues. There's also another section that states that a municipality, the power to vacate or close streets cannot be exercised by a municipality in an arbitrary manner

without regard to the interests and convenience of the public and for -- or for the sole purpose of benefitting an abutting owner. That's a pretty important one to pay attention to here. You have more than one hundred people who signed a petition requiring that we keep this road open. And I'm personally going to request that we either keep this road open or I would like to make a motion that we continue to table this resolution until we have had more information on the safety for the residents. I make that motion now.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson makes a motion to table. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. All in favor of tabling Resolution 2008-043, please vote. Two. Opposed to table? Three. Abstain. Abstain. Ms. Floyd, how do you vote?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to decide.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: But you see, you cannot question a table, but I have questions and I just don't know how to vote on this.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you abstain?

GRACIE FLOYD: If I abstain, Mr. Chairman, I need directions on my vote. If I abstain, then would you please tell me what happens?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, I'll tell you what -- I have to announce the results.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. It'll be a two, two.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. It's a two, three.

GRACIE FLOYD: Two, three.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And you're in the balance.

GRACIE FLOYD: I'm in the balance. Okay. I'm going to abstain.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Abstain. Okay. The vote is two, three to one. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Greer votes in the negative and Ms. Floyd abstains. The motion to table fails.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I want to apologize, first of all, to my constituents in district two because I am not a person who usually abstains. I take my responsibility seriously here. But I'm abstaining because I just have some questions and I wasn't given a chance to ask the question before the councilwoman from district seven called for this thing to be tabled. Now, my question is this, this is

the resolution that we have to close this road. This is the first time we have voted for this, am I correct, Mr. Chair?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's a resolution, so one vote.

GRACIE FLOYD: First time?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One vote.

GRACIE FLOYD: The first time we have voted. Now, if we all voted to do this, and that road is closed, if we wait until after we do that third reading, Mr. Chair or Mr. Martin, with Mr. Chair's permission, what would happen then?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me -- this is a resolution. It has one vote. Up and down tonight unless someone moves to table it again and Ms. Wilson has tried that and it failed. So apparently we're gonna vote.

GRACIE FLOYD: We're gonna vote on -- we have to vote on this tonight?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Unless someone can get a motion to table together.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. My question is, do we have to vote on this tonight? Is there a consequences if we don't vote on it tonight?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd has the floor. She asked a question. Mr. Preston, can anyone answer that question.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to answer the question. I think that certainly you can always postpone something -- the vote to another day. It's not necessarily tabling, but I think that's in Robert's Rules of Order, that we can postpone the vote to another time if ---

GRACIE FLOYD: But I'm not looking at Robert's Rules of Order. I'm looking at what would happen and what would the consequences be for this road or against this road, if we should close it tonight. Ms. Plummer, do you have that answer?

AMY PLUMMER: The Greenville & Western Railway wants to close this road, whether the facility comes or not. The facility is going to come whether this road closes or not. The Greenville & Western Railway wants to close this road because it is a matter of public safety. This facility is not the only facility that is served by the Greenville & Western Railway. There's Belton Industries. There's Owens Corning. There's Electrolux. There are

numerous industries that we facilitate. And by closing this grade crossing, it makes it safer for the residents.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. We had some information tonight given to us by one of our safety people, did we not?

AMY PLUMMER: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. And he was -- it pertained to the closing of the road; right?

AMY PLUMMER: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: And he said what? He said -- yeah, yeah. He said haven't investigated the safety issues concerning Lewis Drive in light of the new economic development project and the increased use of the quote, at grade, end quote, crossing, it is my opinion that closing the crossing would create significant safety improvements for this road and the residents that uses it. This is from Mr. Ike Brissey who's the deputy chief emergency services.

AMY PLUMMER: He's also certified as a risk assessment ---

GRACIE FLOYD: I didn't hear you.

AMY PLUMMER: He's also certified as, I think, a risk assessment -- I'm not quite sure. Something to do with risk assessment.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. All right. So it would be no reason to not close it -- I mean, there would be need to wait on the next -- last reading to close this road.

AMY PLUMMER: Because they're two separately mutually exclusive issues.

GRACIE FLOYD: I thank you so much.

AMY PLUMMER: We're requesting that this be closed based on safety.

GRACIE FLOYD: I thank you so much.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I point out something?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson. Yes.

CINDY WILSON: Belton Industries sent word through one of the constituents at the meeting last night that they're opposed to the road closing. They believe it would harm their business.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Is Belton Industry here to back up this important statement themselves? Did they send a representative to -- or Mr. Preston, did they write you a letter with this important information?

JOEY PRESTON: No, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. May I ask county employees involved in this thing, did any of you get a letter from Belton Industry about this important situation? Okay.

CINDY WILSON: I think Mr. Chapman was the messenger here tonight. He told me that they were opposed.

AMY PLUMMER: Ms. Floyd, when we were trying to keep this railroad track open, Belton Industries wrote a letter not just to Mr. Preston but also to the STB requesting that Anderson County work with the railroad to try and keep this railroad open rather than abandoning it. And so far we have worked with Belton Industries very closely because we obviously supply them with product. I don't see how this road closure could affect their company because they're much further down the line and there would be no reason for their trucks or any of their traffic to cross over this road.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You finished, Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I am. And I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm gonna ask Mr. Hopkins if he would come over to the microphone. And before I ask him a question, I want to revisit a comment that was made earlier, and that was that I directed Mr. Steve Hawkins with the Greenville & Western Railroad to contact him concerning this road closure. Mr. Hopkins, is this the first time someone that I have talked to has been directed to talk with you concerning a potential road closure?

HOLT HOPKINS: No. That's normally the procedure.

LARRY GREER: Normally if someone asks me about a road closure or closing a road, I ask them to call and talk to you. In fact on several other occasions we have followed this procedure; is that not correct?

HOLT HOPKINS: That's correct.

LARRY GREER: So the implication being that I did something wrong and directed Mr. Hawkins to talk with Mr. Hopkins about this potential road closure is erroneous. It's trying to cast dispersions on my character that I did something wrong and that's

totally false. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I call for the question.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Have a call for the question. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of calling for the question, please vote. Four. Oppose. Two. Call for the question passes. All in favor of Resolution R2008-043, please vote. Four. Oppose. Two. Resolution 2008-43 passes. Mr. McAbee, someone go get him. Resolution 2008-044, a resolution in support of the issuance by the South Carolina Jobs Economic Development Authority ---

GRACIE FLOYD: You finished?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. I lost my place. My eyes are crossing.

GRACIE FLOYD: First line.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: A resolution in support of the issuance by the South Carolina Jobs Economic Development Authority of its not exceeding -- that sentence doesn't make sense to me -- of its not exceeding three hundred million hospital refunding and improvement revenue bonds in one or more series pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 43, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended. And there is a public hearing on this. The instructions for a public is the same as all the others. You may come forward, give your name and your address. You may speak as long as you speak on the topic which is this hospital refunding and improvement revenue bond. Speak to the chair and only to the chair. With that being said, the public hearing is open.

MARK POWELL: There again, I have no clue how I get enough information to come to these meetings and understand what you guys are doing. The hospital, which charges ten times more than they know they're gonna get from an insurance company or a person who comes there, asking for three hundred million dollars to do something to the redevelopment board. Let's think about that. Three hundred million dollars. That's a lot of money to add on to the hospital, to hire new employees. We as citizens have no clue how these crazy sounding two, three liners you guys use to come up with money that You're obligating somebody for, whether it's us or the hospital or if it's trash,

if it's the people who charge fees, sixty dollars per household, but this is another good example of we the people showing up thinking, what the heck are they doing, three hundred million dollars. Surprisingly, that's only twice as big as our budget for a year, but I can't imagine a hospital, quote, unquote, having three hundred million dollars to do some kind of renovation or something through redevelopment authority. I'm just a confused citizen on how this stuff works and would really love to know how to get information on these things you guys talk about in depth instead of just a two, three liner that shows up for us to ask silly questions for. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, I was about to get up and say the same thing. I think we as citizens deserve to know exactly what this means. And I think an explanation, as brief as it might be, would be appropriate. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one else, the public hearing is closed. Chair moves to approve Resolution R2008-044. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. We are in discussion. We are in discussion. Mr. John Miller, and I believe he has an attorney with him, please come forward over here to this mike to answer the questions and to explain exactly what we've got going on here. And Ms. Floyd, after they explain, I will give the floor to you. Please tell us what's going on here and why we're doing what we're doing.

JERRY PARISH: Mr. Chairman, my name is Jerry Parish. I work for AnMed Health. What we're doing here is we already have two hundred and thirteen million dollars worth of bonds outstanding. And because these bonds have been insured by a bond insurance company called Ambac, the rate of these bonds is -- that we're paying has gone up. The interest rate has gone up. So what we're trying to do, by refinancing these bonds, is to take Ambac out of this situation and to lower our interest rate. It's like refinancing your house. If you had an adjustable mortgage and your mortgage rate went up and you have an ability to go out and get a cheaper rate, the same thing, this is what we're doing. Our rates have gone up two to three percent from about three and a half percent to six and seven percent, depending on

which bond we're talking about. So, we're trying to get these rates back down in the three and a half to four percent and save probably three million dollars per year in terms of interest that we pay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any public money going towards this?

JERRY PARISH: No, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you increasing our budget by three hundred million dollars?

JERRY PARISH: No, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I mean, it's on the agenda, we've got a bond going on here.

JERRY PARISH: No, sir. These are all hospital revenue bonds issued by ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. What I was going to do is to thank Mr. Miller. When this thing came up, I had some of my constituents who called me who had gone on line and gotten the agenda thing and called me and asked me about it. And we have done this before, so I had an idea. But I talked to John Miller because I had some questions that they were asking me. We did it through the internet. I didn't waste his time by going up to see him. And he answered all of my questions for me. And I in turn called my constituents back to tell them what was said and what this is all about. And I would recommend and highly suggest to any of you out there, if you have any questions about anything that's on these agendas, call your council member. That's why you voted them in. We have a hundred and eighty thousand people in Anderson County. If a hundred and eighty thousand people had called John Miller, it would have been awful. That's why you vote in your council member to answer these questions for you. It doesn't mean you have to come up to the microphone and say the things that was said about this. Call your council member. He or she knows. And if they don't, then find out for you. We don't mind doing that. Thank you, Mr. Miller.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done?

GRACIE FLOYD: I surely am.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: There's one thing I thought that we need to understand, that there's no real financial relationship between these bonds and the budget that we have here and that Mr. Martin can, I think support the assertion that there's no fiscal

responsibility to the county for these bonds. Is that correct, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I will answer your questions, but I want to indicate that McNair Law Firm does represent the hospital on these and so we have not represented the county. But the answer is written in the document. You are absolutely correct. The only reason that Anderson County is involved in this entire procedure is because state law requires a public hearing ---

BOB WALDREP: Right. Okay.

TOM MARTIN: -- to be conducted. And so Anderson County is conducting the public hearing. The law requires a resolution of support. But it's not the county's bonds, and the county has no ---

BOB WALDREP: Right. That's what I wanted everyone to understand. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote on Resolution 2008-044. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Thank you very much. Acceptance of Pendleton Place Phase II into the county road system. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We're in discussion. Mr. Ricketson.

JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman, these roads have been inspected by the county staff and they're ready for acceptance into the county system.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Anyone else?

GRACIE FLOYD: I have a question.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Why is Mr. Ricketson doing this and not Mr. Hopkins? Don't you usually do this type thing, Mr. Hopkins?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, ma'am. It should be Mr. Hopkins there.

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, it's ---

JOEY PRESTON: It goes through a process, but it should be ...

GRACIE FLOYD: It's an error; right?

JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Ricketson is correct. I think Mr. Hopkins would say the same thing. He agrees.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

JEFF RICKETSON: Both of our staff review

this and my name has been on this item for two years. I don't know why.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. But nothing has changed as far as the work is concerned? Okay. Great. Good. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of accepting the Pendleton Place Phase II into the county road system, please vote. Unanimous. Approval of the 2008-2009 Accommodations Tax Committee recommendations. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We are in discussion.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ricketson, you up again. Is this correct?

JEFF RICKETSON: Yes, sir. The ATAX committee met earlier this month and they recommended as indicated in the spread sheet that's in your package, this year there was a hundred and seventy-one -- little over a hundred and seventy-one thousand dollars that were available in ATAX for disbursement, and that was about twenty thousand less than there was last year. I guess hotel accommodations were a little down from the previous year. But anyway, the ATAX committee met earlier this month and you have their recommendation.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Floyd, you had a comment?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Ricketson, I don't know -- I mean, I went over that and looked at it, but I don't know if I might have missed it, but Fusion Warehouse was not on there asking for some funds?

JEFF RICKETSON: I don't believe they were.

GRACIE FLOYD: Did they not put in an application?

JEFF RICKETSON: They did not -- there were forty-one organizations that did put in an application and thirty-six of them were recommended for funding. But Fusion was not in there.

GRACIE FLOYD: They did not put in an application?

JEFF RICKETSON: Not ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I thank you for that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I see that different organizations in district seven made requests for funds and they were cut considerably from last year. Is there any reason for that?

JEFF RICKETSON: The committee had twenty thousand dollars less to work with this year than they had last year. So ---

CINDY WILSON: But I don't see the others getting cut as bad as district seven. Most of the others like -- let's see, we'll start at the top. They got more.

JEFF RICKETSON: Michelin -- or excuse me, the Midnight Flight, I think the committee felt like that was a, that was a function that generated -- truly captioned the spirit of this ATAX and generated a lot of hotel rooms and they felt like that there was merit there.

CINDY WILSON: Well, the fact remains that a lot of things happen in Honea Path. They had been doing different festivals and competitions and their competitors stay in Anderson. So Anderson benefits by what takes place in Honea Path. The town of Williamston Christmas Park and Springwater Festival brings a lot of people in and they stay in hotels closer to Anderson.

JEFF RICKETSON: These were the recommendations of the committee. I'm just here to present them.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I don't know that I will get any support this go-round, but it's really -- it's so sad when just a few organizations get the lion's share. And you know, if Honea Path simply asked for money and never did anything -- I remember the horseshoe tournament and checkers tournament brought a lot of people in from all over the country and they stayed right here in Anderson. And they were ferried back and forth. It just seems like there should be a little consideration. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of approving the recommendation of the 2008-2009 Accommodation Tax Committee, please vote. Five. No, six. I'm sorry. Six. Zero. And Ms. Wilson says she was abstaining. The list of recommendations has been approved. Appointments.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Could I ask a quick question on the ATAX committee, they're all appointments of the council; isn't that correct?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

BOB WALDREP: And we all have what, just one appointment, one ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

BOB WALDREP: So there's seven -- is it comprised of seven ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Ricketson, can you give us ---

BOB WALDREP: I'm sorry. I just wanted just an education ---

JEFF RICKETSON: That's correct.

BOB WALDREP: Seven?

JEFF RICKETSON: Correct.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. That's the only thing I had. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: I was just looking at this list. I don't see a single thing on here from district seven -- six.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm in the same boat. I don't have a single thing on here.

RON WILSON: We need to work on this bunch.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We sure do. Or you do.

RON WILSON: I'll remember that.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I would like to move on.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Did they apply -- did we have many from district six applying? No one applied? What about for Mr. ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No one applied.

GRACIE FLOYD: No one applied. Okay. And now my -- the one that I support did not apply either, so ... Yeah. And I didn't have any from district two, I believe.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Don't ask, you don't receive.

RON WILSON: That's because it never gets posted up at Powdersville. We don't know to apply.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, wait a minute. Let's talk about that, Mr. Chair. How is the notice sent out?

JEFF RICKETSON: The notice is sent out to the people who have historically gotten it and that's the main way. And most of these applications are turned in by communities. And Mr. Thompson nor Mr. Wilson have any municipalities. The rest of you do. So those are the ones that are normally involved in organizing festivals and those are the ones that are the obvious people who submit things. But it's available to anybody.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, Mr. Ricketson, I thank you. Fellow council members, I would like to make a motion that we change the way this thing has been advertised in the past. I don't know if I'm gonna need an ordinance for this or not, Mr. Martin, but if I do, you give me a number. Okay. But I make a motion that we advertise this thing state -- I mean, county-wide to everybody regardless of whether or not they have submitted. And I think this is done every -- what month?

JEFF RICKETSON: It's generally -- we send out the applications in late August and they're ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I think in August ... In July, I think in July it should be advertised the way we do our advertising so that everybody can have a notice that this is going to happen. Now I need a second on that motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. How do we do our advertising?

JEFF RICKETSON: There's generally an article in the paper about it. We haven't paid for ads in the past.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So an ad is posted in the Independent Mail. Is that sufficient?

GRACIE FLOYD: No. Because he just said that you send applications out to those who have applied.

JEFF RICKETSON: We do. I mean, we have a list of people who are qualified to receive the funds and have applied in the past and we send out notices to them and they all eagerly come back each year and submit an application. And you know, word of mouth, people find out about it. And there's stories -- there's usually media coverage with the city of Anderson and Anderson County. We both disburse money.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, do you advertise that

in the classified section?

JEFF RICKETSON: I don't think we have done that in the past.

GRACIE FLOYD: So how do you -- I never saw it in the paper.

JEFF RICKETSON: We don't advertise in the paper. I mean, there's generally an article in the paper, but -- I don't have it. I didn't clip it. I can try to find that for you.

JOEY PRESTON: A reporter will write an article announcing it, is usually what happens. But you're wanting us to run an advertisement in the classifieds, Powdersville Post and newspapers ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

JOEY PRESTON: That's what we'll do.

RON WILSON: Yeah, because only two people in Powdersville get the Anderson Independent.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: Y'all can't read up there?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So is that sufficient? Okay. We have a motion to do a better job, basically, of advertising this in weekly and daily newspapers. I second it. All in favor of doing a better job in advertising, please vote. We have five. Oppose. Abstain. Okay. Anyway, we're gonna do a better job in advertising this thing next go around. And it was five, zero, two, with Ms. Wilson and Mr. Waldrep abstaining. So now we're moving on to appointments, various boards, commissions, all districts, does anyone have any appointments that they wish to make at this time? Seeing and hearing no one, we're moving on to item B. WorkLink WorkForce Investment Board tabled on October the 7th until tonight. So at this time the chair moves to remove from the table the WorkLink WorkForce Investment Board. We have a second. We are -- oh, we've got to vote on the motion to remove. All in favor of removing from the table, please vote. One, two, three, is that right? Three. Oppose. One, two, three. Three. Abstain. You. Okay. The vote is three, three and one. We have a tied vote, so the motion to remove from the table fails.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

BOB WALDREP: Just a point of information. I kind of know what WorkLink is. Is this just for appointments of people to the board?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

BOB WALDREP: I just was trying to

understand what the problem was. I mean, I know we get divided on a lot of issues, but this is one I was just absolutely ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: There are council members who wants to make recommendations and then once you make a recommendation there is a process that they have to go through. Basically that recommendation has to be referred back to the board. The board makes sure they qualify and meet all criteria that is set down by the General Assembly or by law. Then once that criteria has been justified and met, then that name is presented back to the council and saying, yes, that person is qualified.

BOB WALDREP: And this has to do with jobs, lining up -- connecting people WorkLink with ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Jobs, job creation, ---

BOB WALDREP: And how many people are on that board?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I don't know. Thirty-five.

BOB WALDREP: Thirty-five? That's a mob.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. -- I'm sorry. I'm butchering names. Please come forward. Please come forward. Speak and you'll be noticed. Please identify yourself and why you know ...

TERRY GILSTRAP: I'm Terry Gilstrap. I'm the Director of the Anderson Employment Security Commission. I was formerly with WorkLink.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And there's how many people on this board?

TERRY GILSTRAP: There's thirty-five. Each county, the three counties that make up WorkLink, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens, have representatives on that board. By law it's under the Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Act which is federal legislation. You have to have fifty-one percent of those be business -- or represent business in the community.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And did my little synopsis of the process, was that accurate?

TERRY GILSTRAP: Anyone who chooses to make application can be on that board.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So it's not just council members.

TERRY GILSTRAP: Oh, no. Chamber of Commerce can nominate people on that board, et cetera. The application is on their website.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: But they have to meet a criteria and all that kind of ---

TERRY GILSTRAP: They have to be business or either have like -- I myself was one of the nominees and we represent a partner agency. We have the Anderson Employment Security Commission One-Stop that is part of their delivery of service.

BOB WALDREP: I just have to ask one question. Is that a very practical thing to do, to have thirty-five people on a board? How in the world can you possibly come up with decisions? It would be worse than county council.

TERRY GILSTRAP: As a former staff person who was liaison to that board, it is very difficult. But having representatives from three counties and having a combination or the requirement that you have certain representatives from the three county region and everybody wants their representative to have a say on that board.

BOB WALDREP: Yeah. It looks to me like they ought to rethink that one.

TERRY GILSTRAP: It was just increased several years ago, so it was smaller.

LARRY GREER: Ms. Gilstrap, before you leave, if I may.

TERRY GILSTRAP: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go right ahead.

LARRY GREER: These requirements for electing or placing members on this board and the system in doing so was created by our State Legislature; wasn't it?

TERRY GILSTRAP: No.

LARRY GREER: It wasn't?

TERRY GILSTRAP: Federal legislation. Well, it's through the Department of Commerce and the governor actually -- each state has a design and how they do ours, ours has twelve -- our state has twelve boards that represent the state. And ---

LARRY GREER: So we can thank Uncle Sam for this? Thank you.

TERRY GILSTRAP: Yes, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Moving on. Requests by council members. Mr. Waldrep, any ...

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, no requests.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd. Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have two. The first one is a thousand dollars from the district three recreation account to the Starr Athletic Association for the Starr Fall Festival.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

LARRY GREER: Yes. I have one more. The second one is fifteen hundred dollars from the district three recreation account to the Bowie Old Farm Days for support of their activities. And that's in the form of a motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Is that it? Is that it?

LARRY GREER: That's it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, appropriations.

BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I move to appropriate twenty-nine thousand three hundred and thirty-five dollars sixty-nine cents from the district five paving account to Tri County Technical College for the paving of a truck driving and motorcycle training facility to be located at the Anderson campus, which is in district five.

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. That's all for me. Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Yes. Five hundred dollars to the Parker Bowie Old Farm Days.

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

LARRY GREER: That's from what account, Mr. Wilson?

RON WILSON: Pardon me?

LARRY GREER: That's from what account?

RON WILSON: Oh, it's from my rec account.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else? That's it? Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. Our Anderson County library requested funds from district seven's recreation account, a thousand dollars each for the Lander Library in Williamston, and the Jenny Erwin Library in Honea Path, and this will be used for -- to add two new computers to each branch. As we have more and more joblessness, children and employees are coming in to use the computers more. I put that in the form of a motion from the district seven rec

account.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: District seven rec. Okay.
Any discussion. Chair seconds her motion. Any
discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.
Anything else? That's all?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: It's a quarter after ten
and all we have left is some housekeeping and so
forth. I move that we adjourn.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
adjourn, a second. All in favor to adjourn, please
vote. Five. Oppose. Two. We are adjourned.

Meeting ended at 10:15 p.m.



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Making News.
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MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, ANDERSON COUNTY

FROM: Bill McAbee

DATE: October 7, 2008, October 21, 2008 and Nov. 3, 2008

RE: Recusal from County Council participation due to potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety

Resolution R2008-043 - 10-7-08

Ordinance 2008-054 - 10-7-08, 10-21-08, 11-3-08

Pursuant to Section 8-13-700, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, I am hereby giving notice of my abstention from the matter regarding the issue of Fee-in-lieu for Lincoln Energy and

Lewis Rd Closures
as it appears before Anderson County Council on See above, 2008

The potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety for which I am recusing myself and abstaining from participation is: ongoing business relationship

(for example: a personal or financial interest in the matter in question; a conflict or appearance of impropriety due to business or other relationships with one or more of the parties involved; and so forth).

This document is to be filed as a matter of public record, and is to be included with the official minutes of the County Council meeting at which the matter in question was brought before Anderson County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

W.H. McAbee



Attachment A
to minutes of
10/7/08
10/21/08 ✓
11/3/08

Post Office Box 8002 • Anderson, S.C. 29622-8002
(864) 260-4000

www.andersoncountysc.org

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – November 3, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

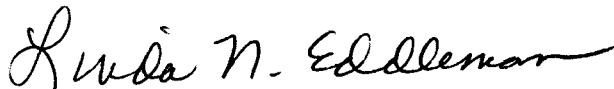
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2 – Left at 7:15 p.m.
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda N. Eddleman". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 3, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD - left at 7:15 p.m.
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular meeting of the Anderson County Council, November 3rd, 2008, will now come to order. Invocation and pledge of allegiance, council member, Larry E. Greer.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of the minutes for October the 21st, 2008. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion? No discussion. Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of approving the minutes for October 21st, 2008, please vote. Six to zero. Please note that Mr. -- Ms. Eddleman, please note that Mr. Wilson is not present and he'll be about ten or fifteen minutes late. Citizens comments. Instructions. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address the county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. And when you come forward, please give your name, address and the county council district in which you live and agenda item on which you are speaking. How many, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are two citizens under agenda matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Proceed. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

STEVE POPE: Good evening. Mr. Chairman, members of council, I'll keep my comments brief.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name, address and district, please.

STEVE POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

STEVE POPE: First of all, this is more or less a general open question. When we deal with fee in lieu of taxes, I can understand the importance of bringing economic development to the county because this helps our county grow. But this is a matter of information. It would be nice sometimes to know exactly what the difference is in the dollar amount between the fee and what the taxes may have been. Also, on the letter for the McNair Law Firm, you know, I can understand that regarding this county council in the next year, we'll be having change. And change at

times can be painful. But a lot of this is based on a lot of, right now, what if, what might. That hasn't happened. And depending on what happens in the election tomorrow, we may also find a lot of more new changes. You know, you're either going to have to live with the chances and deal with them. Or the new council can either come in and continue to work or we can end up in endless squabbles. But somehow let's just find some way to bring some peace and harmony and really get back to doing the business of the county. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Brooks Brown, IV.

BROOKS BROWN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake Road, district one. Talking about this letter, item number six, from McNair -- or to the McNair Law Firm, there's a severe problem in that three people signed that, councilmen elect. Nobody is a councilman elect until we've had an election. Ten days have to be passed and it has to be certified by the state election commission. The people who signed that should step up here one by one and apologize for being so presumptuous. Two, we've got two people up there that signed the letter who are current. They have the right to sign anything they would like. They do not represent county council. When Mr. Trout in Greenville said he had a right to have individual investigation, the ethics committee slapped him down, the State Supreme Court slapped him down. Minorities do not have the right to launch their own investigation. Y'all should take a vote and say either, we're going to support Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson and make it an official policy of the county council or vote to deny them and let's just put an end to all this nonsense and sniping. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under agenda matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Resolutions 2008-046, a resolution recognizing and honoring the first responders who risked their lives to save others on October the 12th, 2008, and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer seconds. Any discussion?

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This fire happened in my district at Heatherwoods Apartment and it was responded to by several of our firefighters

in this area. These guys went above and beyond the call of duty. And I wanted to make sure that we properly thank them on behalf of the entire county. What you see before you now, council members, is just a resolution that will be presented to these men and women at the next county council meeting. Mr. Chair, do we have to read through the whole thing?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need to vote on it.

GRACIE FLOYD: I know. But do we have to read through it? Okay. All right. I move that we accept this to be presented at a later date. I mean, at the next meeting, Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So vote now, present later?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, uh-huh (affirmative).

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anymore discussion? Chair calls for the vote on Resolution R2008-046. All in favor, please vote. Six, zero. Unanimous. Item number six, letter from McNair Law Firm, determination of instructions to McNair Law Firm. I believe everyone should have read the request for information and then the letter from the McNair Law Firm to me as chair and I understand our options are to instruct McNair Law Firm to deny the request and instruct the McNair Law Firm to provide or approve the information -- provide the information within their field of expertise. And the reason I word it that way, there is some speculation regarding interest rates and stuff and that may be outside their field of expertise. Or we can defer the entire request to the county administrator. That being said, I need someone to make a motion and pick one and then we'll go from there.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: May I make a request that you read the letter that was written to McNair Law Firm so that those folks ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm not reading the letter.

CINDY WILSON: Well, may I read it? It's very brief.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any objections to Ms. Wilson reading the letter? No one objects. Go right ahead.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. This was written to the McNair Law Firm to the two bond council attorney, Messrs. Burns and McLeod. Please specify which of the following debt instruments, bonds or proposed bond issues you are currently representing

Anderson County on or have recently represented Anderson County. Number one, 2008 ten million dollar GOB. Number two, 2008 five point four million dollar lease purchase agreement. Number three, 2008 three million dollar TANS for the sheriff's department. Number four, 2008 three point two million dollar solid waste special source revenue bond. Number five, 2008 two million two hundred and fifty thousand dollar airport special source revenue bond. What is the current status of each of these county financial obligations? What has been issued and what is in the process of being bid? Please provide a copy of the schedule. What will the impact of thousands of individually contested property reassessments have on Anderson County's ability to sell its GOBs, SSRBs, and lease purchase agreements? Haven't interest rates risen significantly? What effect will higher interest rates have and what of reduced revenues? Your guidance in these matters is appreciated as three to four new county council members will be seated in January in the midst of our fiscal year and in the midst of the greatest economic crisis of our generation. We seek to keep our county on solid economic footing. Thank you for your attention to this request.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, district two is not represented in this letter. It's not represented nor did we have any prior knowledge that this letter was coming. District two had no voice in it. And district two did not get a chance to accept it or deny it with a signature. And I wanted to go on record that I am opposed very, very much to this. District two is a part of Anderson County and we have the right to be represented in all areas of this county, no matter what it pertains to. As of, as of the last election, I am the representative for district two and I will be the representative for district two until December the 31st. Now I say here now that we were not represented with this. I don't know anything about it. And I protest this.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I respond?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're having discussion and there is no motion on the floor. So we need a motion

on the floor to do something.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we refer this matter to the administrator.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion to defer this matter to the administrator. The chair seconds that motion. Now we are in discussion ---

CINDY WILSON: Very briefly ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. -- to deter the request to the county administrator. Now, Ms. Wilson, you may ...

CINDY WILSON: None of the other five council members voted against any of these issues, so the two council members who are currently seated who were opposed for various reasons to the bidding and issuance of these debt instruments during this difficult economic time, that was the reason I signed the letter. I didn't see any -- I mean, y'all had agreed to vote for all these -- all this debt on the county. If any of you had voted against it, you would have certainly been invited to write too. Thank you.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I'm gonna have to disagree with Mr. McAbee on his motion. This is not an item where I feel that the administrator could have the authority to make a decision for council. What the McNair Law Firm, from what I understand, has done, is ask council to make a decision on what they want the direction to be. So I don't believe that this should be a decision made by the administrator. It should be made by the council. I will cast my vote accordingly.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Well, one of the arguments that I've heard tonight in objection to bringing this issue before council was that some folks feel like that unless they have given their blessings as a council person then it should not be brought up. I think the very point of our system is that each individual council member should have the right with just simply asking questions, I think it's been termed some kind of investigation or something of that nature. But I think it's extremely important to make a distinction between seeking information and investigating or asking questions. If this council is

gonna be forever limited in its ability to ask questions, then I think that we serve no useful purpose in being up here. We could probably shorten these meetings a great deal by just making a difference to the administrator or to only those majority members of council who have decided that they simply don't want to share the information. Information is the key to the operation and the orderly process of this council. And I will try to remind the council members here that I think it's a principal that we should follow. I don't say we've always followed. I don't always approve sometimes of even the techniques that are used by other folks, but they've got a right to use them. But I just think that this is certainly a piece of information on a very important piece of legislation. We're talking about -- we're not talking about peanuts here. We're talking about ten million, five point four million, three million, three point two million and two point two hundred and fifty thousand dollar bond at the airport. We've got the responsibility to make decisions on this, each council person does. And of course, we don't always prevail. Always been in the minority on this council. But nevertheless, I think that even the majority of council would appreciate from time to time this information and certainly I can't see how it could be harmful to anyone. Thank you.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. I need to clear up some information here. We seem to be talking about everything but what we really need to do. A letter was sent to the McNair Law Firm signed by two council members and three nominees. From the prospective of the McNair Law Firm, Anderson County is the client, as represented by the majority of the county council. So McNair Law Firm is asking their client as represented by the majority what you want us to do, provide the information, deny the information or defer to the administrator. Because of the day to day basis, the administrator is the point of contact. But the client is Anderson County. Did I do a reasonable job with that, Mr. Martin?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So the client is Anderson County with respect to McNair Law Firm. Now, Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, sir. And I

understand your explanation in its entirety. That's one of the reasons, based on the request that the law firm has issued, that I think is inappropriate for us to ask the administrator to make the decision that we should be making ourselves. And I'm probably going to side with the minority in this case and so be it. But I have no problem, I have no problem with the council member asking for that type of information and receiving it if done in the appropriate manner.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? Mr. Wilson, we have a motion on the floor to defer -- we're on item number six and Mr. McAbee made the motion to defer the request to the administrator and we are now in discussion on that. Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, one other point I want to make, I would like some clarify in this issue about representation. If we in fact follow the rule that our attorneys only respond to a majority of council, doesn't that leave us with the inevitable conclusion that minority members on council are without legal representation?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I can't -- Mr. Martin, can you answer that? I don't know the answer to that.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I think that I can answer it. Nothing in the letter, Mr. Waldrep, indicates that a council member cannot request information from McNair Law Firm. We respond to council members on literally a daily basis, sometimes on weekends. What the letter indicates is that this particular matter was a matter of official representation of the county and part of the information requested is opinion of the county as to certain of that representation of certain matters of the representation such as what effect will reassessment have? What will the bond rates be? The letter simply notes that on matters involving attorney/client relationship we can't respond to every member of council. We can't respond to the administrator as the client. The only client is the county itself, the body politic, which is represented by county council. And so we're being asked for information as to our actual representation, which is attorney/client relationship. We need the client to tell us that it's okay to release that information to someone other than the client. The client is the county. Individual members of council are not the client. And so we have no problem whatsoever in releasing the information if the client gives us

permission to do so. It's not even really a matter of directing us. It's just releasing us to do that.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Martin, if we just simply couched the letter in different terms, would that make a difference to you with regard to how you're addressing this? On the one hand you're saying we're entitled to the information. On the other hand, you're saying that it's been asked for in such a form that you feel like that it is now postured that you can only get a majority of council to respond?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I don't know that I said you're entitled to it. If I did I probably misspoke. What I said was that any member of council can ask us for information on a daily basis. It happens everyday. But as reflected in our actual representation, asking us what have you done, what are the matters of your representation, that can only be authorized by the client itself. Only the client can release us to do that.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I just want to say that couldn't you delete those things that ask about your representation and just give us like Sergeant Friday said, just the facts, ma'am?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, theoretically. It, of course, depends on what is asked and how. But yes, if we receive ---

BOB WALDREP: So is the last ditch effort, after all is said and done, assuming that we don't prevail in this, if we couch this in a different way, we might be able to get more response, if we don't do it as a body politic, but simply ask you not in the course of your legal representation but simply what are the facts that you know that you can relate to us because we're not trying to certainly intercede in anyway between the precious relationship between the McNair Law Firm and this county, but we want information. So we don't want to get involved in the legal gobbly gook about privilege and communication, but we just want the information, Mr. Martin, if we could do that we would appreciate it. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: This begs the additional

observation that it gets very confusing for members of council and for the public as to whom the McNair Law Firm represents at times. We have another item a little further down in our agenda where McNair Law Firm represents a developer instead of the county. And we've had situations where that's happened before and the McNair Law Firm was copied as if they were counsel to the county, which in essence meant that McNair Law Firm received privileged information and it gets very confusing because it's like who's on first, what's on second, and it seems that just basic information is frequently very difficult to get.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin -- time. Mr. Martin says time has expired. Chair calls for the vote on item number six on this letter. Motion is to defer to the county administrator. All in favor of deferring to the county administrator, please vote. Two, three. Opposed to deferring to the county administrator. One, two, three, four. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Greer, Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson are in the negative, so we will not defer to the county administrator.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So my question is what will we do? Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I request that we extend by three minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

LARRY GREER: That's in the form of a motion. And I request the floor.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Request to extend by three. Second by Ms. Wilson. All in favor of extending by three minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Mr. Greer, you have the floor.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, we had a lot of discussion about all different things. The basic question it boils down to is I think the McNair Law Firm is trying to honor the attorney/client privilege. I think that's what this is all about. And what they're saying is if you want us to give this information to these people, are you willing to give up the attorney/client privilege to these five people in this instance? I personally have no problem with them getting as much information as they can provide on these matters. So at this time I move that we allow McNair Law Firm to provide them with the information that they can, but not anything in which they do not have an expertise. Some of the

things that they asked for, for instance, I think is gonna involve the tax assessor and some other people. So that's in the form of a motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. So we have a motion on the floor to instruct McNair Law Firm to provide the information within their field of expertise, and it's been second. Any discussion on that?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep has called for the question, Mr. Greer has second that. All in favor of -- we are calling for the question. All in favor of calling for the question, please vote. How do you vote?

GRACIE FLOYD: I vote no.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So it'll be six to one. Ms. Floyd in the negative, for calling for the question. All in favor of instructing the McNair Law Firm to provide the information within their field of expertise, please vote. Six. Opposed.

GRACIE FLOYD: I abstain.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Six, zero and one, with Ms. Floyd abstaining. So McNair Law Firm will provide the information within their field of expertise. Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the pleasure of council, may I respond to Ms. Wilson?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have no objection. Any objection from the council? Please respond.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Wilson, you've indicated it's sometimes difficult to tell who McNair Law Firm represents. I would counter that it's not really. In every single occasion, without exception, we clearly indicate when we have a conflict and abstain. The question that you're raising I think involves the so-called Kohl's development. Despite what was said on council, we do not represent Kohl's. We represented a developer. And we indicated that from the very outset. In fact, we have signed waiver letters from the county, the city and the company. We have never purported to represent the county in that matter. The county was represented from the very first second by Robert Galloway. And that has been stated publicly on this floor. McNair Law Firm never represented anyone other than the company in that matter. And it was quite clearly stated so that everyone who wanted to

understand that could. We have indicated every conflict that we've ever had, including some cases where there was not a conflict, but it could be construed or it could appear that we did. We've even withdrawn from that. We have gone to great lengths at great expense to do so. So we have never represented two clients on the same matter before this council or on any economic development matter. And as far as knowing where the conflict is, we have always posed that issue to the county on every economic development matter. Our original engagement with the county excluded representation on economic development matters for that very reason. The county has always been represented, or at least since Mr. Preston has been here, by Robert Galloway of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, which is not a part of McNair. It is a competitor law firm. So there has always been a clear delineation where there has been conflict. If there isn't conflict, if conflict is not noted, then we are not aware of one. But it's really not that difficult to determine.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I, very quickly?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need to move on Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, on ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, we are moving on to item number seven. Thank you very much. Discussion of letter from Chief Bill Gibson concerning Lewis Drive. You have ten minutes, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. First of all, my question back to Mr. Martin is who signed the waiver representing the county?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you're not on the item under discussion. And your time ---

CINDY WILSON: Well, I will expect an answer for that, because that's a very important point to know. Regarding the letter from Chief Billy Gibson concerning the Lewis Drive closing, at the last council meeting there was a resolution to close Lewis Drive. We've had the fire chief from the Cheddar Fire Department, which is directly in front of where Lewis Drive comes into Sherard, right in front of the fire department, he requested that the road be left open for reasons dealing with safety and response times and so forth. And we had a petition of more than a hundred people, including the adjoining landowners, requesting that the road be left open. And at the

last council meeting we were given a letter from a county employee who is not head of his department claiming that the road should be closed. What we were not given, at least this councilman was not given, a copy from the fire marshal, Mr. Billy Gibson, basically stating that he expected that we would have further discussion between the railroad company and the project owners and other stakeholders in the safety issue of that. The letter was dated October the 20th, and I understand that it was hand delivered to our administrator. And I understand that there was even an email confirming that -- from Mr. Preston to Fire Marshal Gibson that he had received the letter. The letter clearly states, and I'm gonna read you the last sentence. It says, as there are both positive and negative effects from closing the rail crossing, I strongly suggest that railroad officials and the county council thoroughly investigate all aspects before arriving at a decision. I appreciate your consideration for the positions that I've presented. Please forward this letter to members of council and any other officials that you feel appropriate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at once. Sincerely, Chief Billy Gibson. This was not given to me, and that project is in district seven, and from what I understand there was at least one other council member, maybe all of you, did not receive that letter. And I think that's very, very disturbing because you had many, many citizens coming up requesting that we leave the road open. And I want to point out to you that in the West Law Municipal Corporations and then I guess this is 268-400 under Municipalities and Persons Liable, most cited cases, it states, if a railroad crossing is closed by order of the municipal authorities, the railroad company is not liable. But if an abutting owner has suffered a special injury different in degree and kind from that suffered by the general public, he is entitled to compensation from the municipality. And I want to point that out to you, that there are other considerations here. And I would certainly recommend that one of our council members who was on the prevailing side of this issue in closing that road, might feel compelled to bring this up for reconsideration. It really should be reconsidered. There are issues of your personal liability. There are issues of the county's liability. And the fact that we had an important letter from our fire marshal,

which was withheld prior to the vote, that, ladies and gentlemen, is very, very disturbing. Thank you.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. Ms. Wilson, I take issue with the light in which you refer to Chief Gibson's letter. He says there are positives and negatives here. Positive being, he said, closing the crossing would reduce the probability of vehicle versus train collisions, which would be a positive move. With the possibility of road cars blocking the crossing for extended period of times, a permanent closing would prevent emergency vehicles from traveling down Lewis Drive only to find the crossing blocked and therefore slowing response time. With the crossing closed, emergency units could anticipate alternate routes and eliminate this possibility. So trying to take this letter and say that Chief Gibson is opposed to closing the road is not substantiated.

CINDY WILSON: He recommended that we more thoroughly investigate all aspects before arriving at a decision.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: He said ---

CINDY WILSON: He also points out in his letter that currently units responding from the ---

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, what is your point of order?

LARRY GREER: Ms. Wilson has not been recognized by the chair and she is speaking without authorization.

CINDY WILSON: This is my item on the agenda, thank you, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, but I have not recognized you to take the floor. And Mr. Greer is correct.

CINDY WILSON: But it's my item on the agenda.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you do not have the floor, and Mr. Greer is correct.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: May I have the floor?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: I'm gonna approach this matter just a little bit differently, not to harangue, but when I first started I guess gathering information about this issue, naturally economic development was

one of the prevailing thoughts in my mind. We all want to have economic development. And when I saw the number of jobs that were involved, and I think there was something like five, I began to look at it a little more deeply. And then when I realized that a hundred people would be adversely affected out there, I was even more troubled. Because in the first place, if this zoning matter had been coupled in some way with the road closure, I think we would have a different kind of situation altogether. The way that it was presented to the people in that area and the way that it progressed through this council, of course with one council member having to constantly excuse himself because of a conflict of interest because of - - for some reason, I don't think that conflict has been stated exactly as to what that is, and that person might want to explain what that conflict of interest was, it had such to me a tainted kind of passage through this council. And I guess the bottom line of what I'm saying, when we get down to weighing the equities here about who we represent in this county, we start looking at the people out there that are adversely affected that are crying out to us to say, represent our interests, and then we have to balance that somehow another with the economic interests here, it's not an easy decision. And I'm not really complaining about how someone voted and I'm not questioning their motivations or anything of that particular nature. I'm just saying that it's very important, I think, for us to consider those people who live in this county, who have been paying taxes in this county, who are raising their children and their families and how adversely that these matters might affect them. It's been kind of a one-two punch for these people up there. First rezone, okay, maybe they can live with that. But then close their road. I just hope that there's not another punch that's coming up that's gonna adversely affect them. Thank you, sir.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you. Mr. Preston passed along some information to us and I would either ask you to read the letter of explanation that he's given us or ask Mr. Preston if he can comment on it. But I think this needs to be made part of the record.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The memo portion, is that what you're talking about? Mr. Preston, you want to

refer to this memo and tell us about it?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir, I can just include it in the next administrator's report and make it part of the record if you'd like.

LARRY GREER: I'd prefer that this be read into the record tonight.

JOEY PRESTON: All right. Attached to this memo is another letter from Chief Billy Gibson concerning Lewis Drive and another letter from Ike Brissey of Emergency Services Division. These letters are provided to all ---

LARRY GREER: Excuse me, Mr. Preston. Mr. Chairman, if I may, you said another letter. This is another copy of a previous letter?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, another copy. That's correct.

LARRY GREER: Thank you.

JOEY PRESTON: Those were provided to all council member of county council prior to the last council meeting, October 21st, 2008. I understand now that Ms. Wilson claims not to have received the letter. I am uncertain about what Ms. Wilson may have done with those letters. They were presented to her along with copies for the other six council members before the last council meeting. In addition I also the Clerk to Council, Linda Eddleman, to include these letters in the administrator's report for November the 3rd, 2008, so that they would be included in the public record, and I discovered this morning that the clerk had left them out. I contacted the clerk and asked her why the letters were left out of the administrator's report. She told me that Ms. Wilson told her not to include Mr. Brissey's letter in the agenda book. Therefore neither Chief Gibson's letter nor Mr. Brissey's letter were included in the administrator's report. I then contacted Chairman Thompson and asked that he ask the clerk to provide me with a memo stating that Ms. Wilson had asked her not to include both reference letters to the administrator's report. When Chairman Thompson contacted the clerk, the clerk stated that it was a big misunderstanding.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston has the floor.

JOEY PRESTON: I received a letter from Ms. Gilstrap this afternoon. It says, Mr. Preston, when we were doing the agenda on Wednesday and you handed me the letter from Ike Brissey, I thought you

meant to put it with Ms. Wilson's backup for her item. She told me several times not to add any backup unless she tells me to for any items that she has on the agenda. So I misunderstood you when you said to put it in the administrator's report. I'm sorry. Linda.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I release the floor at this time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. First of all I did receive Mr. Brissey's letter, but I never received Fire Chief -- Fire Marshal Billy Gibson's letter. And as this is an item in the agenda -- on our agenda that I put on personally, I had requested ---

BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CINDY WILSON: -- in the past that no one else add something to my agenda items ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer -- I'm sorry, Mr. ---

CINDY WILSON: -- without letting me know first.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, what is your point of order?

BILL MCABEE: Time has expired for this item.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Has time expired?

BILL MCABEE: Yes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Moving on. Thank you, Mr. McAbee. Comments concerning Lincoln Oil Company, item number eight. Mr. Truman Ellison, you have ten minutes.

TRUMAN ELLISON: I'm Truman Ellison, 1202 Bell Road, Belton. I will vote at Cedar Grove in the morning very early. When the announcement came that Cheddar was getting a ten million dollar project, I was glad to hear it. I was glad to hear it had to do with ethanol. We have the gas tanks, gas storage units in Belton. And also, I was doubly happy that it was gonna enhance the railroad's operation and do a major upgrade. I'm about twenty years older than that railroad, so the railroad and I have had a long history. That was an electric train to start with years ago. It had freight and passengers. And I'd like to see the day that it has passengers again and a lot of freight. We heard the other day at a previous meeting that the owner of Lincoln Oil is a very, very

wealthy man, and I expect the owner of the railroad is too, and I hope they are, and I hope they make more money. Because when people make money -- rich people make money, they invest it, they create jobs, and the rest of us can work. So that's a good idea. I'm here to beg, to plead, on behalf of the people whom I don't think any of them are here that have been talking about the safety, they've been talking about the operation being so close to their door that it has destroyed the value of the property. Safety has been an issue, and I will dwell very briefly on safety. I own property about two miles up the track, so I'm not concerned about an explosion or fire. I'll have plenty of time to get away or sit and watch it. But if you pull ...

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

TRUMAN ELLISON: ... you're going to have several crossings blocked. My home is on the west side of the railroad, so I would have to depend on Whitefield, Williamston, Belton, somewhere, even that far away from the site. So safety will continue, in my opinion, to be an issue that needs to be addressed. So I'm here to plead for them. They did a good job themselves, and I think they behaved themselves very nicely. They were polite, they were kind and they literally begged, said, please don't do this to us, please don't allow this to happen. I went out Lewis Road the other day, and the crossing is now closed. Went down to Ellison Circle, and let me make that very clear, that has nothing to do with me, I don't know who that Ellison is, so I don't have a dog in the hunt. But there's a nice little community of homes there that those people are proud of. Very pleasant place to live. The value of that has been destroyed. Now, it's pretty easy to look at what the county said in assessment as to what they were worth six months ago or a year ago and it's pretty easy to get a professional appraiser to say what they're worth today and there's going to be a big difference. There's got to be. The quiet enjoyment of their property is gone. And I'm sure most of you, and most of the people in this room, are looking at their 201Ks. You probably wonder what that is. It's half of a 401. Those people are looking at the same thing on a national disaster and they're also looking at the value of their property having been destroyed. I'm going to quote from the Truman Doctrine. That's not Harry Truman, it's mine. That is, there's no such thing as

constructive criticism. To criticize is to tear down. Construct is to build. So I'm not here to criticize, either constructively or otherwise. I would like to make an observation that this council, I don't believe when they passed this rezoning in support of this project, knew everything that's available in the information today. If you had, I don't think you would have done it the way you did it. I think you would have looked after these people's interests and you would have made sure that they were compensated, their property was bought, or something to take care of them. The information is there now. All you gotta do -- now, let me go back one second. If you had detailed plans, unless you're skilled at preparing and executing plans, you probably wouldn't have known what you was looking at back then. You can tell what you're looking at now. I mean, you drive down Ellison Circle and you see where the railroad is or is going to be and where those homes are and imagine that's your home, you're living there, and see what you think of it. Now, there was a suggestion made that there's an old expression that you get more with a kind word and we had a kind word from one of the council members that these folks and the railroad and Lincoln Oil should get together, see if they couldn't resolve this. Some of this fee in lieu of could be shared, something done. And I understand there's a different level that you can approve to do that, so there might even be more money that could be made available if that could happen. And I want to quote again from the Truman Doctrine. That is, you get more with a kind word and a revolver than you do with just a kind word. Well, these folks don't have a revolver. But these folks do. And I'm suggesting it would be a very good idea for the council to hold a meeting with railroad, with Lincoln Oil and these people and among the parties decide how these people can be compensated for what's going on out there. The last thing I want to say is go back to the Truman Doctrine again, and that is, it's not fair. The world's not fair, the teacher's not fair, the police are not fair, nobody's fair. But when you're dealing with other people, you should always be fair. And I'm suggesting that if you will either delay or refuse to approve reading three and restart the process or delay it until the parties could get together and have some agreement that takes care of these people. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I'm gonna have to ask for a special point of order here. May I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You mean point of privilege?

GRACIE FLOYD: Point of privilege, well, whatever. I want to check on my dogs. Okay? Are my dogs all right for ten more minutes?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You got a thumbs up.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good. Thank you. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Item number nine, comments concerning Lincoln Oil Company. Ms. Amy Plummer, you have ten minutes. And we're killing trees again.

AMY PLUMMER: While this is loading, I want to tell you that I have a lot of information that I will not be able to get to, and I'm gonna try and speak as quickly ... I have a great deal of information and I will speak as quick as I can to get through it. At the end of my presentation, if you wish, I have a layout of the rail tracks that will be put on the ground and how the cars will be brought in and how they will be broken up, if you want me to continue further. I want to talk about the global impact of ethanol and Anderson County's role. Ethanol. First of all, ethanol is ethyl alcohol. It's used as a transportation fuel and is historically produced from the fermentation of sugars. Ethanol today is produced from a starch component of corn and other grain products including sugar cane. It's produced from also cellulose, feed stocks, switchgrass, municipal waste and other specially grown energy crops. E85 is a motor fuel blend of up to eighty-five percent ethanol. E85 is clean. A typical flex fuel vehicle can prevent four times of life cycle carbon dioxide emissions and other harmful pollutants from entering our air every year by fueling with E85 instead of pure gasoline. The E85 emissions, ethanol reduced gasoline emissions by as much as thirty percent. E85 is renewable. Starch and corn is most commonly used to produce ethanol. There are other products that can be used to produce it. E85 is made here in the United States versus buying it from the Midwest. We only have to bring it across this country. We don't have to bring it from the other parts of the world. We are profiting and we are

sending our investment back into our bread basket which goes into our economy instead of the economy of Iraq and Iran. It provides jobs. It provides support for our local economies. E85 is a high performance fuel. Its rating is a hundred plus. E85 is also used in Indy car racing. Ethanol has a lower energy density than typical gasoline, however E85 has a higher octane rating. When E85 -- when using E85 drivers may experience approximately a ten percent fuel economy difference. Fuel economy can vary considerably with road conditions, including the way your tires are pumped up. E85 is priced approximately fifteen to twenty-five percent less than the 87 octane. How much corn does it take to make ethanol? Fifty-six pound bushel of field corn will typically yield 1.6 pounds of corn oil, 10.9 pounds of high protein life stock feed, 2.6 pounds of cornmeal and 31.5 pounds of starch. That starch can be converted into beverage or sweeteners or about 2.8 gallons of fuel ethanol. Sometimes in some producers the technology has reached yields of three gallons. Technology continues to improve. How much energy does it take to produce ethanol? It takes -- the energy balance production for both ethanol and biodiesel compare well to those of gasoline. The Department of Energy and Agriculture report a net energy balance of ethanol for production of 1.67, which means for every one unit of energy we use to produce ethanol, we receive in return 1.67 units of energy. To produce gasoline, for every one unit of energy we invest in producing gasoline, we get back .79 energy units. Of the seventeen studies that have been published since the early 1990s, thirteen of them contend that biofuels have a positive energy balance. How much corn is being used for ethanol versus food? Corn is a commodity. Commodity prices are influenced by market speculation. Prices rose in 2007. You need to remember that ethanol is produced from only the corn starch component of corn. One hundred percent of the protein is retained and returned to the food chain as co-products such as high value livestock feed. Most field corn is directly fed to livestock and is never intended for human consumption. How much water? It typically takes two and a half to four gallons to produce ethanol per gallon. Gasoline takes two and a half to four gallons to produce one gallon of gasoline. To put this in perspective, according to the US EPA, it takes two to seven gallons of water

just to flush your commode. What effect does ethanol have on air quality? E85, instead of petroleum based fuel can reduce ozone forming tail pipe and evaporative emissions as well as life cycle emissions of air toxins and greenhouse gases. E85 instead of gasoline can prevent the release of toxic chemicals into our environment. On a fuel life cycle basis, E85 is produced from corn. It can reduce carbon dioxide emissions or carbon footprint by twenty to thirty percent. What if Exxon -- what if the Exxon Valdeese Had carried ethanol instead of crude oil? And I want you to pay attention to this, because safety is the biggest concern we have. The environmental damage caused by petroleum spills is obvious. While a spill of any fuel has negative effects, a release of ethanol or biodiesel is minor in comparison. Biofuels are biodegradable. Most biofuels are closer to home than petroleum that is often transported across the globe. Using renewable based fuels closer to the point of production means a shorter supply chain and reduced risk of -- reduced security risk of accidental release or malicious attack. Ethanol is biodegradable. After the tragic sinking of the Bow Mariner off the coast of Virginia in 2004, US Coastguard officials noted the ship's cargo of 3.2 million gallons of ethanol had dissipated quickly and did not pose a danger to humans or marine life. Ethanol is biodegradable. Agencies and regulation. I have tons of slides on this and I'm gonna go through them quickly. There are so many I'm not going to waste your time. You can spend all your time next week looking them up. The PHS -- PHMSA Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration, Department of Transportation. This is only a few of them that I got to. The Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation. This is just the beginning of the regulations that we have to face when we're facing how to transport and if we can transport ethanol. The State of South Carolina Office of Staff -- of Regulatory Staff, they have an entire book of regulations that we have to follow just to be able to be in service, let alone carry ethanol. And on a side note, I want you to know that the Greenville and Western Railway has received accolades and praise from this department for our diligence and compliance with all rules and regulations. The Association of American Railroads office manual and field manual of AAR interchange rules. There's a whole manual for us to follow and we have to follow those regulations.

It's required by law. The STB, the Surface Transportation Board, there are various regulations and numerous and very thick and very time consuming to read. The TSA, the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security. The regulations are various and extensive and it also includes dissemination of safety sensitive information on a need to know basis. The USC, the United States Code, they're various and numerous. It is important to note that the Greenville and Western Railway has never had a violation as a result of any inspection by any agency in our entire existence for the last two years. Addressing train derailments. Train derailments are very rare. They are not common. When derailments occur, in most cases the derailed cars remain within twenty-five feet of the centerline of the track. The existence of a one hundred foot right-of-way, which is exactly -- or actually we have a little more than that is what we have, it reduces any potential for any impacts during any derailment. More regulations. The US Department of Transportation, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health have established requirements for the transportation of hazardous materials on rail lines, including procedures for planning and transportation incidents and responding to them, which are more regulations, by OSHA. And more regulations. The US DOT established requirements for shipping and packaging of containers holding hazardous materials. USDA also sets out the training standards for people carrying out those deals. The FRA has authority to ensure the safe movement of rail traffic and so on. There are more regulations. And I'm just gonna keep going. You can see that there are so many pages of regulations. But after we get done with the governmental regulations, we have voluntary regulations. The CSX, the Greenville and Western Railway and Lincoln Energy Solutions are members of Chemtrec. Much to my surprise when I got here this evening, I found out that Anderson County is as well. We do have a system in place for the protection of the people in the event there is a problem at this site. Chemtrec was established by the American Chemistry Council and is devoted to the improvement of containers used for shipping liquid chemicals as well as providing emergency response information and assistance. There's a huge amount of information here about Chemtrec and how emergencies are handled and how

they have information available to the physicians that are handling any injuries. They have information available to our emergency responders. They have access to additional emergency responders in the event the problem is large enough for us to need more. Chemtrec is also, just to tell you about their qualifications, they were called to 911, the rescue efforts. They have been referred to by numerous worldwide and federal government agencies because of their expertise. The Clean Cities Program, it coordinates activities and -- but the private and public sectors and components of alternative fuel vehicles by providing them with a form to discover their commonalities and to investigate opportunities for joint projects. Now specific Clean City goals are creating new jobs and ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Plummer.

AMY PLUMMER: -- commercial opportunities.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Your time has expired. Thank you very much. I think you need a few more regulations.

AMY PLUMMER: My point is, I just ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time has expired. Thank you. South Carolina Foothills Search and Rescue, Incorporated. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chair, would you please not start their time until they can get down here with the animals.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Animals, take your places.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Preston, would you position the microphone for them, please? Okay. Mr. Chair, I thank you. County council members and the audience as well, I would like to introduce to you Sherry Malone. I met her and I was so impressed with what she does. It's something that we know is there but we never talk about it. I invited her here tonight to talk about this. Ms. Malone, thank you for coming. Would you please introduce your other people that are with you and the dogs.

CHERI MILAN: Yes, thank you. This is our search manager, Dave Milan with his K-9 Frisko. This is our vice president of the team, Mark Sutton and his K-9 Skyy. And a member of our team, Rob Clinedinst. His K-9 is not here tonight. He runs K-9 jigs. And actually I'm going to turn it over to our search manager, Dave Milan to talk about our team.

DAVE MILAN: Basically what we would like to let Anderson County know is what we do, our services. We are a search and rescue team. We run training dogs, tracking dogs, air scent dogs and cadaver dogs, human remains. Our members, we have about sixteen members on our team. We run thirteen trained dogs. Seven of those dogs are certified dogs and handlers. We currently have members from Spartanburg, Greenville, Laurens, Anderson counties. We deploy anywhere throughout the Southeast. So we are not just within one county. We have ran searches either as mutual aid which is called to help another agency, another dog team, or went to run the search in Anderson County, in Oconee County, Greenville County, Richland County, Pisgah in Georgia -- or I'm sorry, North Carolina, and in Georgia. A couple of the higher profile cases, the Meredith Emerson case, we were running on it. The John and Irene Bryant case in North Carolina we went to. But there are low profile cases also that you never hear about that are equally as important. When someone you know is missing, it's an emergency. We need to get there. All of our members have jobs, normal jobs. They are unpaid professional. Anything from, Mark works at an electronics company, Sherry works at a printing company, Rob is a highway patrolman. We have engineers, nurses, doctors, firemen. They have everyday jobs. Luckily their bosses, business owners understand what we do. When we get a call typically we'll deploy within one hour where we are headed. And we are there for the duration. If that means one week, we're there for a week. We rotate out. Everyone carries twenty-four hour packs in their cars. They can live out of their vehicles with their dogs. We search all night. Typically we prefer to search at night. We work with your emergency services, with your sheriff's department, with your police department, with your agencies. We are a resource there for you. We do not charge for our services. It's through donations. It's through what we can raise. In some cases it would be great if we can get some expenses covered. Typically we get fed. Anderson County has been good to us. We want to thank Scott Stoler who is I think your EMS Director. He's been helping us. All of our team is getting their first responder certification and he's made that available for us. So as with Greenville County, they allow us to use their helicopter. All the dogs have

to be certified on helicopters, along with our staff. Again, we're available to Anderson County. We do have to be called -- one of our rules is, we need to be called up by an agency, whether it's through your sheriff's office, your fire chief, your emergency services. We will not come out for a family. Okay. So we have operating procedures. And we just want you to know we are available or if you have any questions we'll answer those.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes. The dogs that you brought along with you are the actual dogs that are used to go out and search when people are missing. Am I correct? These dogs are highly trained.

DAVE MILAN: They are. Frisko is strictly a cadaver dog. She has her advanced international certification. The certification is as a team, me and her. If we ever split up, we both lose the certification. I also have Ice, he is a German shepherd. He has an international certification in trailing and cadaver. His certification is through what's called IPWDA, International Police Work Dog Association. Team Skyy and Mark, training -- I'm sorry -- air scent dog. He's also a trailing dog.

GRACIE FLOYD: How many dogs do you have down there?

DAVE MILAN: We have two down here right now. Yeah, two German shepherd are here. We also have labs, golden retrievers on our team, blood hounds on our team, Aussies on our team. Each dog is trained and certified in a specific discipline.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Tell me quickly, I want to get all this in, tell me about your funding. You serve, what, three counties? I mean, you serve all over, but particularly the three counties, am I correct?

DAVE MILAN: That's correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. What about your fundings from each of those counties?

DAVE MILAN: From each of those counties right now we have no direct funding. We make an effort to -- we are beginning to have to make an effort to try to get our expenses covered for our deployment and searches, which is our gas, our meals, resources we use up when we go out on a search, and our training expenses.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. If you are on a search, you said that you stay out sometimes as much as a week?

DAVE MILAN: That's correct.

GRACIE FLOYD: If you are out doing this for a week, where do you stay, where are the dogs housed, you know, just what happens?

DAVE MILAN: Depending on the actual search and the area, people will take their tents, they will sleep in their cars, they're gonna rotate in and out. Some will actually take shifts and try to get home to take twelve hours at home, come back for a second search period, third search period.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Council members, I don't want to take up all the time, but at the last meeting if you will remember, I gave you some information on this and I also gave you a budget that was given to me. I think this is a worthwhile entity here. And I do think it merits our attention and our funds. And next year, I would like to see this as a line item from Anderson County. Maybe it can go through the emergency preparation department -- preparedness, excuse me, emergency preparedness department. Oh, I'll be here next year. I'm hoping. Okay. But anyway, please, I would like to see that as a line item because what you do is worthwhile. Council members, do you have questions?

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: You said the dogs are certified in their own discipline. Is a certain breed preferred for each discipline they're involved in?

DAVE MILAN: No. It doesn't have to be a specific breed, but the dog needs to have specific traits. We're looking for very high drive dogs. The dog needs high ball drive, pray drive and play drive. Every dog is not going to be cut out for search and rescue work. The standards that these dogs must meet are extremely high. The organizations we test through, which is IPWDA. We have about five different organizations, including FEMA, that we will accept their certifications are extremely rough and every dog won't make it. Maybe one out of one hundred dogs that you bring to assess for search and rescue will make it.

BILL MCABEE: Well, I want to thank Ms. Floyd for bringing this organization to our attention. I wasn't even aware of their existence until you brought this before council.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it?

BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank

you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Wait a minute. Do we have some more time? How much more? I'm gonna use it. Sherry, would you like to say anything for thirty seconds?

SHERRY MALONE: Actually I'd just like to thank you for this opportunity. I met you a couple of weeks ago, a very enjoyable dinner, and on behalf of South Carolina Foothills Search and Rescue, we just appreciate it and we are out there to -- we want to help. We want to find the missing person. It could be our own kid and there is just nothing like the adrenaline rush that you get when you're out on one of these searches finding somebody and changing a family.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, it's us who should be thanking you for the work that you do. And with that, Mr. Chair, I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: We need a break.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Fifteen minute break.

APPLAUSE

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: 7A, Ordinance's third reading, Ordinance 2008-052, an ordinance amending section 55-31 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to travel and subsidence and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. McAbee. Any discussion?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: In going through the ordinance I noted that it refers to the federal rules. Is that the chairman's understanding?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's my understanding that we are tying our per diem to the federal rates.

BOB WALDREP: Right.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And as the federal rates fluctuate so would ours.

BOB WALDREP: Do we know what those federal rates are?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Rita Davis.

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, the mileage rate currently, federal rate is fifty-eight point five and the meals is thirty-nine dollar a day unless it's a high cost locality. Publication 15-42 itemizes the high cost localities and accordingly that rate is higher. For instances, Hilton Head or Myrtle

Beach currently is fifty-four dollars for meals and incidental expenses.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Is that per meal or per day?

RITA DAVIS: Per day.

BOB WALDREP: Per day?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir. The per diem rate.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Are those guidelines going to be provided to county employees?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Is it your understanding that this applies to all county employees? All county employees?

RITA DAVIS: On government travel, yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: For government travel?

RITA DAVIS: Of course, you know, you have exemptions like economic development matters and I think the code gives the administrator, you know, the ability to ---

BOB WALDREP: To vary that?

RITA DAVIS: Those issues. But typically the government travel and business will be limited to the amount per the federal rate.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I guess I just wondered, we don't have any guidelines for economic development? Is that just kind of like just unlimited or up to the discretion of the economic development as to how much money they spend on travel, entertainment?

RITA DAVIS: I'll have to research that, sir, and get back with you on that.

BOB WALDREP: Well, last ---

RITA DAVIS: As far as the limitations regarding economic development.

BOB WALDREP: The last meeting we had, I think I questioned this to some degree and it was my understanding it was all employees. And how about county council members, we're not included? Mr. Chairman, did you understand county council members are excluded from this?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. County council members are county employees.

BOB WALDREP: My heavens, I didn't realize we're employed by the public.

RITA DAVIS: On exhibit A it does say, county administrator must approve exceptions.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Beg your pardon?

RITA DAVIS: Exhibit A that itemizes the new section 55-31, it says that the county administrator must approve exceptions. The county ---

BOB WALDREP: So the county administrator would approve the travel exceptions for a county council members; is that correct?

RITA DAVIS: No, sir, just in general. If you deviate from the policy it requires the approval of the county administrator. And it goes on to say the county will make reasonable expense allowances to cover travel related costs.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. I just wonder who approves that? That would be the administrator, though, wouldn't it?

RITA DAVIS: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: So the administrator approves the travel of the county council members?

RITA DAVIS: Well, any deviation from the per diem rates.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I just wanted to know who was running things. Thank you. Okay. Appreciate it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote, Ordinance 2008-052. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-053, an ordinance amending section 55-38 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to retiree insurance and other matters related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? Mr. Greer seconds. Any discussion? Hearing and seeing no one, the chair ---

BOB WALDREP: Did this get back into the issue that's on the ballot this time that has to do with anything to do with investments into equities and stock equities of retirement? Is that related to this in anyway?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Davis, Ms. McAlister, Mr. Preston, anyone can answer that? We don't know? Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Waldrep, I'll take a shot at it. I don't think so. The ballot issue simply allows the state retirement fund and the state health plan fund, I think they're two separate issues, to be invested into equity stocks. This particular issue has to do with the county's own local funding of the county's liability for retiree insurance. Currently it is self-funded on an ongoing basis. Annually you

appropriate the money for it. But because of the change in the federal regulations concerning retiree insurance, now you're going to have to budget for it. So I don't think any -- I don't think the referendum on the constitutional amendment is going to affect how the county invests its fund. I'll refer to Rita and Gina on that. I don't think their plan gets into the investment as much as how it is actually funded. Not by putting the money into a trust fund, but literally creating a retiree insurance account from which the money can be drawn. So I think the two are unrelated.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, there's one thing. This matter on the ballot, I think it's extremely important that everybody kind of take a look at this and understand this. I don't know whether it has a limitation of investment on the county, you know, investments at all. That was something that I did not see in the vote or the explanation of the vote, whether it had a limitation in it. I knew at one time the state had a limitation as to how much of the funds that they could invest, and I think that's very important. I wish I had more light on that subject. People are going to be voting on that tomorrow and already have voted on it. Anyway, thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-053. All in favor, please vote. Six to zero. Unanimous. Thank you. Oh, yeah, Ms. Floyd has excused herself. Item C, Ordinance 2008-054. Mr. McAbee recuses himself. An ordinance authorizing a fee in lieu of tax arrangement on behalf of Lincoln Oil Company, Incorporated and B & B Properties, LLC and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second? *Recusal Attached.*

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer seconds. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: As this is in my district, I want to point out again that while I certainly want to embrace and encourage economic development, I'm also gravely concerned about the people living adjoining this project. I also want to point out that in Friday's Wall Street Journal, I believe it was, one of the major ethanol companies is preparing to file for bankruptcy and says it's an humbling turnabout for a company that grew to be one of the largest US

ethanol producers, called Vera-Sun Energy Corporation. It talks about that Vera-Sun was unable to withstand moves in the wider commodity markets. In recent months ethanol prices have dropped, along with oil prices. This cut into the profit margins. So we saw the impact on farming, which was a bright spot, but along with the increase in the corn it also costs more to grow it. There are so many aspects to the ethanol equation and to other alternative fuels, I do have to ask the question, what happened to our biodiesel plant that was going in, I think it was in Mr. Greer's district? We voted on a package of incentives there. And to my knowledge nothing has ever happened. But because I'm very concerned about this situation and I've really essentially gotten very little help from a number of our council members, I would like to make a motion to table this until our next council meeting and all of us make an effort, maybe a called meeting inviting the railroad officials and also the ethanol plant principals to come and meet with us and see if we can't work out something that would be advantageous to the ethanol plant and also would protect those citizens living in close proximity. And that's in the form of a motion.

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to table and a second. All in favor of tabling Ordinance 2008-054, please vote. Two. Oppose. Three. Motion to table fails. Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one, chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-054, please vote. Three. Oppose. Two. Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson opposed. Ordinance passed three to two. Mr. McAbee is back. Item 12, ordinance's second reading, Ordinance 2008-043, an ordinance authorizing amendments to a lease dated September 29, 1966 with the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Mental Health Center for the purpose of updating and revising the lease and to lease additional Anderson County property to the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Mental Health Center and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer seconds. Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I see that it's updating and revising the lease. Does anyone have just the quick terms of what the lease is, what changes are being made?

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
We can address that at the pleasure of council.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's the pleasure of council.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Adam Artigliere is the one working on the lease and will be happy to address that.

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Artigliere.

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: The original lease is in your packet. It's kind of difficult to read. It's the black lease that is in there. You can sort of see the old copy of the lease. The amendment to the lease is also included in the packet. It should be Exhibit B I believe. The amendment actually allows for termination of the lease before 2016, which is the current fifty year termination of the lease.

BOB WALDREP: By either party?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: If the parties decide to move forward with building the new center at the new location, which the new ground lease is actually in the packet as well, if that decision is made then they can terminate the lease on the current building.

BOB WALDREP: Who owns the real estate?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Anderson County.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. So we're the landlord?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: And with the right to terminate?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Yes, sir. And this clarifies the right to terminate. The old lease, which was drafted in 1966 currently doesn't have an early termination provision in it.

BOB WALDREP: And what is actually on -- this is an improvement for the Mental Health Center that's actually built on this property?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: There is currently a mental health center located at a different location which is where the original ground lease, the fifty year ground lease that's in place, they have proposed to build a new building at a new site which is just down the street and that is what the new ground lease is for. So if they do build that at the new site, then the amendment to the current lease allows to terminate the current lease.

BOB WALDREP: What's the term? What's the year term of it now?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: The present lease, the current lease that's in place, is a fifty year term.

BOB WALDREP: Fifty?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Fifty, yes, sir. And the new lease is also a fifty year term.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. You can terminate -- is there any money changing hands?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: No, sir.

BOB WALDREP: It's a dollar a year lease?

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Well, it's a dollar for the entire term.

BOB WALDREP: Well, make sure you get our dollar.

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: I certainly will.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

ADAM ARTIGLIERE: Yes, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote, Ordinance 2008-043. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance first reading, Ordinance 2008-056, an ordinance to amend Ordinance 98-019 as previously amended by Ordinance 99-029 and others relating to the industrial business park of Anderson and Greenville counties so as to enlarge the park. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second.

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a seconded by Mr. Greer. We are in discussion. Any discussion? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I'm sorry, I haven't read that packet, but when we say enlarge it, are we buying anything or are we just -- are we buying more property?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Waldrep, no, sir. This is property that Greenville County is adding to the park. And so all of the property for this particular amendment is in Greenville County. But because it's a multi-county park, they have to get our permission to add it.

BOB WALDREP: That answers it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote, Ordinance 2008-056. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Item B, Ordinance 2008-057 has been removed by request of the administrator. Number 14, appointments. Do any council members have any appointments? Seeing and hearing none, moving on. Requests by council members. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I just wanted to check with a couple of requests that I made from Mr. Hopkins about the fire department at -- was that invoked or was that put in place for the paving of the fire department? I think I requested it last meeting. For the paving of the parking lot at the new fire department on Old Williamston Road.

HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir, you approved the money and the fire department has started the grading on it. It won't be time to pave it, though, until March.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. And the second thing, the deal with the city, with that facility for the city gazebo.

HOLT HOPKINS: The city is working on getting prices.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. So nothing is effected. Okay. I appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I move to appropriate one thousand dollars from the district three paving account for paving, grading and drainage at the Grove Fire Department.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else, Mr. Greer?

LARRY GREER: That's it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's it. Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: None at this time, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: None. Okay. I move to approve -- I move to approve. I move to appropriate from the district five recreation account one thousand to Clean Start and two thousand two hundred nineteen dollars and thirty-four cents to the Fusion Warehouse. Do I have a second.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a second. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. And that is all for district five. Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: None at this time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I would like to appropriate from the district seven recreation account a hundred and fifty dollars for the South Carolina

Foothills Search and Rescue group, if that's an appropriate 501(c)3. And that's in the form of a motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir. On September the 2nd, twenty-nine thousand dollars was appropriated from the district seven paving account after months of working with our department of transportation for the Cheddar Youth Center project and this was a very time sensitive issue because the project was to have been done between the fall and before spring practice. And we've now been informed that this project won't even be begun until spring. And I'd like to request that we have this project in place as we had promised. It's not everyday that you have a large foundation that contributes money to a worthy organization like this. And this has been a small group of people doing great things for the youth in that area. We've put into budget budgets of anywhere from five hundred to seven hundred thousand dollars for projects in districts, district six, district three, district two, I believe, and district five. But here we have a legitimate appropriation. It was one that's been worked on since May and now I'm being told that. And I would like to have a written response as to why we can't get this paving project put into place as promised in time for their spring practice season.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Preston, can you get Ms. Wilson a written response?

JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. Ms. Wilson wrote me a letter today requesting that I respond to that. I was not aware that the work had not been done. I've forwarded this to Mr. Hopkins and asked him to provide a response and he's gonna do that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Administrator's report.
Any comments?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, please.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: We didn't have an opportunity to discuss our administrator's report at the last council meeting, but we had a letter regarding the sale of the Tri-County landfill that was to have been forwarded to each member of council, and it was dated July 31st, and we only got it last week.

Now, this council meeting we have two very important issues, one is a letter from our auditor regarding the tax levy for 2008. And I think it's dated -- well, it's dated October 15th. I wondered if we could get a report on that. And also, if I could get a copy of the population projections. Because what's in our package isn't very clear. I can't really read but just the cover stuff that's typed. But back to the tax levy for 2008. It states that the assessed property values -- okay. It says -- according to Mr. Hunter it says, I have reviewed the attached 2008 tax levies and do not believe that they meet the requirements of Act 388. The assessed property values as a result of reassessment increased approximately eight and a half percent after deducting 2007 new construction sales from the total. Act 388 allows for four and a half percent increase in millage for the 2008 year. This should have caused a three mil approximately reduction from the 75.4 mils in 2007. It goes on to state that section 61-320 millage rate increase limitation does not allow for the creation of an infrastructure reserve fund as an exception in a reassessment year. He states, I discussed this with the Department of Revenue and was told that the millage cannot go over the four and a half percent cap for this purpose. This is not an exception under this section of the code. Do we have any resolution ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, we do.

CINDY WILSON: -- for this?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You want me to tell you what it is?

CINDY WILSON: Pardon?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have resolution.

CINDY WILSON: Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have contacted the Department of Revenue and requested them to come and look at our books, our numbers, and they are to verify yea or nay if we are in compliance.

CINDY WILSON: Do you have any idea when that might take place?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have a date on that, Mr. Preston?

JOEY PRESTON: Sometime extremely soon. They were contacted two weeks ago and they'll be up to take a look at it. And it's clearly stated in the memo that's in your packet, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Okay. Well, that would be interesting to get that resolved. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Citizens' comments. Do we have any people signed up, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, you have one.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One. Citizens' comments. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address the county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. And when you come forward, please give your name, address and the county council district. Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, I signed up -- Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, Belton, Highpoint Precinct. I signed up just to be able to react to whatever might have happened tonight. And you misbehaved a little bit, but not badly enough for me to say much more. So have a good time voting tomorrow.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Remarks from council members. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you very much. First of all, at the last council meeting I was challenged on a credit card expenditure where I questioned a large tip. And I want to point out that that expenditure was on a county credit card that it's basically number six from Mr. Preston, our administrator, and the date on it was April 15th, last spring, '07, and this was to the Striped Bass in Philadelphia. The expenditure was five hundred fifty-five dollars and fifteen cents. The tip was a hundred and forty-one dollars and seventy-five cents. And it related to I think it was the American Planning Association conference. And I think our planning director went and maybe our administrator. But that was just one of quite a few expenditures. Now the other matter that I wanted to finish was when I was asking Mr. Martin who signed the waiver allowing McNair Law Firm to represent an entity other than the county on a matter that was coming before the county.

Would it be possible to get an answer now, please, Mr. Martin?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin, do you have an answer?

TOM MARTIN: Certainly. Ms. Wilson, that was signed by the county administrator.

CINDY WILSON: And did you not have something to do with the drafting and amending of the administrator's employment contract with the county at some point?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, ma'am, I did. I drafted the original contract and I amended it.

CINDY WILSON: Seems like that's a major conflict of interest right there. We really -- it just seems like we have great difficulty in getting a lot of our legal questions answered because there's an inherent conflict of interest built into the system already. It seems to me that on matters involving the county that -- involving conflicts that perhaps the council should be notified in advance of an item coming on the agenda and perhaps we as a council should be required to review and approve or disapprove in addition to the administrator. Thank you very much.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say it's been a pleasant evening so far. I've enjoyed being here. A lot of times before I come to council meetings I get a little tensed up. So this was a far better meeting. I just wanted to also say that I hope that we will have learned something by this ethanol situation that we came up with and that we'll be more vigilant. I have to accept responsibility for not knowing more than I did about it and how it would affect these hundred people or so out there in the Cheddar Community. But other than that, I just hope everybody will scrupulously read all those amendments that are proposed tomorrow and that you'll be able to get out and vote and exercise your freedom. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We managed to make it through another council meeting without a serious amount of blood letting. And so everyone remember to get out and vote. Hopefully we'll have a big turnout tomorrow and things will go well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: No comments.
MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Making News.
Making Progress.

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, ANDERSON COUNTY

FROM: Bill McAbee

DATE: October 7, 2008, October 21, 2008 and Nov. 3, 2008

RE: Recusal from County Council participation due to potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety

Resolution R2008-043 - 10-7-08

Ordinance 2008-054 - 10-7-08, 10-21-08, 11-3-08

Pursuant to Section 8-13-700, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, I am hereby giving notice of my abstention from the matter regarding the issue of Fee-in-lieu for Lincoln Energy and

Lewis Rd Closures

as it appears before Anderson County Council on See above, 2008

The potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety for which I am recusing myself and abstaining from participation is: ongoing business relationship

(for example: a personal or financial interest in the matter in question; a conflict or appearance of impropriety due to business or other relationships with one or more of the parties involved; and so forth).

This document is to be filed as a matter of public record, and is to be included with the official minutes of the County Council meeting at which the matter in question was brought before Anderson County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

W.A. McAbee

Attachment A
to minutes of
10/7/08
10/21/08
11/3/08 ✓



Post Office Box 8002 • Anderson, S.C. 29622-8002
(864) 260-4000

www.andersoncountysc.org

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – November 18, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We will begin our meeting,
2 regular council meeting for November 18, 2008, six p.m.
3 We will have an invocation and pledge of allegiance by
4 council member Bill McAbee.

5 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a vehicle with the
7 lights on. It's a dark blue Honda Civic LX, South
8 Carolina tax 804 5CY. If you're driving that, your
9 lights are on. Mr. Ron Wilson sent word that he is
10 running late. So please note that we are beginning the
11 meeting without him. And if I sound like I'm out of
12 breath, that's because I am. I've got that crud and
13 just bear with me. Approval of the minutes for
14 November the 3rd, 2008. Chair moves to approve. Is
15 there a second.

16 LARRY GREER: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
18 discussion? Seeing and hearing no one, chair calls for
19 the vote. All in favor, please vote. It is unanimous.
20 We have citizens comments, agenda matters. How many,
21 Mr. Martin?

22 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you have one
23 agenda matters.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Instructions.
25 Meetings of county council are legislative meetings
26 based upon the representative form of government and
27 are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not
28 town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is
29 for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and
30 input. It is not a time for debate, question and
31 answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not
32 more than three minutes to address the county council.
33 You are asked to please refrain from addressing members
34 of the audience by name. Please direct your comments
35 to the council chair and only to the council chair.
36 When you come forward, please give your name, address
37 and the county council district in which you live and
38 agenda item on which you wish to speak.

39 TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

40 MARK POWELL: My name is Mark Powell. I
41 live on Hogg Road in Williamston. Cindy Wilson's
42 district, district seven. Just as a plea from
43 everything on the agenda tonight and in the past, in
44 the modern age we live, for us to have to call our
45 council member and ask for detailed descriptions of
46 what these agenda matters really are, I mean, if you
47 look at the ones you give us tonight, the thing for the
48 Greenville County, Pickens, Anderson County industrial
49 park, that's all it says. We have no clue exactly what
50 you're necessarily up to. So if you could post those

1 on the internet on the Anderson County website so that
2 we the citizens who care and are concerned and want to
3 be informed without having to call everyday. Like
4 today we had no opportunity. We did not have our
5 agenda listed on the internet website of Anderson
6 County today. I was told that the scanner was broken
7 or wasn't working. I would like to think that in the
8 world we live, instead of having to pay an employee to
9 sit there and scan a hundred and fifty-nine pages from
10 two weeks ago -- actually it was four weeks ago --
11 instead of scanning onto the computer, it is all given
12 to you in the form of a disc I am sure as far as the
13 minutes from the last meeting, so if that could be
14 listed on the internet you would not have to have an
15 employee sitting there scanning a hundred and fifty
16 something pages to list it on the computer. I would
17 think the reason you don't do that is you don't want us
18 to get a copy of Anderson County, quote, unquote,
19 minutes, to be able to modify it technically to make it
20 look like it's the real minutes when it could be a
21 fraudulent one. But you can also do Word documents in
22 such a way they can be locked and they cannot be messed
23 with. I would please ask you that you would allow us
24 to have information on Anderson County's website so
25 that we can be informed without having to call our
26 representative or the county council or the county
27 offices and taking up precious times of ours, as well
28 as our employees and our council members so we can be
29 informed. Thank you very much.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number five, industrial
31 announcements. Mr. Preston and Ms. Jones.

32 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, we've got some
33 news to provide to council tonight concerning some
34 industries that are expanding. I'm gonna ask Ms.
35 Heather Jones to come forward. Heather provided
36 council members with a news release and a copy of a
37 memo prior to the council meeting. Heather.

38 HEATHER JONES: Good evening, ladies and
39 gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Preston, members of
40 council and Mr. Martin. Thank you for the opportunity
41 to come tonight and just give you an update on not only
42 some of our existing industries, but a little bit of
43 good news about our pipeline and economic development
44 projects as a whole. Later on this evening I hope that
45 you'll look favorably upon third reading for AFCO as
46 they look to expand in Anderson County in a very
47 competitive project with Mexico. As previously noted,
48 that's a forty-eight million dollar plus expansion,
49 with the opportunity for twenty new jobs. In addition
50 to that opportunity tonight, the letter that I provided

1 outlines that Orian Rugs has recently announced that
2 they will also be expanding in an eighteen million
3 dollar expansion and creating the opportunity for fifty
4 new employees at that facility in Anderson. Thirdly,
5 the Clemson University Advance Material Center a few
6 weeks ago also announced that they will have two new
7 client companies out there. One in optics and optical
8 fibers, a Florida company, and the other one a medical
9 device company that does coatings for medical devices.
10 So those two companies together providing about ten
11 jobs at the advance material center in the research and
12 high technology economy. The other existing industry
13 that I wanted to mention this evening is Walgreens.
14 They've been a success story for us since they arrived
15 to Anderson. But they continue to be a success story.
16 And recently they were allocated a hundred and sixty
17 new stores for which this distribution center would
18 serve. And in that new announcements, they will be
19 able to add an additional fifty jobs. They're
20 currently at five hundred and fifty-eight employees and
21 the addition will bring them to six oh eight. And just
22 as a point of record, as we all know, their strides to
23 bring about employment opportunities for the declared
24 disabled, they're at thirty-eight percent right now in
25 their employment pool. So in addition to these
26 announcements, you will also see on the press release
27 that we're at about eighty-four million dollars to date
28 on investment in the county and we continue to work on
29 those. We have four more existing industries that
30 we're working with right now and hope to be able to
31 bring those to fruition by the end of the year. And
32 then we have eleven projects in the pipeline that we're
33 currently working with to bring new industry business
34 to Anderson County. And if you will note, that's a
35 very diversified group of folks. We've talked about
36 automotive, we've talked about advance materials, we've
37 talked about distribution. But in addition to those,
38 we're also seeing aeronautics, customer care centers
39 and a variety of other diversified industry sectors for
40 Anderson County.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any comments from council?

42 GRACIE FLOYD: I have one.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

44 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. The last
45 paragraph of this thing, of the letter that you gave us
46 tonight, reads, and I'd like to read it, okay, because
47 it says a lot.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It says,
50 although the economy has been on a downward tractory

1 (sic) across the nation, our county's rich and diverse
2 offering, low taxes, qualified work force, ample
3 training facilities, quality research and education
4 available at Clemson University and state of the art
5 technology industries help us to remain stable during
6 these difficult economic times. Anderson County has
7 much to offer which has helped us maintain our appeal
8 to industry looking for a new home, as well as provide
9 fertile soil for the expansion and growth of our
10 industries. Now, doesn't that say a lot about us?
11 Doesn't that say a lot about us? Doesn't that make you
12 think, are they talking about us? I mean after all the
13 negativism we've been hearing lately. And you say,
14 hey, that's us, rich and diverse, offering low taxes,
15 qualified work force. I'm proud of this. I'm proud of
16 the fact that this is happening to us.

17 HEATHER JONES: Thank you.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: All you have to do is just
19 keep on keeping on.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Thank you, Ms.
21 Jones.

22 HEATHER JONES: Thank you very much for your
23 time.

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative). Good
25 job.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number six, assessment
27 of the fiscal impact of projected population growth
28 study. Mr. Preston, ten minutes.

29 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, I'm gonna ask Mr.
30 Jeff Ricketson to come forward and introduce our guest
31 tonight -- that's with us tonight.

32 JEFF RICKETSON: Mr. Chairman and members of
33 the council, for the last couple of decades we've had
34 some pretty robust growth and development in Anderson
35 County and during that time there's been a lot of
36 discussion among you all and previous councils about
37 what that growth means for the fiscal impacts on
38 Anderson County. And we've had a study done recently,
39 you have a copy of that in your agenda, and with us
40 tonight we have Mr. Bill Molnar and Mr. Dave Lamie from
41 Clemson, who are going to give a brief presentation on
42 that, on their findings.

43 BILL MOLNAR: Good evening and thank you
44 very much for having this evening. I want to thank the
45 county council as well as Mr. (Microphone turned off)
46 -- there we go -- for working with us and helping us to
47 move this project along. I also would like to
48 introduce Wallace Campbell. Wallace is a graduate
49 student in Applied Economics at Clemson and helped us
50 with the project in the last three months. As Jeff had

1 mentioned, what we took a look at is the estimated
2 expenses and revenues due to growth over the next
3 twenty years. This project was started earlier this
4 year and what I'd like to do is turn this over to Dr.
5 Lamie so he can tell you about the results.

6 DAVE LAMIE: Very well, and thank you
7 very much for having me here this evening. We've got
8 about ten slides up here to show you. And I'm not sure
9 if you can see them from where you're sitting, but --
10 oh, you do have them on your monitors. Okay. Very
11 well. And you have the report as well, which provides
12 much more detail than we're going to be showing
13 tonight. So these are just some highlights basically
14 of what was in the report. First of all, kind of the
15 purpose of a fiscal impact assessment, I'm not sure if
16 you've had one done here in the county before, but the
17 primary purpose of this, again, is to look at the costs
18 and revenues associated with projected residential and
19 population growth in the county. Your own planning
20 department has a set of estimates out there that
21 they've had I guess published for a couple of years
22 anyway projecting growth to go from about a hundred and
23 -- just under a hundred and ninety-four thousand in
24 2008 to roughly two hundred and eighty thousand by two
25 thousand twenty-eight. So it's of interest to know
26 what kind of housing demand is that gonna generate and
27 what kind of tax base is that gonna generate and what
28 kind of associated costs of providing government
29 services is that going to generate as well, and to
30 compare those. So if you go into the literature you'll
31 see a lot of studies out there, a lot of them done by
32 the American Farmland Trust and others that kind of
33 bring the point home that growth -- residential growth
34 does not always pay for itself. In many cases it's
35 been proven that it's not paying for itself. We have a
36 need to do some planning and budgeting in order to make
37 the kinds of changes that might be necessary at this
38 point in time so that we've not always finding
39 ourselves catching up in the future and we want our
40 management to prepare for the effects of this growth.
41 Our approach in this study, a couple of things we did
42 here. One is we spent quite a bit of time interviewing
43 the Anderson County staff and officials to get a good
44 handle on where housing prices, at least were I guess
45 back earlier this year, spring and summer. Things have
46 changed somewhat since then. To get an idea of
47 population growth in general and in particular kind of
48 what we think the spacial allocation of that population
49 growth might be. And then to get a good handle on the
50 idea of where the capital projects needed to support

1 that growth, the infrastructure projects,
2 transportation, roads and bridges, sanitation
3 department needs, and those sorts of things were and
4 what kind of excess capacity you might currently have
5 in the system that could be taken advantage of that
6 could absorb some of that growth or where you might
7 have needs to actually engage in some additional
8 infrastructure development. We used a per capita
9 multiplier method to basically kind of get at the
10 operational expenses that we would expect to occur over
11 time, and a lot more of the detail of the actual
12 specific assumptions we made in the study, again, are
13 in that report. The baseline model assumptions are, as
14 you can see up here, we looked at single family housing
15 and multi-family housing. We had our occupancy rates,
16 as you can see there, higher in single family housing
17 than multi-family housing. We had per unit occupancy
18 rates which were the same in both. And allocated
19 ninety-five percent of this new population growth in
20 the single family housing. And most folks that were
21 looking at our assumptions thought that we were
22 probably pretty well on target with that. Average
23 market value for housing around a hundred and sixty
24 thousand dollars in the baseline year. And the
25 population growth rate again at just under two percent,
26 one point six four. And we had a housing inflation
27 rate of three percent. We all know that at least here
28 in the short term, I'm not sure specifically what's
29 happened to your housing market, but we know nationally
30 we've seen a decline in housing values and we've seen
31 some -- we know what's happening with the economy on
32 the national level. But some of the short term
33 implications of our study might be in need of
34 adjustment perhaps. But longer term, over a twenty
35 year period, we think that these things will kind of
36 catch back on and the housing demand will grow at these
37 rates. The sources of revenue, they came from the
38 population growth. I can see here we have property tax
39 revenue. We have non-tax revenues. We have increases
40 in local business activity we accounted for, and the
41 structure of revenue has not changed much over time as
42 a result of growth. You can see we have 2008 structure
43 of revenue and 2028. The operating expenses, again we
44 used this per capita method, which you can read more
45 about in the report. But this is basically from 2008
46 to 2028 what we expect to be happening to operating
47 expenditures. They aren't going down. We would expect
48 that with the three percent growth of inflation, but
49 also with that almost two percent growth in population
50 for this to be occurring over time. And this is the

1 expenses from the growth related capital projects. So
2 these are the big capital projects that we would
3 basically see annualized into principal and interest
4 payments on fifteen year, four percent bond financing,
5 in most of these projects or in all of these projects.
6 And you basically add those principal and interest
7 payments onto those operating costs you saw on the
8 previous slide to get at the total expenses. So this
9 slide here is really one that kind of summarizes all of
10 that information, the top line being the total expenses
11 from growth, the middle line being the total revenues
12 from growth, and the yellow line being the net result
13 of those two. So again these are revenues and expenses
14 just associated with that increment of growth felt, not
15 the overall financial picture of local government. We
16 looked at a couple of alternative scenarios just to
17 kind of see how sensitive these results might be to
18 these and a couple that the staff wanted to see, was a
19 ten percent additional population growth just in case
20 those estimates, we were under on them, what would
21 happen if we bumped it by an additional ten percent
22 over that twenty year period? We looked at another one
23 at twenty percent. And then we looked at what would
24 happen if housing values went to two hundred thousand
25 -- or started at two hundred thousand rather than a
26 hundred and sixty thousand average over that period.
27 Now that's one we may want to revisit these days, but
28 that was an assumption that we were looking at, or a
29 scenario we were looking at, you know, roughly nine
30 months ago or so. The basic conclusion of all of this
31 work, I think if you want to boil it down, is that the
32 tax revenues the growth is expected to generate will
33 pretty well cover the general day to day operating
34 costs as we've estimated them. It's when the large
35 capital expenditures come into play that it looks like
36 you're probably going to come up short. And if we did
37 have a scenario of declining housing prices, which
38 again it looks like we might have that in the short
39 run, then that would make this even a little more
40 troublesome perhaps because we wouldn't have the same
41 amount of property tax coming from those houses, fair
42 market value assessments. Some possible solutions, if
43 this indeed is a problem that requires a solution, is
44 that we might want to reduce our service quality,
45 implying that we might want to reduce the cost of
46 providing services where we can. We may want to assign
47 these costs to those who are creating the expense. I
48 know you've visited some of these issues before, but
49 the idea of impact fees and its action, possibly some
50 special tax districts. You may want to consider

1 additional taxes, fees and charges. And you may want
2 to do whatever you can with growth management to try to
3 create a compact growth pattern which most studies will
4 show you, and it's a pretty kind of logical thing to
5 think about, compact growth typically requires lower
6 service charges, reducing the cost of you providing
7 service to those -- to that new growth. That's all we
8 have.

9 JEFF RICKETSON: Are there any questions?

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions from council?

11 CINDY WILSON: May I?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes.

13 CINDY WILSON: Thank y'all very much for
14 your very thought provoking presentation. We've
15 definitely got some very tough decisions facing us in
16 the next few months. But I'm -- how in the world do we
17 figure out what exactly our population is? Every
18 document I look at we have a different 2008 population
19 figure, and that makes it all the more difficult to
20 project out. In your document there were two different
21 numbers, and then in our agenda, for example, under the
22 Moody's and Standard & Poor's rating information, they
23 have, according to the South Carolina Association of
24 Counties, the county statistics and populations, they
25 have us listed at 2008, one hundred and seventy-nine
26 thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

27 BILL MOLNAR: Let me quickly explain.

28 First of all, we used the numbers that were supplied to
29 us from the county as a baseline. Then what we did
30 was, we did a sensitivity analysis using two different
31 growth rates to see if there was substantial difference
32 in those numbers. So that even if there was some
33 discrepancy in regards to the actual starting place,
34 when you start to look at a sensitivity analysis, you
35 can see that there's a range of possibilities and that
36 the growth may fall in between some of those, but at
37 least to give you an idea of some of the projected
38 possibilities in the next twenty years. So it was one
39 of those things -- we can't, as well, tell you exactly
40 how many folks are here either. But using those
41 estimations, we hope that the population growth falls
42 within those ranges as we look out twenty years.

43 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.

44 Chairman.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of order,
46 Mr. McAbee?

47 BILL MCABEE: Time has expired for this
48 item.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Do we wish to extend
50 time? No? Okay. Moving on. Thank you, gentlemen.

1 BILL MOLNAR: Thank you.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Resolution 2008-049, a
3 resolution recognizing an Anderson County resident for
4 more than fifty years of service. Mr. Preston, do you
5 want to invite our honoree to come forward?

6 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. I'm going to ask
7 members of the Civil Air Patrol to come forward.
8 Captain Driver, if you would, please. Mr. Chair, if
9 you would come down, please.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me read the caption and
11 take care of some business. A resolution recognizing
12 Anderson County resident Jerry A. Jordan for more than
13 fifty years of continuous service to Anderson County,
14 the State of South Carolina and the United States of
15 America, through his active participation in the Civil
16 Air Patrol, and other matters related thereto. The
17 chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

18 CINDY WILSON: Second.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. Any
20 discussion? All in favor of Resolution 2008-049,
21 please vote. The vote is unanimous. I've asked Mr.
22 Preston to read this since I'm short winded tonight.
23 So please bear with us.

24 JOEY PRESTON: Whereas, the Anderson County
25 Council is elected by and representative of the
26 citizens of Anderson County and is therefore deeply
27 involved in and affected by all the events in the lives
28 of its citizens. And whereas, the Civil Air Patrol is
29 an auxiliary branch of the United States Air Force with
30 a mission to serve America by performing Homeland
31 Security and humanitarian missions for our community,
32 states and nation, developing our country's youth and
33 educating our citizens on the importance of air and
34 space power. Whereas, Mr. Jerry A. Jordan has actively
35 participated in a mission of the Civil Air Patrol for
36 over fifty years and encompasses the goal of the Civil
37 Air Patrol to build the finest force of citizen
38 volunteers in the United States to perform the
39 necessary missions for America. Whereas, Mr. Jordan
40 has continuously associated himself with the local
41 civil air patrol squadrons no matter where he has
42 lived, starting in Anderson County and including
43 Greenwood, Greenville, Clemson and Charlotte, and has
44 served his Civil Air Patrol in various capacities,
45 including communications, cadet programs, search and
46 rescue observer and instructor. And whereas, Mr.
47 Jordan has volunteered his energy and many, many hours
48 in the Civil Air Patrol, has attained the rank of
49 Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol. Whereas,
50 throughout his life Mr. Jordan has demonstrated the

1 Civil Air Patrol's core values of integrity, volunteer
2 service, excellence and respect, both through his
3 active participation in the Anderson Amateur Radio
4 Club, which voluntarily assists law enforcement and
5 rescue agencies by providing communications at various
6 public and non-profit events, especially through his
7 marriage of forty-eight years to the love of his life,
8 Marcella. And he has instilled those same core values
9 in his children, Lanny, Brad, Janet and Derrick.
10 Whereas, Anderson County desires to honor and recognize
11 Mr. Jordan for more than fifty years of service to
12 Anderson County, the State of South Carolina, the
13 United States of America through his continuous active
14 membership and participation in the Civil Air Patrol.
15 Now therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Anderson
16 County Council in meeting duly assembled that Anderson
17 County, a body politic incorporate and political
18 subdivisions in the State of South Carolina hereby
19 honors and recognizes Mr. Jerry A. Jordan for more than
20 fifty years of service to Anderson County, the State of
21 South Carolina and the United States of America through
22 its continuous active membership and participation in
23 the Civil Air Patrol. Mr. Jordan, thank you for your
24 dedication, participation, volunteerism and for
25 providing an example to the citizens of Anderson County
26 for your integrity and your values.

27 APPLAUSE

28 JOEY PRESTON: We'll ask Ms. Jordan and any
29 of the children that are here tonight if y'all will
30 come forward.

31 MALE: Jerry has been a friend of
32 mine for a good number of years. This is a man I can
33 call on any time, night and day, because I have called
34 on him any time night or day, whether it be three
35 o'clock in the afternoon or four o'clock in the morning
36 when the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center calls us,
37 we have to launch an aircraft within two hours. And
38 unless Jerry is in Texas visiting the kids, he's
39 usually there for us, along with all the other members
40 in our mission crews.

41 MALE: Lieutenant Colonel Jerry
42 Jordan, on behalf of Major General Amy Quarter, Civil
43 Air Patrol National Commander, Colonel Joseph R.
44 Vasquez, Middle East Region Commander and Colonel
45 Emerson Smith, South Carolina Wing Commander, please
46 accept this plaque for your fifty plus years of service
47 to the Civil Air Patrol. Also take into your
48 possession your new Civil Air Patrol I.D. card which
49 has an infinite expiration date. Signed, Ralph Driver,
50 Major Commander, South Carolina Wing Group One.

APPLAUSE

MALE: I'd also like to thank the citizens of Anderson County for supporting our organization. We reactivated this squadron in Anderson in 2006 through the help of Mr. Holt Hopkins, Mr. John Ferguson, who we recruited as a member, Mr. Joey Preston and you'll also be happy to know that now the Civil Air Patrol brings in excess of a hundred thousand dollars in revenues to the Anderson County Airport every year through maintenance costs and fuel sales. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

JERRY JORDAN: Well, all I can say is wow, I'm amazed, I'm overwhelmed. But I've had a good time serving Anderson County. We also participate with the Radio Club and the Public Safety Department. And just glad to be of service.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number 8, community award presentation, Ms. Gracie S. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have about roughly fifteen community organizations out in Anderson County, which we're very, very proud. Tonight a community has asked to be recognized for a special award that they would like to give. At this time I'd like to ask the leaders of the Homeland Park Community, please to come forward.

FEMALE: Good evening. Actually tonight I need Mr. Thompson to come down here, please. We're presenting this award to you for your dedication, your support and always being there no matter what time, day or night, I've called you to bug you with stupid little questions. And on behalf of the Homeland Park Fire Department and the Community Task Force, we wanted to say thank you so much for your support.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Well, they surprised me. I did not know this was coming. But it was my goal four years ago to establish a Community Task Force in each precinct of district five. And in four years I was able to do one. So it's not easy. But I did establish the task force with the help of Gracie Floyd who was my mentor on this, and I thank you, Gracie. And I thank Doreen and Michael for stepping forward and volunteering. People love to call you and tell you what they want and need, but they don't want to put any elbow grease to it. And Michael and Doreen, they are the elbow grease for Homeland Park. They make a lot of things happen for me. And I want to thank you for this honor and thank you for volunteering. Thanks to the Homeland Park Fire Department. They open up their doors to the task

1 force, gave us a place to meet, and cut the lights on
2 and turned on the heat and air and all that stuff, and
3 didn't say a word. They were there for us. Thank you,
4 Chief Woody, and guys. Thank you, everyone.

5 APPLAUSE

6 CHIEF WOODY: As chief of the fire
7 department, I just want to thank Mr. Thompson for all
8 he's done, for not only the fire department, but like
9 we said, the community. He's brought the community and
10 the fire department a lot closer to help the community
11 and the fire department not only serve Homeland Park
12 Community but to better serve Anderson County as a
13 whole. Thank you.

14 APPLAUSE

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number 9, presentation
16 of Resolution R2008-046, a resolution recognizing and
17 honoring the first responders who risked their lives to
18 save others on October the 12th, 2008, and other
19 matters related thereto. Ms. Gracie S. Floyd.

20 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we
21 did this last meeting, so all we have to do this
22 meeting is to present it. Okay. We approved and
23 accepted it. Okay. May I ask that the responders
24 please come to the front, the guys and the ladies who
25 worked during that fire. Please come down to the
26 front. This gives me great pleasure to do this,
27 because, number one, this fire was in my district. And
28 I've heard about the courageous work that you did in
29 helping those people. And it says, whereas, the
30 Anderson County Council is elected by and
31 representative of the citizens of Anderson County and
32 is therefore deeply involved in and affected by all
33 events in the lives of its citizens. And whereas, on
34 October the 12th, 2008, a devastating fire occurred at
35 Heatherwood Apartments, a residential facility for
36 seniors and individuals with special needs in the City
37 of Anderson, Anderson, South Carolina. And due to the
38 quick, methodical and professional acts of police,
39 officers, firefighters, dispatchers, emergency medical
40 technicians, paramedics, emergency service and other
41 first responders, forty-five victims of the fire were
42 saved and no lives were lost. Whereas, the county
43 wishes to recognize that it takes a special kind of
44 courage to knowingly and intentionally run into danger
45 in order to protect people and property. And council
46 further wishes to recognize that the team work
47 displayed during those early morning hours by the
48 dedicated individuals, departments and organizations is
49 proof of what can be accomplished when the individuals,
50 departments and organizations of Anderson County work

1 together as a team to save lives. And whereas, because
2 of Anderson County and its people are once again
3 reminded of the valor demonstrated every day by first
4 responders who selflessly face injury and death while
5 protecting the public from fire and other devastations,
6 Anderson County Council desires to honor those who
7 risked their lives on October the 12th, 2008, and
8 desire to express its sincere appreciation for those
9 departments. Now, therefore, it be resolved by
10 Anderson County in a meeting duly assembled that
11 Anderson County, acting by and through its county
12 council, hereby honors and recognizes the
13 professionalism and selfless acts. When I call your
14 name if you're here, I just want you to step out. The
15 selfless acts of Lieutenant Wayne Logan, Engineer
16 Ronnie Eskew, Firefighter David Irby, Firefighter
17 Michael Hobbs, Sergeant Keith Loudermilk, Engineer
18 Brian Durham, Engineer Jermaine Galloway, Engineer
19 Steven Hayes, Firefighter Glenn Warnock, Firefighter
20 Billy McCullough, Firefighter Jonathan Taylor,
21 Firefighter Chris Hagood, Firefighter Alex Beuhler,
22 Lieutenant Travis Scott, Sergeant Holly Hamilton,
23 Officer Matthew Stipe, Officer Jada Burgin, Officer Joe
24 Hayes, Officer Billy Jones, Officer Barrett Ryan,
25 Officer Kevin Looney, Officer Michael Roberson, Officer
26 Kevin Pearson, Deputy Lee Meaders, Deputy Josh Paynes,
27 Deputy Nikki Holbrooks, Trooper Josh Durham, Trooper,
28 Benji Ross, Deputy Chief Ike Brissey and Charles King.
29 And the others of you whose names were not called but
30 who will be placed on this plaque if it's supposed to
31 be. Okay? You risked your lives to help those people
32 at Heatherwood. Anderson County hereby further
33 recognizes and expresses sincere appreciation to the
34 Anderson City Fire Department, the Anderson City Police
35 Department, the Anderson County Fire Department, the
36 Anderson County Sheriff's Office, the Anderson County
37 Highway Patrol, Emergency Services, Rescue Squad and
38 the Community Emergency Response Team, with special
39 thanks to Lori Parkinson, Red Cross of the Upstate, the
40 Anderson County HAZMAT Team, and the Anderson City
41 Transit, South Carolina DHEC, the Anderson Housing
42 Authority, the Cornerstone Assembly of God Rescue Team,
43 the Broadway Volunteer Fire Station, the Centerville
44 Volunteer Fire Station, the Hopewell Volunteer Fire
45 Station, the Anderson County District Five Ladder Team
46 and the Homeland Park Volunteer Fire Station. Anderson
47 County recognized that without this team work,
48 specialism, the courage and organization displayed by
49 these organizations, many could have lost their lives
50 in the fire on October the 12th. To our heroes, it is

1 not adequate. Thank you. This resolution shall take
2 effect and be in force immediately as of today, right
3 now.

4 APPLAUSE

5 GRACIE FLOYD: See, they didn't think that
6 I knew you were the chief. Come on up, please. Chief,
7 I want to present this to you. I know that you will
8 find a place in -- somewhere to just know just how much
9 we care and that we do appreciate all of you all of the
10 time. And I just thank you so much. And I want you to
11 say something.

12 CHIEF: On behalf of all of the
13 first responders, it's a great honor to be able to
14 stand up in front of you and receive this kind of
15 recognition. Without these firefighters and all those
16 who were not able to be with us this evening from all
17 the other emergency response agencies, it was a
18 tremendous success. God was with us that evening. He
19 intervened. He helped us save the lives and to save
20 the lives of our first responders. As I've reminded
21 our folks before, that we're only as good as what we do
22 on our next call. But we can dedicate to you and I can
23 speak for all of these men and women that are here
24 today, that on our next call we will continue to work
25 together as well as we did on the early morning of
26 October the 12th. Thank you very much.

27 APPLAUSE

28 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I want to do
29 something really special and really scary. But this
30 was in district two, this was in district two. What I
31 want to do is to invite you to dinner. Okay? I want
32 to take you to dinner. We won't do it tonight because
33 we'll be here all night. But I will work it out with
34 the chief. He said there's about a hundred of you that
35 did this. I want to go eat with you. I want to sit
36 down and just try to show you how much I care and how
37 much I -- and this will be out of my own pocket. All
38 right. So you can stop wondering now. This will be
39 out of my own pocket. But I will let you know. And I
40 just thank you so much.

41 APPLAUSE

42 CHIEF: Thank you very much.

43 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, that's it, and
44 I thank you.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number 10, Employee of
46 the Month for October and November, 2008, and a special
47 proclamation, Mr. Derrick Singleton. Mr. Singleton,
48 you have ten minutes.

49 DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, members of
50 council, Mr. Preston, on behalf of the Anderson County

1 Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present the
2 employee of the month for October 2008, Michael Poole.
3 Michael if you'll come up, family, Joe Moss, Tony
4 Owens, please come up.

5 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

6 DERRICK SINGLETON: ... plaque, Employee of the
7 Month, Anderson County, October 2008. Congratulations.

8 APPLAUSE

9 MALE: I'll tell you a little bit
10 about why we nominated Michael. He was going to a job
11 site and noticed an unusual natural gas odor. Took the
12 initiative to call Bernie. Bernie contacted Fort Hill
13 Natural Gas and discovered there was a six inch blow-
14 off valve that had ruptured on a line. Fort Hill
15 reported a lot of gas loss there and there could have
16 been a hazard.

17 APPLAUSE

18 DERRICK SINGLETON: We appreciate what you do,
19 Michael, every day. And I would like to thank Mr.
20 Preston and county council for recognizing the
21 employees we have.

22 APPLAUSE

23 MICHAEL POOLE: Thank you.

24 DERRICK SINGLETON: The employee of the month
25 for November is J.R. Harris. J.R., if you and your
26 family would like to come up. On behalf of Anderson
27 County Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present
28 this plaque and also a thirty dollar gift card, chamber
29 check, Employee of the Month, November 2008.

30 APPLAUSE

31 J.R. HARRIS: I thank council and Mr.
32 Preston and all. I thank the people I work with.
33 That's the only way I can do my job. And I thank my
34 family for putting up with the late nights some nights
35 that we put in and all. They do put up with a lot. We
36 have two kinds. I know my wife does. Thank y'all.

37 APPLAUSE

38 DERRICK SINGLETON: I get to work with J.R.
39 everyday, so I can testify, you know, that employees
40 like J.R. and Michael Poole, I serve on the H.R.
41 Committee, I see these nominations come in, and it's
42 really a shame that we can't recognize twenty employees
43 every month. That's the type employees that we do
44 have. J.R. is the type employee, he has never desired
45 attention but he deserved attention. And I'm sure
46 there's employees in Holt's department and our
47 department and, you know, departments throughout that
48 we have employees like this that's never recognized but
49 they're always willing to jump in, get the job done,
50 and I really appreciate what J.R. has done. Also, Greg

1 Smith was not able to be here tonight to say
2 congratulations. We're proud to have you in our
3 division. J.R.'s mom works in Register of Deeds, and
4 you were an employee of the month too?

5 FEMALE: Last year.

6 DERRICK SINGLETON: So it runs in the family.
7 Allen, would you like to say something?

8 ALLEN: J.R., I work with him
9 everyday. He is very diligent professionally in his
10 work and I appreciate everything you do.

11 APPLAUSE

12 DERRICK SINGLETON: We also have another
13 presentation. Michael, if you would like to come
14 forward. Angie Stringer, Bree Rhodes, Mr. Preston.

15 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, council, Ms.
16 Singleton, my role is to be the official reader of the
17 proclamation from the Human Resources Committee, and
18 they asked me to do that and I was certainly proud to
19 do that. If you'll listen up, Mr. Preston. A
20 proclamation by the Human Resources Committee on behalf
21 of Anderson County employees recognizing County
22 Administrator Joey R. Preston for his leadership,
23 vision, dedication and contributions to the Anderson
24 County community and all Anderson County employees.
25 Whereas, Joey R. Preston came to Anderson County in
26 1996 to assume the duties of county administrator.
27 During his employ he has exhibited qualities of
28 leadership that have brought honor and positive
29 recognition to Anderson County from respected outside
30 individuals, private organizations and government
31 agencies. The South Carolina General Assembly
32 recognized Mr. Preston for his outstanding success as a
33 county administrator and being one of the most
34 innovative and effective local government officials in
35 South Carolina in 2005. Other honors and awards
36 includes City and County Magazine's Leader of the Year
37 2002, Salvation Army Volunteer of the Year 2001,
38 Anderson Independent Publishing Company's Pointing the
39 Way Leadership Award, 263d AAMDC Volunteer of the Year
40 2006, People Choice Winner in the 263d AAMDC and Cancer
41 Association of Anderson's Dancing for Our Heroes in
42 2007, 263d Order of St. Barbara in 2008. And whereas,
43 Joey R. Preston has encouraged excellence and high
44 performance from county employees, leading by his
45 example. Under his leadership, Anderson County has
46 earned consistently clean, unqualified audits,
47 Government Finance Officers Association Budget
48 Presentation Award for three consecutive years,
49 Government Finance Officers Association's Excellence in
50 Government Performance for eleven consecutive years,

1 All America City since 2000, South Carolina Association
2 of Counties, Barrett Lawrimore Award in 2002 and 2006,
3 runner-up in 2008, the J. Mitchell Graham Award in 2001
4 and 2002, National Association of Counties NACIO Award
5 2006 and 2008, the International Association of
6 Emergency Managers Interagency Disaster Preparedness
7 Award in 2006. And whereas, Joey R. Preston's efforts
8 have stirred motivation, fostered progressive dynamics
9 among county employees that resulted in a better work
10 environment with improved benefits. In 1996 Preston
11 worked with council to institute a wage and
12 compensation study, evaluating, comparing and ensuring
13 employee benefits are in line with private industry,
14 thereby laying a foundation to recruit and retain a
15 quality workforce. Due to Mr. Preston's efforts the
16 employee retention rate is significantly increase. And
17 whereas, Joey R. Preston has championed staff
18 development, working to further educational and
19 training opportunities for staff and thereby helping
20 individuals further their individual career goals while
21 simultaneously improving the county's overall skill
22 base and increasing the quality and efficiency of
23 service to Anderson County residents. And whereas,
24 Joey R. Preston has continuously worked with the
25 personnel department to recognize employees for their
26 service for the county through the creation of the
27 Human Resources Committee's Employee of the Month
28 Program, annual employee picnics, the annual Christmas
29 dinner, employee Christmas recognition in the form of
30 Chamber checks, and most recently the 401K match for
31 employees' retirement. And whereas, Joey R. Preston
32 has fostered and encouraged a spirit of communication
33 and diversity within the workplace by helping to host
34 the first South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus
35 Economic Development Conference in Anderson County in
36 2003 and continuing to promote and encourage diversity
37 within the county, including the Human Relations
38 Council, Senior Citizens Program and Special
39 Populations Program. And whereas, Joey R. Preston has
40 effectively nurtured a culture of volunteerism by
41 assuming his place as a role model of servant
42 leadership and civic mindedness, actively participating
43 in charitable organizations and thereby encouraging
44 county employees to volunteer. Under his leadership,
45 employees have exceeded goals in raising funds and
46 collecting bicycles for the Salvation Army during the
47 holidays, held various canned food and toy drives for
48 organizations such as Good Neighbor Cupboard and Meals
49 on Wheels, participated in the Alzheimer's Bowling
50 Tournament, participated in the March of Dimes walks,

1 collected items for deployed soldiers and raised funds
2 for soldiers during the annual Celebrate Anderson
3 event. And whereas, the Anderson County Human
4 Resources Committee, on behalf of all Anderson County
5 employees, desires to honor Joey R. Preston for his
6 outstanding dedication to Anderson County employees and
7 the community in which we live, work and play. Now
8 therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Human Resources
9 Committee on behalf of Anderson County employees, the
10 employees of Anderson County hereby recognize Joey R.
11 Preston for his leadership, commitment and support of
12 Anderson County, South Carolina, its employees and
13 residents. Mr. Preston, under your leadership our
14 county has flourished in so many ways. You truly
15 exemplify the qualities of servant leadership. Your
16 dedication to this community and to the employees who
17 serve with you is appreciated. This proclamation shall
18 take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment.
19 Resolved in meeting duly assembled this 18th day of
20 November, 2008. Derrick Singleton, Chairman of Human
21 Resource Committee and I believe it's signed by the
22 rest of the members of the Human Resource Committee.

23 APPLAUSE

24 JOEY PRESTON: I really don't know what to
25 say. I didn't expect this tonight. Excuse me. No
26 honor, no recognition could mean as much to me as this
27 one tonight. To know that employees would take the
28 time to do this. I truly am touched. I tell you what,
29 it takes a lot to choke me up. I want to say that all
30 the things you read about, the administration, were
31 really the result of the hard work of the county
32 employees. I was only the person that kind of directed
33 the choir. I also want to thank the county council
34 members that I work with, work for, in Anderson,
35 because none of this would have been possible without
36 the support of county council. On behalf of myself and
37 my family, I thank you for that. How in the world did
38 you keep it from me? Thank you so much.

39 APPLAUSE

40 DERRICK SINGLETON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. At this time
42 we'll take a ten minute break.

43 BREAK

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are on item 11A,
45 ordinances third readings. Ordinance 2008-043, an
46 ordinance authorizing amendments to a lease dated
47 September 29, 1966, with the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens
48 Mental Health Center for the purpose of updating and
49 revising the lease and to lease additional Anderson
50 County property to the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Mental

1 Health Center and other matters related thereto. There
2 is a public hearing on this. Instructions for a public
3 hearing. Any person desiring to do so may speak at a
4 public hearing for a reasonable period of time as long
5 as he or she is speaking to the issue under
6 consideration. The chairman exercises control of the
7 public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the
8 public hearing process by engaging in unreasonably
9 lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane,
10 abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With
11 that being said the public hearing is now open. Anyone
12 wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward.
13 Please state your name and address before speaking and
14 speak to the chair and only to the council chair.
15 Public hearing is now open. Seeing and hearing no one,
16 the public hearing is now closed. Chair moves to
17 approve Ordinance 2008-043. Is there a second? We
18 have a second by Mr. Waldrep. We are in discussion.
19 Any discussion? Seeing and hearing none, the chair
20 calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-
21 043, please vote. The vote is unanimous. Ordinance
22 2008-051, an ordinance authorizing the execution and
23 delivery of a second amended lease agreement between
24 Anderson County and Robert Bosch, formerly Robert Bosch
25 Corporation, and adding Associate Fuel Pump Systems
26 Corporation as a sponsor, and other matters related
27 thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there a
28 second?

29 CINDY WILSON: Second.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms.
31 Wilson. We are in discussion. Any discussion? Seeing
32 and hearing none, the chair calls for the vote. All in
33 favor of Ordinance 2008-051, please vote. Please vote.
34 Unanimous. Item number 12, ordinance's second reading.
35 Ordinance 2008-056, an ordinance to amend Ordinance 98-
36 019 as previously amended by Ordinance 99-029 and
37 others relating to the Industrial Business Park of
38 Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the
39 park. There is a public hearing on this also. The
40 same instructions read previously applies to this
41 public hearing also. That being said, the public
42 hearing is now open. If anyone wishes to speak, come
43 forward. Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing
44 is now closed. Chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-
45 056. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr.
46 McAbee. We are in discussion. Any discussion? Seeing
47 and hearing none, the chair calls for the vote. All in
48 favor of Ordinance 2008-056, please vote. The vote is
49 unanimous. Ordinance's first reading. Let me catch my
50 breath. Ordinance 2008-055, a rezoning request from

1 Curtis H. Ellison, Jr. for rezoning of 54.67 acres from
2 RA to R20 on Hendricks Road near Three and Twenty Road.
3 The zoning is to allow for development of a single
4 family residential subdivision. There is a public
5 hearing on this. Same instructions read earlier
6 regarding public hearings apply. With that being said,
7 the if anyone wishes to speak come forward. The public
8 hearing is open. Seeing and hearing no one, the public
9 hearing is now closed. The chair moves to approve
10 Ordinance 2008-055. Mr. Greer seconds. Any
11 discussion? No discussion. Chair calls for the vote.
12 All in favor of Ordinance 2008-055, please vote.
13 Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-057, an ordinance to
14 authorize the leasing of certain Anderson County space
15 and facilities at the property formerly known as
16 McCants Middle School, and other matters related
17 thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?
18 BILL MCABEE: Second.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee seconds. Any
20 discussion?
21 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
23 BOB WALDREP: I was wondering if I could
24 get some information regarding the asbestos situation.
25 I understood that that building had had asbestos in it
26 and that that had been the reason for not using it
27 before. Is there any information that we have on that?
28 JOEY PRESTON: Yes, sir. The asbestos is
29 now being evaded. We ordered a contract a few weeks
30 ago and it should be finished so the construction can
31 begin sometime around the first of the year.
32 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.
33 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? The chair
34 calls for the vote, Ordinance 2008-057. All in favor,
35 please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-058, an
36 ordinance to authorize the leasing of certain athletic
37 fields for recreation purposes at the property formerly
38 known at McCants Middle School and other matters
39 related thereto. The chair moves to approve. Is there
40 a second?
41 BILL MCABEE: Second.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Mr. McAbee. Any
43 discussion?
44 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just a
45 question.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
47 CINDY WILSON: I know that the Salvation
48 Army will be using part of McCants as per our previous
49 vote. Does this mean that those young people can go
50 out and use the grounds since the City of Anderson will

1 be leasing the old athletic grounds? Will that be ...

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Preston.

3 JOEY PRESTON: Mr. Chair, the city
4 currently uses the football field which is the field
5 that we're currently discussing. And this lease
6 formalizes that agreement. They have been keeping up
7 and maintaining it and they have included that football
8 field in the city's long range recreation plan, along
9 with all the other property that still belongs to
10 School District Five that surrounds it. So it is
11 public property and it can be utilized. But the city
12 is leasing it and they'll be coordinating and managing
13 the use of those fields.

14 CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls
16 for the vote, Ordinance 2008-058. All in favor, please
17 vote. Unanimous.

18 RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

20 RON WILSON: I would like to, at this
21 time, amend the agenda ---

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

23 RON WILSON: -- to allow me a few moments
24 to speak about some of the activity of the Personnel
25 Committee, and specifically the letter from attorney
26 Hoskins which was sent to all of us and to discuss that
27 matter at this point.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that a motion?

29 RON WILSON: That is a motion.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

31 BILL MCABEE: Second.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to amend
33 the agenda. We have a motion to amend the agenda and a
34 second by Mr. McAbee. All in favor of amending the
35 agenda ---

36 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Waldrep, you have
38 the floor.

39 BOB WALDREP: I certainly would not to in
40 anyway hinder Mr. Wilson's attempt or efforts to make a
41 report at this point, but I just had kind of hoped that
42 I'd be able to go down the list of some things. This
43 is a surprise to me to amend the agenda at this
44 particular time. I was wondering if he could possibly
45 defer that until after we -- I had had an opportunity
46 to give a little bit of the history of the agenda that
47 I had put on there for Items 14, 15 and 16, and I think
48 that we would have an orderly and timely recounting of
49 the matters that the subcommittee has been involved in.
50 I would ask for some consideration to just simply move

1 those items down to below Item 16. I would make that
2 in the form of an amendment.

3 CINDY WILSON: Second.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep has amended Mr.
5 Wilson's motion to amend the agenda to be placed after
6 Item 16, and it was seconded by Ms. Wilson. So we are
7 still in discussion regarding the amending of the
8 agenda and placing it after 16.

9 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

11 LARRY GREER: Mr. Wilson, I have a
12 question. Are you planning to do this in your capacity
13 as chairman of the personnel committee or are you doing
14 this in your capacity as an individual council member?

15 RON WILSON: I would do it as both.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Hearing and
17 seeing no one, ---

18 GRACIE FLOYD: Vote on ---

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, I know. That's where
20 I'm going. To place Mr. Wilson's motion to amend after
21 Item 16. All in favor of placing the motion to amend
22 after Item 16, please vote. All in favor. Two.
23 Oppose. One, two, three -- are you voting?

24 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One, two, three, four, five.
26 Five opposed. So we're not placing it at Item 16.
27 We're back to the original motion. All in favor of
28 amending the agenda to hear from Mr. Ron Wilson on the
29 agenda, please vote. Five. Oppose. One, two. Okay.
30 Two. Mr. Wilson, you have the floor.

31 RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Several weeks ago we were given a letter by Mr. Hoskins
33 from Mr. Preston and then this body a few weeks ago
34 voted to put it in the hands of the personnel
35 committee. We've had a couple of meetings. We've had
36 extensive discussions with the attorney that was hired
37 by this body, Mr. Bright, and what I'm about to do, I'm
38 going to do myself. It has not been voted on by the
39 committee. I've had -- we've had Mr. Bright to talk
40 with Mr. Preston's attorney, I have. And we proposed
41 talking with him to see what was the best solution for
42 this. And we have a situation in this county,
43 regardless of which side you're on, that's become I
44 think very detrimental to it. And so I instructed Mr.
45 Bright to talk with them to see what could be hammered
46 out. I think we've been given a window to deal with
47 this matter and to deal with it in a way that will give
48 us a brighter future in this county. If we don't deal
49 with it now, how long will it go on and how expensive
50 will it become? And so with those two things in

1 consideration, I'm going to pass out this down the
2 line. No one has seen this except Mr. Bright and
3 myself. And no one on this committee knows much about
4 this. I've talked a little bit with Larry Greer in the
5 last couple of days about it, and I think this is a
6 possible solution. I have some other copies which I'll
7 be glad to give to the press. And you can vote it
8 down, you can tear it up, you can start over, you can
9 do whatever you want to, but at least it's a beginning
10 point to do something. And so my suggestion is that we
11 move forward with this. It does not give Mr. Preston
12 everything he wanted. It gives him some -- I know
13 there's different schools of thought. There's some
14 people that think his contract is not worth the paper
15 it's written on. I've heard that and I've read that.
16 Not many attorneys agree with that. Some do. And
17 it'll have to be tried in court. And I'd prefer to get
18 beyond this and move on. But I'm one person and that's
19 it. But that's my proposal and we can go from there.
20 And I'll make a motion to that effect, that this
21 agreement which has been drawn up, would be adopted by
22 the council. And there's reasonable expectation that
23 it would be signed.

24 BOB WALDREP: Point of order, Mr.
25 Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of order,
27 Mr. ...

28 BOB WALDREP: My point of order is that if
29 Mr. Wilson is speaking for the personnel committee, and
30 I assume that he is, I thought that there would be
31 certain procedures to follow the code that
32 recommendations would be turned over to the council, we
33 would have an opportunity to look at this. I think
34 that this is probably the most (someone coughing)
35 action that I've ever seen anybody take in view of the
36 fact that Ms. Wilson and I were even barred from the
37 last meeting and the negotiations that went on in that
38 committee, which I think is in violation of the
39 sections that I wanted to refer to. I'm really
40 troubled and concerned by what I consider to be a very
41 high handed proposal that is a surprise, maybe not to
42 some of you, but certainly to me. And I think however
43 you feel about me, you have to regard the fact that I
44 represent the same number of people basically that
45 members of this council does. So I'd ask, Mr.
46 Chairman, if you would just take a look at the rules
47 that require the personnel committee to come back and
48 to provide the council this opportunity at the next
49 meeting -- now, this technique that was used in this
50 body tonight, I think, violates every principal of

1 fairness and notice to this council. And I just
2 strenuously object to it.

3 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am.

5 CINDY WILSON: I ---

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I said, no, ma'am. Mr.
7 Waldrep made an objection and I have to make a ruling.
8 Mr. -- in Mr. Wilson's talk, he said that he was
9 speaking as a council member. So he is not
10 representing the personnel committee. Therefore he is
11 speaking as a member of this council. There will be
12 order in this chamber or you will be removed. I do not
13 -- I am sick, I barely can talk, and I'm not putting up
14 with a lot of junk.

15 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, point of
16 order.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I have the
18 floor. So Mr. Waldrep, we voted to amend the agenda to
19 allow Mr. Wilson to speak and he has spoken, and he has
20 made a motion as a member of this council. So your
21 objection is overruled.

22 BOB WALDREP: Well, Mr. Chairman, just a
23 point of information, then, if I may have that
24 privilege?

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Go ahead.

26 BOB WALDREP: This is stamped as a
27 confidential document. Is that correct?

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

29 BOB WALDREP: Do I understand that
30 confidentiality is to extend just beyond -- just within
31 this particular body here? Are we to share this now if
32 we're gonna be voting on something? How could this be
33 confidential?

34 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

35 BOB WALDREP: Just a minute. I just need
36 a ---

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, a severance
38 agreement and release claim was presented by a member
39 of this council and he made it in the form of a motion.
40 So we are gonna sit here and talk among us and
41 eventually vote on this up or down, whichever way you
42 see fit. So that is, that is what I think should
43 happen, since ---

44 BOB WALDREP: We're talking about big
45 money here, Mr. Chairman, and we're gonna vote and not
46 allow the people of the county to know anything about
47 the terms of spending a lot of money in this case?

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, Mr. Waldrep, we have a
49 republican form of government and the people elect
50 representatives and it is the representative's job to

1 make the hard decisions. So that's what we're gonna
2 have to do.

3 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just think
4 this is a sad day in the life of any republic when
5 those elected officials would run roughshod over the
6 procedures and the information that should be shared.
7 I think when their tax money is having to pay for this,
8 that they should have an opportunity -- or at least we
9 should have an opportunity to meet in executive session
10 to discuss it if we can't discuss it confidentially out
11 here. I would amend this to move that we go to
12 executive session to have some kind of reasonable
13 discussion since this is the first time, the very first
14 time, that I've seen this document.

15 CINDY WILSON: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, it is my
17 understanding that we have to do this in open forum.
18 Am I right, Mr. Martin, that this needs to be done in
19 open forum?

20 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you may
21 discuss in executive session. If any action is taken
22 that would have to be done in open session.

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

24 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I have been
25 trying to point out that this appears -- this about a
26 million and a half dollars appears to be a breach of
27 the Freedom of Information Act. I think we need a
28 legal opinion on this before it's voted on. This is a
29 breach of the Freedom of Information.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, the council
31 voted five to two to amend the agenda, and in that
32 discussion that Mr. Wilson gave, he made a motion. So
33 now we are dealing with the motion. And his motion is
34 to present a severance agreement and release of claims,
35 which he handed to all council members, and I too am
36 seeing this for the first time.

37 CINDY WILSON: But Mr. Chairman, I think
38 this council needs some legal counsel as to the
39 legality of such a huge amount of money that's to be
40 voted on according to Mr. Wilson tonight. As I read
41 our own County Codes of Ordinances, we were to have had
42 a report made to us first. And then there also are
43 rules regarding the Freedom of Information Act.

44 RON WILSON: And that's covered in this
45 document.

46 CINDY WILSON: There are also rules
47 involving what the state laws are and case law
48 indicating our individual and collective legal
49 liability in such a matter as this.

50 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Ms. Wilson, any
2 member of council may put anything he or she wishes on
3 the agenda.

4 CINDY WILSON: That's true, but it's not on
5 the agenda.

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I'm talking.
7 Please let me give my ruling. Any member of council
8 may put anything he or she desires on the agenda.

9 CINDY WILSON: If you're one of the five.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson gave a proper
11 motion to amend the agenda. It was voted on by council
12 and so the item is properly on the agenda. And then he
13 moved forward and made a motion to present this
14 severance package. So we are going to deal with this.
15 Okay? So let's move on.

16 CINDY WILSON: I think we need a legal --
17 some legal advice as to its legality.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, tomorrow you can
19 call any law you want to, okay, but tonight we're gonna
20 deal with this.

21 CINDY WILSON: Bless your heart.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anybody else?

23 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, one other
24 matter I'd like to say, is because it seems like we've
25 ---

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, I believe Mr.
27 McAbee asked for the floor.

28 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I call
29 for the question.

30 END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of calling for
32 the question, please vote. Five. All opposed. Two.
33 Okay. We're calling for the question. We have a
34 severance agreement and release of claims presented by
35 Mr. Ron Wilson as a member of council, not as a member
36 of this -- of the personnel committee. All in favor of
37 this agreement, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. The
38 severance agreement and release of claims passes five
39 two.

40 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

41 CINDY WILSON: A million and a half
42 dollars. That is absurd.

43 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The chamber will please come
45 to order. Chief, anyone else speaks out, escort them
46 out. I'm doing good to talk, much less breathe and
47 talk. Anyone else will be escorted out. Who called
48 for the floor?

49 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

1 LARRY GREER: In my conversations with Mr.
2 Wilson, the sum that's listed in the severance
3 agreement, and it is not one and a half million ---
4 CINDY WILSON: Well, then we never had a
5 chance to get a full ---
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. Greer has
7 the floor.
8 LARRY GREER: I called our finance
9 department and asked them to look at the general fund
10 budget to see if there was an area in which they could
11 locate this amount of money. At this time I'm gonna
12 pass out to the council members this ---
13 CINDY WILSON: Does this mean you already
14 saw this before we did? Thank you.
15 LARRY GREER: This is a transfer of funds
16 to an account to cover the contract buyout. It would
17 be transferred from various accounts to account number
18 001-5831-000-020 entitled contract buyout. And it has
19 sources of the funds and the total at the bottom. And
20 at this time I move that council approve this transfer.
21 BILL MCABEE: Second.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think we need to put it on
23 the agenda.
24 LARRY GREER: It's part of Mr. Wilson's
25 item.
26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is this part of your item,
27 Mr. ---
28 RON WILSON: Yes.
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes. Okay.
30 CINDY WILSON: But it's already been voted
31 on. Shouldn't it have a separate amendment?
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- oh, excuse me. Hold
33 on.
34 GRACIE FLOYD: While we're in pause here
35 ---
36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So this is basically giving
37 information telling us where the money is coming from,
38 the amounts of money coming from each account ---
39 LARRY GREER: And the account it's being
40 transferred from.
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And it totals one
42 million one hundred forty thousand one hundred twenty-
43 two dollars.
44 CINDY WILSON: That's different than what's
45 in the contract we just voted on. And also ---
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you don't have
47 the floor.
48 CINDY WILSON: I have lots of question you
49 won't answer.
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So this is a motion to

1 accept?

2 LARRY GREER: A motion to approve this
3 transfer.

4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to approve.
5 Mr. McAbee, you seconded it. Now we are in discussion.
6 And Ms. Wilson, now you have the floor.

7 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, sir. Tell me
8 about this department 5831. Is that an existing
9 department or is this something that was just created?
10 I don't have my chart of accounts with me.

11 LARRY GREER: That's an account given to
12 me by -- Mr. Chairman, if I may?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You may, Mr. Greer.

14 LARRY GREER: That account number was
15 given to me by the finance staff, so if they're here
16 they can respond to it. If not, then it stands as
17 submitted.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So anyone ---

19 CINDY WILSON: Is it in our budget already?

20 LARRY GREER: Ms. Wilson, I -- Mr.
21 Chairman, if I may?

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

23 CINDY WILSON: Is there someone here from
24 the finance department?

25 LARRY GREER: Ms. Wilson, you asked a
26 question, I'm going to do my best to answer you.

27 CINDY WILSON: But you just said that the
28 finance ---

29 LARRY GREER: If you'll let me talk.

30 CINDY WILSON: Okay.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you are out of
32 order. Please let Mr. Greer talk. He has the floor.

33 LARRY GREER: The handout or the paperwork
34 that I just gave you lists the various accounts. These
35 accounts were looked at by the finance department and
36 they can locate those funds that can be transferred out
37 of those department. Most of them are vacant positions
38 or new positions that have not been filled and that's
39 where the funds are coming from in the vast majority of
40 the cases. I'm assuming that this account for the
41 contract buyout is an account that was created for the
42 contract buyout.

43 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

45 CINDY WILSON: There was a letter that was
46 sent to our administrator and to the media today
47 requesting that we freeze hiring, so if that -- our
48 letter went out earlier than this came before us, this
49 really puts us in a difficult position, because if
50 you're talking about new positions, I think that was

1 over half a million dollars that we were hoping to save
2 the county in these dire economic times. And it would
3 be a wise thing for us to freeze the hiring because we
4 have many good and wonderful employees that we wanted
5 to be able to keep in place and just simply not hire
6 new people. You know, this comes right back to the
7 lack of transparency, the lack of procedure in this
8 county following our laws and our ordinances. I think
9 that we should move to table this until we get the
10 answers from our finance department and from legal
11 counsel. I think y'all are setting yourselves up
12 individually, even after you go off council, for
13 potential lawsuits.

14 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: She made a motion to table.

16 BOB WALDREP: Second.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to table.

18 No discussion on tabling. All in favor to table this
19 item that Mr. Greer presented, please vote. Two.
20 Oppose to tabling. Five. Ms. Floyd.

21 GRACIE FLOYD: Ms. Wilson made reference to
22 asking the county to freeze employment. Did the
23 council vote on that, on that request?

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, that was a letter
25 signed by two members of council and three council
26 members elect, so it really has no value here.

27 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Good.

28 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

30 BILL MCABEE: I call for the question.

31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee calls for the
32 question. All in favor of calling for the question ---

33 BILL MCABEE: We need a second, don't we?

34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need a second.

35 GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Thank you. All
37 in favor of calling for the question, please vote.

38 Five. Oppose. Two. Will you please restate your

39 motion, Mr. Greer. I'm out of breath.

40 LARRY GREER: My motion was to approve the
41 transfers as passed out.

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And it was seconded by Mr.
43 Greer -- Mr. McAbee. All in favor of approving these
44 transfers, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. Motion
45 to approve the transfers as listed has passed.

46 GRACIE FLOYD: Employees, county employees,
47 do any of you have a cough drop or a mint or something
48 that we can share up here? We would appreciate it.
49 Thank you.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Moving on.

1 Ms. Floyd.
2 GRACIE FLOYD: Do we need to vote to
3 reconsider this?
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are we voting to reconsider
5 this?
6 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.
7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.
8 LARRY GREER: At this time I move to
9 reconsider the motion to approve these transfers.
10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And the severance package?
11 LARRY GREER: We have to do them one at a
12 time.
13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Have to do them one at a
14 time. We have a motion to reconsider the transfers.
15 Was that seconded?
16 CINDY WILSON: Second.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to
18 reconsider. We are now in reconsideration.
19 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up.
21 BOB WALDREP: Point of information.
22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. I'm trying to find
23 out what's going on here. Mr. Martin, we have a motion
24 to reconsider and a second. We just vote and then
25 we're back in discussion. Is that right? Okay. We
26 have a motion to reconsider and a second. Mr. Waldrep,
27 what was your question?
28 BOB WALDREP: My question is, is this a
29 reconsideration of all transfers or some transfers?
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: It's the entire list of
31 transfers that's on these pages that Mr. Greer handed
32 out to make up the 1.14 million dollars to add to this
33 buyout.
34 BOB WALDREP: Well, could I ask Mr. Greer
35 the question of what the point is of going one way and
36 then going the other?
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, we need to get
38 the question on the floor first. So we need to get the
39 reconsideration passed by vote.
40 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I'm sorry. I'd ---
41 CINDY WILSON: Just a moment, please. May
42 I have ---
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
44 reconsidering, please vote.
45 CINDY WILSON: I have a question before ---
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: You don't have the floor
47 though, do you?
48 CINDY WILSON: I asked for it.
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
50 reconsideration, please vote. We're voting. Four,

1 five. Opposed to reconsidering. Mr. Wilson abstains.
2 Who didn't vote? Who did I miss? How do you vote?
3 BILL MCABEE: I voted for reconsideration.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, it's six, zero and one.
5 Motion to reconsider has passed. Now we're back in
6 discussion.
7 CINDY WILSON: All right, Mr. Chairman, may
8 I have the floor, please?
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.
10 CINDY WILSON: All right. What is the
11 value of the 2006 GMC Yukon, what is the value of the
12 benefit plans to be maintained and sponsored and so
13 forth? I mean, remember, we haven't even had a chance
14 to read this thing.
15 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.
16 Chairman.
17 CINDY WILSON: What is the ---
18 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.
19 Chairman.
20 CINDY WILSON: You're interrupting, sir.
21 BILL MCABEE: I'm raising a point of order
22 which takes precedence over anything you're saying.
23 CINDY WILSON: No, it does not.
24 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. McAbee is
26 correct. A point of order takes precedence and may
27 interrupt a person who has the floor. Now, Mr. McAbee,
28 what is your point of order?
29 BILL MCABEE: This is not germane to the
30 subject at hand. The subject at hand is the transfers.
31 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, your point of
32 order is correct. Ms. Wilson, we are talking only
33 about the transfers. There is no Denali or anything
34 else on here that you mentioned. So Mr. McAbee is
35 correct.
36 CINDY WILSON: But it doesn't seem to be
37 reflecting the complete amount of money that will be
38 owed to the administrator.
39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The subject under discussion
40 is the transfers. Anyone else?
41 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
43 BILL MCABEE: I call for the question.
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee called for the
45 question. Ms. Floyd seconds. All in favor of calling
46 for the question, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two.
47 The item has been reconsidered and it has passed. No.
48 Put me on track, Mr. Martin.
49 TOM MARTIN: The item is still on the
50 floor, but you have just voted to call for the

1 question.

2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm sorry.

3 TOM MARTIN: Now the question is to voted
4 on.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now we vote on the question.
6 Thank you. All in favor of the transfers, please vote.
7 We're voting on the transfers. How are you voting?
8 Five. Oppose. Two. Now we're done with this, Mr.
9 Martin?

10 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman. I move
11 reconsideration of Mr. Wilson's original motion.

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second?

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to
15 reconsider the severance agreement and release claims
16 by Mr. McAbee. We have a second by Ms. Floyd. All in
17 favor of reconsidering the severance agreement and
18 release of claims, please vote. Am I doing this right,
19 Mr. -- all in favor to reconsider.

20 BOB WALDREP: I mean, can't we have any
21 discussion on anything about ---

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Once we get to that point,
23 yes, sir, we can.

24 BOB WALDREP: Well, I just wondered ---

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: First we've got to get the
26 item on the floor. And now we're voting to reconsider
27 this buyout plan and I'm wanting to take a vote.

28 CINDY WILSON: This is like buying a pig in
29 a poke. This is crazy.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All in favor of
31 reconsidering the buyout, please let me see your hands
32 again. Four, five. Opposed?

33 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I'm gonna
34 abstain. I just can't figure out what in the world
35 you're doing.

36 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman.
37 Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, Mr. McAbee. I
39 have a five, zero and one. Who didn't vote?

40 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson abstains.

42 BOB WALDREP: I abstain.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Two abstains. Okay.

44 CINDY WILSON: You can add me to
45 abstaining. This is ridiculous.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We still have the
47 majority, so that's okay.

48 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, we are now in
50 discussion, Mr. Waldrep, on the buyout.

1 BOB WALDREP: Yes, sir.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee requests the
3 floor.
4 BILL MCABEE: I call for the question.
5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee calls ---
6 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, point of
7 order.
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the ---
9 BOB WALDREP: I know, but I've got a point
10 of order. That's -- even Mr. McAbee said that trumps
11 all other motions.
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Waldrep, your
13 point of order.
14 BOB WALDREP: My point of order is why
15 can't we discuss anything here tonight? Why can't we
16 -- like we're voting on things and we don't have any
17 numbers to vote on. We're just reconsidering matters.
18 And Mr. Chairman, I don't think I've ever been witness
19 to such a railroaded situation where the public
20 interest is involved. And we're talking about a great
21 deal of money here. And right I don't know
22 specifically what ---
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: What's your point of order?
24 GRACIE FLOYD: This isn't a point of order.
25 BOB WALDREP: -- what kind of money we're
26 talking about. How can we vote on something if we
27 don't -- if we can't even articulate the amount that
28 we're voting on?
29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, I understand
30 your question. However, Mr. McAbee had the floor and
31 he did make the motion to call for the question, and I
32 am bound to follow Robert's Rules. Do I have a second?
33 RON WILSON: Second.
34 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
35 favor of calling for the question, please vote. I
36 didn't get a count. I'm sorry. Four. Four. Against.
37 Three. Four, three. It still passed, four, three. We
38 are in the -- all in favor of -- I've lost my train of
39 thought, Mr. Martin. Where am I?
40 TOM MARTIN: You're now voting on the
41 original motion.
42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Of the severance agreement
43 and release? All in favor of the severance agreement
44 and release of claims, please vote. Four. Five.
45 Five. Opposed. Abstain. How are you guys voting down
46 there?
47 CINDY WILSON: I'm voting against this.
48 This is still a railroad job and we're lacking our
49 fiduciary ---
50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, you don't have

1 the floor. I'm just asking how you vote.
2 CINDY WILSON: And y'all don't have good
3 sense.
4 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, are you through
5 with that?
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am, I'm still trying
7 to get my vote here. The vote is five, one and Mr.
8 Waldrep abstain. So it's five, one and one. It passes
9 again.
10 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
11 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
12 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, in the form of
13 a motion I think that I want to make a motion that we
14 at this time hire our new administrator and I would
15 like to hire -- I would like to put in the motion that
16 we hire Michael Cunningham. I have the contract
17 available.
18 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I second.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Lord help us.
20 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, are we ever
21 gonna move on the agenda or is everybody just kind of
22 picking up as they go.
23 CINDY WILSON: This is not even on the
24 agenda.
25 GRACIE FLOYD: It was amended in Mr.
26 Wilson's -- no, it was added when Mr. Wilson did his --
27 asked to put ---
28 CINDY WILSON: His was a severance
29 agreement ---
30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No one has the floor.
31 GRACIE FLOYD: I apologize.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are passing out
33 information that Ms. Floyd wanted to present. She made
34 a motion and it was seconded by Mr. McAbee. No one has
35 been recognized for discussion.
36 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.
37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.
38 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. It was -- this
39 was all a part of Mr. Wilson's ---
40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Motion to amend, I
41 understand.
42 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you.
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please move forward.
44 GRACIE FLOYD: I'm through.
45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion on
46 the floor to accept the master employment agreement to
47 hire our current assistant administrator, Mr. Michael
48 Cunningham, as our new administrator. Mr. Cunningham,
49 will you please come to the mike? The chair retains
50 the floor, so I'm speaking for myself. I did speak to

1 members of council and to members of the personnel
2 committee, and I did make my desires known, what I
3 wanted as the representative and Mr. Cunningham has
4 done an excellent job as our assistant administrator
5 and it was my wish and desire that he would be
6 nominated. And that is as far as I took it.
7 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ---
8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am, I have the floor.
9 CINDY WILSON: It appears like y'all have
10 had secret meetings.
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, God.
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, ma'am, I have a
13 telephone and I know how to use it, and that's what I
14 did. I telephoned Mr. Greer up and I went to see Mr.
15 Wilson in person. So that's what I did. Mr.
16 Cunningham, how long have you been with Anderson
17 County?
18 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Ten years.
19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: How long have you served in
20 the capacity of county administrator? I mean
21 assistant, I'm sorry?
22 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: 2002.
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wow.
24 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: So that's six years.
25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's it. I have been to
26 his office several times. He has a dual degree from
27 University of South Carolina and from Clemson, so he
28 should make everybody happy. And it's a master's
29 degree in public administration. Is that correct? Is
30 that what I saw?
31 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, sir.
32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. --
33 that's all for me. We are still in discussion on this.
34 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.
35 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.
36 BOB WALDREP: I'm still trying to
37 understand how the machinery works here. I think you
38 were just quoted a moment ago, to quote yourself, that
39 you had had a discussion with Mr. Wilson, that you had
40 been telephoning members of the council ---
41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir, I said I telephoned
42 Mr. Greer, one person.
43 BOB WALDREP: And who else?
44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And I went and saw Mr.
45 Wilson.
46 BOB WALDREP: And who else?
47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's it.
48 BOB WALDREP: Just those?
49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's just it.
50 BOB WALDREP: And then you told them to

1 talk to other people? How have you all communicated
2 here?

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. No, sir.

4 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I've got to
5 tell you that you have created here probably the most
6 preposterous scenario of how this council had gotten
7 together without any recommendations, without any
8 notice to anybody, and hammered out an agreement just
9 out of thin air. And you cannot tell me that this
10 council has not been communicating and meeting, which
11 is a total violation of the law. And I think you know
12 that. And I think these council members know that too.
13 And I think that these council members will enjoy the
14 opportunity to discuss their communications at another
15 time.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, what I did was
17 talked to Mr. Greer, who is a member of the personnel
18 committee, and I spoke to Mr. Wilson, who is the
19 chairman. And I made my wishes and desires known and
20 that's where I left it. Who else spoke to these
21 gentlemen, I do not know.

22 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: As a member of council, I
24 felt it was my duty and obligation to make my wishes
25 and desires known, and that's what I did.'

26 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

28 CINDY WILSON: It appears that your wishes
29 and your desires may not reflect the people who had
30 originally elected you. It appears that there have
31 been secret meetings. And how else do you get all
32 these massive legal documents without some report to
33 council. There's a process that we have absolutely put
34 asunder here. We have not followed rules. We have not
35 followed laws here, both local and state. And I think
36 you're all in for a rude awakening.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

38 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

39 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

40 BILL MCABEE: I call for the question.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a call for the
42 question. Is there a second?

43 RON WILSON: Second.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson seconds. All in
45 favor for calling for the question, please vote. Four.
46 Opposed. Three. All in favor of the master employment
47 agreement as presented by Ms. Floyd to hire Mr. Michael
48 Cunningham as the new county administrator of Anderson
49 County, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. Motion
50 passes.

1 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
2 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Where did he
3 go? Mr. Cunningham, congratulations, you will be soon,
4 apparently, the new county administrator.
5 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.
6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
7 BILL MCABEE: I move reconsideration of
8 Ms. Floyd's motion and ---
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand. Is there a
10 second to reconsider?
11 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.
12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?
13 CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, Ms. Wilson.
15 CINDY WILSON: It was my understanding that
16 when a county hires an administrator that there should
17 be applications, there should be discussion. Again, I
18 know now what you're doing with the reconsideration. I
19 had forgotten that this was a new edict I think as of
20 last year ---
21 GRACIE FLOYD: You taught us that one.
22 CINDY WILSON: -- where ---
23 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, please.
24 CINDY WILSON: -- where you are -- you
25 think that you're making this airtight by
26 reconsidering. And I just want to point out that as a
27 county councilman who's been sued multiple times by the
28 current administrator and other parties related
29 thereto, this is just such an incredible day for
30 Anderson County that we would have no discussion. The
31 public has not even had a chance to see how their money
32 is being spent.
33 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.
34 Chairman.
35 CINDY WILSON: They haven't had a chance to
36 see any of this.
37 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.
38 Chairman.
39 CINDY WILSON: There are clauses in ---
40 BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr.
41 Chairman.
42 CINDY WILSON: And also in the master ---
43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, there is a point
44 of order on the floor that takes precedence. Please
45 yield.
46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.
47 BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 The matter at hand is the reconsideration, not the
49 contract.
50 CINDY WILSON: But it's a reconsideration

1 of the contract.

2 BILL MCABEE: We haven't voted to
3 reconsider to yet discuss the contract.

4 CINDY WILSON: But we still haven't read

5 ---

6 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. McAbee is
7 correct. We're only voting to if or not to reconsider
8 this. We're not into details of the contract. So Mr.
9 McAbee is correct. All in favor -- the chair calls for
10 the vote on reconsideration. All in favor of
11 reconsidering Mr. Cunningham's master employment
12 agreement, please vote. One, two, three, four.
13 Oppose. One. Abstain.

14 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Two abstains. Okay. It
16 passes. Now, Ms. Wilson, we are in discussion on the
17 contract. Do you wish the floor?

18 CINDY WILSON: I wish that we could table
19 this so we have a chance to read it and ask questions
20 and receive answers. When you make motions and approve
21 the expenditure of millions of dollars without due
22 diligence, without public information, this is
23 unbelievable.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else?

25 CINDY WILSON: Absolutely unbelievable.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

27 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

28 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

29 LARRY GREER: Accusations have been made
30 tonight that members of this council have participated
31 in illegal meetings. My understanding that a quorum of
32 this council is four or more and that a meeting between
33 any other members of council or discussion between any
34 other members of council, as long as it's not four,
35 collectively discussing or working together, it is not
36 an illegal meeting. There is nothing wrong with
37 individual council members discussing things among
38 themselves. And that's what has occurred in this
39 instance. Mr. Martin, am I correct, that it's not
40 illegal for two or three council members to discuss an
41 item or for council members to discuss items over the
42 telephone?

43 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

44 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

45 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Greer, that
46 is correct.

47 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

48 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

49 BOB WALDREP: May I ask Mr. Martin a
50 question?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure. Go right ahead.

2 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Martin, you're
3 representing to this council now that these kind of
4 telephone conferences are perfectly legal in violation
5 of what I would allege to be in violation of the
6 Freedom of Information Act that council can contact
7 each other on the phone and have phone meetings like
8 this?

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

10 TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Mr. Waldrep, I was asked a very specific question, and
12 that is, whether council members constituting less than
13 a quorum of council may discuss matters outside of
14 formal meeting, and the answer is yes. I've not called
15 it a meeting. I've not called it anything. I simply
16 answered the question.

17 BOB WALDREP: So between two people, but
18 those two people then one of those calls another and
19 another, and so you don't consider that to be a
20 violation? Would that be a violation for two people to
21 meet and then one of those people call a third and then
22 that third calls a fourth, that you don't consider that
23 to be a violation?

24 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

25 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- sorry. Mr. Martin.

26 TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, I
27 would want more specifics about how the discussions
28 were conducted. But in a nutshell, no, I don't think
29 that would constitute a meeting.

30 BOB WALDREP: Okay. Do you know who
31 drafted these contracts?

32 TOM MARTIN: I do know who drafted the
33 one for Mr. Cunningham. I did.

34 BOB WALDREP: Oh, you did. How about the
35 one for Mr. Preston's buyout?

36 TOM MARTIN: I have no idea.

37 BOB WALDREP: Once again, into the
38 darkness of politics. Thank you.

39 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

41 LARRY GREER: For the record, I'm gonna
42 state as of December the 31st, I will have served on
43 this council for ten years. I have never participated
44 in an illegal meeting of four council members or more.
45 I have walked away in some instances to avoid that. If
46 you accuse me of that, you're telling an untruth.

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair calls for the vote on
48 the reconsideration of Mr. Cunningham's ---

49 BILL MCABEE: We already voted.

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Where are we then?

1 BILL MCABEE: On the contract. We're
2 waiting on the contract.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: On this, the
4 reconsideration, right? That's where I was going. All
5 in favor to vote on the reconsideration of Mr.
6 Cunningham's contract, please vote. In favor of,
7 please vote.

8 BILL MCABEE: In favor of the contract.

9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, in favor of the
10 contract.

11 CINDY WILSON: No. I thought that was
12 reconsideration?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oppose. Abstain. Five, one
14 and one.

15 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Listen, I'm ready to go.
17 Have we taken care of business.

18 CINDY WILSON: No. We still have plenty
19 more left on the agenda.

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sick. I'm doing good to
21 breathe and I'm going home.

22 BILL MCABEE: I move to adjourn.

23 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that in the form of a
25 motion?

26 BILL MCABEE: Yes.

27 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, point of
28 order. Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

29 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, what is your
30 point of order?

31 BOB WALDREP: We still have some items on
32 the agenda, and I just think it's totally inappropriate
33 for us to adjourn without the opportunity to discuss
34 some very important matters which have ---

35 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, point of
36 order.

37 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up, please. Mr.
38 Waldrep, Mr. McAbee had the floor and he made a motion
39 to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Greer, so it is a
40 proper motion. So I have to go with the flow. I have
41 to call for the vote. All in favor of adjourning,
42 please vote. Five. Oppose. We are adjourned.

43

44

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:15 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – December 2, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

Amended (pg. 76)
MINUTES

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

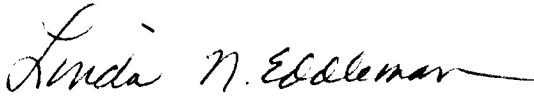
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
Ron Wilson – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Michael Cunningham – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

Amended

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP

CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The regular meeting of the Anderson County Council for December the 2nd, 2008 will now come to order. We have invocation and pledge of allegiance by council member Cindy Wilson. Ms. Wilson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Approval of minutes. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. And this is for the approval of the minutes for November the 18th, 2008. We have a second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of approving the minutes for November the 18th, 2008, please vote. The vote is unanimous. Citizens' comments, agenda matters, we have people signed up, Mr. Martin? How many?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are seven citizens under agenda matters and four under other matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Instructions for citizens comments. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens' agenda is for the receipt of information, citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. When you come forward, please give your name, address and the council district in which you live and identify the agenda item you wish to speak about. Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Elizabeth Fant.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please speak into the mike.

ELIZABETH FANT: My name is Elizabeth Fant, Belton, South Carolina, county district one. Mr.

Chairman, county council, friends and fellow constituents, November the 22nd was a sad day. Some of you are not old enough to remember November 1963 when our President John F. Kennedy was slain. I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing at that incomprehensible moment when a chunk of democracy died. Who am I? An educated non-partisan citizen who believes that all people must do the best they can to support and participate in our democratic process. What will be said next must not be taken lightly, but there is no personal agenda. Thoughts are presented as an unhappy Anderson County voter amazed and embarrassed by what I have witnessed. I ask for you all to listen intently with an open mind and a contrite heart. Fast forward to November the 18th, 2008, and again I witnessed a slaughtering so egregious that it has totally encompassed my thoughts. Incredulously we listened as Anderson County members equally, Paganly ridiculed the democratic process as a majority of five crafty and illegally orchestrated policy-making. Increasingly as I have attended council meetings, I witness stalemates as a majority five council members never question, seek more information or work as our district's council person, but increasingly vote down whatever is promoted by the minority two who always have valid concerns. Council meetings have become a joke when votes are taken always five to two. Further of the majority five, three members consistently scowl, snicker, pay no attention and rudely address the minority two. The majority's main concern seems to be point of order or time's up, picky rules of council, rather than addressing county needs or policy direction. Council members need to watch themselves on cable, very childish, self-perpetuating behavior. No wonder constituents have little faith in their council. After a few unimportant items on the agenda, one majority councilman as personnel committee, an ad hoc committee, no real power, and as councilman promoted a change in agenda so as to short circuit the next three items to be presented by minority councilman. As usual the majority five passed this agenda change.

Then the first majority councilman presented not findings of the personnel committee as he was instructed to do, but instead took it upon himself to negotiate a severance package for the county administrator for one point four million, plus a 2006 Tahoe. Supposedly no one on the council had been privy to this multi-page agreement. If so it would have been very poor judgment for the council to vote - reconsider vote all at one meeting, thus sealing the deal without even reading the agreement. No one in his right mind would fork out that kind of money, especially since the county administrator's salary is a hundred and sixty-five thousand. No one who cared what Anderson County constituents thought or how residents already struggling economically could pass such a motion that will severely impact county budget, without much discussion, second and third readings at subsequent meetings. No sane person would pass an item of this magnitude without full discussion of its budget consequences. Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Quiet. No -- let me remind the audience that this is a legislative body in session. Sir, please leave the room. Chief. Chief. This guy in the stocking cap, please remove him from the audience. Now let me remind the audience that this is a legislative body in session. The audience is to be respective and to be quiet at all times. This is not a town meeting. There will be no shouting out. There, there will be order at all times. Now, Mr. Martin, may be proceed forward.

MARK POWELL: My name is Mark Powell. I live in Williamston in Cindy Wilson's district. If I could just say -- oh, you've added something new this week. You said you must give the item in which we're to speak. Number ten, personnel matters. If I could say ditto to what the lady just said, that would pretty much sum up what I have to say. The only thing I'll go different is, I have no clue what education level people who made decisions on the 18th of November have. I do know that as I read the contract, the contract was very clear, it was a three year contract, he was hired, what, ten, twelve years ago,

it has in it a one year renewal, three years past, eight, nine years ago, one year renewal. He sued us supposedly in a letter. I haven't read the letter. I understand from what y'all said the last time, we're coming out real cheap in this 1.14 and giving the Denali. The interesting thing to me is a one year renewal contract and, you know, I do have a measly little education from Palmetto High School, great school that it is, and a Greenville Tech engineering degree. It is a one year contract. That one year contract, his current salary is a hundred sixty-five thousand dollars and some change. If we have of gotten rid of him come January, there would have been slightly more than six months left on said contract. I don't know how easy or difficult math is for you guys, but the bottom line is 6.5 months roughly, July the 22nd, if my memory serves on the date of the contract, equals a little more than half of a hundred sixty-five thousand dollars. Somewhere between the eighty to ninety thousand. There was the five thousand dollars in the contract talking about pension. But if you do the five thousand pension which you've already done, then you give half of that five thousand, you still come under ninety thousand dollars. This whole process that you guys used to make this decision is based on fear. There's a little lawyer about this tall that will probably be up here telling you to fear lawyers a little later on. Lawyers are just that, they're lawyers. They can only interpret what is written down on a piece of paper. What was clearly written on Joey Preston's piece of paper was a three year initial contract with a maximum, a maximum of a three year severance package should they deem to fire him day one, that's what the word maximum meant in his contract. So I hope that, don't know how it will happen, but hopefully times will be bad for some of you. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview Estate, County Council district one. First of all in addressing one of the issues mentioned, Ordinance number 2008-60, this is the first time I've ever seen

an ordinance presented that had no details behind it. When I looked on the computer I looked for any details and there was absolutely nothing. Are we going to see a repeat of what happened last meeting? And that meaning, we really did see freedom and democracy just run amuck. An item was presented as information which quickly became passed, almost like a normal resolution. It was not presented as a resolution, it was just presented as for consideration. It was hard to really see how fast that process flowed through. And for something that no one had seen before that hadn't even laid eyes on it or knew about, all of a sudden, we had money to transfer to an account, we already had a contract for a new administrator, and all of this when there was nothing known before. Something does not add up right. And so we're looking right now, we, the citizens of this county, who come to these meetings who want to have input, who want to know that our voices are being heard, but most of the time it appears that our voices just fall on deaf ears, that the majority members have already made their decision and what we the citizens have to say becomes totally irrelevant. And if the voices of the citizens are irrelevant, we no longer adhere to the principals of the constitution of our great land. What we really have is a tyranny by a few who have taken it upon themselves to rule and govern for the benefit of the people but without input from the people. This is a very dangerous situation to get into. And to consider all of this started out is when the new council members coming in were simply going to put former administrator Preston under a shorter lease, which Mr. Preston took that as a breach of contract. County council needs to remember that the administrator works for you. He doesn't work for the people. He works for you. He's not an elected official, so therefore, we, the public, cannot criticize his actions. So he is accountable to the council and the council is accountable to the people. And if you fail to do your duties then and you give the administrator more power than the council have, then you have no, then you have no -- then you serve

no purpose at all. I want you really to consider all these things that we're doing, the actions we've proceeded to and know the long term consequences that we've going to reap. And right now we would like to say we can trust our council people. But one thing you must remember, trust is something that is not given. Trust is earned. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, council. My name is Rick Freemantle from the Whiteplains precinct, district six. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to discuss items number 5, 7, 18K and L tonight dealing with resolutions, contracts, severance and awards. I'm reminded by an extraordinary person's quote, wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion or political views, that place, that place at that moment must become the center of the universe. So says Mr. Eli Wiesel. I could not help but notice the obvious omission describing your courageous efforts to deny some citizens their free speech in these hallowed halls over the last two years in your award describing your deed, Mr. Chairman. Nor was there any mention as to your use of profane language in these same halls. Also glaringly vacant was any mention of our previous administrator's insubordination towards an elected official, to say nothing about the state-wide embarrassment he caused this county, according to eyewitness accounts of his inappropriate sexual escapades with a subordinate female employee at Cater's Lake. I find it very strange as will others in the coming months that the same three members of this council's personnel committee who were charged with handling this embarrassment, by their own words, never convened a meeting to deal with this matters. Yet they were all too anxious to find a way to give away one million dollars of taxpayers' money when it appears you did not have to. With the exceptions of the representatives from district one and seven, you other five will continue to be the center of the universe until justice is meted out to each of you for your actions against the people of Anderson County.

If you think the people of Anderson County are gonna sit by and accept what appears to be corruption at its highest levels with your actions regarding the shameful severance agreement with Mr. Preston or the shoving of Mr. Cunningham's contract down our throats, then you have misjudged the anger you have caused.

TOM MARTIN: Anthony Powell.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir.

MARK POWELL: I'm Mark and Anthony.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir.

MARK POWELL: I didn't get to speak on citizens' comments because you called it quick to go home sick, but yet you went ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, you can only speak once.

TOM MARTIN: Terry Chapman.

TERRY CHAPMAN: My name is Terry Chapman. Appleton Mill, Old Town, New Town, district two, Ms. Gracie Floyd. I just want to make a few comments on 10, 12, 13, 14, really. It all sums up, I hear people talking about the five, the dynamic five, or whatever you want to call them, five/two. They say we don't have a democracy. I thought that's what voting was. And five to two sounds like a majority. But I also know, too, sometimes when they talk about hearing the people, I'm not gonna say about some districts because I don't know all of them. But I do know what goes on in district two, and I try to get around to other districts, but I know district two, Ms. Floyd talks to her people. We've got sixteen groups. We've got two more trying to add and hope we can get more than that. She asks her people. But we've in the low rent, whatever you want to call us, that's what we've been called before. But the hard working textile people is what built Anderson County. There wouldn't be one without them. Sometimes when you look at pointing fingers, because I think in the -- where it talks in the contract or the bylaws or the laws of the council, they have the right to hire the administrator. I thought that's who hired and fired. If not then I'm mistakenly wrong, but that's what everybody has been saying. Only the council. I don't think you could

find anybody better than Mr. Cunningham. I hate to see Mr. Preston go. I consider him a friend. I think he's done a lot for Anderson County. Then when I read the paper hearing about my friend, Mr. Martin, or what he's contemplating, this county is like Mr. Johnson said as mayor years ago, I'm just gonna say this and sit down, he says, if it's run by the people for the people it'll go forward. If it's run by the people that's just sitting up there we'll be a one-horse town and we'll die a one-horse town. Anderson is on the move. And regardless of what some thing, get out and talk to the people and find out what the people want, not what the minority wants. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

DAN HARVELL: 500 Trail Road, council district seven, Highpoint precinct. Mr. Chairman and members of council, I find it ironic, especially to you, Mr. Chairman, that you would demand order from the body out here such as you have already tonight from apparently one guy's expression on his face, you demand order from us out here, yet your behavior at the last council meeting was anything less than order. I'm very glad that you made mention or that you approved the minutes tonight because some of us that watch everything you do are very glad that you have approved what's in these minutes because I believe this is gonna have legal consequence down the road, perhaps after January the 1st. Of course, the DVD that we all have of last month's meeting, last council meeting, also confirms these minutes. So thank goodness we have these records. What we witnessed last week or last council meeting, was an absolute travesty against the taxpayers, and you know it. I thought the Anderson Community Theater was down the road here. It's not. It was in here last council meeting. But unfortunately the acting was incredibly bad. Mr. Wilson brought forth a motion to introduce the severance agreement for Mr. Preston. Then all of a sudden that got morphed into two more items that supposedly you all really didn't know what was going on. I mean, folks, the taxpayers of Anderson County are much smarter than that. Give us some credit.

Give them the credit. Give them the credit, the people that donate the money, voluntarily or involuntarily, so that county budgets in this county can be driven from thirty-seven million to a hundred and forty-nine million, in a short decade. The borrowing of twenty-one million dollars since you became a lame duck council is unconscionable. It just amazes me that someone such as Mr. Preston who we saw actually in tears here last council meeting, it amazes me that he, as he said so often, loves the people of Anderson County, loves the employees of Anderson County, plans to stay in Anderson County -- he stood right over there one night and said, I'm not going anywhere. It just amazes me that someone with that kind of love for all of us will fleece us on the way out the door, all because of five of you that sit right there that totally ignored political protocol and totally ignored partially the Roberts Rules of Order. When I sit there at the Zoning Board meeting up there when I'm up there, I see that Roberts Rules of Order at Ms. Floyd's desk up there. I just wonder why it wasn't invoked. It was a travesty against the taxpayers and it ain't over until it's over. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, those are the only citizens under agenda matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Resolutions and pride awards, 5A, pride awards, recognition of students who earned the National Retail Federation Certification through the FusionWorks Program at Fusion Warehouse Student Center, Ms. Gracie S. Floyd, you have fourteen minutes, Ms. Floyd. Do we need to vote on this?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, we do. I'll put this in the form of a motion that we accept this resolution.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? Chair calls for the vote on approving the pride awards. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Floyd, you have the floor.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I want to say this first. I have been giving out several of these

awards. They're called pride awards because we are proud of these young people. But do you realize that we take these young people where we find them and they're given training and then they find jobs. Do you realize that when they find these jobs they are put back, or maybe it's not back, they are being placed on the tax rolls, not only for the feds but for the state and for our county. Someone tried to criticize what we did here. First of all they had the name all wrong. They called them auto mechanics some another, without even knowing they were criticizing. But folks, this is a good thing. I'd like to call these young people up front, please. Please come up front now. Is Mr. Wayne Croft here? Thank you. A couple of meetings ago I appropriated two thousand dollars to the Fusion Warehouse so that they could get certification in order to teach this new course. My fellow council members and I appropriated a thousand dollars a piece to the alternative school so that these kids can have the training that they needed. The alternative school took the money and they chose the students. These students are the first ones to complete this new training. And I think several of them have jobs. Yeah? Okay. They're gonna have jobs if they don't already have one. But I just wanted them to know how proud we all are. I'm down here saying this, but if you'll turn around and look at the council members, turn around and look at them, because they are proud of you too. They are proud of you too. You have taken what was given to you and you have made something wonderful out of it. And that's the proudest thing that ever -- that's happened to me in a long time. This award says, Anderson County, acting by and through the Anderson County Council, and Gracie S. Floyd, district number two, in special recognition of your exemplary accomplishments, Anderson County and its people, hereby confers upon you, Justin Gonzales, the Anderson County Pride Award for earning the National Retail Federation Certification through the Fusion Student Center. Justin, I'm proud of you.

APPLAUSE

GRACIE FLOYD: Is your mother here? Also,

Anderson County, acting by and through the Anderson County Council and Gracie S. Floyd, district two, in special recognition of your exemplary accomplishment, Anderson County and its people hereby confers upon you, Rodriguez Hardy, the Anderson County Pride Award.

APPLAUSE

GRACIE FLOYD: Acting by and through Anderson County Council in special recognition of your exemplary accomplishment, Anderson County and its people hereby confers upon you, Maquila Estridge, the Anderson County Pride Award, for earning the National Retail Federation Certification for the Fusion ...

APPLAUSE

GRACIE FLOYD: Your mother is here? Please stand up. The mother, please stand up. And her brother and her sisters. I want all of you to stand up. We are so proud of her and we are proud of you for the encouragement that you gave her. Good. Good. There you are, darling. Don't let this -- don't let it stop here. Keep on keeping on. Don't let negative people stop you. Keep on keeping on. Okay. Mr. Croft is the -- no, he doesn't direct. Mr. Croft works at the alternative school. Thank you for selecting the students. Thank you for being so open to this, to this whole program. Randall, it seems as if I'm always thanking you on the behalf of the children of this county, for here I go again, thank you for being the man of vision. Thank you for keeping on keeping on. Thank you for not listening the naysayers. And thank you for being there for these kids. You want to say something?

MALE: How do I get a mike? I'll say a few things, because I love to brag on these young men and women. And I just want to say a special thanks to the chairman of the county council for your support for allowing these youth to be able to take the certification class and also the collaboration with the alternative school is a wonderful thing. It's so wonderful when we all work together what can be accomplished. And I want to thank you, the alternative school, for allowing this to happen. We're so excited. This is our inaugural class and

we've so excited about that. And we've now registered just over eighty-two hundred youth here in Anderson County. That's about forty-four percent of Anderson County's youth population. So it is rather challenging sometimes, but it's very rewarding. You guys are awesome. I'm so proud of you guys. You ought to be seen when they done the training, they were - sometimes our staff had to look at them for example because they were doing such a great job. So thanks again. Congratulations. And thank everyone here, Mr. Chairman, council, thank you so much.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Martin, do I have time? Plenty of time. Mr. Croft, would you please speak on behalf of the alternative school.

Mr. CROFT: On behalf of the alternative school we really appreciate Randall, Ms. Floyd and council. A lot of times when we get kids at our school they're already in trouble. They may not have direction. These kids have shown that they're willing to work. The certificate is proof that all kids we get are not going to jail. We write off too many kids simply because they get in trouble. I'm here to tell you, you've got just as many problems in your public school as you do at the alternative school who haven't been caught. So when we get them, we try to set them on track. I'm as proud of these three as I can be. We look forward to more in the future. Thank you and thank you.

APPLAUSE

MALE: I just wanted to say this part. These guys actually done this training on their own time. They didn't do it during school time. They came on Saturdays on their own time. They took time out. They're an example we hope a lot of the students will follow. So I just wanted to recognize that. They done it on their own time. They showed up, made sure they were there, every Saturday, to go through the course. This is Cecily Gambrell. She's actually the director over our FusionWorks Program and does a wonderful job. Thank you so much.

GRACIE FLOYD: With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 5B, Resolution 2008-048, a resolution recognizing and honoring the Anderson County Registration and Elections Office and its individual staff members for their dedication, hard work and professionalism during the 2008 general election. It is resolution so the chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Resolution 2008-048, please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Wilson, you have the floor, fourteen minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to invite all of these wonderful people with the registration and elections office to the front, please. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Croft. Mr. Croft, would you please come down? Would you please come down?

CINDY WILSON: Not only did these wonderful employees do an incredible job, but the Registration and Elections Commission is also to be included in this resolution. And I also want to make a very special thank you to all the poll workers. I personally stood in line for three hours. And it was just absolutely incredible the amount of enthusiasm and the patience that everyone exhibited. I've never seen poll workers hustle so hard all day long and with a smile on their faces. And everybody was so excited. Massive turnouts. But we're deeply indebted, because this is a very important part of our country. Whereas the Anderson County Registration and Elections Office is a statutorily created office of the State of South Carolina charged with, among other things, the responsibility of registering voters and conducting national, state and local elections in Anderson County. And whereas, many times individuals who work behind the scenes are singled out when things go wrong, but rarely do such individuals receive the praise that they deserve when they work the extra time and put in the special effort to ensure that everything goes right. And whereas, in addition to

their normal daily activities the staff at the Anderson County Registration and Elections office in the few short months before the 2008 general election trained 569 poll workers and rovers, conducted sixteen registration drives, processed 6309 registration applications, processed and issued over nine thousand absentee ballot requests, accommodated 6520 individuals who voted absentee at the office, prepared and tested 403 electronic voting machines, 289 personal electronic ballots and 77 communication packs and supplied 76 polling locations throughout Anderson County. And whereas the Anderson County Registration and Elections office took on the enormous task of registering an unprecedented number of voters in 2008 and despite the record turnout on and before November 4th, the staff was able to effectively serve the voters of Anderson County. And whereas, Anderson County, South Carolina, a body politic incorporate and political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, acting by and through its county council, desires to recognize and thank Anderson County Registration and Elections Office, its director and its staff, for all of their work that they did before and during the November 4th general election and for all the work they continue to do for the citizens of Anderson County. Now therefore, it is hereby resolved by Anderson County Council in meeting duly assembled that Anderson County, acting by and through its county council, hereby recognizes the Anderson County Registration and Elections office and its staff for their dedication, hard work and professionalism on preparing for and conducting the November 4th general election in Anderson County and for all of the work that they continue to do to ensure that all of the citizens of Anderson County have the opportunity and the ability to expediently and conveniently exercise their right to vote. Anderson County acting by and through its county council is pleased and proud to recognize and honor the full time staff of the Anderson County Registration and Elections office, including its Director, Ms. Katie Smith, the Assistant Manager of Registration and Elections, Ms. Beth

Keaton, the Senior Registration and Elections Training specialist, Ms. Sarah Campbell, the Senior Registration and Elections Clerk, Ms. Georgia Brooks, the Senior Registration Clerk, Ms. Laura Gambrell, the Senior Elections Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Cash, as well as the temporary and part time staff, including Frances Vandiver, Shirley Benfield, Catherine Rice, Sereta Blair, Tiffany Swift, Brooklyn Pressley, Caleb Smith, Joshua Emery, Weston Fexton, Braiden Bannister and Richard Wilson who each contributed to the smooth and efficient general election on November 4th, 2008.

Ladies and gentlemen, and I see a lot of our registration commission back in the back, we're both proud of you and grateful to you. Thank you so much for keeping the democratic process alive and well in Anderson County. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment. Resolved in meeting duly assembled the 2nd day of December, 2008. Ms. Smith.

APPLAUSE

KATIE SMITH: Thank you. I just wanted to thank the staff. This is the greatest staff. We had such a difficult time. You do not know the work that they do. I'm so proud of them and I just appreciate the opportunity to thank them publicly because I couldn't do it without them. Thank you.

APPLAUSE

CINDY WILSON: Thank you all very much.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Will the commission, the Voter Registrations Commission, please stand.

APPLAUSE

GRACIE FLOYD: You are to be credited as well because of what you do and because of the way that you do it. We were proud this year. We didn't have the problems that others had in their areas, and they had problems I want to thank you for a job well done. And thank you for coming tonight.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 6, New Town/Old Town Presentation. Ms. Gracie S. Floyd, ten minutes.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chapman, please come forward with Ms. -- yeah, please come forward. Folks, I want to show you what we do in district two. We don't, we don't sit around and complaint and we don't worry -- we don't talk too much about the budgets and all of that when I go out to see my people. What we do here in district two is we work. Marie, if you would come down and help us. You're gonna see something here that I saw a couple of weeks ago and I was just overwhelmed. I was overwhelmed.

Mr. CHAPMAN: I apologize for being just a little bit late. Of course, my niece Sherry, she has to work for a living so she was running a little bit late. While they're getting that prepared ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Excuse me. While they're getting that prepared, I want more time added, please, because it wasn't ready and it eats into our time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You need to move to amend the agenda.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, when the time comes I'll do it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right.

TERRY CHAPMAN: Like I say, while they're getting this ready, you know, several years back through Ms. Floyd, through the administrator's office, through Mr. Jeff Ricketson who's been a great help to us, and a lot of other employees, we put in for a block grant and we was granted five hundred thousand dollars block grant from Council of Government or we call them COG. We was approved and it was a long process, but it's well worth it. Even the headaches that come with it. But so far we've got twelve houses completed. You're gonna see -- Sherry's here, a single mom, couldn't have made it without help, really, but it's not also just fixing up her house, it's fixing up our community. But we've complete twelve houses. We've had one completely torn down. We've got three in the process that are about two-thirds finished. We've got two more to start, which is a total of eighteen houses. And we're looking forward to next year, hopefully these housing grants

that we put in for will be starting, and we thank Mr. Cunningham for that. But through this block grant we not only fixed up houses, but like I say we got the communities involved through district two. I said earlier, we've got sixteen groups going. We've got two we're hoping to add. And it not just, like I said, made the houses a better place to live, it made the community, because crime has gone down, the street walking has gone down, the drugs have gone down, and that means more than even the materialistic things. But it's also so super to see what they've done. I want Sherry to come around if she will. She wants me to do the talking.

GRACIE FLOYD: Sherry, help him out, though, please. Okay.

TERRY CHAPMAN: Yes, ma'am. I want you to look, that's I guess you'd call a typical mill house. These are before and after pictures of 278 Phyllis Street, just one of the houses, that's in this block grant that's helped our community revive. You see some side shots and the old I guess asbestos shingles, old slate shingles, the old roof. Of course, some of them we've done. But you can see where the back door had been boarded up. The back porch had done fell off. Like I say, a lot of you wouldn't want to live there. ...

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

... and she's still got one at home. But as we go through, I want you to look at the front of it now and what's taken place. And it don't only, like I say, just build up the neighborhood, it puts people like Sherry and some of the other ones back in reality check that it can be done, that you can better yourself. Just like I see these young folks that's taking these courses. You might be on the bottom, but like I tell my children, there ain't but one way to go, and that's up. But I want you to look at what, through these grants, and it's through -- I appreciate the council matching some money that we had to have, that we could get those block grants. But what it's put back. And this says, thank you, Ms. Gracie. We call her our garden angel. And like I say, we're

looking for many more. That's only the eighteen that we're looking to fix up. And if you'd understand, when I started in this thing, like I said, I didn't think it was gonna be that easy, but when you're trying to talk to people that's past eighty into doing something, it's hard. Some of them won't let you. Some of these folks that we're fixing up eighteen houses has never had central heat and air. Most of us think we can't live without it. When I got into the business part of it, helping them fill out papers, anywhere from two hundred twenty-five to three hundred twenty-five dollars a month is what they was drawing. That wasn't even paying their medicine bill. But these people having given so much gratitude to Anderson County to the grants that they got. Like I say, you find some negativism in all if it, but ninety-nine point nine percent is saying thank you for the help. And thank you, Ms. Gracie Floyd, for helping us, because we didn't know anything about it. Some of you other districts might want to take a hint

GRACIE FLOYD: Hey, hey, hey, hey, thank you.

TERRY CHAPMAN: No. We've talked about it, you know ---

GRACIE FLOYD: We won't do that. Thank you. I thank you for coming down today folks.

TERRY CHAPMAN: Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: You don't see, you don't see my people here complaining and bellyaching and tearing this county down, tearing the city down, tearing the administrator down, because this is what we do. This is what we do in district two. And this is just a second one. We completed houses on Booker Susan Street first. That was our first project. We also installed sewer and water in a Lion's Wood district. We clean up neighborhoods together. All right. We meet and talk about issues together. They tell me -- they give me directions together. Being a county council person is hard. It's hard. And it comes from the naysayers who don't understand what's going on, who don't want to take time. But it's

people like Terry, when I asked Terry -- when I told Terry what I wanted him to do, he didn't come up here and gave me a hard time. He just did it. When I went to Ricketson, Ricketson and I have a very good working relationship, when I went to him he showed me how to get those papers filled out. And when I went over to COG, they showed me what to do. Folks, district two is moving. We are moving along. We have some other ideas and other projects that's coming down through the pipe. So I was elected, don't know if you know that or not, I was reelected. I think it was seventy-five percent. My people are telling me to keep on keeping on. Don't listen, don't listen to the naysayers. Don't listen to the people who are trying to tear us down because they want us to keep building up. And I thank you, Terry. And I thank you ---

TERRY CHAPMAN: I didn't get to -- I didn't see Michelle to start with, but just to show you how it's grown, our first clean-up I think we took in about sixty to seventy bags of trash. Saturday a week ago, we quit counting at seventy. The first one, we took in maybe two or three tires. We took in over -- we picked up or brought over four hundred tires out of the community. And I don't know how many tons of trash because, like I say, we quit counting. Eight thousand plus pounds of trash out of our community because -- you're saying why was it there? Well, that's different reasons. But people are joining together trying to clean our community up where it's Old Town/New Town, where it's Homeland Park, where it's Eastside, where it's Broadway, so many different ones, because they see if we work together we can make a change.

GRACIE FLOYD: We worked -- it was raining all that night but we were there. I was sick. I had just started my little fresh cold, but I was there. My time is up; isn't it. Terry, I thank you again.

TERRY CHAPMAN: Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Marie, thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, yeah, and I was bragging, by the way.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item number 7, Employee of the Month for December 2008. Mr. Derrick Singleton, Human Resource Committee Chair. Mr. Singleton, you have ten minutes.

DERRICK SINGLETON: Mr. Chairman, member of council, Mr. Cunningham, on behalf of the Anderson County Human Resource Committee, we'd like to recognize Wilson James as Employee of the Month for December. Wilson, Tony, Hope, if y'all would like to come up, please. Mr. James, on behalf of the Anderson County Human Resource Committee, I'd like to present you with this plaque, also a chamber check, Anderson County Employee of the Month, December 2008. Congratulations.

APPLAUSE

MALE: Mr. Cunningham, if you haven't had the opportunity to meet Mr. Wilson, he is our grading foreman. So any of the big projects that you see going on with the pans, the trackhoes, all the dump trucks, Mr. Wilson does an outstanding job, and I've heard a lot of people say that if we had maybe five or six (inaudible).

APPLAUSE

DERRICK SINGLETON: We tried to get him to say something, but he's the kind that just likes to do a good job and stay in the background. But we do appreciate what you do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I've got a lot to say tonight it appears. Tony. Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: May I, on behalf of the county council congratulate Tony and wish -- and send him good wishes for his new wife and him. He was married last Saturday, I believe. Last Saturday? And she's one of ours as well. What's her name? Dana -- okay. Well, Tony and Dana are married and congratulations and best wishes to you. Good. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Okay. Some people wants a break, so we'll take a fifteen minute

break.

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-056, please vote. Unanimous. Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time I have an issue with my health. I've been having some trouble with my right leg and I might not be able to stay for the entire meeting. So at this time I move to amend the agenda to insert the appropriations between items -- not appropriations, but insert requests by council members between items 10 and 11. That's in the form of a motion to amend the agenda.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second to Mr. Greer's amendment?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second to amend the agenda to move requests by council members to between 10 and 11. We are in discussion. Mr. Waldrep, you have the floor.

BOB WALDREP: I'd just like to know some definition of what the amendment is about.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Look at item number 17 in the agenda. Requests by council members.

CINDY WILSON: And you're putting that ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, Mr. Waldrep has the floor. Item 17 -- Mr. Greer is requesting that item 17 be moved forward ---

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Okay. I'm sorry. I wasn't quite ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: -- to become basically 10B.

BOB WALDREP: WorkLink.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. No, sir. Item 17, requests by council members.

BOB WALDREP: All right.

LARRY GREER: Look at your agenda.

BOB WALDREP: Have we got a copy of it?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: On the agenda.

BOB WALDREP: I thought there was something in 17 ---

LARRY GREER: Right there. Second page

of the agenda. You have a copy in your book.

BOB WALDREP: Oh, I'm sorry. I was looking for 17 in the county council booklet that you gave us.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I understand.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

BOB WALDREP: All right.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any more discussion? All in favor of amending the agenda to make item 17 10B, please vote. Six. Oppose. Abstain.

BOB WALDREP: I'm gonna abstain, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Six, zero and one. We are amending the agenda so item 17 will be taken at 10B. Okay. Moving forward. Ordinance second reading, Ordinance 2008-055, an ordinance amending Ordinance 99-004 of the Anderson County Zoning Ordinance as adopted July the 20th, 1999 by amending the Anderson County official zoning map to rezone from RA to R20 that parcel of land identified as 1103 Three and Twenty Road consisting of plus or minus 54.67 acres in the Three and Twenty precinct on the northwest intersection of Hendricks Road and Three and Twenty Road, and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. Wilson. We are in discussion. Any discussion on this? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-055, please vote. Unanimous. Ordinance 2008-057, an ordinance to authorize the leasing of certain Anderson County space and facilities at the property formerly known as McCants Middle School, and other matters related thereto. There is a public hearing on this. Instructions for a public hearing. Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue under consideration. The chairman exercises control of the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With this being said the public hearing is now open.

Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please state your name and address before speaking and make your comments to the chair and only to the council chair. Public hearing is open.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, my name is Rick Freemantle. I live in the Whiteplains precinct, district six. First, before I get started, I'd just like to say, thank God sanity will return to Anderson County government in January. Let me see if I understand the picture which I'm looking at. First we have a school which served this area well for decades educating thousands of students. Then the school becomes empty due to the availability of a new used school. Then our county government gains control of this building and the thing becomes a white elephant filled with that evil asbestos. Building project after building project has come down the pipe and all we heard was that this building was uninhabitable due to the asbestos. Now miraculously at our last council meeting we were told by the master administrator himself, the asbestos has been abated. Well, has it? And if it has, why is this area still marked with warning tape stating otherwise? Who's paying for this asbestos removal? When did this matter come before this council to gain your blessing on the matter? And do you not think the taxpayers of this county deserve to have answers to these questions? I've seen where three separate permits have been pulled to perform this work since October of this year, with two of those being pulled just in the last month. This lease speaks to how the lessee shall act while leasing this property. It states that they will basically obey DHEC's rules and regulations, among other things. It further states that they examined the premises and accept them where is, as is. Have they and will they? Does this mean that they will be stuck finishing the asbestos removal if it is not done? Is this work not finished? Is this why the dumpster is still sitting in the parking lot? Surely our previous administrator did not hire someone who would leave such a dangerous material sitting out in the open for young children to come in contact with it. Maybe he was too preoccupied with his bank

account to be bothered with such things. As a taxpayer in this county, I have a right to know how well this governing body is protecting the interests of myself and the other citizens in this county. After all, as we saw your shameful actions during the last council meeting, it is we, the taxpayers, who will in the end be stuck paying for any damages which may come about from this lease. Is there asbestos in those bags which are in that dumpster and if so are those bags secured? If that is asbestos in that dumpster, then why is it not covered and why is it not being stored in a more secure location? I know of another great organization, Meals on Wheels, operates on these same premises. Are these people being exposed to asbestos as well as the food they're serving? Is the Salvation Army planning to move into this building immediately? If so, don't you think someone should make sure it's safe for this noble group to inhabitate this building before we discuss any lease agreement? Are they going to pay for all the changes which are included and the plans that were in the packet? What's the square footage of this building? Fifty thousand square foot, seventy-five thousand? It's a huge building. Why are we leasing so many other buildings in this county when we could have utilized this one building for all our county business and still had enough room left over for great causes like the Salvation Army. How is it that we can practically give away twenty-three hundred square feet of this building to a great cause but we do not have the foresight or will to reduce the tax burden on the citizens of this county by moving every other function of our government into this one building? I guess that just makes too much sense. Why are we being fleeced with a proposed construction of the Broadway Lake community project, all twenty-six hundred square feet worth, for another shameful one million dollar expenditure in these economic times, when we have easily ten times that space in this one building, which is already in district two? For that matter, these plans show a community meeting center either already exists or is going to be created on this McCants school property. Why can't this space be

utilized for the new community building? After all, if the twenty-three hundred square foot of space that the county is so generously offering the Salvation Army is good enough for them, it should be good enough for the other folks in district two. Thank you.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven. Okay. When that building came up, it was never on the tax rolls because it was a publicly owned building. That building was condemned by you council members because you were given information that it contained asbestos and couldn't be used. You as council members have since chosen to purchase the Kroger building. The Kroger building was being paid taxes on by the person who owned it. You've also purchased the BellSouth building who was also owned privately and also paid a huge tax burden to help pay for the finances for this county. In taking the building that you have, literally directly behind us basically, you could have put everything you can humanly image Anderson County ever needed in that one location. You wouldn't have people driving back and forth. You wouldn't have wear and tear on the cars. My suggestion, and I speak it in a pleading way, come January, February, put the Kroger building on the market for sale, the BellSouth building, put it on the market for sale. If this McCants building is available to be used for public use because it has been abated from this asbestos, then we need to locate everything we ever need in that one location. The BellSouth building, you know, let's think back on what you guys told us on that, or at least someone in the administration, that it was ready to occupy, unlock the door, walk in, take a seat. Somehow we budgeted one point something million dollars to upgrade, upfit, to make that building useable. I hope we haven't started it. When I pass by the Kroger building, it is beautiful. It's gonna be a really nice asset to that section of town. I think any business would be proud to call that home. And any business other than taxpayers would be paying taxes on that building. The taxes were probably in the tune of fifteen, twenty, thirty thousand dollars a year. I've made this comment and people say, gosh, we're gonna lose money

because we paid so much for it, we spent so much to upgrade it. We'll get that back in taxes, people. And the biggest thing we'll do is go from nine hundred employees that hopefully this coming January or February we'll be cutting that number down to a reasonable size and won't need all that space. The other thing I'd like to say is, we are taxpayers. The money you're spending on all these projects come out of our coffers, unlike some districts that like to fuss at us about coming in here and fussing, most all of us pay taxes. You know, seventy-five percent of the election is great. It's probably like the forty, fifty percent of our society that's gonna receive a welfare check from President Hussain who just got elected. What we need to understand is we complain because we work. We complain because we go to work and make money. And I've had property that's been redeveloped. And these people that's getting their homes redone, it's a great thing. But I can also tell you, is that about spending money ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, point of order.

MARK POWELL: Really? I'm talking about spending money.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. Ms. Floyd, what's your point of order?

GRACIE FLOYD: I think the citizen that's speaking at this time is off the subject. We're talking about the lease on the old McCants building.

MARK POWELL: Which I hope we will not lease no more space than we have to as hopefully we will be occupying it with all the people we would have been putting into the old Kroger building and we would have been putting into the BellSouth building because hopefully we're not gonna need the space because we taxpayers who pay taxes who come and complain don't want you to spend no more than you have to. Our roads are a problem. They're pathetic. But yet we have these beautiful buildings. Gee, that's great. Let's ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, please limit your comments.

MARK POWELL: That's all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Everyone, please limit your comments to the lease on the old McCants building, please.

STEVE POPE: Steven Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one. My comments mostly just come in more or less in the form of an open question. And that is, regarding the very large building which has two stories, and then there are buildings in the back which encompassed the music, the band and the art room, all of these properties right now, where particularly are they planning to lease? And if they're going to lease in the main building, are we going to have barriers set up to keep people from wandering around? Are we gonna block people from going up the stairways to the second floor? These are just a few simple questions we need -- I would like some clarification on so we don't end up with any unnecessary liabilities resulting from such a lease. Thank you.

ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, county district one, Belton. As far as the McCants building, the same thing, I think it needs to be said, that's a building that we're not paying taxes on. We have all these other buildings that can be used. But I would like for you to realize that out of a hundred and seventy-nine thousand people, I believe that's what the chamber says we have in Anderson County now, I believe it's been said that about forty percent are not paying taxes. So you realize that the burden is on those of us probably who are here tonight and those of us who have residences. I would like to point out that if you look on the property list online you will see numerous properties that belong to Anderson City and Anderson County that are not the Bailes building, they're not the courthouse, they are not buildings right now where we have offices. They are just properties that Anderson County owns that are tax exempt. So why are we buying all these other properties including the Kroger building? Why do we have all these other properties on the tax online that belong to Anderson County and Anderson City that are vacant but are not being collected taxes on? What happens is, the rest of us pay taxes for it. We don't

need anymore buildings. Let's use what we've got and clean up the mess and be done with it.

DAN HARVELL: Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, Highpoint precinct, and county council district seven. Mr. Chairman and members of council, I had a lot of personal problem from a taxpayer's standpoint concerning what we did with the Kroger building when we knew we had the McCants building there practically ready to use. We've found out historically over the past decade that asbestos abatement is not the huge crisis that we once thought it was. I don't mean to, I don't mean to add any insignificance to the situation that asbestos causes health-wise, but the removal of asbestos did not turn out to be the rocket science that a lot of the environmentalists wanted us to believe when all this brouhaha began. Having said that, I also want to preface my remarks here to say that I love the Salvation Army. I believe in everything they do. I've supported them. Backup information that I would provide with my tax returns were I audited would prove a twenty something year record of supporting the Salvation Army. So this has nothing to do with them. But I do question the validity and the reasoning behind leasing our county property for a period of fifty years at a time. You know, we just don't know what's gonna happen down the road. As I said, I hated to see us spend all the money that we spent on the Kroger building when we had that space available just next door. And not only that, it would have been a way to protect the entire building. I've always said I'm a wanna be architect locked in the body of a photographer. I've said that for many years. In fact, I kind of got my career plans changed early on because I wanted to be an architect to start with. But I appreciate the historical fabric that McCants is. And I think it's just a shame that we passed up an opportunity as a county to preserve that in a very meaningful way that would have preserved it for generations to come. No, I'm not a naysayer just because I disagree with a few things and the actions of past administration and those of you that have supported him lock stock. That doesn't make me a naysayer. I'd like to think the

people that come here that voice opinions like mine are actually looking more progressively toward the future because we know that our children and our grandchildren have to be able to afford to live here. And part of the vision that Anderson County needs to exhibit is good judgment in how we handle our properties that we do own. So I have nothing against the Salvation Army using this for the purpose, but I just think it's very unwise to be leasing this far down the road no matter who the organization that might be occupying it is. Thank you.

AMY PLUMMER: My name is Amy Plummer. I live in Loblolly Pines Subdivision, Michael Thompson is my councilman. Thanksgiving morning or actually Thanksgiving afternoon I had a chance to pull up the Anderson Independent website and I immediately had to close it because my heart couldn't read the story that was the headline, and that was a child was murdered by his father on Thanksgiving morning, a low income child in a family of need. The Salvation Army provides childcare for children whose parents can't pay for childcare. The Salvation Army provides the opportunity for children to play in athletic events and organized sports programs that can't be afford by other programs We used to could afford to put those children in the programs at the Recreation Center and the City of Anderson raised those prices. Now what we're doing -- if this is the salvation -- the problem -- the question that I have about this lease is that first of all I'm very proud that the Anderson County is considering leasing at a low cost to Salvation Army because of what they provide to our community. And my question is, is has the abatement been done? Because this is something that will impact these children for years to come. And the most important thing to me as a parent and a person in this community that has seen what the Salvation Army provides is to make sure that we're providing a facility to them that is healthy and a clean environment and safe for those children that are going to be served there.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak during this public hearing on the lease agreement? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now

closed. The chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-057. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. We are in discussion.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Maybe some good things will come out of this lease situation with the McCants. I also understood sometime back was that it was impossible to use that building because it was at that time it seemed like it was unabateable or something. I just got that impression or that information. And what Ms. Plummer has brought up here tonight, I'd like to know, do we have any information that it's certified that it's been abated, that there's no problem at all with the asbestosis or asbestos problem?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham, have you been brought up to date on this?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, I have actually. And with your permission I'll try to address several issues that came up.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Would you enlighten us, please, sir.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: But more specifically, Mr. Waldrep, as it relates to asbestos, the building - in your packet is a layout of the building. And the layout shows the kitchen and cafeteria area and immediately above that is a gymnasium. And then the - then a main portion of the building which is the main building, a part that is lacking is where those four classrooms where the Salvation Army is gonna be leasing. The entire building, both the gymnasium and the first and second floors of that main building are undergoing asbestos abatement. I believe the contractor that was hired to do that will be finished toward the third week of December or the final week of December, they will be completely finished with their asbestos abatement. Someone mentioned that at one time there was a real concern about the ability to abate asbestos and how long that will take and now that technology and methods have improved, it is not as costly or as worrisome. That allowed us to move forward with doing the abatement. Once that project

is complete, the asbestos abatement, we will have to receive a certification from the contractor which is monitored by DHEC, that all asbestos materials and other hazardous materials have been removed from that building and we'll have that as kind of our clean bill of health for that section of the building.

BOB WALDREP: When do you get that?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: We won't release them from their contractual obligation to us until we have that.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. When is that gonna be?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Again, we're hoping toward the -- either the third or last week of December, of this month, that that will be complete.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I notice in the lease that we've got the obligation to maintain that property.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: We'll be maintaining the common areas, outside, restrooms, hallways, so that is similar to what we have with Meals on Wheels. And with this particular lease, the reason it says kind of as is for the lease, the Salvation Army will be responsible for whatever renovation is required for those four classrooms to bring them up to code and standard, so the lease -- the lease, also I heard a fifty year term, the lease is for ten -- I'm sorry for, yeah, ten consecutive one year periods. So at its total will be ten years.

GRACIE FLOYD: Ten years.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: And that was, again, something that the Salvation Army felt more comfortable with with that. And so they will have ten consecutive one year lease periods.

BOB WALDREP: Well, they're paying ten dollars a year, so I think they can afford that.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Well, let's hope so. Although they are struggling and their kettles are out, so please don't walk past those. I also heard the issue of the McCants versus Kroger property, and you know, I think we all would have loved to been able to use McCants but the primary issue with McCants versus Kroger is parking availability. As you recall,

the McCants, it being a middle school, there was a lot of drop-off traffic. There was not a lot of cars staying there all day, so there is not as much parking available at the former McCants site as there is at the Kroger site and parking has always been an issue and parking is at a premium. And what we're hoping to have happen is what's happening at McCants so that we would maintain the architectural view of the building, the way it looks, it is a beautiful building. It was built to stay there. And so we are hoping to approach a phase renovation utilizing some of the space for these agencies that will come in like Meals on Wheels, raise the money to renovate the space at their cost and we provide a space and some common areas that the county will be keeping up. The money for the abatement and the renovation of some additional space is coming out of the GO bond that was just recently done that includes the Kroger and several other projects. So that's where the funds are coming from to do this renovation. We do intend with our part of the building to put the special populations group in there and also someone had concerns about access. We will control access to the building to make sure that those in there can use and also be safe. So it's a great project. It's taken quite a while to come along and we hope to see good things happening down there at McCants, and I think the second -- the next item on your agenda speak to some of the good things there.

BOB WALDREP: Well, maybe some of the good things that would come out of this is that there will be some kind of comprehensive planning about all these buildings that are scattered out throughout the county to try to centralize things. You know, to try to think about convenience, parking, access and all those things. And I was concerned to learn that the First Federal building which was under consideration at one time is now being leased at eleven thousand dollars a month under apparently a three and a half year lease. That's a lot of money, particularly in light of the fact, as you know, that the prior lease that we had was three thousand dollars a month. And I don't -- I just hope that we'll have an opportunity once we look at all these kind of leases and buildings

and things that we're doing that we'll take that into consideration. There needs to be some kind of planning here. And it just seems like it's been willy-nilly. Okay. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd asked the floor first. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Cunningham, I would like for you to please get with the man who always comes to the mike, two or three times, I think, I don't know his name, but I would like for you to get with him to answer some of those questions. I only regret that he waits until he comes here and gets before the cameras and stuff to ask all the hard questions. But I would like to say to him if he would call you or one of your department heads, that his questions can be answered in its entirety before coming to council meetings. And also maybe that will help us understand what's true and what's not true. Because someone got up there and definitely said that this was a fifty year lease. And that information wasn't correct. And also about the asbestos. Two weeks ago, was it two weeks ago, I sat in your office and we talked about the McCants building. I asked you questions about it and all of my questions were answered. You sat there patiently with me as I went through all of my little things here, and I appreciate that. But council members, I wish that we would do that instead of coming here and -- I mean getting before the camera and doing whatever it is you do, please -- and I have said this several times, several times, take time, take time to research, take time to read your agenda, and you will see that most of the questions are answered in here. And if they're not, call somebody and get the correct answers. All right. And this may be off the subject too, but we're discussing this. Somebody says that the personnel will be cut in the next year. I wanna know how they know that. And what did they call them, future council members, you might want to talk to your people and ask them not to say these things that you are going to do. Because it's causing a lot of questions

in the, you know, in the county. If you're gonna do it, then come up here and do what you have to do. Do what you think you have to do. But to have people coming up here saying that you're gonna do this and you're gonna do that when you don't do it as they want to, it kinda makes you look bad. But anyway, those are my comments.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done?

GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you. The fifty years evidently is referred to in the lease from Anderson County to the City of Anderson for the playing fields and the field house and so forth. I have to concur with Mr. Waldrep that it appears that we've been playing politics rather than actually planning our building use and building needs. We had the opportunity evidently to purchase the Carolina First building for far less than what we're actually renting it for now. And just as we learned in the asbestos abatement question four or five years ago it was probably an insurmountable issue, according to our previous administrator, but now it's not a problem. As for parking on thirteen acres, I know that we can make parking available on thirteen acres. Our citizens do have a genuine concern in all these far-flung buildings. I think it was Julius Caesar who had a problem with the line of supply and I think that same issue can be related to our county having such far-flung buildings here, there and yon. You go everywhere from your utilities to your security arrangements to landscape, everything. We have really painted ourselves into a corner on a lot of these issues because we're spread out from one end of the county to the next. The old McCants property had probably the most incredible potential for our county than any one single building around here. If we wanted to be genuine in our concern to regentrify a run-down lawless neighborhood, McCants could have fielded that concern. It's right next door to the Kroger. And yet we're now encumbering ourselves with leases that in another year or two we may discover very easily that those were poorly timed and that we

painted ourselves in a box there. The Salvation Army is a wonderful enterprise ...

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CINDY WILSON: ... we've got about a million and a half dollars built into the ten million dollar GOB, and it looks like we're probably using most of it for a one dollar a year lease. I just think we have a lot of questions here. And this question I would like to ask of Mr. Cunningham, exactly how is that million and a half dollars going to be spent for the McCants property? Would it be possible to get some kind of information on that?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, ma'am, I can get you information. But I guess the short answer is that it will be used to renovate portions of that main building for county agencies and also look at access to the building. And when I mean access, things such as the building doesn't have an elevator and it could use some improvements on how you get into the building to make it more accessible and to -- in order for the gym to become useable, you'll need to look at some vertical ingress opportunities. But that's the short answer. We can certainly get you a detailed design on the building, what all that includes, the fire upgrades, the HVAC upgrades to the building, the electrical upgrades, plumbing. So we can get all that to you certainly.

CINDY WILSON: That would be very kind. You don't need to get the information to me, but I would love to look at it and maybe have it available in a central location so our citizens could look at it as well. But it just seems like we're making some poorly timed and poorly considered arrangements here. Does this box us in when we give this lease to the city for the grounds and does this box us in when we have all the different 501(c)3s I guess, scattered around. It seems like maybe it would be wiser to have an overall plan for that building instead of just a piece here and a piece there.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, sir. First, again, I'll be happy to get that information to you and all

of the council members so you'll have -- and if you wanted to find a central location to display your information or add to that essential location display, I don't mind doing that as well. As for a plan for the building, there is a design and plan for the building. But I think what we recognized early on is that the way to do it is to particularly pick phases to do the renovation. We have, again, Meals on Wheels there. Our County Senior Citizens' Program is there. The next phase that we're looking at now is for special populations. And so the lease with the city, the lease with Salvation Army, I don't believe it'll box us in, but I do think it will allow us to kind of maybe speed up the renovations of the building and bring it back online. I think it was a great contributing factor to the community when it was a school and I hope what we're doing now will be helping to bring it back online so that we'll once again contribute to the community.

CINDY WILSON: Will the special populations like the Special Olympics get to use the track area that the city will now be governing, I guess, or leasing?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, ma'am, that is certainly the hope. Right now where they are, they're in a small house in front of the adult education building. They don't really have the space needed to do some of the activities that are great for them. So again, with the football field there, again, if we're able to address the accessibility issues, that gets them access to a lot of additional space that they wouldn't have in their current location. And it'll -- I believe it will help improve services that they're providing to that segment of our population that really deserves not to be forgotten. But I think the city's lease that's coming up, I believe, it's the next item and we'll speak to some of those issues. Or if it doesn't I'll certainly try to answer them at that time.

CINDY WILSON: Well, I've had a lot of phone calls concerned about the way we're going about

this. Everyone is supportive of the special populations and Salvation Army, all of their needs, but it just seems that there's been a total lack of planning here ---

BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CINDY WILSON: -- and I would like very much to ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Wait, Ms. Wilson. What is your point of order, Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: Time has expired for this item.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time has expired. Do we need to extend time? Anyone want to make a suggestion?

CINDY WILSON: I only have one sentence left to ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, we still need to extend time. Three minutes, chair moves to extend time by three minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second. All in favor, please vote of extending time by three minutes, please vote. One, two, three, four. Oppose. One, two. Abstain. Three minutes. Continue, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I could have been done by now. I think it would behoove us if Mr. Cunningham could arrange to have all these plans maybe in the conference room and set a date that we could go look at it. And I think it would also behoove us to delay the final readings on these until we've had an opportunity to review it. Everyone could have their questions and their answers and we could be certain that we're going about this in the best way for our county taxpayers and for our citizens. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Cunningham, didn't we review those plans already?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, you may very well have. But again, I don't mind providing

them again to everyone to have and look over.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, I think -- I mean, please by all means do it again if they need it. But I think those plans were reviewed one time before so it wasn't like they were hidden somewhere. They have always been there. And according to chamber, I think somebody said, we have a hundred and seventy-nine people -- a hundred and seventy-nine thousand people here in Anderson. Are we gonna wait for all hundred and seventy-nine thousand to approve it? Or is this a council thing that needs to happen so we can talk to our people about it? But by all means please put it out there so we can vote on it at the next -- third reading.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. Chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-057. All in favor, please vote. Five. Oppose. I meant six. Oppose. Abstain. Six, zero, one. It passes. Ordinance 2008-057, an ordinance to authorize the leasing of certain athletic fields for recreation purposes at the property formerly known as McCants Middle School, and other matters related thereto. There is a public hearing on the athletic fields also. Same rules apply. Give your name and address, speak only on the subject of the athletic fields and speak only to the council chair. With that being said, the public hearing is open.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven. I almost feel honored that I was called out. That's kind of a compliment.

GRACIE FLOYD: I wasn't talking about you.

MARK POWELL: I'm talking.

GRACIE FLOYD: I wasn't talking about you.

MARK POWELL: Oh, okay. McCants Middle School, ball fields, it was mentioned about parking. Huge parking lot in the backside of that thing if you made it a parking lot. Now the use for that for athletics for Special Olympics, a worthy cause. But it was mentioned that we have parking issues. Well, that's a gigantic flat spot. That's usually what you have to create in order to put a parking space. You look at that and you think, what would it cost to pave a parking lot? A heck of a lot less than it costs to

redo the Kroger building. You think about the comments that apparently you weren't talking about me, so I'm surprised, but the comment was never made that I was told people were going to be fired. Never has that been said. I say I hope. And on the McCants parking spot, if that's the only issue I wish that we could simply say table this, set it to the side, but I unfortunately know that five, possibly six, are going to say do it anyway. But if that field was converted to parking spaces, there would be more than ample space for that facility to be used. And there's also a big chunk of dirt, in case somebody ever noticed, real close to it that doesn't have anything on it as well which makes some additional property that the county could buy to use for additional parking space. And also, the church across the street has a huge parking spot that is not used during the business hours. And that's where I would imagine people who come to hang out at the -- for Special Olympics and different things, they have to park somewhere. We, the citizens, taxpayers, we don't mind walking a long ways. We have to walk to the front of the courthouse to get in the building. So, you know, if you paved over that ball field in the back, some of those buildings, y'all have allowed it, quite disgustingly, allowed a lot of those buildings to be highly deteriorated, so those need to be torn down and that would give additional parking space for that to be used as a county facility. So I hope that you will table this and not use it at this time for a long term lease to be used only as football fields so that it can be considered to be used for other things. You talked tonight about two layers, I think if I heard that correct, that two layers, the first floor and second floor, are gonna be asbestos abated, I think that's what I heard, which means there's two or three or four other stories that's going to have abatement done in the future while human beings are down below occupying the facility. If it hasn't been totally cleared of the asbestos, I think that is a scary thing to put people downstairs while you're doing that, especially if the Special Olympics or some other kids' organization is out there while that's happening. So

I hope that you will table it, not do anything with it, and I hope more citizens will show up to ask hard questions for council members to try to come up with good answers.

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, need I introduce myself again for the third time?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

DAN HARVELL: Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, county council district seven, Highpoint precinct. I have in my hand the document that you're about to vote on, which calls to my attention that we are leasing part of the McCants property for fifty years. So I believe one council person will stand corrected on this.

GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-uh (negative).

DAN HARVELL: Well, I don't stand corrected because this is county property that is being leased for fifty years and it's here in writing.

GRACIE FLOYD: You have the right string but the wrong yo-yo. The first time we were talking about McCants building. This time we're talking about the football field.

DAN HARVELL: Yes. And it's county property and you're leasing county property for fifty years which I object to and that is my opinion. Here you have it, fifty years, county property being lease. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me remind everyone that this is a public hearing. This is not a time for debate, question and answers and all that stuff. So let's just get through it and then we can bring up any rebuttal during discussion. Ms. Plummer, name, rank and serial number.

AMY PLUMMER: My name is Amy Plummer. I live in Loblolly Pines subdivision and I support the leasing of this ball field to the recreation center. My children were members of the recreation center participating in the programs there when the fees doubled. Fifty percent of the children dropped out. I was there. I remember. We had more volunteers than we had children. That's never happened before. According to take a bite out of crime statistics, children are fifty percent less likely to become

involved in drugs and crime if they are involved in an organized sports program. Girls are eighty percent less likely to become pregnant, according to Impact. By providing a ball field at this price for the recreation center, it enables them to continue to keep their fees as low as possible for the children that need these programs to keep them off of the street. These same people that are complaining, I among them, complain because we don't have good response times with our sheriff's department, because crime rates are going up, and this gives us an opportunity to take those children and to form those young minds and show them how to appreciate themselves and their ability by providing these programs for these children at an affordable price. So I thank you for offering this lease.

STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one. As we've heard a lot of people talk, we all ought to realize, this field right here is a piece of history of Anderson County. Some of you may remember back in 1972, we had a movie filmed here, *The Midnight Man*, with Richard Burton. I think we had our own citizen, Leonard Ross, who had performed with the Anderson Community Theater for many years. So this is a piece of history that needs to be preserved. And the field will be an excellent use to help some of our young people to have a place to go. We don't need to turn it into a parking lot. We just need to keep it, because like I said, it is a piece of history. Thank you.

RICK FREEMANTLE: There's been some talk about these plans being reviewed. Obviously they haven't been reviewed.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, please introduce yourself.

RICK FREEMANTLE: According to your ordinance I don't have to do that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, please.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Would you like me to show you your ordinance?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sir, I asked kindly, please give me your name.

RICK FREEMANTLE: My name is Mr. Rick

Freemantle.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. Whiteplains.

RICK FREEMANTLE: This plan -- these plans pretty clearly show you've got almost twelve acres of additional parking that could have been utilized for this building over the years. You're being very generous to an entity who reneged on their water agreement to our county and the taxpayers who are suffering still under the discriminatory water rates being charged to those taxpayers who are trapped under a water system for an element of life which they cannot live without. This piece of land, since it is part of the McCants school property, is also in district two. If the community building which is portrayed in these plans is already in existence or about to be created and is not big enough for the multitudes of those who would use such a facility in district two, then why not use this extra land to construct the new community center for district two? By doing this, the county would have -- would not have to spend more money, buy more land, to build such an outrageous building in the first place. Why are we giving this valuable property away for such a ridiculously low price in the first place? This makes no sense at all. With all the crime we've heard, about the need for a new jail, why did our previous administrator not utilize this land or the vast space already available with this building to solve this problem? Maybe the word new seems to be our county government's problem. It appears that our government is penny-wise and very dollar-foolish when it comes to utilizing our valuable assets wisely. Think about it, folks. We could have had the jail right here in town within a short distance of the courthouses. Think about the fuel savings and transportation of prisoners, the reduction of wear and tear on the law enforcement vehicles and the money we would have saved in man-hours transporting these same prisoners. Penny-wise and dollar-foolish. I say no to this lease. Let's start now to see how we can use this building and this land for a new jail. We were told that the city has been taking care of this piece of property and therefore we should just let them have it

for the next fifty years at a minuscule rate of ten dollars a years. Give me a break. Five of you up there are responsible for expanding the financial burden upon the heads of the taxpayers of this county to well over fifty million dollars this year along. And you mean to tell me that you don't have the foresight to use this property in a way so that it will help alleviate some of this burden? The city of Anderson has, by its own actions towards the taxpayers of this county, shown they are not worthy of such a charitable gift. And quite frankly, they should be charged the going rental rates for such a valuable piece of property. Again, I'm reminded about how desperate we were lead to believe that the animal control facility needed more space and better working conditions for both the people and the animals. Thankfully we had a generous individual who donated the county some land to build a new facility. But why, if we had control of this property, almost twelve acres, for so long did our previous administrator not see the value of this property and use it to build a new animals shelter? Why did you place our county in another three million dollars worth of debt? I say no to this lease, no to placing it into purgatory for the next fifty years. With as many needs as this county is expecting for room to expand its services to the taxpayers of this county, it only makes sense to maintain control of this property and to start looking at it as a solution to our future growth. You may think this idea is foolish. To that I say it is no more foolish than the actions which an abusive majority of this council allowed to happen with the purchase of the Kroger building. How is it that the previous administrator was allowed to purchase the Kroger building, which is literally a stone's throw away from this property? Again, why wasn't this building used for our government activities instead of wasting more money on another piece of junk which has proved to be far more expensive to reuse than we were lead to believe. And while we're at it, where did the five hundred thousand dollar revenue stream for that property go? I say no to this lease. Use this land for any further government expansion which may be

needed. And move our offices into the remainder of this building. And maybe if the powers at be are forced to see on a daily basis the angelic work of the institutions such as the Meals on Wheels program and the Salvation Army, they will think twice before they're in such a hurry to compound the debt already suffered by the taxpayers of this county. Obviously five of you up there have no interest in looking out for the welfare of the taxpayers of this county. Quite the contrary, you're acted like spoiled children.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one, the public hearing is now closed. Chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-058. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second, Mr. McAbee. We are in discussion.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: I've heard much discussion or much comment on the use of this property. But one of the things that you people need to realize is that the county has no recreation department of its own. The City of Anderson and other nonprofits essentially provide the recreation opportunity, not just for the citizens of the City of Anderson but for all of the young people of Anderson County. The -- and one of the things, having a son who's now just finished his senior year playing football, and whose football career started at the Anderson Rec, that we lack in this community are enough football fields. You know, here is a football field that served Hanna High School for years and is now being used by the recreation department where many young men start playing football for the first time. And this is, this is something that is in dire shortage, are football fields. We have a lot of baseball fields. Maybe not enough. There's a lot of young men playing baseball. And we have a lot of basketball courts. But football fields are something that are very short, and I would hate to see this property be converted to some other use and lose this existing football fields for the recreation

department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I have one concern about the fifty years. I just thought that it's hard to predict what's gonna happen down the road with regard to property use in the county and I would just suggest that we consider amending this ordinance to provide for -- the term doesn't bother me over a period of time, but to put it in terms of five year periods, five year increments, which would require the mutual consent of both parties, just to have it renewable. But to go fifty years from now to try to figure out what we would settle our successes with is something that disturbs me. And I just would ask that council give some consideration to an amendment. I would make that in the form of an amendment.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Waldrep to amend the fifty years to annually renewals. Is that what we're saying?

BOB WALDREP: No. Five year ...

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Five years.

BOB WALDREP: Over ten times, you know, but with a mutual consent of both parties.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And then Mr. Greer seconded.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

CINDY WILSON: I just asked for the floor first.

GRACIE FLOYD: We wasn't in discussion though.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The audience is to be quiet, please. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comment was made that with the fifty year lease one of our council members pointed out that the county does not have a recreation program. By virtue of giving a fifty year lease on this property, that definitely would make it more difficult for a future council to provide a county recreation program if that becomes the desire. So therefore I would support Mr.

Waldrep's amendment because that gives us a little bit of flexibility in the event that future councils would desire and our citizens desire to have a county-wide recreation program and therefore have the football field. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Cunningham, tell me about the fifty year lease, please. How did that come about and why was that, why was that amount of time put in this?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Floyd. The reason that amount of time was put in there is because the plans that the city have for that particular field. They are part of the city's overall recreation master plan that they have completed in which they will be using I guess a bond financing mechanism to pay for over time. So they were concerned about having a short term lease when they have obligated the money through their financing mechanism to complete the project. The actual -- our part of it, our part of this particular project, the football field, is the part of a larger design they have for that area that includes other properties that the county doesn't own. The county actually doesn't own the band building and several of those other outer buildings on that property. The school district wanted to maintain those buildings for food service and other items. But the city's master recreation plan for this part of the city includes the football field, baseball fields, walking trails and several other upgrades that they'll be going through a financing mechanism to pay for that they were looking for this long term agreement so that they would have stability in their financing mechanism.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Cunningham, if we pull it down from fifty years to five years, increments, how would that affect a bond hearing?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Floyd, I don't have an answer for that at all. I'm not sure how that impacts their funding mechanism.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. When they were doing the negotiation for this were you in on that one?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I was. This is -- the term is something that the city requested. And because it was a lease, at the end of that lease period, all improvements reverted back to the county is something that made it at least something that we wanted to consider and that why we're bringing it before you, is for that purpose. So they have great designs on what they want to do with the football field and with the area surrounding the field, but it's a part of their overall city's master recreation plan.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: I yield to Mr. Greer.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I have a question of Mr. Cunningham and then I want to address this fifty year lease. How much money is the city planning to spend on this site?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: They have an estimate of six point two million dollars for all the improvements they have planned for this phase of their recreation plan.

LARRY GREER: And do they plan on spending that six point two million dollars during the first two or three years or over the course of a large number of years?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I don't know what their phasing is like for the project. I mean, that's certainly something that I can get you an answer to.

LARRY GREER: Okay. I tend to agree with the line of thought that fifty years is an awful long time. The one thing that I've heard here tonight is that -- and I don't think this word's been used, but the historical significance of the McCants property, the football field there. I, for one, marched in the band on that football field and I know there's people out here who attended that school and who participated in activities there. It's good to see things of that nature preserved for future generations and future use. But fifty years is a long, long time. And a lot of things can happen in fifty years. I would like

someone to go back to the city and see what they could -- what shorter term lease they could deal with. I'm of the opinion to vote for Mr. Waldrep's amendment tonight, but I still think we need to go back to the city and if they're planning to spend that amount of money, the lease maybe needs to address the fact that they plan to spend that amount of money on that property. Maybe the lease needs some more work to require them to spend that amount of money on that property if they're gonna get that kind of lease. So initially I'm gonna agree with Mr. Waldrep's amendment to go with the five years. But hopefully there's some time left, I also -- in fact, I might just go ahead and do it now. One of the problems that I ran into early on when I started serving on council was the discrepancy in how county residents were treated by the City of Anderson in participating in the rec programs. For instance, they were charged higher fees to participate. And then once they participated in those rec programs, when it got down to time to, let's say, have the baseball championship, the county teams were not allowed to participate in the championships in those divisions or leagues or whatever. So before I can vote for this on third reading, I would like to see some language inserted in this lease that requires the City of Anderson to treat county residents equitably with the city residents who participate and use this property.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

Mt. You done, Mr. Greer?

LARRY GREER: I'm gonna make that in the form of an amendment to Mr. Waldrep's amendment and I'll ask someone to second that amendment.

BOB WALDREP: I second the amendment.
Mr. Chairman, I just ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up.

BOB WALDREP: I'm seconding the amendment. Can I second?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute, please. One minute. I need to get the amendment down. Give me your amendment, Mr. Greer, again.

LARRY GREER: It's to insert some language in the lease agreement that requires the City

of Anderson to treat county residents in the same manner that they treat city residents who participate in the programs and use these facilities.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We have equal treatment by city and county people, amending the five year -- annual -- five year renewals on the lease. Mr. Waldrep.

GRACIE FLOYD: I was ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Mr. Waldrep has seconded. Now we are in discussion on the amendment to the amendment.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

GRACIE FLOYD: Wait. I ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Oh, Mr. Chairman, let her go ahead and talk. She's ...

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd says she yields.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Waldrep, something would jump out of me doing the hula-hoop before I go first. Now you do it. You asked for it, you got it. Go ahead.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead, Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Oh, okay. Well, I was just trying to defer, Mr. Chairman, but ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The audience, please ...

BOB WALDREP: Okay. I was just trying to get to Mr. Greer's motion about his intent of that motion about equal treatment, or I thought he said equitable treatment at one time. Maybe I misunderstood.

LARRY GREER: Well, I did use (inaudible).

BOB WALDREP: Equitable. Does that mean do you ---

LARRY GREER: (Inaudible).

BOB WALDREP: Not always.

LARRY GREER: Not always, but in this sense ---

BOB WALDREP: What's fair to you is not fair to me, I can tell you that. But anyway, we can try to -- if it's equal, I think that sounds correct. And I'm understanding from what Mr. Greer is saying it

is because the county is contributing what we have to the city that that should speak to that equality, you know. Okay. Thank you.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Greer, now is it true, somebody out there who knows, that the city pays taxes for their rec program? They have taxes that go to that rec program?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I don't ---

GRACIE FLOYD: I think so. I think that some of their city taxes -- okay, yeah. Some of the city taxes that those folks pay go toward that program. The county doesn't pay any taxes to those programs. So if we said that we want it equitable, does that mean that we're gonna pay taxes to the city to use those programs?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

Lg. The amendment did not use the word equitable, it used the word equal. And as far as taxes are concerned, that's a right valuable piece of property that we're allowing the city the use of. I think that's a significant contribution to ask the City of Anderson to treat our county residents in the same manner that they treat city residents.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, okay, I still have the floor. I agree with you. But you know how some of these people are about paying taxes. And if the city comes back and say, okay, you can use -- I mean you can pay the same thing that the city residents pay for the use of the swimming pool and the use of the football fields, but you're gonna have to pay taxes, then what are we going to do? But anyway, I think we can -- I think I'm gonna go ahead and vote on this so we can get it to the third reading. But I'd like to have some more information on this, Mr. Cunningham. You know, we've been fighting that water issue, we've been fighting that water issue with the city for a long time and we didn't have any help. Now all of a sudden everybody is interested in what the city is gonna do. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Real quickly. If the city comes back and talks about taxes, we're already contributed with the value of the property. End of conversation.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Martin is indicating time has expired on this. Chair calls for the vote on Mr. Greer's amendment to the amendment to insert language asking the city to treat county residents equally. Right? Okay. All in favor of Mr. Greer's amendment, please vote. One, two, three, four, five, six. Oppose. Abstain. One. Six, zero, one. Mr. Waldrep's amendment to have annual -- I mean five year renewals of the lease instead of having a fifty year lease, so all in favor of having five year renewals of the lease, please vote. One, two, three, four. Oppose. Two. Abstain. One. Okay. So the lease has been amended to five year renewals and insert language that the city treat county residents equally. Now we're voting on the ordinance as amended, Ordinance 2008-058 as amended, please vote if you're in favor of it. Everybody, seven, okay, unanimous. Moving on. Ordinance's first reading, 2008-060, an ordinance amending Chapter 55 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to personnel policies and procedures of Anderson County and other matters related thereto. This is entitled only, but I understand he wants to add Good Friday as a holiday. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. And Mr. McAbee, you have the floor.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And you are correct, this -- we should have the text of the ordinance by our next meeting. It's really quite simple. It amends county policy and provides that Good Friday would be a holiday for county employees. And it brings into line with actually with the majority of the counties in the State of South Carolina. Thirty-one counties.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thirty-one counties currently have Good Friday. Okay. Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, it's not that I object to Good Friday, but I just wondered if we are going to continue to operate in this way or rather we're gonna use our personnel committee? I thought we had a personnel committee and that these would be matters to be discussed in the personnel committee, number one. And number two, I think that for future reference I think in all of these proposals, additions or ordinances, we need to try to start thinking in terms of a fiscal impact statement. I really don't know what the fiscal impact of this is, but -- and I would defer to anyone on council who might have that information.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No one on council. Mr. Cunningham, you have any idea what adding a holiday will cost in terms of pay to employees? Is that something we can get?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, sir. I guess the short answer is for those salaried employees that there is no fiscal impact. They would be paid either way. But in terms of the value of a single day of operation in personnel costs, a single day of operation, again, just taking it at a single point in time is roughly a hundred and forty-six thousand dollars.

BOB WALDREP: A hundred and forty-six thousand dollars per day?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Right. For all employees.

BOB WALDREP: All right. So that is a fiscal impact, is it not?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: That is the amount of a single day's payroll.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, I'd just like for council to be aware of what we're doing.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Anyone else?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: The only other thing that kind of concerns me is that we have just a rough sketch of what this ordinance is. Is there anything else that we haven't been told about this ordinance?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, anything else?

Just adding Good Friday?

BILL MCABEE: No. It simply adds Good Friday to our holidays.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that good enough?

CINDY WILSON: That sounds good. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-060. All in favor, please vote. One, four, five, six, seven, unanimous. The vote is unanimous. Okay. The agenda has been amended, so now we're jumping down to Item 17, requests by council members. Mr. Waldrep, you have any appropriations?

BOB WALDREP: Does that extend to remarks?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Just about how much money I want? You won't let me talk about what's on my mind?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any money you want to spend out of your recreation account or paying account, any money?

BOB WALDREP: At this time no money.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No monies. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have several. Do you want me to do it all at one time on one vote or vote each time?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Lump the rec account together and lump the paving account together.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. The rec account, lumping it together, a thousand dollars for the young men of vision program, a thousand dollars to the Hampton Street youth program, two thousand dollars to the Free Clinic, the Fusion Warehouse, five thousand dollars, Keep America Beautiful, one thousand dollars. This money is to be used for district two's clean-up projects and whatever. One thousand dollars to the gang task force through the healthy people twenty ten. One thousand dollars to the South Fant Street rec program. One thousand dollars to the alternative school. One thousand dollars to the East Anderson after school program. One thousand dollars to the East Anderson Community of Shalom. One thousand dollars for the Manhood Academy. One

thousand dollars for the soup kitchen and a thousand dollars for the Good Neighbor Cupboard. I think that comes to a total of eighteen thousand dollars from my rec account.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor of Ms. Floyd's appropriations from her rec account, please vote. Unanimous. Now the paving account.

GRACIE FLOYD: The paving account, I would like to appropriate twenty-eight thousand dollars for the paving of the Broadway-Johnson Community Center.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it?

GRACIE FLOYD: That's it.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Is that a 503(c)3, that community center?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that a 503(c)3?

CINDY WILSON: I've heard discussion that it's a homeowner's association and not just a community center.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd, is that a 503(c)3?

GRACIE FLOYD: It has been a 503(3)c, whatever you call it, since the beginning of its existence.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: The answer is yes.

CINDY WILSON: Are you sure?

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, God, no, I'm not sure, lady, I just -- yes, I'm sure.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

CINDY WILSON: Well, the reason I ask is an individual looked it up on the Secretary of State's website, I think, and said that it wasn't.

GRACIE FLOYD: Who was the individual?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold on, ladies. The way it works, we vote, and when finance -- before finance cuts the check they will verify. And if they are not, then they won't get the money.

CINDY WILSON: Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: There ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, but I still would like to know, would you please tell me who is this person?

CINDY WILSON: I honestly don't even remember at this point.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: But I did get the call.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? All in favor of Ms. Floyd's appropriation, please. Unanimous. Is that all, Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, that's all. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I move to appropriate five thousand dollars from the district three paving account to the City of Belton for paving, grading and drainage on any non-state streets or roads within the City of Belton and any city-owned property. Also to appropriate four thousand nine hundred and twenty-five dollars and seventy-eight cents to the Town of Iva under the same conditions as the City of Belton. That's in the form of a motion.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else?

LARRY GREER: Yes. Mr. Chairman, at a previous council meeting monies were appropriated to the Mount Bethel Community Park project. There has been a surplus of funds there. At this time I move to put two thousand one hundred and one dollars and thirty-six cents back into the district three recreation account.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Mr. McAbee. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous.

LARRY GREER: I have one more, Mr. Chairman, and I'll lump all three of them together. At this time I move to appropriate from the district three recreation account, one thousand fifty-one dollars and ninety-six cents to the Flatrock-Bowen Fire Department, three thousand dollars to the Ebenezer Fire Department and three thousand dollars to

the Grove Fire Department.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Is that it?

LARRY GREER: That's all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time from the district four paving account I wish to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars for paving, grading ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

(Note from Linda Eddleman stated the following: At end of tape 2 - side 1 Bill McAbee appropriated \$100,000 for paving, drainage, grading of hangars at airport. On side two, it should be \$359,862.78 for Town of Pendleton for paving of non-state streets.)

BILL MCABEE: ... three hundred and fifty-nine thousand eight hundred and sixty-two dollars seventy-eight cents for the Town of Pendleton for paving, grading and drainage of non-state streets in the Town of Pendleton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, are we sure district four has all that money in its paving account left?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Again, Ms. Wilson, if the money is not there the check will not be cut.

BILL MCABEE: Absolutely.

CINDY WILSON: All right. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: It won't be tomorrow.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Anything else? All in favor of Mr. McAbee's ---

BOB WALDREP: Can I just ask one quick question?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure.

BOB WALDREP: This has to do with the overall plan out there, and I was just wondering, does this diminish the need for the bond issue in anyway?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir.

BOB WALDREP: If we're throwing out a hundred thousand dollars out there to the hangars and

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING 12/2/08

all, does this in anyway correspond, collate or ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One doesn't have anything to do with the other.

BOB WALDREP: One doesn't have anything to do with the other?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anything else? All in favor of Mr. McAbee's appropriation, please -- appropriations, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else, Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: No.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, sir. None for me. Mr. Ron Wilson, any appropriations?

RON WILSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. Sixty-five hundred dollars to the Powdersville Fire Department for some pagers and radios. And the balance of my rec account to the Wren Youth Association.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Sixty-five hundred to who?

RON WILSON: To the Powdersville Fire Department.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And then the balance of your ---

RON WILSON: About eighty-five hundred. We didn't have it in our book tonight, our balances. So it's about that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And then the balance goes to who again?

RON WILSON: Wren Youth Association.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So he's zeroing out his account there. Chair seconds those appropriations. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Anything else, Mr. Wilson?

RON WILSON: No, sir, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's it. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: None at this time. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: None at this time. Okay. Going back to the first page, we are at Item number 11, Resolutions Proclamations, a resolution expressing

intent to cease county maintenance on and to authorize county consent to judicial abandonment and closure of a certain Anderson County road and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We are in discussion. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: May I, Mr. Chairman?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes, ma'am.

CINDY WILSON: This is in my district and I do want to point out that all the adjoining landowners appear to have requested this abandonment, unlike a Lewis Drive abandonment we did lately. I do plan to support this one because the citizens and landowners actually asked for it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, just a point of information. I just saw Lewis Street. That's not the one that runs past the railroad?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No. That's what she just said.

CINDY WILSON: There are several Lewis Roads and Lewis Drives and Lewis Streets in the county. It's confusing. In fact, on the Lewis Drive property rezoning it seems that the notifications that went out, they were supposed to notify all the landowners within a thousand feet. They evidently went to people who lived on Lewis Road instead of the people who own the property on Lewis Drive.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? All in favor of Resolution 2008-047, please vote. Six, zero, and please note that Mr. Greer has excused himself. Ordinance 2008-050, a resolution authorizing an amendment to the fee agreement between Anderson County and Fraenkische USA pertaining to investment and job creation thereunder and matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We're in discussion. We have Ms. Jones maybe coming to the mike and enlightening us some more on

this.

HEATHER JONES: Thank you. Good evening, county council. I hope that you received from Mr. Cunningham a copy of a letter with some attachments. Exactly.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

HEATHER JONES: With regards to both this agenda item as well as the one that follows. Also this evening with me are the legal counsel as well as the company representative from Fraenkische, so if you have any questions for them they are here as well. Fraenkische USA entered into a fee in lieu of tax agreement with Anderson County and in that original agreement it stated that they would create fifty jobs and invest five million dollars by December the 31st of 2008. To date the company has invested almost five million and has twenty-four current employees. They're a vibrant company and have proven repeated to be a supporter and ally of economic development, always meeting with potential clients in Anderson County whenever asked, giving tours of the facility, and things like that. This facility in Anderson also serves as Fraenkische's North American headquarters and what they are asking tonight is to adjust the company's fee in lieu of tax agreement to make it consistent with what the statutory minimums are at this time. When the company entered into the agreement, the statutory minimum was five million dollars. The current statutory minimum of investment is two point five million dollars. They're also asking that the fee be extended out so that they can reach the thresholds that are set forth within the agreement.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is that it?

HEATHER JONES: Yeah.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any questions, comments?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, the fee in lieu of is to be four percent?

HEATHER JONES: No, sir, a four percent fee is a super fee. This fee is -- as it exists is a six percent fee.

BOB WALDREP: Six, okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls

for the vote on Resolution 2008-050. All in favor, please vote. Six to zero, unanimous. Thank you.

HEATHER JONES: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance 2008-052, a resolution acknowledging the exercise of the option to terminate the fee in lieu of tax agreement between Anderson County and Famous Craft Boats of South Carolina, Incorporated. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second by Mr. McAbee. We are in discussion. Again, we have Ms. Jones, maybe. Yes, ma'am, please.

HEATHER JONES: Again, included in that same packet of information is the request by Famous Craft and their legal counsel to release them from the fee in lieu of tax agreement. In speak with their legal counselor this afternoon, he said that when they spoke with the Department of Revenue, they actually believe that it is disadvantageous for them to be in the fee in lieu of tax agreement and that they believe it better for their growth plan for them to operate at the ten point five percent assessment as opposed to the six percent assessment. So at this time ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: They're requesting to ---

HEATHER JONES: -- they are requesting ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: They want to pay a higher tax.

HEATHER JONES: That is what I was told.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We need more people like that, don't we?

HEATHER JONES: Well, and I think for clarification, when they go from the six percent, they come out of the fee in lieu of tax, they go back to a ten point five percent, the company will be required at that time to pay back the difference from ten point five percent to six percent, the difference of that, less any allocations for the five year abatement that they will be eligible for. And they will have to be current on all their taxes as well as any outstanding fees. And the county administrator actually has the paperwork for that certification where we will sit down and make certain that all of those assurances are met and all their financial obligations are met prior to releasing them from the fee.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else from counsel? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Just one, Mr. Chairman. Who calculates all these figures? Who does that?

HEATHER JONES: The Department of Revenue actually does the assessment.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. That's all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote on Resolution 2008-052. All in favor, please vote. Five to zero. And Mr. McAbee has excused himself. Anyway, it's unanimous.

HEATHER JONES: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Jones. A proclamation proclaiming December of 2008 as Arbor Day Month in Anderson County. Do we need to vote on this, Ms. Strange? Yes? All in favor of proclaiming the month of December 2008 as Arbor Day Month ---

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry.

TOM MARTIN: Might I suggest that a motion would be appropriate?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Yes, sir, you're right. I'm sorry. The chair moves to -- the chair moves to proclaim -- would that work? The chair moves to proclaim that the month of December 2008 will be Arbor Day Month in Anderson County.

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Four. Mr. Waldrep? Five. Five and oh, unanimous. Ms. Strange, you have the floor. We are proclaiming Arbor Day, Anderson County.

MICHELLE STRANGE: Thank you, Chairman. On behalf of the Keep America Beautiful Board, this is one of the steps in us maintaining our Tree City USA status. You appointed the Keep America Beautiful Board as the county's tree board, so they have been active this past year. Another step is the proclamation. Arbor Day is celebrated throughout the world at the appropriate time to plant trees. And in South Carolina that time is the first -- we celebrate it the first Friday in December. But we are encouraging folks to plant trees and all of our

schools will be planting trees next week as part of the tree legacy initiative. So thank you for your support and plant trees.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Strange. The chair calls for a ten minute break.

BREAK

BILL MCABEE: If the council will take their seats.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Waldrep. I don't think he understood.

BILL MCABEE: Item 12, discussion of section 2-326 of the Anderson County Code. Mr. Bob Waldrep. He's not here.

CINDY WILSON: Oh, here he is.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of items here, twelve, thirteen, fourteen and fifteen, they all kind of meld together.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep, if you would, let me take care of a little bit of housekeeping first. I'm Bill McAbee. I'm the Vice Chairman of council and the chairman, Mr. Thompson, had to leave and we are now reconvened. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, everybody knows that we have a significant meeting last council meeting, I guess it was on November the 18th, and everyone has had an opportunity probably to look at the way that things were handled. I had some basic questions that I wanted to ask before the councilman from district six had presented that contract information to the council and I have to go back a little bit to the section of the code which allows county council members to attend the subcommittee meetings. Of course, I was able to attend the first subcommittee meeting over somewhat the protest of the chairman of district six as the chairman of the personnel committee and this meeting was held in Powdersville at that time. I guess that was to accommodate certain folks and I was glad to drive up and see Powdersville; however, the greeting that I received was not warm. And I just wanted to report to council that I was told that I was a

troublemaker, you know, by coming up there to be at that council meeting and that was the way it began and then I was told that I could not attend the meeting and then I presented the ordinance that I've referred to here to the chairman and the chairman read it several times and he began to understand that as a member of council that I was entitled to attend that meeting even though they were going into executive session because the language is very explicit and very clear that any member of council is able to attend any and all council meetings. Well, I just wanted to relay to you that that was one of the most interesting meetings that I've had since I've been on council because they called in the attorney that the council had employed to give advice. Needless to say, there was a great deal of unhappiness at that meeting because of the fact that a lot of information coincided with what my belief to be the law and that is that one council cannot bind another council. And that's precisely something that was done after that. We never had a committee report and as you know the statutes require that there be a committee report. That was not done, although a considerable length had passed. And if you look at the time line that was provided by Mr. Bright about -- this incident started back October the 9th, 2008. So there were two meetings that were held with regard to what I'm talking about in my discussion here of section 2-362 which specifically gives council members the right to attend the meetings. The second meeting was held here in the courthouse. And at that time I was told that I could not attend and I was delighted to know that we had so much security that day because we had Mr. ~~Struan~~ (phonics) attend, he was well armed, and then also Mr. -- there was a deputy sheriff here and he was well armed. And since I was not armed, I decided that I would not try to crash the meeting of Mr. Wilson from district six. So nevertheless, I was a good boy and I stayed away and they had their little meeting again. It was -- no report came out. That was, I think, October the 27th. No, excuse me, that's wrong. That was November the 10th they met at that point. Still no report. And what I'm trying to address here

Strewing

is all this time passed, there were two meetings of the personnel committee, there was no report. The only thing I got out of the committee meetings was the unhappiness that seemed to be manifested by the committee. Then low and behold when we go into that council meeting on November the 18th, without any kind of notice whatsoever, no information, the chairman of personnel, wearing several hats that night, I couldn't figure out which, he was talking as an individual, sometimes he would be an individual, sometimes he would be a committee chairman. And he was allowed to put something on the agenda which is really in violation of all the rules and protocol that we've had because as I said that should be done only in an emergency circumstance and that's what our ordinances provide for. I just don't see how an emergency occurred between October the 9th and November the 18th. It was most extraordinary. But more extraordinary than anything else, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that there were five members who were privy to, apparently, information because they all received these various contract, one for a severance package and then one that was presented by Ms. Floyd, which was not shared with me, and they were virtually voted on as some kind of package. Now, if these folks had not previously had communication on these items, I think we need to get in the Guinness Book of Records because this was the most extraordinary coming together of minds at one time I think that I've ever witnessed since I've been dealing with politics. The reason that I'm addressing this is I really don't want to get personal here and I hope that no one will take me as being personal. I'm talking about process here. I'm talking about the democratic process. I'm talking about having some regard, not only just for me as an individual, that can go out the window, but certainly some regard for me as a representative of approximately twenty thousand people. Now, if we're not gonna have that kind of consideration for the process, we are in deep trouble. And we can talk about being naysayers or nitpickers. Folks, I don't think a million dollar contract is a nitpicking operation. Now, if you do we can argue about that,

we've got differences of opinion about what is important and what is not important. But what is really important here is trying to follow some semblance of getting information to this council. When I first sat up here before I said that the only thing I really wanted was a transparent, open and accountable government. That has not changed at all. And since I've been on council, I think there's no doubt about it, I had been rejected from getting that information while other council members miraculously can come to this council and say, well, I went down to finance and I got such and such information or I contacted the county attorney and he told me this, you know. Well, I just think that we've got to get to the point where we treat everyone fairly. And let me say this really pretty much in conclusion. But not always in conclusion. But that my prayer, my hope, my dream is that the new council would not in anyway, in anyway act the way that this council has toward minority. Minority rights are precious. Simply because you have the power to do what you do doesn't mean that you should. Thomas Moore said, you know, think of what you ought to do, not what you can do. And I've just been so disappointed by the process, the violation of the rules and parliamentary process was invoked by a guy named Roberts, you know. Sometimes I think he created a lot of trouble in this world, but he intended to create a system where people could have an orderly transaction of their business. Well, he was a Union officer from South Carolina. I just thought that was kind of interesting. And there are people that travel all over the world as parliamentarians. But I guarantee you one thing, that any parliamentarian that had been present at that November 18th meeting would have probably had some ---

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep. Time has expired.

BOB WALDREP: Well, wait a minute, I've got ---

BILL MCABEE: Now it's Item 13, discussion fo section 2-366.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Well, I'm now on to authority number -- I'll skip down to 14. We'll skip

BILL MCABEE: Let the record reflect we're going to Item 14.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. The authority of county council to employ an administrator, man, that gives me a problem. We have a council that was here and bless their hearts, they just don't want to give up. They want to extend their hand from their administration to another administration. I'm here to tell you, they know, they know in their heart of hearts that they cannot do that. They have created a situation in this county by attempting to employ an administrator with a three year contract. My understanding of the law, folks, is you can't do that. Now, you can do anything you want to if you let people get away with it. I'll say that. But I'm just serving notice on this council, gentlemen, lady, ladies, I just don't think that that's gonna happen. So maybe I'm telegraphing something to you, but I just want to be real clear and say I certainly bear no one on this council any kind of ill will. I want to be respectful towards you. But we hopefully in the next administration will be able to move on in a decent, non-bickering way. And let me mention this also. I've heard people talk about the bickering, we'd like to do away with the bickering. You know, a lot of times when someone wants to have a discussion on something, it's perceived and pursued as some kind of bickering when somebody asks a question that's already determined to be somewhat hostile. My dream again if in the new council that there will be open, honest discussion. And that way you won't have this hostile atmosphere that we have. We won't have this thing of personal attack in some way and we can get away from that. I could possibly be as guilty as anyone else. And I certainly don't sit up here and try to be St. Bob in anyway. I'm certainly not saying that I am. And I could be guilty of that too. But I think we all -- those of us that are here within the sound of our voice, let's just spend a little time and look into their real conscience and decide, what kind of public servants do we want to be and what kind of public servants do the people expect us to be? And that's a

question maybe we'll ask each other a lot of times.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Item 15, questions
regarding recent actions of county council, Ms. Cindy
Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
have a number of disparate but somewhat connected
comments and questions to make. First of all, I want
to point out that we were told that there was no
anticipatory breach of contract by Mr. Bright. We
were also reminded of our fiduciary responsibility to
the citizens of Anderson County. I believe that with
all the numerous freedom of information violations and
parliamentary procedure breaches and added to that
that we have set ourselves up for quite a mess to
come. I also have a number of questions about
expenses by this council that occurred under this
council. One of them is, why would we pay -- why
would Anderson County pay for lodging for a county
council member out of the assessor's office? These
came from our GLR110s. Why would we pay over forty-
six thousand two hundred and one dollars to a local
catering service within the last three months? Why
would we pay more than thirty-three thousand dollars
for lodging at various hotels right here in town? One
of the expenses was to LaQuinta, twenty-two thousand
five hundred and sixty-three dollars. Almost eight
thousand to Knights Inn. I think about two thousand
to Hilton. Little over three hundred to Hometown
Suites. We've paid to American Security almost
twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars. We have a
council-elect who went out to the Animal Shelter, the
gate was open and he was going to ask for a chance to
look, and one of the American Security officers came
flying out, cussing him out with the most incredible
profanity. Why are we paying American Security for
that kind of professional security work? I see where
we paid a council member's daughter, oh, over eleven
thousand dollars for two months' work and this council
member voted for the budget and it came out of county
council special account matching grant funds. How can
we have a councilman vote on a budget that funded his
daughter's work? I also asked, going back to these

crazy personnel committee meetings, I asked for a copy of the legal opinion that the chairman to the personnel committee referred to in barring both Mr. Waldrep and me from attending that meeting. I have yet to receive it. Would it be possible to get a copy of that written opinion that you referred to?

RON WILSON: I'll be glad to do that as soon as I can get the stuff I requested from Mr. Waldrep.

CINDY WILSON: I'm asking you, Mr. Wilson. I'm not asking Mr. Waldrep.

RON WILSON: I just answered.

CINDY WILSON: We have also -- we've given the severance package to a consulting administrator now. I want to know why or if we've obtained the keys to the courthouse, the credit cards, the cell phones, pages, computers, all of those type items from this consulting administrator now. In fact, I've noticed where we've been paying extraordinary credit card bills for this individual right before we closed out his employment with the county. I also have a question regarding our credit card payments. I see where we've paid forty-two hundred dollars almost for program expenditures in one instance, almost twenty-four hundred in another and other situations. Were these by any means purchases of alcohol to be served on county property? Will we ever get to know that? And these are Carolina First credit cards. Also, I've been advised -- or I should say I saw an article recently where the chief of our park police is under investigation by SLED and yet he was one of the people barring us from attending that meeting, and he is armed. I wonder about the protocol and the propriety of having a county employee who is involved in security measures under investigation by State Law Enforcement still armed and barring council members from meetings. Is that something that we should be allowed to do? And, let's see. Well, I have a lot of other questions, but I think if I get the answers to these, it'll be remarkable. Also, I wanted to point out we spent over twenty-one thousand dollars, ten to Moody's, eleven to Standard & Poor's. I guess that was to keep up our credit rating; is that correct?

Would someone enlighten me on that, please? And I'll cheerfully await the answers. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Item 16, ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

BILL MCABEE: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: May we go back to Item 15, please? I have some questions.

BILL MCABEE: Is there time remaining on Item 15? Have at it, Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'd like to use those three and a half minutes. Mr. Cunningham. Can you speak to any of these things that the council person from district seven brought up, at this time?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: At this time, no, but I'd love to be able to -- if you have a list of those if you'll give them to me, I'll do my best to answer those issues one by one and I guess the proper thing to do is not only provide it to you but to all of you so you'll have in the way of information. The only one is the local hotels. I'm not sure of the time frame for that, but if it was during the course of the Balloon Federation or some of the other festivals or things where you had pilots and other people coming in from out of town that would have been using those room, then that could be the answers, but I certainly won't speculate. But if you'll give me that I'll be happy to investigate and get answers for forwarding to the chair.

CINDY WILSON: May I respond, Mr. Chairman?

GRACIE FLOYD: I have the floor.

BILL MCABEE: Ms. Floyd still has the floor.

CINDY WILSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Cunningham, I would -- I'm going to ask you to please request that again, okay, because we have a lot of things that we need to look at. But I am hoping that our television audience and the people present here will wait until we have done the research, that we have answered each and every one of these points. A lot of times what's taken away from here is what somebody said, without any kind of research or backup or anything. We've had

that problem before on this same council, when somebody has said something up here and we found out later on the next week that it wasn't even the truth, that it wasn't even close to the truth. But this -- holding your opinions until we have gotten this thing here figured out comes under thinking for yourselves. Now, I wish that the councilwoman from district seven had given our administrator this information before coming up here so we would have had time to provide her with corrected information or if she was correct we could have provided -- we could have -- thank you.

BILL MCABEE: The chamber will come to order.

GRACIE FLOYD: All right. As I was saying, I wish that she had let our administrator know beforehand what questions she was going to bring up so that we could have had our -- we could have had the correct answers, or answers ready for her. But I think that is a, this is a ploy to get it out there and have folks run around hollering, oh, Lord, look what's going on now, when we don't know if it's the truth or not. Some of the things that I heard tonight is not the truth, is not the truth. But I'm going to, I'm going to wait to have it research by Mr. Cunningham and have him come to the next meeting and let us know. Okay. And also ---

BILL MCABEE: Ms. Floyd, the time has expired for this item.

GRACIE FLOYD: Oh, shoot. Okay. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Item 16, appointments, various boards and commissions. Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I need to ask Ms. Eddleman a question, if I may. I'm sorry to do this to you right now, but on the Airport Commission, does a councilman have two appointments or one appointment? One? One appointment? Okay. I don't have any requests, Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I do have one and that's on the WorkLink WorkForce Investment Board. Are they here? Is she still here? Hey. Come on up to the mike, please. I understand that we did have

one appointment, one opening on that board, and I have -- you're gonna have to help me, you know, with this. Okay. Because I would like to -- do I nominate? Is that what I'm doing or just giving you the name?

FEMALE: What it was, was we sent in the letter which is the nominations and it for y'all - with this letter the nominations is to appoint these individuals either as a whole group of them or to do one at a time.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

FEMALE: Would you like the list of the names?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah, I would like to do it just the whole group at one time. Okay. You want me to make a motion?

BILL MCABEE: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, let's let her give the names first, if that's all right, Mr. Chair.

BILL MCABEE: Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: Will you give us the names, please?

Teri Gilstrap FEMALE: Yes. Under the business sector, which is private companies, Hosea Garcia who is the president and CEO of B2E Mobile Financial Services; Brian Buchanan who is the director of industrial services which is Human Technologies, Incorporated; Michael G. Thompson, realtor, Century 21 and Anderson Properties. Also we have with the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, Terry Gilstrap, who is the area director; Vocational Rehabilitation, Sandra Grice, who is the area supervisor; Economic Development, Shay Razacus (phonics), who is the existing industries manager. And then also we have three individuals who have agreed to be reappointed if you approve those individuals, and that is Kristie King Brock who is the executive director of Anderson Interfaith Ministries, Steve West who is the manager of the business -- excuse me, manager of Duke Energy, and Brenda Dutton who is with Energy Automotive Systems.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we approve the list that was just read to us for membership on the WorkLink WorkForce

Investment board.

BILL MCABEE: There is a motion. Is there a second?

BOB WALDREP: Second.

BILL MCABEE: Very well. Any discussion? Hearing none, I will just -- Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I don't mean to beat this horse to death, but you've got fifteen members? Is it ---

Teri Gilstrap
FEMALE: There are thirty-five

members on the board and they represent the three counties, just over forty-nine percent of the individuals are represented by Anderson County.

BOB WALDREP: Is there anyway to cut down the number of that board? It seems to me like you don't have a board, you have a mob.

BILL MCABEE: Federal law, I believe.

Teri Gilstrap FEMALE: Because of the WorkForce Investment Act, there are certain individuals and organizations that must be represented because of our partnerships because of the federal laws. And then we have to have at least fifty-one percent of the board must be business representatives of the community.

BOB WALDREP: Well, if you want my copy of Robert's Rules of Order, you may have it.

Teri Gilstrap FEMALE: Thank you, sir.

BILL MCABEE: Anyone else? Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the nomination of the list presented to us as made by Ms. Floyd, show. All opposed.

GRACIE FLOYD: I'm ... Yeah.

BILL MCABEE: It's unanimous five to oh, with Mr. Thompson and Mr. Greer absent.

~~FEMALE:~~ *Teri Gilstrap* Thank you very much.

GRACIE FLOYD: I have one other question for you, if I may?

BILL MCABEE: By all means.

GRACIE FLOYD: Next year when you come back before us again we will have some more?

~~FEMALE:~~ *Teri Gilstrap* Yes. And it will be within the next two to three months you will be given the list for the next year. Now that I have learned my job and what I'm supposed to be doing, they'll be

ready for us to start for the July 1st, our next grouping.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I don't understand. I would prefer getting together with you.

~~FEMALE:~~ Tevi Gilstrap Yes.

GRACIE FLOYD: So we can discuss it so I can understand, you know, how this thing is done. Because this is the first time we've been able to do this since I have been on council. So I would like very much to meet with you.

~~FEMALE:~~ Tevi Gilstrap Definitely.

GRACIE FLOYD: Maybe Friday, Friday morning at nine o'clock.

FEMALE: I will have to get back with you. I have a job fair meeting at that time, but I will reschedule -- or I will schedule with you definitely. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you. Let's see. District three is not here. District four, no appointments from district four. District five is not here. Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: No appointments, Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: All right. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: None at the moment. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you. That concludes our appointments. Requests by council members were handled earlier in the meeting. The administrator's report.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, just a very few comments. For those of you that voted, I guess, in favor of allowing me this opportunity, certainly I've told you privately and I'll tell you that I appreciate that. For those who did not, I'm here willing to work and hopefully that we will come to some conclusion or come to some resolution as to that. But my goal certainly is to do the best job that I can, certainly, for this community that we will -- I have two ears and one mouth, so I'll be happy to listen to any concern. Thank you, Mr. Waldrep, for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me and speak with me. I appreciate that and all of your

comments and advice. And those that I've met With and those that I have not, I intend to, and certainly hope to have a conversation with you. As it relates to the administrator's report, it certainly stands as submitted. All the information is contained therein. If I can answer any questions, please let me know.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I was gonna ask a question

BILL MCABEE: Go ahead. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: In the, excuse me, the administrator's report, there was a copy of the transportation ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: And I believe those were probably employees that they've replaced others or hired to replace as there may have been turnover. So I don't whether it indicates that these were new positions or it was just new employees as a result of turnover.

CINDY WILSON: Is there anyway to confirm that?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I'm sure we can. I'll be happy to work with you for that.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Just a quick question about Dr. Woodard's reassessment, was he -- do you know if he was satisfied with the response about his reassessment? I noticed that you have it on the list here. I've been getting a lot of letters from people on these particular issues about assessment, and I think it's important -- I was glad to see that Mr. Freeman had answered his letter. I don't know whether that made him very happy or not, but ---

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I don't know if he's pleased or not, but we did respond. And if he's not, thankfully there's a process that we can continue to work through.

BOB WALDREP: Well, for the time being, what I'm trying to figure out is when we get these

communications from citizens who are concerned about their reassessment, would it be best to buck those on to you with a copy to Mr. Freeman or should we go to Mr. Freeman with those to try to get some kind of relief? I understand that a lot of folks might not understand the appeal process, even though I feel sure that that's been mailed out. But nevertheless, I think we need to have a spoonful of sugar to let this medicine go down. Okay.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Yes, sir, the answer to the question, if you will send those to me and carbon copy Mr. Freeman, that'll be fine.

BOB WALDREP: Okay.

RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: I make a motion we accept the administrator's report and that we enter it into the minutes. *Attached & marked as Exhibit A.*

BILL MCABEE: There is a motion. Is there a second? The chair seconds. All those in favor of accepting the administrator's report ---

CINDY WILSON: Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Excuse me. This is a new procedure. We've not voted to take them and accept them into the minutes before. Why would we vary from our normal procedure?

BILL MCABEE: Most counties do. And I --

CINDY WILSON: This is the first time we've ever done it and y'all have actually prevented us from discussing the administrator's report, I think, for the last two or three meetings when the meeting was adjourned early.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, if I might be recognized. This is the only thing that concerns me is that you have in here administrator's report, you've got the severance agreement of Mr. Preston and master employment agreement of Mr. Cunningham. I would go along with the motion except for these particular items. I would not think that anyone would be so clever as to be able to put some blessing on this by the council by us voting to approve the administrator's report. That would be a new high in the Machiavellian Book of politics. So I just wanted

to let the council know my feelings on that. I would object.

BILL MCABEE: Is there any other discussion?

CINDY WILSON: I think that because of these very slippery methods that have been used the last few meetings that I'm going to abstain in this because I don't really understand the nature of this one.

BILL MCABEE: Is there any other discussion? Hearing none, I call for the vote. All those in favor of accepting the administrator's report and including it in the minutes of tonight's meeting. All opposed. All abstain. The vote is three, one and one, with Mr. Waldrep opposed and Ms. Wilson abstaining. The chair moves to adjourn.

CINDY WILSON: No. We have ---

BILL MCABEE: All those in favor of adjourning.

CINDY WILSON: We have comments ...

BILL MCABEE: I know. All those in favor of adjournment. There's a motion on the floor.

CINDY WILSON: No, no, no. Mr. Chairman, I was wanting to respond to district number two's ---

BILL MCABEE: Ms. Wilson, are you discussing -- the motion to adjourn is not debatable. There is a motion and a second. Now we are voting. All those in favor of adjournment, please vote. All opposed. All right. Citizens. The chamber will come to order. Citizens comments. How many do we have, Mr. Attorney?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are four citizens under other matters.

BILL MCABEE: All right.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, Mr. Chair, I am going to leave now.

BILL MCABEE: Well, if I leave we don't have a quorum.

GRACIE FLOYD: Well, you do what you've got to do. But I'm tired. It's been a long day in preparation. I've sat through a lot. I hope that Anderson County can see what's going on here on that television. But Mr. Chair, I'm asking -- I'm not

asking for permission, I'm telling you I'm gonna leave. And Mr. Chair, may I say this?

BILL MCABEE: Yes, Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. These -- our people in this audience will soon learn that I don't scare easily. I don't back down quickly. And they talked about Jesus Christ and he died for them. You've talking about me and I ain't doing a durn thing for you.

BILL MCABEE: Anyone else wishing to leave?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just suggest we go over to the Metropolitan Grill after the meeting.

BILL MCABEE: Is that a motion to adjourn?

BOB WALDREP: All right.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep, you're making a motion to adjourn?

BOB WALDREP: I make a motion to adjourn.

BILL MCABEE: All those in favor.

BOB WALDREP: Wait a minute. I'll retract that. We have citizens comments out there.

BILL MCABEE: We do.

BOB WALDREP: All right. Then I'll retract that. I'm not making a motion to adjourn.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Martin. Again, we have citizens comments. For a point of information, what if -- what happens if another member of this council leaves?

TOM MARTIN: If another member leaves, you have less than a quorum, so you no longer have an official meeting. People can do whatever they want at that point. But it does not -- anything beyond that point does not constitute an official action of council.

BILL MCABEE: I see. All right. Thank you. Citizens comments.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: We stand in amazement.

BILL MCABEE: State your name, address and your council district.

MARK POWELL: My name is Mark Powell. My

address is Williamston. My council district is the wonderful Cindy Wilson. Mr. Vice Chairman, I guess I'm supposed to address you; right?

BILL MCABEE: Yes.

MARK POWELL: I'm not real sure what little ploy or trick you pulled off a minute ago as far as voting on the report from the administrator. That is kind of odd. But as a citizen, as a taxpayer, we don't come to complaint, we don't come to gripe. We come because we pay taxes. We come because we elect you guys to do our business. The unfortunate thing is five of you didn't do our business because three of you were kicked off so you weren't doing our business. Your district, your district voted against you. Your district voted against what you were doing. So you were not doing your district, you were doing your business. As you read through the article, you had a very impressive article in the paper. I was impressed. My wife chastised me a little bit for being a little upset with the fact that you were hired. You know, with such a oddly based background, such a Christian attitude on how you came off in the paper, I would certainly say, as an ethical person, when they offered you the job, no one -- that it was a ploy, it was a ramshackle of how we do business in our county. It diverted every process we've ever had. The Christian ethical thing would have been an honorable thing to say, thank you, five council members who have so much respect for me, but I, as a person, want to be put in this job as a person who gets elected and put in there under a contract by the incoming council. The probability of you getting elected, I have no clue. I'm not one of those people that's referred to a lot of times -- Ms. Gracie Floyd. I'm not in the loop. But what I do know is, the honorable thing would have been not to sign a contract. It would have been to say, I will look at it, I will think about it, and I will talk to the council members currently still on the board, because there's two of them still up there from the five, there's two going to be there two more years at least, and there's three new ones coming. It is disappointing that a person who lives and speaks as

much as you did about a Christian life, how God leads and directs, that you could accept such a scandalous offer by such a poor -- poorly driven council. And I would wish that you, the person who signed it, would rip it up and save you, us, all taxpayers a lot of grief, a lot of money, because if they wanted to hire you, they can come January and it would be an honorable thing to do, would be to reject until you're accepted by the incoming council.

TOM MARTIN: Steve Pope.

STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview

Estates, county council district one. This has been a rather interesting council meeting. In talking to my representative, Mr. Waldrep, and his comments tonight, one thing we are definitely going to have to do as we begin the next year is heal. There's a lot of bad feeling and a lot of tension built up, a lot of anger. Some of it may be justified, some of it may not be. But we do need to heal. Otherwise, we're going to be tangled up with a lot of heartbreaks and a lot of bad feelings that will linger. And the last thing we need now is to have the cycle shift around and have what might be seen as the new minority being trampled on by the new majority. One way or the other, we have got to get this all behind us. If we do not, it will just be more bad things. People are gonna come and criticize, you know, hiring decisions or whatever. There was a lot of debate at South Carolina when Steve Spurrier was named the head coach, why they didn't go through a process, why didn't they interview a lot of different people? Spurrier was available, he said he was interested, they said, okay, you're our name and the decision was done. The difference also is you have a difference here between an elected official and an employee. We the citizens cannot criticize directly the employees. If we're treated rudely we can talk to their supervisors. If we have problems here with the administrator, we address the council. Because the council is where the buck finally is going to have to stop. And these are things we need to do. Other things I want also to consider is, when I was in Bermuda, one of the things I found out there, there is no fresh water on that island anywhere at all. And

all their drinking water comes from the rain. So I was just wondering sometimes when we have all these -- when we have our thunderstorms if there would be somehow we could channel all this excessive runoff to challenge this toward the lakes by either some means or another, because looking at our lakes right now, they are very -- I have never seen the lakes this low. I have friends out there who have lake property, especially around where Poor Richard's was, there's hardly any water anymore. And the people who own property on the lakes are saying their property value is going down because there's no lake anymore. And these are just a lot -- there's still a lot of issues that we're going to have to deal with. And hopefully we can work them all out, get peace back, and get back to doing the people's business. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Rick Freemantle. I live in Whiteplains district. One thing I want to say before I get into the rest of this, Arbor Day Month, that makes me feel so green. I'd like to remind everyone here that we're in an extreme drought condition and planting trees at this time would be a very foolish thing to do. This obviously is another idea that wasn't even thought about before you came here to boast it. You sir, I don't know who you are. I have to agree with the previous speaker. You may be a very honorable man. However, as a young man myself, I learned a lesson, actions speak louder than words. What you did at the last council meeting was dishonorable. I'm begging you to do the right thing because if you don't do the right thing, sir, you might as well change your name to Joey Preston because that's all we'll ever see unless you do the right thing, is Joey Preston. Whether someone comes here or not is not the decision of a few of the cowards that left here, especially the one that just left. What we talk about, the questions we ask, also are not your decisions. There are two people up here I'm not talking to tonight. Those are the leaders from district seven and district one. They truly have represented their people through all kinds of trash from you other five. I'm sorry, but this is America.

We elect officials to represent us. We are your bosses. You do not own those seats. Three of you found that out. A fourth came real close. Better luck next time for me. About not having a county athletic program, this is not a function of government. Perhaps if some of you hadn't increased our tax burden so much over the years, us average working people would have extra money to start athletic programs on our own and to use the various ballfields throughout this country -- this county rather, which we're paying dearly for. I'm finished, other than to say, Mr. Vice Chairman, you are absolutely the most despicable individual I've ever had the opportunity to deal with.

BILL MCABEE: Who's next, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Dan Harvell.

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, council district seven. I'd like to remind the viewers that are watching this tonight, you need to be very careful about your assessment notices. We had some good things change in the 2006 property tax return -- reform, but unfortunately there were some things thrown in there that are detrimental to the taxpayer. One of the great advantages was not only the transfer of the school operations to come off the sales tax, which completely came off our four percent residential primary home bills, but also the fifteen percent assessment cap that was voted on by an overwhelming eighty-five percent of the voters in this state. But in this legislation there was some changes about the assessment process. The point of sale issue was added in there so that now property does not transfer without being re-evaluated by the county at the time that it transfers. The most egregious part of this entire thing was the fact that property can no longer pass from parent to child without it becoming the new assessed value that the county has set on it. So everyone in the county needs to make sure that the county does not have your property over-assessed because you're not protected by the transfer between parent and child anymore and this could be a huge detriment to families that do not have a lot of means. Having said that, you know, I kind of feel like I'm in

the twilight zone here sometime and I hear that little thing chirping in the background. And when Ms. Floyd was going through her diatribe a while ago about how Ms. Wilson -- daring Ms. Wilson to ask these questions without they know about it first. My gosh, look back at the last council meeting and look at what was thrown at these two council people by the five majority, knowing absolutely nothing of what was coming, how it all came about, the five of you up there tried to act like, well, you know, we didn't necessarily know what the other one was doing, but as Mr. Waldrep said, by some miraculous form of governmental machination all these things came together just at one time on the same night. Well, you know, the taxpayers don't believe that. They just don't believe it. Now matter how it's spun in the paper, no matter what, they don't believe it. They don't take it. They don't accept it. And we all know what's going on. So how dare Ms. Floyd chide Ms. Wilson for asking questions here that she didn't know were going to be asked in advance when she participated in what -- in that exercise at the last council meeting that has to be the absolute lowest point of Anderson County politics in the history of this county. Thank you. Good night.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under other matters, Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
Excuse me. Council comments, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Recently I was challenged by district two's representative about a rather large tip. And that came from the credit card expenditures. I had it with me the last two meetings, didn't bring it this time, but the place was the Striped Bass in Philadelphia. I think the bill was somewhere around five hundred dollars and there was about a hundred and forty-five dollar tip. I also wanted to make sure that people knew that the financial items that I discussed in my few minutes allotted came from the GLR110s, which I was given at the last council meeting. And I would request that when our transcript becomes available from this meeting that those questions be lifted from

that. I also have sent a memo to Mr. Tom Martin and to our former administrator Preston, I think he was our administrator at the time, requiring that our legal records or legal files that are -- had been or are in the possession of McNair Law Firm be preserved and that when the new council comes in that are seated in January, then the new council should determine the disposition of those records. Also, we have an item of -- recently this council passed a resolution closing Lewis Drive to benefit the railroad company and an ethanol distribution center. I want to point out that there was not one single landowner that agreed to that. Meanwhile the most horrifying thing is that I've gotten phone calls from people who live over there. How is it that we forgot to notify the school buses and the people over there to make arrangements for those little children to get to school? Do you know that the buses can't go down that road? We have requirements in our own road standards to have turnarounds and cul-de-sacs. How dare us to do that to innocent people. This cold weather, I mean, I just cannot believe how despicable that some of us have been. Also, I'm asking for a summary or synopsis or description of a lawsuit that I'm hearing that Anderson County has a man that had the C & D Landfill proposal over in district six. I've heard that we have hired Young, Clement, Rivers to sue that man who probably had a darn good case against us. I think we need to have some kind of, some kind of notification of that. Where are we on that? I have a lot of questions, but I think that at least deals with what we had tonight and recently. Thank you.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I just have a couple of things I wanted to ask the county attorney with regard to the legal records. I understand that they're in the possession of McNair; is that correct?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, the legal records that we have created during our representation are. We only have those legal records. We don't have any others.

BOB WALDREP: All right. Well, I assume that those legal records, in the event that there should be some change, that those legal records would be owned by the county; is that correct?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Waldrep, the -- as you know, by legal standards, by legal cannons, records created for the client are the property of the client.

BOB WALDREP: And we are the client, are we not?

TOM MARTIN: The county is the client.

BOB WALDREP: The county is the client. So in order for anything to happen to those records we would have to consent to that; is that correct?

TOM MARTIN: Correct.

BOB WALDREP: The council would have to consent? And those records would be, of course, available to the new council; is that correct?

TOM MARTIN: The county would have to consent. How the county does that consent -- normally the county has acted through the administrator on a daily basis. The county can act through the council if the council by majority vote decides to do so.

BOB WALDREP: Is there any jeopardy that you could foresee of this council destroying any of the legal records through any artifice that you might be able to conceive?

TOM MARTIN: There is no way that I'm aware of that the records can be destroyed. When a law firm ends its representation, or frankly at any time, the client can direct the law firm what to do with the records. The records normally would be retained, transferred to another attorney or returned to the client. So in terms of McNair Law Firm destroying the records, I don't -- I cannot conceive of any situation in which that could happen.

BOB WALDREP: And when you say returned to the client, then we once again get back to who is the client. The client is going to be the county council; is it not?

TOM MARTIN: No, sir. The client is the

county.

BOB WALDREP: The county. Okay.

TOM MARTIN: Acted for normally by the
county council.

BOB WALDREP: Normally.

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Would you just kind
of keep in touch with us With regard to the possible
direction that these records -- my point is that I
want to be absolutely sure that all legal records will
be available to this new council. We don't want to
have to go through what we went through last year.
That is, Supreme Court activity.

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you, sir.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The only comment I've got is I'll get the opinion that
council member from district seven wanted. I'll get
it to her.

BILL MCABEE: We're adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45 P.M.

MAYOR
RUFUS CALLAHAM

Clerk/Treasurer
LAURIE E. KENNEDY

City Administrator
DAVID WATSON

City Attorney
BILLY EPPS

TELEPHONE:
CITY HALL
(864) 338-7773
338-7774

FAX No.
(864) 338-8369

Exhibit A
Page 1 of 41



Chartered 1855

CITY OF BELTON

P.O. Box 828
Belton, S.C. 29627

18(a)1
Page 1 of 2

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ward 1
JEAN C. MARTIN

Ward 2
HATTIE S. GREEN

Ward 3
MARION C. NICKLES, JR.

Ward 4
WALLACE SHAW

Ward 5
WENDELL F. PAGE

Ward 6
JOHN R. CAMPBELL, JR.

November 14, 2008

Mr. Holt Hopkins
Anderson County Dept. of Transportation
735 Michelin Blvd.
Anderson, SC 29621

Dear Holt,

On behalf of the citizens of Belton, we want to Thank You for all the special things Anderson County has provided for our City.


We are writing today to Thank You; for the beautiful job, in slopping and grading the drainage problem, on Calhoun Road; that will prevent flooding across private property.

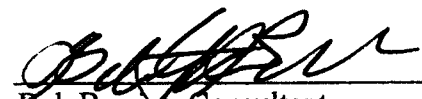
Your supervisor, Mr. Tony Owens, is such a pleasant fellow to work with and I know the county is proud to have such "caliber" of people on staff.

And then, Mr. Joe Moss, brought his crew out and did a BEAUTIFUL job in correcting the drainage problem.

We are inclosing a picture to show you the fine, finished product.

Sincerely,


Rufus Callaham, Mayor


Bob Burriys, Consultant

cc: David Watson, City Administrator

enclosure

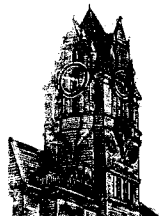
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3

18(a)2
page 1 of 2



**ANDERSON
COUNTY**
SOUTH CAROLINA

*Making News.
Making Progress.*

November 10, 2008

TO: Joey R. Preston, Administrator
Gina Humphreys, Finance Division Director
Jeff Ricketson, Planning Division Director

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael G. Thompson

Chairman

District 5

FROM: J. Mike Freeman
Assessor

Bill McAbee

Vice Chairman

District 4

Bob Waldrep

District 1

Gracie S. Floyd

District 2

Larry E. Greer

District 3

Ron Wilson

District 6

M. Cindy Wilson

District 7

SUBJECT: Email of Appreciation - Mrs. Charlene Ferguson

On November 3, 2008, I was forwarded by Mr. Jacky Hunter, an email inquiry request from the Anderson County Web Site Visitors Inquiry. The email request was from Mrs. Charlene Ferguson. Attached to this memo are several emails, giving backup data for Mrs. Ferguson's final email of appreciation for the quick response she received. She received this help from the Assessors Office and from Development Standards - E911 Addressing. Mrs. Ferguson's final email speaks for it's self for both the Assessors Office and E911 Addressing. The Assessors office researched the question and changed our record. E911 was quick to change the situation with both the residences of Tanglewood Road and the US Postal Service.

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Eddleman



4

2

Joey Preston

From: Mike Freeman
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2008 9:34 AM
To: charlenemf@bellsouth.net
Cc: Jeff Ricketson; Joey Preston; Gina Humphreys
Subject: RE: tanglewood

Thank you so much for the kind words Mrs. Ferguson. We are just trying to help County residence and property owners. Other departments were involved and most helpful in answering your request, specifically, E911 Addressing in Development Standards. I did see your email on Friday, it was on my small Blackberry and it's more difficult to answer an email with it.

Again, thank you for the kind words for County employees.

Mike Freeman

From: charlene ferguson [mailto:charlenemf@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2008 11:39 PM
To: Mike Freeman
Subject: tanglewood

It is late Friday night so I know you will not get this email till Monday most likely. I just want to say "I am impressed with you" . My son called me tonight and read me the letter from the E-911 telling all the residents of Tanglewood Road in Belton, SC that their mailing address would be Road not Drive from this point on. My son said, "you did this, right mama?" I said "No this impressive man, Mike Freeman, did this. I had no idea it would happen so quickly. Freeman is good." My son is very pleased with your assistance in this matter.

Thank you....

--

Charlene Ferguson

11/10/2008

5

18(a) 3

page 1 of 1

Joey Preston

From: Greg Smith
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2008 11:21 AM
To: Joey Preston
Subject: FW: [POSSIBLE SPAM] Thank you for voting for Job (Isaiah), DDBs 2009 Calendar Cover!!!
Importance: Low

Mr. Preston,

This is a great story of a cocker spaniel that was turned into the Anderson County Animal Shelter after being confiscated by Animal Control. The cocker spaniel came from a maltreatment case where the owner was found guilty. We are very happy that this turned out to be a happy ending for this animal. I want to commend the staff for their efforts in turning negative situation into a positive for this animal as we want to do with all animals we take in at the shelter. He became a calendar dog. It is a great story.

Greg Smith

From: Michelle Dodd
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2008 9:17 AM
To: Greg Smith
Subject: FW: [POSSIBLE SPAM] Thank you for voting for Job (Isaiah), DDBs 2009 Calendar Cover!!!
Importance: Low

This was one of our dogs. He made the cover of this calendar!!

Chelle

From: rhonda sims [mailto:getshelterpets@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2008 9:59 PM
To: Lori Leonhardt; LORI MOSESMOM; Lori Jewell; Lori Saylor; Lori Barker; Lori S; lori_r15@yahoo.com; Lorraine Gilchrist; los143@juno.com; lostdogbarb@gmail.com; Louise Flynn; loveanniesrescue@yahoo.com; Lovethosepets@aol.com; lregan@swva.net; lsalyer@4sw.us; lsb000@hotmail.com; luvdobies4@msn.com; lynmidas@aol.com; Lynn; Lynn West; MA; Mabear001; maga1r@aim.com; mail@awla.org; makemlaff@comcast.net; malamutes@ntelos.net; mamasshelter@aol.com; Mandy Keenen; Mandy Coriston; Mandy Gaines; MansBestFriends@aol.com; marbocat@aol.com; Marcella Dyer; marci mckenna; Margaret Callis; margaret.callis@wachovia.com; mari shilover; Maria Flanagan; Marilyn Braun; Marilyn Nash; Marina B; Marjorie Banks; marlene; Marsha Rust; marsha421@hotmail.com; mary shannon; mary; Mary Richard; Mary Gallo; mary blake; Mary Ann Howe; Mary Beth Wescott; Mary Jo Brady; Mary.Richard@HCAhealthcare.com; Mary@CaringForCreatures.com; MaryBeth Sullivan; MaryBeth Williams; MaryJo Shull; matgar793@hotmail.com; Maureen Sinon; MB Sullivan; Mbauervf@aol.com; MBlake3@tiaa-cref.org; mkenza1@nationwide.com; MD Jamie; md Gary Whitten; MD-DE; mdemo1@aol.com; mdrob458@aol.com; me; Meemee2me1@aol.com; Meg Anthes; Melee JAMESON; Melinda Plasse; melinda@chesed-rescue.org; melissa; MELISSA ELLISON; Melissa Garden; Melissa H Fischer; melissa.saltzman@gmail.com; meow12@bellsouth.net; MEREDITH PROSHUTO; merritsauto@bellsouth.net; Merritt L Friedman; metallichicki@gmail.com; Michael Meriweather; Michael A Hilp; Michalowicz Deanna Civ 640 ELSS/KL; michele; Michell Taylor; Michelle Dodd; michelle brown
Subject: [POSSIBLE SPAM] Thank you for voting for Job (Isaiah), DDBs 2009 Calendar Cover!!!
Importance: Low

10/20/2008

6

18(b)
page 1 of 4

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ANDERSON REGIONAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held Monday, October 20, 2008 in the Anderson Regional Airport Conference Room,
called for 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. John Hunt, Chairman; Mr. Ken Lowery, Vice-Chairman;
Mr. Bill Epstein; Mr. Roy Ivey; Mrs. Judy Watkins; Mr. Barry Wood

ABSENT: Mr. Greg Dawkins

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Ferguson, Airport Manager; Mrs. Linda Gunning,
Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Mr. Andrew Pierce

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

September 15, 2008 Meeting – Dr. Hunt moved the minutes be approved as
presented. Motion carried unanimously

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. AIRPORT ACTIVITY REPORT

- a. Mr. Ferguson reported jet fuel sales were down slightly compared to the same period last year. Avgas sales were also lower. He attributed this to the downturn in the economy.
- b. Total based aircraft is 77.
- c. Mr. Ferguson said fuel prices have declined. The Airport bought a load of fuel from the new supplier, Shell Aviation. He noted Shell's price was .05/gallon lower than ConocoPhillips, our former supplier. Mr. Ferguson predicted the next fuel purchase price will be much lower, as oil prices have dropped significantly. Dr. Hunt said the Airport participates in the Air Boss program and asked if we have seen much activity with this program. Mr. Ferguson said we have had only a few inquiries. Dr. Hunt explained that Air Boss is a discount fuel program. Pilots pay a membership fee to participate, and many airports throughout the country give significant discounts to members. Dr. Hunt and Mr. Epstein have

7

2

both used the program and have received good discounts. Dr. Hunt said it should be an increasingly popular program.

Mr. Ferguson said Anderson's full-serve and self-serve avgas prices are below average compared to other local airports, and above average on jet price.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Financial Report – Mr. Ferguson said he received the first quarter financial report from the Finance Dept. The final results of the previous fiscal year will not be available for another month. Mr. Ferguson predicted a slight loss for last fiscal year, mostly due to lower jet fuel sales. Mr. Ferguson gave the Committee a financial report and commented the Airport is doing slightly better the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to last year. Mr. Epstein asked if rent for the former Flight Service Station building has started. Mr. Ferguson replied that Emergency Services began paying rent in October, and it will show up in next month's numbers. The FAA started paying rent for their portion of the building in July, which is included in this report.
- b. Maintenance Activities – Mr. Ferguson said maintenance shop activity has been slow. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) maintenance work has nearly stopped due to their budget year ending in September. We anticipate CAP work will increase in November or December.
- c. Airport Activities – Mr. Ferguson said Clemson basketball charter flights start in November. The Clemson volleyball team recently flew a charter out of Anderson, and will be flying again tomorrow. Mr. Ferguson said he attended the National Business Aviation Assoc. (NBAA) meeting and talked to Express Jet. They will be flying basketball charters on the Embrair 145, which is a 50 passenger jet. Express Jet purchases fuel on the Shell contract program. Mr. Ferguson said the basketball charter flights should increase jet fuel sales.

Mr. Ferguson said the transition to Shell Aviation as our fuel supplier has gone smoothly. Signage on the fuel trucks and at the fuel farm will be changed to Shell. Mr. Ferguson has talked to Shell about carrying the Airport's liability insurance, and said this could possibly save 25%-30%.

Mr. Ferguson attended the NBAA Convention in Orlando. Heather Jones, Economic Development Director for Anderson County, also attended and they both worked in the South Carolina Power Team booth. He said they made 2 solid contacts with businesses interested in relocating to the Anderson area. Mr. Ferguson spoke to Steve Hanvey of SATSair at the Cirrus booth. Mr. Hanvey is pleased with SATSair's business. Mr. Ferguson said Chris Maxwell and Stan Ridgeway are taking an on-line training course in the repair and maintenance of Cirrus airplanes. Hopefully, this will help increase maintenance shop business by adding another certification for the mechanics.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Ferguson updated the Committee on the hangar building project. He said County Council's advice was considered, and we have scaled back the scope of the project due to the downturn in the economy. We now estimate the project will cost around \$600,000 - \$700,000. Some change in the wording of the bond would allow us to obtain more money if necessary. Changes to the T-hangar plans include increasing the door size from 41 feet to 45 feet, in order to accommodate larger airplanes. The plan is to build 16 units of T-hangars with 45 foot doors. The shade hangars will accommodate 8 aircraft. The 12 airplanes in the community hangar will be relocated to the T-hangars and shade hangars. We will then have hangar space for 12 new airplanes, which should be rented quickly. When Hangar 4 is empty, we plan to use it for jets.

Mr. Ferguson made an informational presentation on the hangar project at the South Carolina Division of Aeronautics meeting several weeks ago. The Executive Director told Mr. Ferguson he is confident they can give the Airport a grant for infrastructure work on the hangars. This would be a 60% grant. The Transportation Division will perform labor and provide equipment, and the Airport will purchase materials. The shade hangar will have an asphalt floor and T-hangars will have concrete floors. Mr. Epstein asked if Transportation will charge the Airport for infrastructure work. Mr. Ferguson said there will be no charge for engineering. In order to qualify for the State grant, labor and equipment must be claimed as infrastructure costs, and we need to account for man hours and machinery. Transportation will bill the Airport in order to apply for the State money.

Mr. Lowery said County Council approved \$2.25 million or less for the bond. Mr. Ferguson said they gave us the opportunity to ask for less to start, and wrote into the bond that we can request more money, with the approval of the Administrator and Chairman. Mr. Ferguson said Building and Codes will review the hangar specifications, after which the Purchasing Dept will put out a request for proposal.

Mr. Epstein said he had 2 appointments with Vannoy Construction to discuss a lease for a corporate hangar. Both appointments were cancelled by Vannoy due to business conflicts. He is not sure how interested they are in a hangar until he speaks with them.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hunt asked about the damage to the fence at the north ramp. Mr. Ferguson said it appears a vehicle ran the stop sign at Old Portman and Airport Roads and crashed through the fence. It was a hit and run, a police report has been filed, and the fence is repaired.

Mr. Epstein said he noticed there is space available in the community hangar. Mr. Ferguson said 1 tenant just left, and some tenants are off the Airport temporarily. He has not had a chance to call anyone to fill the space. Mr. Epstein said the space

9 4
should be filled, since some of the new T-hangar tenants will come from the community hangar.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee went into Executive Session. While in session, contractual matters were discussed but no decisions were made.

IX. CLOSING STATEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008.

10

18(c) page 1 of 2



**ANDERSON
COUNTY**
SOUTH CAROLINA

*Making News.
Making Progress.*

November 18, 2008

The Honorable Rufus Callaham, Mayor
City of Belton
Belton City Hall
306 Anderson Street
Belton, SC 29627

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael G. Thompson
Chairman
District 5

Bill McAbee
Chairman
District 4

Bob Waldrep
District 1

Gracie S. Floyd
District 2

Larry E. Greer
District 3

Ron Wilson
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Eddleman

Anderson
County



Re: Use of Anderson County 2008 General Obligation Bond Funds by the City of Belton for renovations to the municipal building in the City of Belton

Dear Mayor Callaham:

This letter is in furtherance of several discussions between you and me and various Anderson County staff and elected officials, concerning use of certain Anderson County 2008 General Obligation Bond (the "Bond") funds (the "Bond Funds"), designated in that Bond for renovations to the municipal building in the City of Belton (the "Project"). During those discussions, you have indicated that the City of Belton is anxious to proceed with the Project, and asked County consent to do so. The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request, and to outline the terms and conditions under which the Bond Funds may be made available to the City of Belton.

All aspects of the Project, except for providing the Bond Funds to the City of Belton, are completely and solely within the authority, control, and responsibility of the City of Belton. The determination as to whether or not to undertake the Project, when to initiate the Project, how the Project is bid, constructed, and completed, and all other matters concerning the Project are within the exclusive control of the City of Belton. For its purposes, Anderson County has no part in any aspect of the Project, including determining whether to undertake the Project or not and, if a decision is made to undertake it, when to do so, other than providing the Bond Funds to the City of Belton in accordance with the terms of this letter. It is, and remains, Anderson County's understanding, however, that the Project is wholly and completely owned and controlled by the City of Belton, as a Belton municipal project, and that the Project will be, and remain, a municipal property. That understanding, and the validity of that statement, remain a central requirement for Anderson County providing the Bond Funds to the City of Belton.

11

2

If the aforestated understanding is correct, and if the City of Belton undertakes the construction and completion of the Project, Anderson County will provide a maximum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand and no/00 Dollars (\$250,000.00), on a reimbursement, draw down basis to the City of Belton for the Project. It is currently expected that Anderson County funds, from the 2008 General Obligation Bond, will be available by the end of 2008, although current financial market conditions make it impossible for Anderson County to guarantee that timing. Please be aware that the bond and financial markets are extremely volatile right now, and there may be some considerable delay in Anderson County getting the bond funds. You need to plan accordingly, in addition to considering the volatility of the markets on Belton's own plans, in determining when, if at all, to begin your project.

In any event, as soon as Anderson County Bond Funds are available, however, Anderson County will prepare checks to the City of Belton, not more frequently than monthly, to reimburse the City of Belton for costs actually incurred, or funds actually expended for the Project. In order to draw down the Bond Funds, the City of Belton must submit a valid invoice from a third party contractor, for work already performed, or must submit proof of payment by the City of Belton - all for work done on the Project. The aforestated invoices and/or proofs of payment must be submitted to the Anderson County Administrator. Reimbursement payment, in the form of a draw down from the Bond Funds, will subsequently be made to the City of Belton on a monthly basis.

If the terms and conditions of the City of Belton's use of the Bond Funds are acceptable to the City of Belton, please sign this original letter in the space indicated below, and return it to me. The enclosed copy is for the records of the City of Belton.

We share the excitement of the City of Belton in the renovation of your beautiful municipal building, and are particularly proud to be a part of the Project for which the Bond Funds are to be used. Thank you for allowing Anderson County to be a part of this worthwhile and meaningful community project. If I may assist you, your staff, or your city further, in this or any other regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Joey R. Preston
Anderson County Administrator

For the City of Belton:

By: 

Its: 





**ANDERSON
COUNTY**
SOUTH CAROLINA

*Making News.
Making Progress.*

TO: The Hon. M. Cindy Wilson, County Council District #7

FROM: Mr. Joey R. Preston, County Administrator
[Signature]

CC: All Members of Anderson County Council

SUBJECT: GLR 110

DATE: November 25, 2008

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael G. Thompson
Chairman
District 5

Bill McAbee
Vice Chairman
District 4

Bob Waldrep
District 1

Gracie S. Floyd
District 2

Larry E. Greer
District 3

Ron Wilson
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Eddleman

Enclosed is a CD containing the GLR 110, Payable Pulled for Payment for the following time periods:

9/17/08
9/24/08
9/30/08
10/07/08
10/15/08
10/21/08
10/29/08
11/05/08
11/12/08
11/18/08



November 18, 2008



**ANDERSON
COUNTY**
SOUTH CAROLINA

*Making News.
Making Progress.*

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael G. Thompson
Chairman
District 5

Bill McAbee
Vice Chairman
District 4

Bob Waldrep
District 1

Gracie S. Floyd
District 2

Larry E. Greer
District 3

Ron Wilson
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Eddleman



Dr. Brett H. Woodard
207 Martin's Point East
Anderson, SC 29626

RE: Your Letter and TMS # 032-04-01-024

Dear Dr. Woodard:

This letter acknowledges receipt of and is in response to your undated letter addressed to "Dear County Council Member" and received by my office on October 8, 2008. As the Anderson County Assessor, I am the official who is vested with the authority and responsibility of assessing value for real property in Anderson County, I am the official whose recall and replacement you have suggested, and I am the official whose office and staff you implicitly accuse of not being fair, reasonable, or in touch with reality.

While you may feel that the recent reassessment of property in Anderson County is out of touch with reality, the focus of your letter is misplaced, and is based on an apparent lack of knowledge, or a misunderstanding, of South Carolina law and its relationship with local government. As the Anderson County Assessor, I do not set policy or make laws. I simply carry out the duties of my office as set forth by the South Carolina State Constitution, the South Carolina General Assembly and, to a very limited extent in the case of assessment of real property, Anderson County Government.

In response to your statements and concerns, I would like to provide you with some information regarding the recent reassessment of property in Anderson County. The valuation of real property in South Carolina is mandated by South Carolina State law. Local governments, including Anderson County, have very little say over the process, except that they may delay the actual implementation (application of the new assessment values), which Anderson County did in this reassessment. Please note that delaying the implementation does not change the base year on which new assessed values are derived, it just delays by one year putting those values on the books. South Carolina law dictates the reassessment process – from when the reassessment has to occur, to which year is used as the base year for determining new assessed value, to how the reassessment is done, to what values are used to determine new assessed value, to when the new values go on the books. Local officials have very little control over any of that; we must follow the guidelines that state law lays out for us. In this reassessment, we were required to do the reassessment using 2006 values – delaying the actual implementation of the reassessment did not change that fact.

During each reassessment year, the reassessed values are submitted to the South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR) for review. The reassessed values must pass a SCDOR sales ratio study, which compares the values assigned to the Anderson County reassessed property with 2006 sales of real property in Anderson County. Our reassessed values were approved by SCDOR in a letter dated September 29, 2008; our ratio was 99.9% of 2006 fair market sales for Anderson County.

During the November 8, 2006 general election, the South Carolina General Assembly put forth South Carolina Amendment 4, also known as "The Property Tax Act," which was a ballot measure to amend the South Carolina State Constitution. That amendment was overwhelmingly approved by the voters of this state. Once the South Carolina Constitution was amended through The Property Tax Act, the General Assembly passed Act 388. A copy of Act 388 is attached for your review. The most recent reassessment in Anderson County is largely a result of The Property Tax Act and Act 388. During a reassessment year, values are capped at no more than a 15% increase of the property's taxable value for property that does not transfer. Property that is transferred from one owner to another is taxed at current full fair market value in the year after the transfer.

Prior to The Property Tax Act and Act 388, real property throughout Anderson County was traditionally undervalued when reassessed. The State of South Carolina and SCDOR had required a ratio of 80% to 105% of reassessed fair market value to fair market sales for reassessment. Anderson County stayed in the lower range of that threshold in an attempt to soften the impact of reassessment on taxpayers. During the 2003 reassessment, the ratio was kept in the 85% range. In fitting with Act

Post Office Box 8002 • Anderson, S.C. 29622-8002
(864) 260-4000 • (864) 260-4548 fax

388 and in order to be as fair as possible to all real property owners, including property owners whose property had transferred, our goal was to be as close to fair market value as possible, based on the 2006 reassessed values to 2006 sales ratio. We feel that 99.9% of fair market value is a pretty close assessment. I doubt that many, if any, counties did any better.

My office has the unpopular task of reassessing all of the real property in Anderson County with the exception of industrial property. The Anderson County employees who value these properties are professionally licensed as appraisers by the State of South Carolina. We value approximately 120,000 parcels of property in Anderson County. The residential appraisers manage well in excess of 10,000 parcels each. Due to the sheer volume of properties to be site inspected and assessed, mistakes will occur. If someone feels we have made a mistake, there is an appeal process to identify and correct mistakes, and we gladly assist taxpayers in that process. The appraisers perform their work professionally and without bias. Despite your accusation that these hard-working employees have some ulterior motive to "obtain additional funds" for the local government, that is simply not the true. We have absolutely no part in the process of deciding what, or how much, tax to levy, and zero stake in the process. Anderson County Government, Council, School Districts and other taxing entities decide that, and my appraisers have no contact with any of those taxing entities in the process of our day-to-day jobs, including reassessment. They are simple servants of the people, trying to do what state law requires, as fairly and professionally as we can, and in many instances taking a public beating in the process.

Although mistakes are sometimes made, after reviewing your property I do not believe that we have overvalued your property, at all. We valued your property at \$1,089,600. Prior to this reassessment, your property was valued at \$669,800. Even though that is seemingly a large increase, with the 15% cap, you will only be taxed on a limited taxable value of \$770,270, well below an actual market value of your property. As late as September of this year, after real estate values have "collapsed" as you stated, you listed your property on MLS for \$1,799,900. Your listing is \$710,300 more than the current market value as set in our reappraisal. Your MLS listed sales price is also \$1,029,630 more than the \$770,270 on which you will actually be taxed. While I understand that a list price is not a market value, it does bear some relationship to what you believe the property will bring in the marketplace (i.e., fair market value). I believe there is plenty of leeway between your MLS listed sales price of \$1,799,270 and our reassessed current fair market value of \$1,089,600 and certainly the limited taxable value of \$770,270 on which you will actually be taxed. I believe that the only mistake made by our appraisers may have been valuing your property on the low side, both now and certainly in the past.

Despite my brief review of your property value, which is informal and not binding, I would again like to remind you of the opportunity to appeal your property value, and provide you with the opportunity to do so. Although you have not addressed your letter directly to the proper party for an appeal in accordance with the procedures set forth in the reassessment notices, I have taken the step of submitting your letter as an appeal of your reassessment. The appeal process is in place to ensure that taxpayers who feel their property has been overvalued have the ability to challenge the reassessment and submit evidence that their property was overvalued. If you have had an appraisal performed by a licensed appraiser within the last few years, please send me a copy so that we can use that information for your appeal.

My office and my employees work hard to provide a fair and impartial valuation of property. We understand that when money is involved, tempers are short, especially in hard economic times. We deal with that reality every day. However, your comments in the letter, together with your statements made publicly during the Anderson County Council meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, have questioned my integrity and character and the motivation and credibility of my staff. The work we perform is dictated by the State of South Carolina. We are given very little leeway or discretion. If you have an issue with property taxation in the State of South Carolina or the process for assessing property, you are complaining to the wrong person, the wrong office, and the wrong level of government. My office performs a massive amount of work in a short period of time to carry out the directives set forth by State law, and we have done so professionally, impartially, and fairly, as recognized by SCDOR review. We are simply carrying out the work we are required to perform. You are welcome, and entitled, to have the correct values assigned to your property, and to



investigate, and even question, what those values are and whether they are correct or not. For one to question the results of the work by attacking the integrity and motivation of the employees, while not understanding or recognizing where the issue (if any) may lie, is misplaced, uninformed, and spiteful. Nevertheless, I can assure you that my staff, like virtually all of the employees of Anderson County, will continue to serve the people of Anderson County, including you, in a professional and fair way, because that is expected and what ordinary working people do.

Sincerely,


J. Mike Freeman
Assessor

cc: Anderson County Council Members
Joey R. Preston, Anderson County Administrator

Attachment



16

4

RECEIVED

OCT 08 2008

ANDERSON COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Dear County Council Member:

I am writing about the Anderson County reappraisal.

It seems some what out of touch with reality. Anyone who has stayed current with the local and national news would know real estate values have collapsed. The value decrease is between 15 and 30%! Yet the appraised tax values quoted have increased. Additionally, Lake Hartwell property is being destroyed by drought and lake mismanagement. This has produced a local decrease in values.

While I understand the wish of local government to obtain additional funds, this does not pass the test of fairness or reason at this time of a national and local home value collapse and homeowner crisis. A recall of county government and replacement with in touch officials that recognize reality may be needed!

Sincerely,



Brett H. Woodard.
207 Martin's Point east
Anderson, South Carolina 29626

. 032-04-01-024 .

17
Anderson County
Environmental Services Division

18(f)
page 1 of 1

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joey Preston, Administrator
FROM: Greg Smith, Environmental Services Director
DATE: November 14, 2008
RE: New Council Members

The Environmental Services Division would like to invite our new incoming council members to spend a full day in touring our facilities across Anderson County to observe our operation.

It would be a great opportunity for them to tour the new Solid Waste Department's Convenience Centers such as King David, White Street, Civic Center Recycling Center, Clyde Spearman Recycling Center and the Whitefield Convenience Center. They could then observe the sites that will be renovated. Those sites include Harris Bridge, Friendship, Agnew Road, Craytonville and Slabtown Convenience Centers. We would like to include going to the Starr C&D Landfill and Anderson Regional MRF.

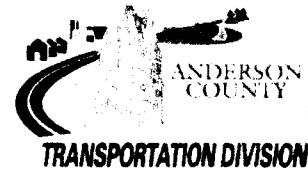
There would be an opportunity to tour our current Animal Shelter operation and go out to the new site. It would give us the opportunity to show why we need a new shelter in Anderson County. Anderson County takes in approximately 13,000 animals a year in a facility that is too small to accommodate such a high number of animals coming in each year. We would be able to cover in detail about disease control being such an important issue in saving the animals. Staff would be able to discuss the difficulties in a day to day operation of running an Animal Shelter.

We feel it would be important to tour the facilities of the Waste Water Department such as the Wastewater Treatment Plant and several Wastewater Pump Stations located throughout Anderson County. There would be an opportunity to take them to a few sites that are currently being reviewed by our Stormwater Department at this time.

A full day tour with our new incoming council members would give us the opportunity to show how our operation works and time to explain the DHEC and EPA guidelines that we are regulated by in our operation.



● The Transporter



page 18
#18(9)

Anderson County Transportation Division, Anderson, SC

Crestview Road Curve Fixed.

**NOVEMBER
2008**

Roads & Bridges crews replaced a large culvert and relocated a portion of Crestview Road near Hanna High School while school was out for the summer.

The existing box culvert and long curve at Stratton subdivision had been the site of numerous run-off accidents over the years. We replaced the old box culvert, straightened the curve, added super-elevation to the curve, removed large trees near the road and added shoulder width through the project area.

The project was finished on time and under the budget for materials

Thanks to all of the staff involved in the project, hopefully we will see the end to accidents in that area of Crestview Road.

Quote of the Month

"The only way to get the best of an argument is to avoid it"

Robert A. Heinlein



• HIGHLIGHTS

- Finished Projects
- Employee News
- Computer Shortcuts
- Safety Tips
- Happy Holiday

THE LIGHTS ARE ON!

Brown Road bridge project is now complete. The missing piece was the harbor style lighting for the bridge and the boat ramp. SCDOT included lighting mounts and conduit in the bridge design and our engineering staff put together the lighting specs and contract for installation late this summer. Please take a ride out there and check it out. It really puts the finishing touch on last year's boat ramp expansion by R&B and the new bridge.



Inside this issue:

<i>Employee News</i>	2
<i>Shortcuts</i>	3
<i>Safety Tips</i>	3
<i>A B C's</i>	4

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations to Lee and Shannon Henderson on their baby boy, Marshall Luke Henderson born October 15, 2008, he weighed 5lbs. 14oz. (Lee works in our Fleet Services Dept.)

Cubby Hall, received certificate in Stormwater Management, and Roadway Management.

Congratulations to the following employees for Employee of the Month, in the Roads and Bridges Department.

JULY - Donald Dickson

AUGUST - Chris Robinson

SEPTEMBER - Wilson James

OCTOBER - Michael Poole

Safety hours: no lost time accident statistics through October 28, 2008.

Fleet Services -- 1847 days since 12/27/00

Engineering -- 1367 days since 01/01/03

Airport -- 1074 days since 04/14/05

Roads & Bridges -- 47 days since 09/23/08

News that you would like to share, please email or call Tina Rogers at:
trogers@andersoncountysc.org
260-4540 (office)

Longevity:

The following employees for August, September, and October have reached service years.

5 Years

Denver Mills (Roads & Bridges)

Ruby Lofton (Airport)

10 Years

Cubby Hall (Roads & Bridges)

Welcome new employees:

Steve Smith (Airport)

Jack Scholten (Administration)

Jackie Partain (moved to Fleet)

Rachel Kay (Fleet)

Kenneth Krzyzanowski (Fleet)

Kyle Dill (Fleet)

Theo McCouller (Roads & Bridges)

Tony Bigsby (Roads & Bridges)

Buddy Bolt (Roads & Bridges)

Brandon Hall (Roads & Bridges)

Hal Moon (Roads & Bridges)



Desktop shortcuts speed routine tasks

The more keyboard shortcuts you know, the swifter you'll be with daily computer tasks. These tips will increase your efficiency with the programs you probably use most...

Internet Explorer shortcuts:

- **Surf without your mouse.**

Press Ctrl + Tab to move your cursor to the address bar. Then type the domain name you want without the "www" and "com" around it - for example, eBay, not www.eBay.com.

Press Ctrl + Enter and the whole URL will automatically fill in.

- **To go back a page**, press the Back-space key. When working with online forms, use the Tab key instead of the mouse to move

Between fields.

Word Shorts:

- Skip through a document without scrolling. Use Ctrl + left/right arrow to move between words: Use Ctrl + up/down arrow to move between paragraphs. To highlight text, use Shift + arrow or Shift + Ctrl + arrow for an entire paragraph. Ctrl + A selects all text.

- **Move to the beginning** or end of a line by

Pressing the Home or End key, respectively. Ctrl + Home and Ctrl + End move you to the beginning and end of a document.

Outlook shortcuts:

- **The word shortcuts** above also apply when composing e-mail.
- **When you're finished writing** an e-mail, press Alt + S to send rather than fumbling for your mouse.

Adapted from "Who's in Charge Here - You or Your Mouse?," Rafe Needleman, CNET.

Vehicle Safety Tips

Always remember to fasten your seat belt while driving. This could save your life.

Service your vehicle **on time** regularly.

Remember to check your oil between services. This is the life of your vehicle.

Check your tire pressure on a regular basis. This is a **gas saver**!

Remember while operating a vehicle, if your wipers are on your headlights should be too!! This will allow others to see you. Most importantly, this is a state law.

NO SMOKING WHILE PUMPING GAS!!

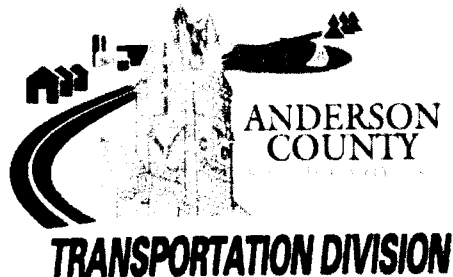
This also could save your life.

From Fleet Services.

Anderson County Transportation Division, Anderson, SC

735 Michelin Boulevard
Anderson, SC 29626

Airport: 260-4163
Fleet Services: 260-4020
Roads and Bridges: 260-4342
260-4764 ~ 260-4190
Transportation Admin.: 260-1064



*Providing the way to
Home, Work, and Play.*



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO ALL!**

A B C's of Christmas

A is for Angels
With halos so bright
Whose carols were heard
On that first Christmas Night

B is for Bells
So merrily ringing
Joy to the world
Is the message they're bringing

C is for Candles
That so brightly shine
To give a warm welcome
To your friends and mine

D is for Doorway
With garlands of green
To make Christmas merry
As far as they're seen

E is for Evergreens
With fragrance so rare
So plentiful at Christmas
Their scent fills the air

F is for Fun
The whole season long
From trimming the tree
To singing a song

G is for Greetings
A merry "hello"
With a heart full of love
For people we know

H is for Holly
With berries so red
To make into wreaths
To hang overhead

I is for Ice
On snow covered hills
Where sledding is fun
Along with the spills

J is for Jesus
The Christ child too dear
We honor his birth
On Christmas each year

K is for Kris Kringle
So merrily he stands
He is who they call Santa
In so many lands

L is for Lanterns
I am sure that their light
Helped Mary and Joseph
That first Christmas Night

M is for Mary
Her heart full of love
For her little son Jesus
Who came from above

N is for Noel
The angels did sing
To herald the birth
Of Jesus, our king

O is for Ornaments
So shining and bright
With lights on the tree
To sparkle at night

P is for Packages
With ribbons so gay
All 'round the tree
For our Christmas Day

Q is for Quiet
Christmas Eve Night
With snow covered hills
Glistening so bright

R is for Reindeer
Who pull Santa's sleigh
To your house, to my house
They know the way

S is for Shepherds
Who first saw the star
Over Bethlehem's manger
And followed it far

T is for Trees
We decorate so gay
Then wait for ol' Santa
To hurry our way

U is for Universe
Where Christmas brings joy
To all in world
To each girl and each boy

V is for Visiting
Friends near and far
We travel by plane
Or by bus, or by car

W is for Wise Men
Who brought gifts so rare
And knelt down and worshiped
The child they found there

X is for X-mas
Or Christmas by full name
No matter the language
It all means the same

Y is for Yule Logs
Whose bright sparks fly high
To give a warm welcome
To friends passing by

Z is for Zeal
We show at this time
In giving to others
And loving mankind

22

18(h)
page 1 of 1

MICHAEL B. GLENN

6 NOVEMBER 2008

**MR. JOEY R. PRESTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
P.O. BOX 8002
ANDERSON, S.C. 29622**

RE: ACCESS /ANDERSON COUNTY/ANIMAL SHELTER

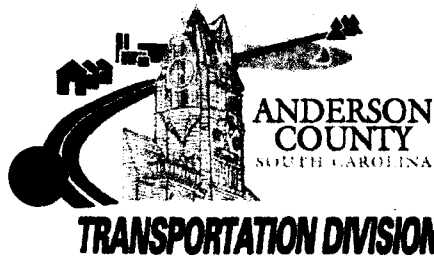
DEAR MR. PRESTON:

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT I GRANT INGRESS AND EGRESS
FROM HWY. 29 SOUTH VIA PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD TO
ANDERSON COUNTY/ANDERSON COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER.**

SINCERELY,

Michael B. Glenn -
MICHAEL B. GLENN

**1114 EAST GREENVILLE STREET ANDERSON S.C. 29621
864- 314-1517**



23

18(i)
page 1 of 1

November 12, 2008

**Providing the Way,
To Home, Work,
and Play**

Col. Riley Stevens
200 Indian Trail
Anderson, SC 29625

Dear Col. Stevens:

This letter is in response to the email you sent to the Governor's Office on October 21, 2008 regarding your blueberry bushes and irrigation system on the side of Indian Trail. The South Carolina Department of Transportation forwarded your email to me for our investigation and response.

County Administrator
Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael Thompson
Chairman
District 5

Bill McAbee
Vice-Chairman
District 4

Robert L. Waldrep, Jr.
District 1

Gracie Floyd
District 2

Larry Greer
District 3

Ron Wilson
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Indian Trail is an Anderson County maintained road. This road has a 50 foot dedicated right of way (25 feet from the center of the road). Therefore, on Indian Trail, the public right of way extends 14-15 feet beyond the edge of pavement. During our investigation, our staff located the property pins and flagged them for your reference.

I regret that our mowers destroyed your investment of time and money. However, they are trained and instructed to mow the entire right of way, not just the first 10 feet or one side of the ditch. It is the policy and procedure of Anderson County to mow the entire right of way and to maintain the ditches within the right of way. Anderson County does this to preserve the integrity of the roads and to ensure the safety of those using the roads. Unfortunately, your irrigation system and the remaining bushes are encroaching upon Anderson County dedicated right of way. Therefore, I must respectfully ask that you remove your irrigation system and any remaining bushes from the public property and relocate them behind your property line.

If we can assist you further in locating the property line, or with other county road issues, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Holt Hopkins
Asst. County Administrator - Transportation
Anderson County, South Carolina

cc: Mr. Joey Preston, Anderson County Administrator, PO Box 2008, Anderson, SC 29622
Ms. Denise Riley, The Governor's Office of Constituent Services, PO Box 12267, Columbia, SC 29211
Mr. Jason Allison, P.E., SCDOT Engineering District Three, 252 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, SC 29607

Anderson
County



2000



Transportation Administration
5805 Airport Road, Anderson, S.C. 29626
(864) 260-1064 - (864) 260-1063 fax

www.andersoncountysc.org

**A PROCLAMATION BY THE HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF
ANDERSON COUNTY EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JOEY R. PRESTON FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, VISION, DEDICATION AND
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY AND ALL
ANDERSON COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston came to Anderson County in 1996 to assume the duties of County Administrator and during his employ has exhibited qualities of leadership that have brought honor and positive recognition to Anderson County from respected outside individuals, private organizations and government agencies. The SC General Assembly recognized Preston for "his outstanding success as a county administrator and being one of the most innovative and effective local government officials in South Carolina" in 2005. Other honors and awards include: City and County Magazine's Leader of the Year, 2002; Salvation Army Volunteer of the Year, 2001; Anderson Independent Publishing Company's Pointing the Way Leadership Award, 1999; 263d AAMDC Volunteer of the Year, 2006; People's Choice winner in the 263d AAMDC and Cancer Association of Anderson's 'Dancing for Our Heroes,' 2007; 263d Order of St. Barbara, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston has encouraged excellence and high performance from county employees, leading by his example. Under his leadership, Anderson County has earned consistently clean, unqualified audits; the Government Finance Officers Association Budget Presentation Award for 3 consecutive years; Government Finance Officers Association's Excellence in Governmental Performance for 11 consecutive years; 'All America City' since 2000; SC Association of Counties Barrett Lawrimore Award, 2002, 2006, runner-up in 2008; J. Mitchell Graham Award, 2001, 2002; National Association of Counties' NACIO Award, 2006 (2), 2008 (2); International Association of Emergency Managers' Interagency Disaster Preparedness Award, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston's efforts have stirred motivation, fostered progressive dynamics among county employees and resulted in a better work environment with improved benefits. In 1996, Preston worked with County Council to institute a wage and compensation study, evaluating, comparing and ensuring employee benefits are inline with private industry, thereby laying a foundation to recruit and retain a quality workforce. Due to Preston's efforts, the employee retention rate has significantly increased; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston has championed staff development, working to further educational and training opportunities for staff and thereby helping individuals further their individual career goals while simultaneously improving the county's overall skill base and increasing the quality and efficiency of service to Anderson County residents; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston has continuously worked with the Personnel Department to recognize employees for their service to the County through the creation of the Human Resource Committee's Employee of the Month program, with annual Employee Picnics, the Annual Christmas Dinner, Employee Christmas bonuses in the form of Chamber Checks and most recently, the 401K match for employee's retirement; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston has fostered and encouraged the spirit of communication and diversity within the workplace by hosting the first SC Legislative Black Caucus Economic Development Conference in Anderson County in 2003 and continuing to promote and encourage diversity within the county including the Human Relations Council, Senior Citizens program and special populations program; and,

WHEREAS, Joey R. Preston has effectively nurtured a culture of volunteerism by assuming his place as a role model of servant leadership and civic-mindedness, actively participating in charitable organizations and thereby, encouraging county employees to volunteer. Under his leadership, employees have exceeded goals in raising funds and collecting bicycles for the Salvation Army during the Holidays, held various canned food and toy drives for organizations such as Good Neighbor Cupboard and Meals on Wheels, participated in the Alzheimer's Bowling Tournament, participated in the March of Dimes Walks, collected items for deployed soldiers and raised funds for soldiers during the annual Celebrate Anderson event; and,

WHEREAS, the Anderson County Human Resource Committee, on behalf of all Anderson County employees desires to honor Joey R. Preston for his outstanding dedication to Anderson County employees and the community in which we live, work and play:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Human Resource Committee, on behalf of Anderson County employees:

1. The employees of the Anderson County hereby recognize Joey R. Preston for his leadership, commitment and support of Anderson County, SC, its employees and residents.

Mr. Preston: Under your leadership, our County has flourished in so many ways. You truly exemplify the qualities of Servant Leadership. Your dedication to this community and to the employees who serve with you is appreciated.

2. This proclamation shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment.

RESOLVED in meeting duly assembled this 18th day of November 2008.

ATTEST:

FOR THE HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE:

Derrick Singleton
Chairman, Human Resource Committee

Michael Cunningham
Deputy Administrator

Committee Members

26

18(k)
page 1 of 5

STATE OF COURT CAROLINA

CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT

COUNTY OF ANDERSON

SEVERANCE AGREEMENT AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS

AGREEMENT made and entered into this 18 day of NOVEMBER, 2008, by and between the County of Anderson, the Anderson County Council (hereinafter referred to collectively as "the County"), and Joey R. Preston (hereafter "Employee");

WHEREAS, Employee is currently employed by the County in the position of County Administrator;

WHEREAS, Employee and the County have mutually agreed that Employee is to be terminated as set forth herein;

WHEREAS, Employee recognizes and agrees that it shall be in the best interest of Employee and of the County that the terms and conditions of Employee's termination of employment be expressly set forth and that the severance payments and benefits that the County is agreeable to providing Employee from and after his termination be similarly set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises hereinafter made by Employee and the County, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby expressly acknowledged by Employee and the County,

IT IS AGREED THAT:

1. Effective January 1, 2009 (hereafter "the effective date"), the employment relationship between Employee and the County shall be terminated. After the effective date, Employee will not be obligated to perform any further services for the County

2. Employee is currently employed as Administrator for the County. Employee agrees to relinquish that position at the end of business on November 30, 2008. For the period from December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, Employee agrees to continue in the employment of the County on a full-time basis as a consultant to assist the acting/interim Administrator in assuming and performing his/her duties. Employee shall continue his current pay and benefits through December 31, 2008. Employee recognizes that his continued employment for the time period from December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, shall be at the direction and control of the acting/interim County Administrator and the County Council, acting through its Chairman. Moreover, Employee shall devote his full attention, energies, and commitment to assisting in the smooth transition of responsibilities from Employee to the acting/interim County Administrator.

3. Employee agrees to devote his full time and attention to his duties through December 31, 2008, and he agrees not to make any negative or derogatory remarks, comments, representations, or observations about the County, County Council, or the governance of the County through December 31, 2008.

4. The County shall pay to Employee, on or before November 30, 2008, the sum of \$1,139,833.00, less appropriate state and federal withholding, to be allocated and paid as follows:

- a. \$359,258.00 to be paid to the South Carolina Retirement System to pay for retirement service credits for Mr. Preston as provided for under state law;
- b. \$780,575.00 to be paid to Mr. Preston on or before November 30, 2008, in the form of a severance benefit.

County shall also tender to Mr. Preston the title to the 2006 GMC Yukon that he is currently driving as a County vehicle.

5. As of the effective date, Employee's participation in any and all employee benefit plans maintained, sponsored, and/or participated in by the County shall cease in accordance with the terms of those plans. Employee shall be entitled to continue and/or convert such plans to individual coverage based on current elections to the extent permitted by law and the respective plan document. In the event that Employee timely elects to continue his group health plan coverage, pursuant to the provisions of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act ("COBRA"), Employee shall be fully responsible for paying the entire share of premiums for such coverage (up to a total of 18 months) if he elects such coverage. This provision is not intended to and does not affect any vested right Employee may have in any State or County benefit plan. Mr. Preston shall be eligible for retiree health benefits to the same extent as any other retired employee of Anderson County.

6. In consideration of the County's agreement to provide Employee with the severance payments described in this Agreement, Employee, for himself, his heirs, his legal representatives, and his assigns, hereby covenants irrevocably never to make any claim or demand, or to commence, cause, or permit to be instituted or prosecuted, any suit, charge, proceeding, or action at law or in equity, against the County of any of its Council members, employees, managers, officers, board members, or any of its affiliated parts, entities, or subsidiaries, as well as the successors and assigns of those entities and persons, by reason of any claim, demand, or cause of action which Employee may now have, or may hereinafter acquire, relating to his employment, and/or the termination of his employment, with the County, expressly including, but not limited to, the termination of and/or the conditions of his employment with the County. The parties expressly covenant for themselves, their legal representatives, their heirs, and assigns, that this Agreement may be treated as a complete defense to any legal, equitable, or administrative action that may be brought, instituted, or taken by Employee against the County, related to Employee's employment, and/or the termination of his employment, or the conditions of his employment, and shall forever be a complete bar to the commencement or prosecution of any action, suit, charge, claim, or legal proceeding relating in any way to Employee's employment or termination of employment.

7. Employee specifically agrees that the waiver in the preceding paragraph includes any and all rights or claims against the County under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, as amended ("ADEA"), 29 U.S.C. § 621, *et seq.*, that arose on or before the execution of this Agreement. In consideration of this waiver of rights under the ADEA, Employee acknowledges that he has accepted the consideration set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this Agreement. This consideration is over and above those amounts to which Employee is otherwise entitled under the County's policies. Employee further acknowledges that prior to signing this Agreement, he was given a copy of this Agreement as a written directive from the County advising him to consult an attorney before signing, and advising him that he had 21 days in which to consider signing.

8. The County agrees and hereby covenants irrevocably never to make any claim or demand, or to commence, cause or permit to be instituted or prosecuted, any claim, charge, proceeding or action at law or in equity against Mr. Preston, his heirs, legal representatives, or assigns, by reason of any claim, demand or cause of action which the County may now have, or may hereinafter acquire, relating to Mr. Preston's employment with the County or his actions as an employee on behalf of the County, expressly including, but not limited to, all actions taken by Mr. Preston within the scope and course of his employment as County Administrator.

9. Except for the provisions of paragraph 5(A), which provisions are hereby incorporated into this Agreement, the Master Employment Agreement entered into between the County and Employee and dated July 22, 1998 shall, upon payment of the benefits set forth in paragraph 4 above, be deemed to be fully performed and satisfied.

10. Employee acknowledges that, except as set forth herein, the County owes Employee no wages, back pay, retirement, accrued vacation, sick or other leave, profit sharing benefits or benefits under any other benefit plan, or any other amounts for any other reason. This Agreement does not alter any vested right Employee may have under any benefit plan maintained by the County of the State of South Carolina, and Employee's right to any such benefit shall be controlled by the plan document.

11. The parties agree that Employee shall be responsible for his share of any and all federal, state, or local tax liability (including, but not limited to, taxes, fines, penalties, and interest) that could arise as a result of any of the payments set forth in paragraph 4 above.

12. The parties agree that each paragraph of this Agreement and each provision within each paragraph is severable from the remainder of the Agreement, and further agree that if a portion of this Agreement shall be severed, the remainder of this Agreement shall be enforced according to its terms.

13. The parties to this Agreement agree that neither party, without the consent of the other, or except as may be required by law, either directly or indirectly, shall voluntarily disclose any of the terms of the Severance Agreement or the circumstances surrounding the termination of the employment relationship between Employee and the County, except to say that Employee elected to resign his position. This provision shall not prohibit the parties from discussing this matter with their respective attorneys or tax or financial consultants, neither shall it prohibit the County from discussing this matter with County officials on a need-to-know basis. The parties

also understand that the County may be required, by law, to share the Agreement with a requesting third party pursuant to the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Any such disclosure shall be limited by the request and any limitations under South Carolina law.

14. Both parties understand and agree that their respective obligations to perform under this Agreement are conditioned upon performance of the parties' agreements and covenants as set forth herein.

15. This Agreement shall inure to and be binding upon the parties hereto, their respective heirs, legal representatives, successor, and assigns.

16. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.

17. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the parties, and no representation, promise, or inducement not included herein shall be binding upon the parties.

18. This Agreement may be changed orally, but only by an agreement in writing signed by the parties.

19. Employee specifically acknowledges that he has been advised to consult with an attorney regarding this Agreement, that he has been advised that he has 21 days to consider signing this Agreement, and that he has 7 days to revoke this Agreement after it has been signed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties set their hands and seals this 18 day of NOVEMBER, 2008.

Witnessed by:

As to Anderson County

Teresa M. Winters

As to Anderson County Council

Teresa M. Winters

Signed, sealed and delivered:

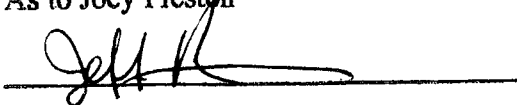
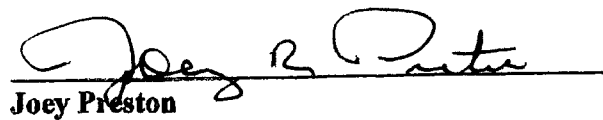
ANDERSON COUNTY

By: Michael Thompson
W. H. McAbee, Jr.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL

By: Michael Thompson
W. H. McAbee, Jr.
"THE COUNTY"

As to Joey Preston

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joey Preston", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joey Preston", written over a horizontal line.

"EMPLOYEE"

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

MASTER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

COUNTY OF ANDERSON)

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 19 day of NOVEMBER, 2008, by and between the County of Anderson, State of South Carolina, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina (hereinafter referred to as (the "County") and Michael J. Cunningham (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Administrator"), both of whom understand and agree as follows:

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the County, acting by and through its governing body, the Anderson County Council (hereinafter referred to as the "Council"), desires to employ the services of Michael J. Cunningham as Administrator of Anderson County and enters into this agreement as a binding legal and contractual obligation and commitment pursuant to Section 4-9-620 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council to establish certain conditions of employment and to provide certain benefits for and to set working conditions of the Administrator; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council (1) to secure and retain the services of the Administrator and to provide inducement for him to remain in such employment, (2) to make possible full work productivity by assuring the Administrator's morale and peace of mind with respect to future security, (3) to act as a deterrent against malfeasance or dishonesty for personal gain on the part of the Administrator, and (4) to provide a just means for terminating the Administrator's services at such time as he may be unable fully to discharge his duties due to age or disability or when the County may desire to otherwise terminate his employment; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator desires to accept employment as Administrator of Anderson County under the terms and conditions of employment as referenced herein:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

SECTION 1. DUTIES

County hereby agrees to employ Michael J. Cunningham as the Administrator of Anderson County to perform the functions and duties specified in Section 4-9-630 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as Amended, and to perform such other legally permissible and proper duties and functions as the Council shall from time to time assign, whether by job description or otherwise.

Section 4-9-660 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, which governs dealings between and among Council, its members, the Administration, and County employees, directs and governs the Administrator's performance of duties on behalf of Council and requires: "Except for the purposes of inquiries and investigations relating to formal criminal charges

(Signature)

involving personal gain to the Administrator, the council shall deal with County officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the County Administrator solely through the Administrator, and neither the council nor its members shall give orders or instructions to any such officers or employees."

The Administrator is, and shall be, the employee of the County Council, the governing body of the County. Even though the Administrator acts for and represents the County in many or most regards, in the conduct of day-to-day business of the County, by law and by this Agreement, nevertheless he should, to the extent consistent with the Agreement and the law of the state, always conduct himself and the affairs of his office, in such a manner as to bring credit to the County and the County Council, and to reflect the County Council as the ultimate source of authority for the action being conducted.

SECTION 2. TERM

A. The Administrator serves at the pleasure of Council, and nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit, or otherwise interfere with the right of Anderson County Council to terminate the services of the Administrator at any time, subject only to the provisions set forth in Section 3, Paragraphs A, B, and C of this Agreement.

B. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the Administrator to resign at any time from his position with the County, subject only to the provision set forth in Section 3, Paragraph D of this Agreement.

C. The Administrator agrees to remain in the exclusive employ of the County from December 1, 2008 the first day of his employment with the County under this Master Employment Agreement until November 30, 2011 a date three (3) years from such first day of employment under this Master Employment Agreement, and to neither seek nor accept employment nor become employed by any other employer until said termination date, unless said termination date is effected as hereinafter provided.

The term "employed" shall not be construed to include occasional teaching, writing, speaking, or consulting performed on personal time off, even if outside compensation is provided for such services. Said activities are expressly allowed, provided that in no case is any activity allowed which would present a conflict of interest with the County or interfere with Administrator's execution of duties for the County. In the event travel is required for such non-County related business, the Council shall be notified in advance. De Minimis use of County owned equipment for the purposes noted in this paragraph is hereby authorized, expressly as part of the compensation to Administrator for performance of his duties.

D. In the event written notice of intent to not renew this Agreement is not given by either party to this Agreement to the other at least ninety (90) days prior to any annual anniversary of the date first above written, this agreement shall be extended on the same terms and conditions as herein provided, all for a new term consisting of the term then remaining at such annual anniversary date plus an additional period of one (1) year; such that the maximum effective term of this Agreement shall never exceed three (3) years and not be less than the respective term remaining

(Signature)

when any notice of intent to not renew is given. Said agreement shall continue thereafter for a continuing, annually renewable term consisting of the respective term then remaining at such annual anniversary date unless written notice of intent to not renew is given by either party to this Agreement to the other at least ninety (90) days prior to any subsequent annual anniversary of the date first above written.

SECTION 3. TERMINATION AND SEVERANCE PAY

Termination with Cause

A. Grounds for termination with cause shall be the conviction of the Administrator of any crime involving personal gain to himself, any crime involving moral turpitude (as defined in South Carolina state law) or

the refusal of the Administrator to perform the duties of this office. For the purposes of this section the duties of his office include maintaining reasonable, consistent office hours, except during such times as the duties of his office require his absence or as noted elsewhere in this Agreement, compliance with the laws and Constitution of the State of South Carolina, performance of the duties set forth in Section 1 of this Agreement, and compliance with the lawful directives of the Council passed in open, public meetings of said Council which do not conflict with or invade the responsibilities and authority conferred on the Administrator by the South Carolina Constitution or Code of Laws. If a majority of Council members feel that the Administrator is not in compliance with the above duties, then said members shall cause a certified mail, return receipt requested letter to be sent to the Administrator advising him of his non-compliance and stating a reasonable length of time offered him for correction. If, after such reasonable time period has passed, the Administrator fails to correct the noted non-compliance he may be terminated with cause and shall not be entitled to severance pay, but shall be entitled to all compensation and benefits accrued yet unpaid at the date of termination.

Illness and Disability

In the event the Administrator shall suffer serious illness or injury during the contract period, he shall be afforded a minimum of 90 work days as a recovery period before he may be deemed to be in violation of the terms of his contract and subject to the provisions relating to termination with cause. Council may upon public vote extend this recovery period. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as to exempt such 90 work day (or longer, as authorized by Council) recovery period from the normal County rules governing use of leave and sick time and leave-without-pay to cover time absent from work. Further, nothing in this Agreement is intended to negate or diminish the Administrator's entitlements, benefits, or rights under any applicable law or regulation, it being the intent of the Parties that this Agreement is in addition to, not in lieu of, all applicable laws and regulations.

Termination Without Cause

B. If the Administrator is terminated for any reason other than those set out above, he shall be deemed to have been terminated without cause and shall be entitled to all pay and financial benefits remaining on his contract for the balance of the contract period in a lump sum or in incremental payments, as he, in his sole discretion, shall choose, as severance pay for such termination without cause. In addition, the Administrator shall also be compensated for all earned sick leave, vacation, holidays, compensatory time and other accrued benefits to date, calculated at the rate of pay in effect upon termination. The Administrator shall receive additional severance pay under this paragraph, based upon the length of his total service to the County, and computed at the rate of one month aggregate compensation under this Agreement for every two years of such service, based on his original date of hire with the County of April, 1998. The total severance pay under this Agreement shall not exceed thirty-six (36) months aggregate, total compensation at the rate of pay in effect upon termination. Further, in the event that Administrator is terminated by the Council as set forth in this Section (without cause), then in that event all life, health, dental, and disability insurance and all other County provided benefits for the Administrator shall continue in full force and coverage, at County expense, for a period of six (6) months or until similar coverage is provided to Michael J. Cunningham by a subsequent employer (and is in full force and effect) whichever comes first. Said continuation of group health insurance coverage shall be in addition and prior to any protection afforded Administrator by the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 ("COBRA"). Coverage under COBRA shall begin on the date all coverage extended under the severance provisions herein expire.

C. In the event the County at any time during the employment term reduces the salary, compensation, or other benefits of the Administrator in a greater percentage than an applicable across-the-board reduction for all County employees, or in the event the County refuses, following written notice, to comply with any other provision benefiting the Administrator herein, or if the Administrator is reassigned to another position within the County's employ then, in that event, the Administrator may, at his sole option, be deemed to be "terminated without cause" at the date of such reduction or such refusal to comply, or such other act enumerated in this Section, all within the meaning and context of the severance pay provisions herein contained, and all with the same effect and rights as described in Subsection B of this Section 3.

D. In the event the Administrator voluntarily resigns his position with the County before expiration of the aforesaid term of employment, then the Administrator shall give the County three (3) months notice in advance of such intent to resign and, if he should fail to give such notice, shall forfeit a proportionate amount of salary equal to the salary due for the period by which he fails to give such three (3) months notice as a liquidated damage penalty for failure to give adequate notice to the County.

E. Contemporaneously with the delivery of all severance pay and entitlements hereinabove set out, the Administrator agrees to execute and deliver to the County a release, releasing the County of all further claims that the Administrator may have against the County.

One

SECTION 4. SALARY

County agrees to pay the Administrator for his services rendered pursuant hereto an initial annual base salary of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/xx Dollars (\$125,000.00), payable in installments at the same time as other employees of the County are paid, plus an annual dollar for dollar match of 401K contribution, not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), annually to the Administrator's designated 401K deferred compensation plan. County further agrees to adjust Administrator's base salary at the same times and in the same relative degree or percentage as it adjusts those of other employees of the County. Further, the County agrees to pay the Administrator on or about every July 1, a pay step increase in gross salary consistent with the County's then current wage and compensation plan, but not less than two percent (2%) in any event, and based upon a satisfactory performance evaluation as covered in Section 12 of this Agreement. Finally, in addition to the foregoing, the County agrees to compensate the Administrator, at a daily and hourly rate based on his then current annual salary, for any accrued annual leave, in excess of the maximum amount which the Administrator can carry forward to the next accounting year, which the Administrator would otherwise forfeit because of nonuse.

SECTION 5. HOURS OF WORK

A. It is recognized that the Administrator must devote a great deal of his time outside normal office hours to business of the County, and to that end the Administrator will be allowed to take compensatory time off as he shall deem appropriate during said normal office hours.

B. The Administrator shall not spend more than ten (10) hours per week in teaching, consulting or other non-County connected business for compensation, without the express prior approval of Council.

C. Except as otherwise noted in this Agreement, the Administrator will observe the normal business and working hours of County government and will work sufficient hours to satisfactorily discharge the duties, obligations, and requirements of his office.

SECTION 6. AUTOMOBILE

The Administrator's duties require that he shall be provided with a monthly vehicle allowance of \$700/month for his personal vehicle purchase and use, with the County providing the fuel for that vehicle, and that he be allowed a monthly reimbursement of cell phone and other electronic communication expenses.

SECTION 7. DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

The County agrees to budget and to pay the professional dues and subscriptions of the Administrator necessary for his continuation and full participation in national, regional, state and local associations and organizations necessary and desirable for his continued professional and community participation, growth and advancement.

Exo

SECTION 8. BUSINESS TRIPS FOR ANDERSON COUNTY

County does hereby agree to budget and pay the reasonable travel and subsistence expenses of the Administrator for official travel while on County business and for attendance at meetings, seminars and conventions. Meetings, seminars, and conventions, for these purposes, may include but are not limited to those sponsored by the South Carolina Association of Counties, International City & County Managers Association, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce, and other professional associations of which the Administrator is a member.

SECTION 9. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE

The Administrator shall be entitled to and shall accrue annual vacation leave with pay and sick leave in the same manner as other employees of the County. Because Administrator has worked in local government in South Carolina for many years, which inures to the benefit of County in the form of significant experience, he was deemed, for all leave accrual purposes, to have been employed by County, at the time of hiring, for over ten (10) years and to have already accrued and have credited to his payroll and personnel accounts, at the time of hiring, the amount of vacation and sick leave which he would have accrued in one (1) year as an employee with over ten (10) years of County employment. The Administrator's date of hire will be deemed to be the date he actually first began work for the County, April 6, 1998, his first day of employment for the County. The Administrator shall be entitled to accrue and carry forward the maximum amounts of annual and sick leave authorized by County personnel policies, but shall be compensated for any annual leave, in excess of the maximum amount which the Administrator can carry forward to the next accounting year, which the Administrator would otherwise forfeit because of nonuse, in accordance with the terms and provisions of Section 4., hereof.

SECTION 10. BENEFIT PLANS

The Administrator shall be entitled to participate in all benefit plans as may be available, from time to time, to employees of the County in the same manner, including County contributions, and to the same extent of said employees to include, without limitation, state retirement plan and medical and other insurance plans.

SECTION 11. INSURANCE COVERAGE AND ANNUAL PHYSICAL

- A. The County agrees to put into force, and make required premium payments for the Administrator, for an insurance policy providing 24-hour coverage for occupational as well as total and permanent disability income benefits, including residual benefits, with no expiration, no deductible, and no exclusion period. Said policy shall provide 75% income replacement for short term coverage, from the expiration of any accrued sick leave until long term coverage begins, and 60% income replacement for long term coverage. Said policy shall also be noncancelable and be guaranteed renewable, with cost of living provisions included.

- B. The Administrator shall be covered by the same health and dental plans as all other employees and the County shall pay the Administrator's share of premiums for the Administrator for the health and dental plans, including family plans, elected by the Administrator and that coverage shall be in full force and effect immediately upon start of service to the County under this Agreement.
- C. The County agrees to purchase and pay the required premiums for term life insurance policies, providing coverage equal in amount to four times the total annual aggregate compensation of the Administrator under this Agreement, with the beneficiary to be designated by the Administrator.
- D. The Administrator agrees to submit once per calendar year to a complete physical examination, by a qualified physician of his choosing, the costs of which shall be paid by the County and/or County's insurance policy.

SECTION 12. PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

The Council shall review and evaluate the performance of the Administrator no later than February 1 of each year. The County agrees to increase base salary and/or other benefits of the Administrator at the time of said review, in such amounts and to such extent as provided in Section 4 in light of performance by the Administrator. It is further understood that merit increases based on annual performance evaluations and salary reviews are exclusive of any general costs-of-living increases provided to the Administrator and other employees. The Administrator shall receive all cost-of-living increases, if any, which the County may grant to its other employees, at the same time and in the same manner said increases are granted to those employees.

SECTION 13. SUSPENSION

The County may suspend the Administrator with full pay and benefits at any time during the term of this Agreement, but only if a majority of the Council and the Administrator agree, or, after a public hearing, a majority of the Council votes to suspend the Administrator for "just cause", provided however, that the Administrator shall be given written notice setting forth any charges at least ten (10) days prior to such hearing, by the Council members bringing such charges. "Just cause" is defined, and hereby limited, for the purposes of this Section to the following: (1) willful neglect of duty, as defined by law or this Agreement, (2) conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude, (3) violation of duties to the County of honesty and sobriety, or (4) any other act of similar nature, and of the same or greater seriousness.

SECTION 14. INDEMNIFICATION

The County shall defend, save harmless, and indemnify the Administrator against any tort, professional liability claim or demand, or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of his duties as Administrator. The County may compromise and settle any such claim or suit and will pay the amount of any settlement or judgment rendered thereon. Said indemnification shall extend beyond termination of employment and the otherwise expiration of this Agreement, to provide full and

complete protection to the Administrator by the County as described herein, for any actions undertaken or committed in his capacity as Administrator, regardless of whether the notice of filing of a lawsuit for such tort, claim, demand, or other legal action occurs during or following the Administrator's employment with County.

SECTION 15. CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROHIBITION.

It is further understood and agreed that because of the duties of the Administrator within and on behalf of the County of Anderson and its citizenry, the Administrator shall not during the term of this Agreement, individually, as a partner, joint venture, officer or shareholder, invest or participate in any business venture conducting business with Anderson County, or receiving economic development incentives from Anderson County, except for stock ownership in any company whose capital stock is publicly held and regularly traded, without the prior approval of the Council.

SECTION 16. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

A. The Council shall fix such other terms and conditions of employment, as it may determine from time to time, relating to the performance of the Administrator, provided such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with, or in conflict with, the provisions of this Agreement or state law.

B. All policy provisions of the County relating to vacation and sick leave, retirement and pension system contributions, holidays and other fringe benefits and working conditions as they now exist, or hereafter may be amended, shall also apply to the Administrator as they would be to other employees of the County, in addition to said benefits enumerated specifically for the benefit of the Administrator, herein or otherwise, except as herein provided.

C. Except as noted herein, the Administrator shall be entitled to receive the same vacation and sick leave benefits as are accorded department heads, including provisions governing payment therefore on termination of employment.

SECTION 17. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. The text herein shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties.

B. This Agreement shall become effective commencing on the date of execution by the parties, as first above written.

C. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs at law and executors of the Administrator and the County and its successors.

D. If any provision, or any portion thereof, contained in this Agreement is held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or unenforceable, in whole or in part, by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement or the portion thereof in question shall be deemed severable, shall not be affected thereby, and shall remain in full force and effect. It is the intent of

the parties to this Agreement that the Agreement be applied, executed, and enforced to the maximum extent possible, at any time, consistent with State law as then in effect, to the benefit of the Administrator. The Administrator shall receive the maximum benefit of each and every provision of this Agreement as may be permitted by law or the Constitution at any point in time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County of Anderson has caused this Agreement to be signed and executed in its behalf by the Chairman of the County Council, and duly attested by the Clerk to Council, and the Administrator has signed and executed this Agreement, all in triplicate, each of which will be considered an original copy, the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

ANDERSON COUNTY

By: Linda N. Eddleman

Linda Eddleman

Its: Clerk to Council

By: Michael Thompson

Michael Thompson,

Its: Council Chairman

W. H. McAbee, Jr.
Vice Chairman

I ACCEPT THE FOREGOING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

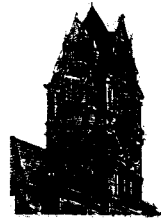
By: Michael J. Cunningham

Michael J. Cunningham

Its: Administrator

18(m)
page 1 of 2

40



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

*Making News.
Making Progress.*

TO: Mr. Joey R. Preston, County Administrator
FROM: Rita Davis, Finance Manager
SUBJECT: Budget Transfers
DATE: November 25, 2008

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Michael G. Thompson
Chairman
District 5

Bill McAbee
Vice Chairman
District 4

Bob Waldrep
District 1

Gracie S. Floyd
District 2

Larry E. Greer
District 3

Ron Wilson
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Eddleman

Attached are the departmental transfers over \$2,500 for the month of October 2008 in accordance with Ordinance #2008-027 Section XXVII of the FY 09 budget.

If you need additional information, please advise.



DEPARTMENTAL TRANSFERS

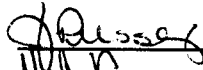
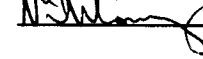
Ordinance # 2007-013; Section XXVII TRANSFERRING OF FUNDS:The Administrator shall report to the County Council monthly on all such transfers exceeding \$2,500 and above, once such transfers are completed and the completed paperwork received back by the Administrator.

For Budget Year 2007 - 2008

DATE OF TRANSFER	DEPARTMENT NAME	FROM: ACCOUNT NAME ACCOUNT NUMBER	TO: ACCOUNT NAME ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT	REASON
FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 2008					
10/20/2008	Family Court	Postage 150-5909-000-243	Postage 150-5909-001-243	40,000.00	To align DSS Funding per State request
10/20/2008	Family Court	Supplies - Office 150-5909-000-269	Supplies - Office 150-5909-001-269	15,126.78	To align DSS Funding per State request
10/20/2008	Family Court	Telephone 150-5909-000-275	Telephone 150-5909-001-275	3,831.32	To align DSS Funding per State request
10/20/2008	Family Court	Computer Equipment Maint 150-5909-000-305	Computer Equipment Maint 150-5909-001-305	5,500.00	To align DSS Funding per State request
10/20/2008	Family Court	Service Contracts 150-5909-000-375	Service Contracts 150-5909-001-375	7,500.00	To align DSS Funding per State request

PREPARED BY: Jana Pressley Date:

REVIEWED BY: Neil Carney Date:

11-24-08

11/24/2008

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – December 16, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

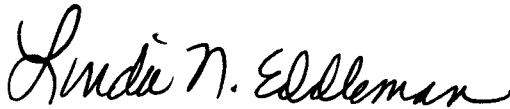
PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee - District #4
Ron Wilson - District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Michael Cunningham – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)

County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 16, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREP

CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have the invocation and pledge of allegiance by council member Ron Wilson. Mr. Wilson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I need to make an amendment to the agenda. I made a mistake when I was putting it together. Item 16 titled train lines, that is a resolution with a company -- I'm sorry -- a resolution to an individual and a presentation to an individual, so to treat her equally that should be up top. So I move to amend the agenda, Item 16, and make that Item 6B.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. Is there any discussion on this, what I'm wanting to do or why? No. Okay. Chair calls for the vote to amend the agenda moving Item 16 and make it Item 6B, right before Item 7, the reading of the third ordinance. All in favor of this change, please vote. Unanimous. Very good. Okay. At this time we have approval of the minutes. Chair moves to approve the minutes for December the 2nd, 2008. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: At the last meeting when we concluded or when we received the administrator's report, the council voted to include the administrator's report as part of the minutes, and I don't see them included in this minutes package.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you move to amend the minutes to include the administrator's report from the last meeting.

BILL MCABEE: As voted on -- as previously voted.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: As previously voted on. Okay. Chair seconds that amendment. Anymore discussion?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I'm just trying to understand, what is the purpose of changing this policy? What significance it has, what import and what effect does it have?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Well, my understanding, the council at the last meeting after I left voted to include the administrator's report and he's following through with it.

BOB WALDREP: I know he's following through with it, but I ask the question again, of what significance is that? What impact would that have on ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. What impact would that have, Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: Well, it was decided by the council that we would include the administrator's report at the last meeting and the council voted at that time to have it included and it's not included.

BOB WALDREP: I understand that. But what effect does that have, that's my question?

BILL MCABEE: It carries out -- it has the effect of carrying out the will of the council.

BOB WALDREP: Which is, Mr. McAbee? We want to know the will of the council in doing that. That's my question. You're begging the question.

BILL MCABEE: The will of the council is to include it as voted on previously. That's why I'm raising the question now, why it is not included.

BOB WALDREP: Well, I hate to be so picky, but I would like to know whenever you do this, what the will of the council is and what the effect of the will of the council would be, and I can't vote for something that I don't understand. Thank you.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, yes.

CINDY WILSON: That was an unusual maneuver to include the administrator's report in the minutes by virtue of the agenda being the minutes, that was always incorporated. So it has the appearance of there must be some reason other than

just wanting those particular minutes. I just find it very unusual. We've never done that in the eight years I've been on council. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? All in favor of -- Mr. Martin, council voted at the last meeting to include the minutes. Do we need to amend the minutes or what's the proper motion here or procedure?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The council did vote at the last meeting to include the administrator's report as a part of the minutes of that meeting. The motion now, as I understand it, is to amend those minutes to so include the administrator's report.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, it is a motion to amend?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you. All in favor of amending the minutes to carry out the council's vote from last meeting to include those -- to include that report, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. The minutes are amended. All in favor of approving the minutes as approved, please vote. As amended, please vote. Five. Oppose. Two. Okay. Ms. Floyd asked the question why were they excluded to begin with? Ms. Eddleman. Error. Okay. Moving on to citizens comments. Instructions. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, the citizens agenda is for the receipt of information, citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address county council. You are asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. And at this time let me remind the audience that this is a legislative session of elected body. There are to be no talking, hand clapping, booing, cheering or anything else. Please be mindful of your neighbor in

front of you and behind you, if they can hear you speaking, talking, you may be disturbing them. So let's please be respectful and quiet. At that time -- at this time, Mr. Martin, who do we have and how many?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, there are four citizens under agenda matters and three under other matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

TOM MARTIN: Lee Luft.

LEE LUFT: Mr. Chairman and members of council, Lee Luft, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce. It's a pleasure to be with you this evening. And certainly with the departure of a number of our council persons, we appreciate your leadership over the last several years. And my comments this evening are regarding Item 15, recent actions of council. I want this council to understand that we have supported the council from the standpoint of their actions regarding our, shall be say, almost immediate past administrator. We think that in the long run you have saved this county literally millions of dollars, notwithstanding that being an attorney but certainly understanding what was at stake this year and going into next year. We applaud the courage of this council to move forward for the betterment of this county. At the same time we support -- the business community supports our new administrator, Mr. Cunningham. With his years of service, his years of understanding what this council and what this county is all about, being progressive, he will suit us very well. Mr. Cunningham, you will, indeed. I would also say over the course of the last couple of years we have appreciated council supporting pro business agendas. As divisive as they have been, they have leveled the playing field for Anderson County to compete with our other surrounding counties. Not a very popular topic certainly, but you've leveled the playing field and in the long run it is, and will be and will continue to be what this county needs, and that is dollars in the bank account, and you've done that for us and we thank you. I would also say that as we continue to move, and it's very challenging

times with this economy, we're gonna need not only sitting council, new council persons that are coming onboard, to think progressively, to think positive, to think about the future of this county. And not all the bickering, not all about he said, she said. It's not about the individual. It's about what's good for all of the citizens in Anderson County. With that having been said, I again, want to thank those departing council persons for your leadership, your courage and your tenacity, for what you've done for Anderson County has been in the right manner and right direction. And with that, Merry Christmas.

TOM MARTIN: Mike Gray.

MIKE GRAY: Mr. Chairman, council, Mr. Administrator, I'm Mike Gray of the Starr Iva area and also the Chamber of Commerce. And I too would like to express my appreciation for each and every one of you and the sacrifice that I know you make on your personal lives to do the service that you do for your county. And a lot of times it's a very thankless job. The three council people that are going to leave, I will personally miss y'all very much. Larry from my area. Michael Thompson has always been helpful. Bill McAbee. But all of council has always been helpful on the issues that I've brought before them. I've been to meetings with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Waldrep and I have shared lots of thoughts and ideas, and Ms. Wilson. I know you can pull together on a lot of issues. Thank God our democracy and the way it works, if folks don't like the way it's going, you elect new people. And we have three new folks back here that are getting ready to come on to this council. We'll have a new council. I just hope that we can go forward, not without disagreeing, that's what makes everything work so well. We will never all agree on anything. But if we can disagree and not get so angry and not get so resentful and just talk it out and perhaps this isn't the right forum to talk it out, that we just have people coming up and saying things, getting everybody all angry and upset. It looks like a lot of this could be worked out prior to this meeting. I don't know, I'm just -- I'm rambling with

that. We have -- obviously have two different sides to every question that comes up. And I just hope that in the future with the new council, and I know Mr. Allen. I know Mr. Moore. I don't know Mr. Dunn that well. But I know they will be just like y'all. You make decisions based on your heart and your commitment and how you feel. I believe all seven of you do that. I believe the next three will also do that. And everybody is not gonna agree with those decisions, but hopefully we can do it in an atmosphere that will be progressive for Anderson County. I too wish y'all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, district seven from Williamston. You know, it's interesting. I didn't hear a single agenda matter mentioned then and we have been told we've got to sit down and stay on agenda, so I just want to point out that that was rather intriguing. If you want to talk about Item 15 as far as my matter or if you want to talk about giving the building next door or the land next door, vacation time, we'll start with vacation time. No, let's start with previous comments. To say that you were strong and you were courageous, when a contract in writing states, worst case scenario is a three year contract would be owed him should he be fired without cause, to say you were brave, to say you were strong, to say you did the right thing to give him one point one four million dollars, when in essence you only owed, worst case scenario had he been employed the first year of three years, but he was employed only one year renewal on that contract. But worst case scenario, a hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars times three, plus benefits, does not equal one point one four, so it was not courageous. It was, it was just terrible. It was disgusting. It was degenerate and I hope that there will be a price to pay. Speaking of the vacation time, you know, I'm saying this from a personal opinion, but you know, if there were things I had done, things I had said, questions I had asked people to do things for me behind other people's back, I think I would come up with giving

them an extra day's vacation in order to buy, sway, entice them not to talk to incoming people on agenda matters. So I kinda view this vacation day as a buy-off. I know that's my opinion. It's got nothing to do with no one else. I've not spoke to no one else about that. But giving an extra day's vacation when it costs us one hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars a year instead of leaving them the option to change the vacation from some day to some other is more like a buy-out from the citizen's standpoint. To stand here and tout about the building giving to Miracle Hill, giving to the people, we need to use that building for Anderson County. We need to put the old Kroger building back on the market to be sold. It is gorgeous. I rode by and looked at it yester -- or Friday. We need to get rid of all the excess building we have. We need to use the one right behind here so we can consolidate. Let's quit trying to cover up, be water toters. You know, I hope we can appoint new people to Anderson County Chamber of Commerce. That was just disgusting to have to sit and listen to such a water toting society over giving away more money than we had to based on the contract. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Rick Freemantle from the Whiteplains precinct. I'd like to speak on presentation, resolutions and citizens' comments agenda matters. First let me say congratulations to these kids and everyone who helped them along their way on their competitive journey that are here tonight. I'm happy that Anderson County recognizes the many different achievements of individuals within our great county. That say, however, it saddens me that we have some council members who wrap themselves around individual achievements in a scurrilous manner. Do you think that your sins against the people of Anderson County can be erased with the achievement of others? Do you not have any shame at all? How much better do you think these kids would have done if you had not burdened their parents without outrageous tax debts. What about the message it sends when the only courage you five cowards show is reinforced with a

story telling rent-a-cop. When you were handing out this award maybe you would ask these fine kids what the meaning of team work is. While you're at it, ask them what they do when they're at the bottom of the inning, they've got two outs, one strike left? I bet they don't run like cowards like you five do. For several years now you've ignored the masses. They tried every way possible with you and you ignored them. Like the Great Solon Of Athens explained over twenty-five hundred years ago, it is by our fault that we will lose control of our government if we ignore what it does. Citizens comments and public hearings are times set aside for just those things. For the lady from district two to show her ignorance and total disrespect for the loyal citizens who take the time to protect their governmental process by attending these meetings is quite telling. Who are you to tell us when we can come here, what questions we can ask and for that matter of whom we can ask them? You further illustrate your ignorance by scolding these people and fellow council members by insulting that the only -- by insinuating that the only reason they ask these hard questions is because we have that TV camera over there in front of us. Most of us that get up here and speak could care less about that TV camera. Only you seem to be concerned with it. Seventy-five percent of the vote does not make you a queen or a dictator. No, ma'am, you are only a county council woman and nothing more.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under agenda matters, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Presentation of sewer service areas, Mr. Martin and Ms. Heather Jones. You have ten minutes.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope not to take all of that time. The information that will be given to you is for information only at this point. There are no decisions I know of to be made tonight. But the information represents both a challenge and an opportunity to Anderson County in coming months and coming years. You've been given a little handout of the power point presentation that

will be shown on the screen for the audience. I will simply indicate that Anderson County has been divided into sewer service areas for many, many years. The municipalities of Anderson County are assigned their own sewer service area. The unincorporated area or unincorporated portion of Anderson County has been assigned the remainder of the Anderson County ground service area as a sewer service area through contracts with various municipalities and notably with the City of Anderson, some of Anderson County's sewer service area is actually being utilized by those municipalities. Anderson County provides sewer where it can to the remainder. It's that where it can that's the focus of this presentation. The initial slide simply indicates that the assignment has already occurred. There are agreements with other providers and Anderson County has the ability pursuant to South Carolina law to do franchises or to franchise agreements with certain utility providers in the area of sewer service. At least one county, York County, handles portions of their sewer service area by franchises. Now, the next slide simply shows where Anderson County has existing sewer projects and it's kind of busy, but you will note that that is centered in and around the City of Anderson area and the Powdersville area for the most part. That is because those are the population centers. The next slide shows a combination of existing and proposed sewer projects. Even with the proposed projects you will note that large portions of the county remain without municipal sewer services. And that is due to a large number of functions, one of the primary ones of which is that at the time when significant federal funds were available for sewer service, Anderson County chose not to sewer the majority of the county. At one point ninety percent federal funds were available for that purpose. That's no longer the case, and so you have to rely upon local funds or earmarked funds or funds for economic development. Another reason for the lack of sewer in some areas is because the county simply cannot reach certain areas of the county. You're familiar with the area involving the twin

bridges. In order to get sewer to that area you would have to double the twin bridges, which means that you're paying not just for the sewer cost but for the bridge cost. Anderson County has started to receive inquiries from private companies which area interested in building sewer in certain parts of Anderson County. That is the opportunity that you will be presented with. The next slide indicates that there are basically three models that are being used in other counties or which have been presented to Anderson County. One is a model by which the county would build the sewer and then have a private company operate it. Another model would have the company building the sewer and the county operate it. And the third model would be the company would build and operate the sewer. Now by this I'm referring to sewer franchises. Obviously you always have the option of the county building and operating the sewer as is the case in most of the unincorporated portions of the county currently. But if the county should choose to utilize some of the opportunities that are being presented to it, you would have basically those three models as options. On the next slide the question is posed, why would you franchise? And the answer is, simply because the opportunity to franchise sewer service in areas of the county which don't currently have it is a very valuable commodity. It's valuable because it represents the future of Anderson County. Utility services, and particularly the provision of fresh water and the provision of waste water treatment are traditionally viewed as choke points for growth. Without those you just simply aren't going to have growth. The provision or the use of franchising for sewer service is also valuable to the county in that it would give the county some ability to provide sewer services where they aren't currently provided. It's valuable to the county because it would give you the ability to control to some degree the provision of sewer services by private company. Historically in Anderson County sewer has gone either where the county put it or where there was an opportunity, where someone had the ability to build sewer and the county

simply piggybacked on it. This gives the county the opportunity to actually control the process of selecting where private companies would put sewer. It also provides some degree of fees to the county. The provision of sewer service is a revenue generating commodity. And the county could benefit from that in order to provide additional sewer in other parts of the county. It also would allow for uniform treatment of companies and customers if you establish a policy by which franchising would be done to determine where private sewer would go. It would give you the opportunity to make sure that all companies were treated fairly and equally and that all potential customers were treated fairly and equally. The next slide -- actually I may have one out of order here. But the next slide indicates how you would franchise and this is not meant to be an all-inclusive slide. But the first issue that you're gonna have to face is, should the franchise be exclusive or non-exclusive? An exclusive franchise would give one company only the ability to provide sewer in a particular area. A non-exclusive franchise would allow any number of companies to do that. Anderson County's only history of franchising traditionally has been for cable agreements, cable television agreements, and those were non-exclusive franchises. Now to a certain extent as a practical matters, every franchise is exclusive because if one company comes in, completely corners the market, there may not be enough market viability for other companies. The other questions on this how to franchise are just simply for your consideration. These are issues which county staff are going to have to address and grapple with in coming months. The next slide indicates some of the issues that probably should go into franchise agreements by Anderson County. What matters should be addressed in those agreements and what the questions are that would have to be answered as a part of putting those in the agreements? What territory is gonna be covered? Who's going to be served, anyone who can reach the sewer and if so is sewer service mandatory? Will they be required to tie in? And you

can see the remainder of the questions. The next slide simply indicates the implementation, what would be required to implement this? If you decided to use sewer franchising, obviously there's gonna have to be an interface with DHEC. The county would be required to inspect, to collect payments, to enforce, to terminate if necessary and to deal with insolvency and liquidation of the company. And finally you get to the risks, which primarily are environmental risks or the risk of a bad or non-responsive company and the county holds the franchise, the county would have to participate to a large degree in dealing with citizen anger, lack of service, fee collection and so forth. Then Heather will address why we would want to do this from the standpoint of economic development.

HEATHER JONES: Thank you, Mr. Martin.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of council. Let me ---

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if I may, before she begins, you're gonna run out of time in thirty seconds. Would the council care to extend?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair moves to extend by five minutes. We have a second by Mr. Greer. All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please vote. It is unanimous. Ms. Jones.

HEATHER JONES: Thank you. Let me preface, please, by saying that the purpose of my demonstration tonight is for economic development. However, this particular alternative technology that Mr. Martin has alluded to through the franchising process could be used within various parts of the county and could be used for aging septic systems as well as economic development. For this purpose, though, I'm gonna talk about the I-85 corridor and its linear nature and the necessity for infrastructure improvements along I-85 for our continued economic development efforts in the county. Obviously Anderson County doesn't have an endless pot of money when it comes to sewer and water and other infrastructure and so in the economic development world we try to think of alternate ways that we can come up with sewer and water and utility served sites. Several folks, as Mr. Martin alluded

to, had come to the county, to the planning division, to the economic development division and put before us some alternative ways to skin this cat. At that time we engaged in this conversation and it made most sense from the standpoint of Exits 11 and 14. You'll see in the next slide that there are eleven interchanges in Anderson County on I-85. Eight of those currently have sewer. Three of them are un-sewered and those would be the three closest to the Oconee line, Exits 4, 11 and 14. In order to kind of demonstrate the importance and the priority, Exits 11 and 14 are those that I'd like to focus on for the remaining time. Exit 11 is the last area in the county as you go towards Atlanta that has large contiguous tracts of land and are state fronted. Those of you who have been in the county awhile will remember that particular area of the county was one of which that was looked at by BMW back in the nineties. We've often talked about mega sites. We've talked about what our competitive advantage is. If you look to our sister counties, Greenville and others, you will see that they're built out along the interstate for the most part. You may ask why Laurens was successful in recruiting over almost a half a billion dollars of investment this year? They had large contiguous tracts of land that were utility served on the interstate. Okay. That was their competitive advantage in this case. If we want to have a competitive advantage, we need to consider large tracts of land along the interstate that are served by utilities. And Exit 11 is one of the exits where that is still possible within Anderson County. Not by any means the only area. But again, for the purpose of this demonstration. Exit 14 is another very key and important exit to the economic development efforts of not only our organization in the county but also InnovateAnderson and Clemson University. Exit 14 is the gateway and the entrance point off of the interstate for the Advanced Materials Center at Clemson University. And in sitting through not only today's presentation of their master planning efforts but also their strategic planning efforts, it's become

very apparent to all that if we really want to showcase ourselves as a research location and we want to recruit scientists and engineers and high paying jobs, what they see when they get off the exit there doesn't scream high technology economy. It kinda says abandoned truck stop, Huddle House, Famous Pizza, all of which are great establishments in their own right, but if we're gonna have those folks at the Advanced Materials Center, they're gonna need places to get dry cleaning. They're gonna need places to eat lunch, spend the night, have folks come in. All of those amenities and ancillary services that are expected to be close to such a high well renowned institution and research campus. This last slide here is just demonstrating Exit 19 and you'll see some of the growth that has happened on the upper part of that slide. And then Exit 11 again, just for the purpose of discussion, where you see that there's very little around that interchange there. So again, kind of in closing, there are other uses for such a franchise opportunity. Focusing on economic development, the double bridges at Exit 14, as Mr. Martin outlines, SCDOT has told us time and time again, not gonna happen. So if someone tells you it's not gonna happen and you know it's the right thing to do, you try to find another way to go about it. And through this process, it allows us to consider other alternatives to providing sewer to these much needed areas.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead.

BILL MCABEE: Time's expired.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair moves to extend time by five minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Ms. Wilson. All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had some questions. I noticed -- principally about

lines. Would this franchise agreement include building treatment plants or would they tie into existing treatment plants that the county owns capacity at?

HEATHER JONES: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: I will take first shot, but then of course we'll defer to Heather on her input as well. Mr. McAbee during the coming weeks or months, staff will be making proposals to council as to the overall franchising concept and then hopefully as to specific franchise opportunities. Those opportunities can do either. They can use existing lines if they're available or they can have their own specific treatment facilities. Obviously if you have an existing line then it makes it must easier to do franchisign because you don't have to build a facility and you don't have the permitting issues of facilities. You only have to build the line. But conceptually it can be done either way. And at least one of the proposals I think -- there's one proposal of each type that the county has received.

HEATHER JONES: That's correct.

BILL MCABEE: And if they're just building lines and using existing county capacity, would be guarantee each franchisee, if there's multiple franchisees, would they be guaranteed a percentage of that capacity or would it be first come, first served? Because I envision a situation perhaps where you have a million gallons worth of capacity that exists, you have two sewer providers, we guarantee each of them five hundred thousand but perhaps one of them builds out to capacity and the other one is sitting at fifty percent capacity, would they -- would that be reserved for that one that ---

TOM MARTIN: That gets into the practical exclusive franchise area that I was discussing earlier. Not all the capacity may be county capacity. It may be municipal capacity. It can be wherever they can reach treatment service areas -- I'm sorry, treatment facilities. But to a certain

extent inevitably even if you do totally non-exclusive franchises, inevitably it is going to become an exclusive franchise area because it will be first come, first serve. There's only so much capacity.

BILL MCABEE: I see. Thank you very much.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. What other areas in the state are doing this type thing, some place that we can look at to see how it's workign there, what they're doing there? Do you have any ...

TOM MARTIN: I can answer that to some degree. Nobody is doing what we are talking about here. York County uses franchise agreements. I am on a county attorney list serve probably eight to ten times a day dealing with questions raised by Anderson County, questions raised by other counties. I posed this question three times. To my knowledge York County is the only county that responded that they're using franchising. Most counties are doing what Anderson County has historically done, which is simply if someone walks in the door and wants to build a package plant or a private sewer treatment plant or a collection facility in the county such as -- is it Upstate Heater has done on 29 South? It's just approved on a piecemeal basis without any comprehensive concept. So York County uses franchises. Nobody is using franchises to come up with a coherent overall policy for dealing with all future private treatment of the county service area.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So we did not have a franchise service or person or owner to come to talk to try to interest us in doing this; right?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, ma'am, we've had two.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Can we do their names, you know, ...

TOM MARTIN: At this point I think that would be unfair to them because we've told both of them, wait, the county doesn't have a policy. The county needs to determine a policy first, then deal with them.

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah. Well, my thing is I need to do some research on this, okay, because I don't know much about, you know, doing this type thing. I've not even heard of it. I'm sure that will pertain to a lot of the other council members as well. Also, how would that -- I know what it would do for us economically, but how would that affect and impact our people that we have without sewer and that are wanting sewer? You know, how do we go about implementing that part of it in a situation like this?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Time. Chair moves to extend time by five minutes.

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Waldrep. All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please vote. One, two, three, four, five, six. Mr. Wilson, how do you vote, sir? Mr. Wilson votes no, but time is extended. Please continue.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Ms. Floyd, that is, if you look back through the outline, that is one of the issues that has to be addressed. There is a balance. Some areas of the county are unserved by municipal waste water treatment currently and are probably fine with that. There are other areas and you're familiar with several that you have dealt with where Anderson County itself provided sewer service because the people were desperate. But Anderson County can't get to every area of the county. So it's going to be a case by case basis. Some people will want the sewer service, others won't. The concept of franchising will give the county the ability to serve areas where the county sewer department can't currently serve while still keeping some degree of control over the quality of service provided.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Martin, where would the money come from though? You know, how do we get the money for this? Is this something we have to budget it, and who will -- what department and who will be implementing all of this? Now there was nothing in our packet about this. You know, so this

is why I'm a little perplexed and trying to ask questions about it now. But what department and who will implement this thing and research it and tell us the best plan to follow as far as the state and the county and this franchise thing is concerned?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Thank you. Ms. Floyd, tonight was just an introduction to it.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay.

TOM MARTIN: And no decisions are being requested tonight at all. In fact, county staff is nowhere near prepared to give you a coherent decision point. This is just to alert you that there is a need in the county, there is a potential solution in the county. But to get to the solution we're gonna have to develop policies that address every one of the issues that you have raised and many more as well. County staff will be working on that.

GRACIE FLOYD: Now, yeah, Mr. Martin, I understood that this was just for our information. And I understood that this would not be requiring a vote tonight. I understood that. But what I'm asking you is that, you said the county staff ...

TOM MARTIN: I assume that would be led by the administrator. But certainly would involve the sewer department, the economic development department or division and the planning department at a minimum. Those are the departments that I think would have to be involved in coming up with a policy, do we want it, if we do how do we set it up so that it serves the county?

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. So we're talking about something way down the road here, maybe by the spring or summer before it comes back to us; am I correct?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, ma'am.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Well, I want to do my own research as well. So Mr. Cunningham, as the county employees are doing their work on that, if you get information that you can share as far as who, what, why, when, where and how, please, please share

it with us so we can do our own research as well. Not our own, but we can kind of educate ourselves as well. I thank you.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

CINDY WILSON: ... questions that -- this presentation seems to anticipate what some of us have known for several years and that's that our sewer fund is deep in debt. Anderson County has built sewer lines in areas where they were not needed, ignoring like for example the double bridges that had been on the books for twenty years, a very strategically needed sewer line. Most of the sewer lines in this type area are under-performing and still have serious environmental violations. Millions of dollars have been invested in controversial environmentally damaging and under-performing sewer lines. This usurps the county's ability to build lines where they're actually needed. In fact, the county has had difficulty meeting its debt service in our sewer fund. There have been bonds where the requirement was for one hundred percent of the payment to be made from user revenues. I think it would be very helpful before anything else is presented to have a list of our debt and our debt service, a description of the types of debt and what the requirements are for repayment. For example, a lot of people are unaware that we have a nineteen million dollar obligation to the City of Anderson. And there are lots of questions about capacity. For example, capacity -- just to give you an example, I think it's the Six and Twenty sewer plant, which is county-owned, has a half million gallons of sewer treatment capacity per day and I think there's somewhere around maybe a hundred twenty, hundred twenty-five thousand gallons per day treatment right now. They were only around sixty, seventy thousand gallons per day. It's under-performing and yet there's a need possibly to expand that plant because a lot of the capacity has already been promised. And so before we even make determinations of where we're gonna build sewer plants or where we're going to expand, I think there needs to be a study of that. In fact, I found a phantom capacity owner in

the Six and Twenty plant when I first looked at that several years ago. It was a project that nobody had ever heard of and yet it had been granted I think about twenty, twenty-five thousand gallons of sewer capacity. I'm like Ms. Floyd, I'll have a lot of questions about this. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: How much time is left, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Two minutes.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I will be brief. I'm somewhat familiar with the franchise area that's out on 29 South and I just want to urge caution as you move into this. That system is governed by the Public Service Commission and they have to vote on and approve rate increases. And over the ten years that I've been on this council, they've had two substantial rate increases that has created a financial burden for the users of that system. So as the council starting in January or whenever moves into this, I urge a little bit of caution and look at what you're doing and the potential effect that it could have on especially residential users of a system of this nature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jones and Mr. Martin. Could we get the lights back on, please? Item number 6, presentation resolutions, R2008-051, a resolution recognizing the Honea Path fourteen and under Dixie Boys baseball team who were the 2008 South Carolina District 11 champions and who participated in the Dixie Boys baseball tournament, and further recognizing the team's designated families and coaches and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Greer. Any discussion on this before we vote. No discussion. Chair calls for the vote for Resolution R2008-051. All in favor, please vote. It is unanimous. Mr. Greer, we have some awards to give out.

LARRY GREER: We do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time would the Honea Path fourteen and under boys all-star team, the coaches and any family members that's present with them come up and line up across the front. Keith, if you would come over here, please. Keith, I believe you're the head coach; is that correct? Okay. I'm gonna read the resolution and as I get down into the names I'm gonna present each member of the team and the coaches an individual framed copy of this resolution and then at the conclusion I'll present you with one too to hang in the athletic building at Honea Path. This Resolution R2008-051, a resolution recognizing the Honea Path fourteen and under Dixie Boys baseball team who were the 2008 South Carolina District 11 champions and who participated in the Dixie Boys State baseball tournament and further recognizing the team's dedicated families and coaches and other matters related there. Before I read down into the resolution, I'm gonna make a few comments. I have a little bit of a personal interest in this since my grandson played on this team. But I made most of the games that these young men played. And the people of Anderson County would be proud of the team spirit that they had, the hard work that they put in and effort they gave in representing Anderson County and the Honea Path area in participating in the district champions and at the state level as well, so I commend you for a job well done. At this time I'm gonna read the resolution. Whereas, Anderson County council recognizes that young people are the future leaders of Anderson County, South Carolina, and with that recognition comes the responsibility to encourage sports and activities that foster leadership, teamwork and life skills. And whereas, Anderson County council recognizes that those who participate in the various competitive sports programs that are offered throughout Anderson County strive to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. And whereas, the members of the fourteen and under Honea Path Dixie Boys baseball team and their coaches deserve recognition for their achievements during the 2008

baseball season and specifically for winning the 2008 South Carolina District Eleven championship, and for their participation in the Dixie Boys South Carolina State baseball tournament. And whereas, Anderson County further wishes to recognize those individual parents, family members and volunteers who enable the youth of Anderson County to participate in such worthwhile activities. And whereas, Anderson County, a body politic and corporate and political subdivision of the State of South Carolina acting by and through its county council is proud to encourage participation in sports programs that build life skills and foster community values and to honor these young men for their sportsmanship, hard work, achievements and commitment to excellence. Now therefore it is hereby resolved by Anderson County council in meeting duly assembled that Anderson County hereby recognizes the 2008 District Eleven champions for their sportsmanship, achievements and hard work throughout the 2008 baseball season. Kyle Lowe, would you come forward? Ian McCoy, Drew Greer, Brett Hawkins, Hunter Pace, Jesse Stone, Brant Young, Hunter Smith, Collin Smith, Nick VanHorn, Kyle Brooks, Matthew Simmons, Ben Major. Now we get to the coaches, Keith Young, Larry Greer, Jr. -- that's my number one son -- and Greg Smith. To those who participated, we're very proud of you and your achievements. You have brought great credit on yourself, your family and your community. Thank you for representing Anderson County so well. Anderson County further honors and recognizes all of the parents, coaches and volunteers who enable the youth of Anderson County to participate in local sports and hereby encourages the citizens of Anderson County to support similar organizations and activities. And before I present this to Keith, I want you to notice that we have a county employee up here. Our county employees are not only involved in county activities. They're also involved in activities in their community and that's what our county employees do. Thank you, Greg. Keith, at this time I'm going to present this to you.

KEITH YOUNG: I'd just like to say I

appreciate the county ---

APPLAUSE

KEITH YOUNG: Thank you. I'd just like to say I appreciate the county recognizing these boys and their accomplishments. They truly did show a lot for themselves and for their families because these boys are what their families have made them, so I appreciate everything that everyone has done for us this year.

APPLAUSE

LARRY GREER: Again, we thank y'all for representing the county so well. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. At this time we'll take a fifteen minute break.

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It has been brought to my attention during the break that Ms. Sally Fiffick, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, this is Item number 10, Resolution 2008-053. Ms. Fiffick has to return to Columbia after this resolution and asked if it would be possible to move her up after Ms. Plummer. Is there anyone against that? Anyone against that? By unanimous consent. Going once. Okay. Ms. Fiffick, by unanimous consent you will speak after Ms. Plummer. Okay. Ms. Plummer, train lines. And I do apologize for my error. You have ten minutes.

AMY PLUMMER: Mr. Chairman, when I told the elves that we were making this presentation this evening, they asked if they could help, so this is Elf number 1.

MAKAYLA: Hi, my name is Makayla and I am Santa's helper. I am here to help with the presentation today of the award. Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even -- let me do it here.

NAOMI: Hello, my name is Naomi. I'm one of the leader elves of Santa and I come here to help present the award to Mr. Ron Wilson. A resolution honoring Anderson County councilman Ron Wilson for assuming the December 6th duties of Santa Claus on the 2008 Greenville and Western Santa Express. Whereas, the Greenville and Western Railway

Annual Santa Express endeavors to provide an opportunity for Anderson County children to experience the joy of boarding a train and sharing their Christmas wishes with Santa Claus. And whereas, the Greenville and Western Railway Santa Express makes an annual trek from Honea Path, Belton, Williamston and Pelzer. And whereas, Santa Claus had last minute details to attend to at the North Pole in order to meet his December 24th deadline and needed a jolly elf with an enthusiastic ho-ho-ho to ensure his Santa Express duties. And whereas, upon learning of Santa's dilemma Anderson County councilman Ron Wilson willingly accepted the invitation to fill in for Ole Chris Kringle on December 6th at the Greenville and Western Railway, allowing Santa Claus to make final preparations for Christmas Eve travels. Whereas, Mr. Wilson performed the duties of Old St. Nick with excellence. He dressed all in fur from his head to his foot, his eyes how they twinkled, his dimples how merry, his cheeks were like roses and his nose like a cherry, and his beard on his chin was as white as the snow. And whereas, Mr. Wilson generously donated -- donation of his time made it possible for more than a thousand kids of all ages, the youngest child only being four days old, to visit with Santa, sit on his knee, and whisper their Christmas wishes. And whereas, the Greenville and Western Railway wishes to express our sincerest appreciation for Mr. Wilson's outstanding performance of duties of Old St. Nick during the annual Santa Express on December 6th, 2008. Now therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Greenville and Western Railway, number one, the official of the Greenville and Western Railway and the Santa Express volunteers are grateful for your time and efforts during our annual event. Your constant willingness to support and participate in local endeavors such as the Santa Express benefits the entire community of Anderson County, South Carolina. Mr. Wilson, you truly exemplify the qualities associated with this special time of year. Your gift of kindness made the hearts of many children glad. Thank you for making the 2008 Santa Express such a success. May this

Christmas season fill your heart with the same joy that you have so graciously shared with the children of Anderson County. Number two, the resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon enactment. Resolved in this meeting duly assembled this 16th day of December, 2008. The Greenville and Western Railway Santa Express, E.C. Hopkins, President, Greenville and Western Railway. Mr. Wilson, will you please come down so we can present you with your award?

APPLAUSE

MAKAYLA: Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

APPLAUSE

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Now we're jumping down to Item number 10, Resolution R2008-053, a resolution of the Anderson County council requesting that the South Carolina General Assembly continue to support meaningful incentives for recyclers in recognition of the energy and environmental benefits of recycling to our county, estate and the nation. The chair moves to approve. Is there a second? We have a second by Ms. Wilson. Any discussion on this? No discussion. Chair calls for the vote on Resolution 2008-053. Please vote. Unanimous. Ms. Fiffick. Is she still here? Please come forward. We've already voted, but this is sort of after-the-fact. Can you give us a little detail? You said you've got eighteen county to do. Can you give us a little more detail.

SALLY FIFFICK: Yes, sir. This is actually -- this resolution has passed in a few counties in our state and it's really just asking all the counties to ask the legislature to go ahead and look for incentives for recycling and for businesses that recycle and look for recycling as a stable energy source to help face energy crises.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And you're doing eighteen counties yourself?

SALLY FIFFICK: I work with a lot of good people. We have a good team. And so no, not myself, but ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: A team or teams?

SALLY FIFFICK: -- we have a lot of good folks.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

SALLY FIFFICK: Thanks.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: It passed unanimous. Okay. Now we're getting back on track here, Item number 7, 7A, Ordinance 2008-055, an ordinance amending Ordinance 99-004, the Anderson County Zoning Ordinance as adopted July 20, 1999, by amending the Anderson County Official Zoning Map to rezone from R-A to R-20 that parcel of land identified as 1103 Three and Twenty Road consisting of plus or minute 54.67 acres in the Three and Twenty precinct on the northwest intersection of Hendricks Road and Three and Twenty Road, and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second? Is there a second on this.

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Mr. Wilson. Any discussion? Any discussion? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of Resolution -- I'm sorry. All in favor of Ordinance 2008-055, please vote. Unanimous. Resolution 2008-057, an ordinance to authorize the leasing of certain Anderson County space and facilities at the property formerly known as McCants Middle School and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Second by Ms. Floyd. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, sir, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I think it's a very good thing to try and help out the Salvation Army here, but I am concerned about the way the lease agreement is drawn up. We'll be spending about a million and a half dollars to improve the premises and they'll of course be leasing for ten one year terms. Each year is renewable. I'd like to make an amendment that on page four of the assignment and the subletting part of the agreement that all of the items one through four and sub numbers be deleted and just simply say, Lessee

may assign this lease and may sublet the whole or any part of the premises only subject to Anderson County Council approval.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Hold up. At page four?

CINDY WILSON: Page four of the lease agreement.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Page four of the lease agreement. Let me get there, please.

CINDY WILSON: And I think it would be more appropriate for Anderson County's long term plans for using these buildings to make this -- the term of the lease one -- five one year renewable terms instead of ten. I'm afraid we're kind of locking ourselves in and there may be needs that are great by the county at that time and maybe that the Salvation Army would be better served in another location. There are any number of scenarios that could develop within five years. So I'm making that in a motion to amend.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're on page four, which ---

CINDY WILSON: Three and four.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Three and four. The default and remedies section, is that ---

CINDY WILSON: On page three it would be number two, the term, and the lessee may extend this lease for five additional consecutive one year lease terms instead of the ten. That would be my amendment there. And in number twelve, assignment and subletting, that would just simply read, the lessee may assign this lease and may sublet the whole or any part of the premises only subject to Anderson County approval. Now -- Anderson County council approval.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I think she said it was page three and four of the lease agreement. It's actually page one and two of the lease agreement. It's page three and four of the item in our packet.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. I was wondering. I wasn't finding that. Okay.

CINDY WILSON: I'm sorry.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Page one, under the

term, by changing the term of the years; right?

CINDY WILSON: Yes. And then the second one would be assignment and subletting. I'm afraid the way this is written, for example, the Salvation Army who would be leasing this for I think a charge of ten dollars a year and they would be paying their own utilities, but the county has like a million and a half dollars invested in it, I just feel like that we have to have a little more control over any possible assignment and subleasing scenarios than what I read here.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Under paragraph two on page one of the lease agreement, what are we changing there? We have ten ---

CINDY WILSON: Ten additional consecutive one year lease terms. I'm making the motion that we delete ten and substitute five.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So you want to do five additional consecutive one year terms?

CINDY WILSON: Rather than ten.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

CINDY WILSON: And then on page two of seven at the bottom of the page, item number twelve, assignment and subletting, I'm suggesting and making the motion that the lessee may assign this lease and may sublet the whole or any part of the premises only subject to Anderson County council approval and then you can delete the rest of that section under number twelve.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So I through ---

CINDY WILSON: Through four and one through three and B through D.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So that whole paragraph goes?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second on Ms. Wilson's amendment?

BOB WALDREP: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. And Mr. Waldrep, you want the floor?

BOB WALDREP: I just wondered if Ms. Wilson would accept an amendment to her amendment to

make that written permission of the county for any kind of assignment?

CINDY WILSON: That'll be fine.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So the lessee may, on paragraph 12A, the lessee may assign this lease and may sublet the whole or any part of the premises only by written county council approval. Is that what -- only by, only by written county council approval. Any discussion on the amendment?

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under assignment and subletting, I think the intent is pretty clear. It's -- we've restricted it to an eleemosynary corporation and that it must be used for daytime program for the education and development of children. I'm assuming that the Salvation Army is gonna lease it to one of their affiliate groups that is -- that already operated or intends to operate a childcare program there and this allows them to do just that. And so we've drawn a fairly narrow restriction on what it can be sublet for.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else wish to speak? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I was just gonna say, if that be the case and we're making that assumption, then this language should not do any violence to the lease at all. I think it would fulfill it and still give the county the right to absolutely know with certainty to whom the property is being sublet.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Mr. Cunningham. Do you know if a change in this manner is gonna have any impact on the -- negative impact on the Salvation Army? Do you know anything about this? Their intent and all?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, I do. First I guess to Mr. McAbee's point, as it is written now it is done to be pretty narrowly focused and restrictive. I think the change in language to written approval kind of reopens it up and it's all goes back into interpretation of whether or not it falls within this guideline or whether or not were

there cause. As it's written it's very restrictive and I think there's a requirement for notice prior to that happening coming to us. As relates to the one year term, going from -- it would be a single year term renewable, agreeable by both parties up to ten years as it's written.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, anytime during that ten years if the council says no then it stops at that point?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Thirty days notice. And the reason why the ten year period is there is that the Salvation Army working with a group that formerly went to school there has raised funds to renovate that portion of the building. And so the group that was involved in raising the money wanted some assurances that should that improvement be made that at least for a period of ten years they would be able to have the possibility of enjoyment of that space. So it is a very worthwhile project, but the money to renovate this particular portion of the building would be coming from the Salvation Army and their funding partner.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, sir. Anyone else?

LARRY GREER: Excuse me. Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, is this group the -- I'm trying to remember the year, and it's escaped me.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: It's '53, the class of '53.

LARRY GREER: And this is the Anderson High School group that's proposing to do this. If my memory serves we correct, I go to church with one of the ladies involved in this. I think they've raised a hundred and forty something thousand dollars.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Actually I believe that number is higher that they've actually raised. So they are -- they're well on their way to -- because I think their desire is also in addition to these four classrooms at some point to continue raising money and help out with other renovations as well.

LARRY GREER: Do you have an idea of the total amount of money they're planning to expend on renovating that portion once the asbestos is cleared out?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I think that amount is approximately a hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand dollars for the renovations.

LARRY GREER: Okay. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote on Ms. Wilson's amendment to amend the ordinance. All in favor of Ms. Wilson's amendment, please vote. We have two. Opposed. Five. The amendment fails. All -- chair calls for the vote on Resolution 2008-057. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Okay.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... at the property formerly known as McCants Middle School and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

LARRY GREER: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Greer.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute, please. We are in discussion. Look in your packets, C, we have a memo from Ms. -- I'm sorry. We have a memo from Mr. Cunningham where the city is requesting this item to be removed from the agenda. They would like to meet with members of council to discuss this project and maybe other projects. So I'm just bringing that to everyone's attention. Now, Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: That was what I was trying to bring to your attention.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, I'm fully aware, yes, ma'am. So what is the wish of the council, basically is the question we have.

CINDY WILSON: I'd like to make the motion to withdraw this item and honor the city's wishes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson moves to amend the agenda by taking this off the agenda. Mr. Greer - I'm sorry, Mr. Waldrep seconds. Any discussion on

this?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yes, I do.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Mr. Cunningham, why did the city do this?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I believe the city was interested in further exploring the -- at the last meeting there was an amendment to change the years, terms of the actual lease agreement, as well as the issue of the rates, and I think they desired additional time to review those changes and to I guess have the elected officials on both sides to further discuss that matter.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. I thought that tonight we would bring up the finding that we, that we came up in our research in talkign with the city without going through this. For example, you explained to the council last meeting why it was necessary to do the lease as long as they asked. I think it was a fifty year lease. And you said that they wanted to spread out the payback over a longer period of time. In order to do that they had to do the fifty year lease; right? And this is what I found, not that I did not believe you, but in my research talking with the city, this is what they told me. Also the fact that the city has worked with the county in the past doing the same identical thing. I think the Farmer's Market, the city gave the county a fifty year lease on the Farmer's Market so that we could do the same thing. And it hasn't hurt us any nor has it interfered with the city. And the fact that they were asking for the same thing, I think that we needed to be careful that we can't give back what we ask for. And I'm just sorry to see that the city has taken this off. I'm just really sorry to see that the city has taken this thing here off tonight, so ...

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Perhaps the -- a solution would be if we could table this item and schedule a -- meet with the city. Perhaps we could have a called meeting two weeks hence, December 30th, and deal with

this item at that time.

GRACIE FLOYD: You making that into a motion?

BILL MCABEE: We have a motion on the floor.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah, we have a motion on the floor, so it -- he's just making a suggestion.

BILL MCABEE: That could be the way that this could well be handled is if we could go ahead and meet with the city and then on December 30th, that's two weeks, we could meet again, and if we came to an agreement ...

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You can't have -- that's completely different.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an occasion to talk with Tony Stewart who is a member of the Anderson City council about a totally unrelated matter and during the course of our conversation we discussed the project that the city has envisioned for the McCants property and Mr. Stewart made a special trip down to my home this morning and he brought me a copy of a memo that he had received, and I'm going to read one section of what this memo says. It says the city would need at least a twenty year lease with an option to renew for twenty years in order to consider investing the above monies. This would be similar to the Farmer's Market lease to the county. Our preference remains the fifty year lease that we had drawn up due to the investment amount. But they're saying in that statement that they would need at least a twenty year lease with an option to renew for twenty years. And also there is some discussion about the amendment that we put in last time that would require equal recreation fees for city and council residents. It's my opinion that we could work out the term of the lease as it relates to the number of years. But I think we would need to ask at least three members of this council and the administrator to meet with some of the Anderson City council and the city manager to work out the terms of

the fees as we had discussed at the last meeting. So I think a more appropriate approach would be to withdraw or not pass this motion to remove it from the agenda, but to table it and then maybe over the course of the next two weeks meet with the city and try to iron out any of these differences. And then if we do have a special called meeting on the 30th to come back at that time and try to reach a consensus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have any -- we need to deal with Ms. Wilson's motion. Any more discussion? Okay. All in favor of removing this item from the agenda, please vote. One. Oppose. Five. Mr. Waldrep, you abstain?

BOB WALDREP: I'm gonna abstain due to (inaudible).

Mt. Okay. So we're back on the ordinance. So now Mr. McAbee, you may properly make your motion if you so desire.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, at this time I make a motion that the council or the council chairman appoint a committee of three, along with Mr. Cunningham, to meet with the City of Anderson to iron out the details of this lease agreement, if possible, to report back to the council and that also we schedule a December 30th meeting to deal with this item. And also third reading on Ordinance 2008-60.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up here. You're throwing me a loop.

BILL MCABEE: Assuming it passes on second reading.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, okay. Okay. You move to table 058. You're requesting a called meeting on the 30th to talk about 058 and to vote on it, in addition to 060, assuming or if it passes?

BILL MCABEE: If it passes on second reading.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second to ---

GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: There is no discussion on

to table.

CINDY WILSON: Well, there are other elements besides the tabling.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Am I correct, Mr. Martin, no discussion on the table, move to table?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, you are as to a simple motion to table. I think this is a mixed motion. I will state, I'm not sure that I heard Mr. McAbee move to table. I heard him move to appoint a committee and to call a meeting on the 30th and to also consider 2008-060. I believe when you restated you stated a motion to table, but ---

BILL MCABEE: I did not make a motion to table.

GRACIE FLOYD: You didn't?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You didn't?

BILL MCABEE: I did not include a motion to table at this time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Was that your intent?

BILL MCABEE: It was not my intent. If we could go ahead and schedule the -- arrange to have the committee and schedule the meeting then we could table it and deal with it at that time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Oh, you want ---

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up, hold up, everybody hold up.

TOM MARTIN: At this point you do not have a motion to table. You have a motion for the other three elements.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So basically you want to see if we can get a committee together?

BILL MCABEE: Right.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now, Ms. Floyd.

CINDY WILSON: I think I had the floor.

GRACIE FLOYD: I make a motion that we table this until we can have some tiome to do some research into this.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, you ignored parliamentary procedures. I had ---

BILL MCABEE: Second.

CINDY WILSON: -- the floor after that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: One minute, please.

CINDY WILSON: Back up for a minute, please, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am, I understand.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, please.

LARRY GREER: I'm gonna try to help us out a little bit.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Please do.

LARRY GREER: We have a motion on the floor to consider Ordinance 2008-058 on a third reading. No other motion except the motion pertaining to that in the form of an amendment should properly be accepted at this time. So we should first dispose of the motion as it relates to 2008-058 and any other business should be handled after that.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: So his motion to form a committee is improper?

LARRY GREER: At this point in time, yes.

BILL MCABEE: I withdraw it at this point in time.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

GRACIE FLOYD: And I move to table it (inaudible).

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson is correct. She did ask for the floor.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is such a puzzling discussion because I don't know of any delicate way to put it, but three of our council members sitting here currently will be off this body come December 31st. It just seems extremely strange that you would insist on doing this during the holidays. I can see that we would possibly have a committee composed of three of the returning council members to explore and discuss this, but it seems hardly appropriate to have a last minute meeting on December 30th. This is extraordinary. It's like that little special deal of incorporating the -- approving the administrator's report. It smacks of the severance pay contract where we were already advised by the attorney that there was no anticipatory breach

of ---

BILL MCABEE: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

CINDY WILSON: It's all part of the same thing.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: What is your point of order, Mr. ---

BILL MCABEE: Time has expired for this item.

CINDY WILSON: Bless his little heart.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Audience, please come to order. Chair moves to extend time on this item by five minutes. Is there a second?

RON WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. Wilson. I'm sorry. All in favor of extending time by five minutes, please vote. Five. Oppose. One, two. Okay. We're extending time by five minutes. Okay. I'm gonna vent a little bit here. There seems to be the assumption that just because members of council did not win a re-election that our term of office ended in June. That is not the case. Our term of office does not end until midnight January the 1st. And until then we have all the authority and power granted to us by the General Assembly. And if you do not agree with that, then I'm just sorry. That is the fact.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson, I have the floor, please.

CINDY WILSON: Sorry. Forgive me.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Now, if a member of council puts forth a motion and that motion gets the majority vote then the council has to act on it. Okay. That is just the way it goes. All right. Now, Ms. Wilson, please.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It seems that in all the filings with our Ethics Commission and so forth, our terms are considered from January 1st till December 31st, and that's what I was informed of today.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I do apologize.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we table this ordinance until we've had such time to study the ordinance.

LARRY GREER: Second.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second -- we have a motion to table and a second. All in favor of tabling Ordinance 2008-057, please vote. Unanimous. I'm sorry. Back it up, 2008-058. And the vote was unanimous.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move at this time that the chairman appoint a committee of three council members who would, along with Mr. Cunningham, meet with the city officials to see if they can reach an agreement on leasing these properties and report back to the council. And also I would like in that motion to schedule a meeting for December 30th that would consider this issue and should it pass on second reading also Ordinance 2008-60.

GRACIE FLOYD: I second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion and a second. To form a committee of three council members, to call a meeting on December the 30th. Any particular time or just whenever?

BILL MCABEE: At your pleasure.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: And to include Ordinance 2008-058 for discussion, as well as 2008-060. We are in discussion. Do we have any volunteers for this committee?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I would ask to make a motion to that -- amendment to that motion to say that that would be the only item on the December 30 meeting.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Which item are you ---

BOB WALDREP: We're talking about Mr. McAbee's motion has been addressed that we have a special meeting for the purpose of discussing this issue with the city with regard to this lease, and I would ask that we amend that motion to say that the only business to be discussed at that called meeting would be this particular item.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So you're amending his motion to, you're amending his motion to include only Item 058. Okay. Any discussion on Mr. Waldrep's motion to amend?

LARRY GREER: You didn't get a second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do we have -- we have a second by Ms. ...

LARRY GREER: Wilson. Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes.

LARRY GREER: Just as a point of clarification. Mr. Waldrep, your motion to amend as you made it would not prevent any amendments to either one of these two ordinances that would be germane to the issue; would it?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Greer, that would not be my intent to limit -- it would just be limited only to that particular issue and that particular subject and I think the council would certainly be empowered to deal with it anyway by amendment or otherwise.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Is the intent of this amendment to prevent consideration of 2008-60, as was included in my original motion?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep. Yes, the employees' personnel policy and procedures. You adding Easter?

BOB WALDREP: Yes, it would. Yes, it would.

BILL MCABEE: Okay.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anymore discussion? Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm planning on opposing this flat out. I mean, I don't see any reason this can't be carried to

the next council. I mean, this is the 16th of December for goodness sakes. And so I don't plan to vote for this.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Anyone else? Okay. Chair calling for the vote. All in favor of Mr. Waldrep's amendment to delete 2008-060 and to only include 2008-058 in the December 30th called meeting, please vote. Two. Oppose. And I'm going to abstain. Anyway, the motion to amend fails. All in favor of Mr. McAbee's motion to have a December 30th meeting to have -- to form a committee of three council members and to discuss on December 30th Ordinance 2008-058 and 2008-060, please vote. Three. I'm gonna vote. Four. Oppose. Two, three. Mr. McAbee's motion passes four to three, with Mr. Wilson, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Waldrep in the opposition. Now, I'm asking for three volunteers and I'm not gonna be one of them. Mr. Greer says he will. Mr. Waldrep, you want to volunteer?

BOB WALDREP: Well, yes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep. I need one more volunteer.

GRACIE FLOYD: I will volunteer.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd. Thank you. Mr. Greer, Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Floyd are the three volunteers for this meeting -- you're gonna meet with the city to discuss and on December 30th we're gonna have a meeting.

GRACIE FLOYD: Very short.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Have I covered all bases, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I think so. I believe the original motion was to appoint a committee of three. You've done that. For that committee of three to meet with Mr. Cunningham and the city.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

TOM MARTIN: You've addressed that. And then to be prepared to report back to the council at the called meeting on December the 30th, and you have done that, along with the possibility of discussing 2008-060, if that passes on second reading.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, sir. Ms. Eddleman has sent me a note. She wants to know a time. Can we get back to you on this?

GRACIE FLOYD: That's too early.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Can I get back with you on that.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, point of order, please.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

CINDY WILSON: I understand that our Clerk to Council had already put in for time off. So this is another reason it should -- it's not very wise to do this.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We will deal with it. I will deal with it.

BOB WALDREP: Who did you appoint chairman of this ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Are you volunteering?

BOB WALDREP: Oh, yeah, I'll do that too.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You got the job.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Pay is zero.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you. It's Christmas.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Eddleman, if you will just call each individual council member and see what's available time-wise on that date and we'll just go from there. Moving on. Ordinance second reading 2008-060, an ordinance amending chapter 55 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinance pertaining to personnel policies and procedures of Anderson County, and other matters related thereto. We have a public hearing on this. Public hearing instructions. Any person desiring to do so may speak at a public hearing for a reasonable period of time as long as he or she is speaking to the issue under consideration. The chairman exercises control of the public hearing to ensure that no person abuses the public hearing process by engaging in unreasonably lengthy comments, clearly repetitive comments, profane, abusive, offensive or inappropriate comments. With this being said the public hearing is now open. Anyone wishing to speak on this ordinance may come forward. Please

state your name and address before speaking and make your comments to the chair and only to the council chair and speak only about Ordinance 2008-060. Yes, sir.

DAN HARVELL: Mr. Chairman, members of council, Dan Harvell, 500 Trail Road, Belton, council district seven. Even though I appreciate the county employees as practically everybody in this county does, appreciate the job that they do, I think this is bad timing to add on another hundred and forty-six, hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars worth of payment that we will be making toward employees without getting the day of service. As I recall, we just sacrificed twenty-five employee slots to satisfy the financial needs of this outgoing administrator. I assume that those employees were added on because the current employees that we have needed more assistance, that their workload was too great and they needed more people to help them in their various tasks and endeavors. That being the case, I just don't see that we're in financial shape, given the economic times that we are trying to get through now, to encumber the taxpayers of this county with anymore out-pay without any benefit for it. I would suggest that we just allow the employees to take that day, to shift another day of vacation into that day, if they would like, but let's not force another hundred and forty-six thousand dollars of expense on the taxpayers without the proper return. Thank you.

MARK POWELL: I can only visualize that the five of you guys ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Your name and address, sir.

MARK POWELL: Oh, I'm sorry. Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven, Cindy Wilson's. I can only imagine that the five of you have not watched TV in the last year or two or three. Our state is in financial disaster. Our county doesn't seem to be in financial disaster, which is surprising. Every state in our nation talks on TV about how their budgets are being killed, how they're having to do everything to cut budgets. It boggles my mind how this council, the five members, three outgoing, are

trying to bind the hands of the current elected coming into office January the 1st council with an additional burden of a hundred and forty something thousand, and that was just, if I remember Mr. Callaham (sic) saying, that's not counting salary people, so I guess they don't count. I'm not sure how that worked. But, you know, not only United States of America is in a budget crisis. If you haven't watched the news, and obviously you haven't because it is just obvious to everyone that has, that every nation in the world talks about how their finances are going corrupt, how their finances are going downhill. I can't imagine but for one reason, one low, low pathetic scum reason to try to do this, in my opinion it is to buy people's loyalty, to buy people's right to accidentally throw a box full of crap in the shredded that wasn't supposed to, to accidentally tote stuff off and have stuff disappearing as we go into this next council looking into things that have happened. I can't imagine why, for instance, we're gonna add this to the next meeting. The reason being, the only way you can buy those votes, in my opinion, is to get it locked and sealed. You could have done that tonight by reconsidering. You didn't have to bother to add it to the next council. Just like you did with Preston's buyout. I would say that, you know, county employees, yes, we do appreciate them. We've gone from three hundred and something to nine hundred, if my memory is correct, in the last ten years, an increase of six hundred. It is a shame that this council has not understood the finances of our world. You've so blind that you can't see that not only South Carolina -- I mean, read the paper. Our government in South Carolina is having to cut jobs. Everyday you hear where the state is having to cut every department and everything. But we, the great cash cow Anderson County seem to be able to continue to do anything we can to spend money, spend money, spend money. How can you not open your eyes and understand that we must hedge the bet way into the game and not give an increase in pay without work. The twenty-five that weren't hired, I hope there's gonna be two, three,

four hundred fired come first of the year. And it's sad that it's gonna have to happen. But maybe the three, four hundred left will get an extra day's pay because for every five employees is about fifty -- well, five hundred thousand bucks, for every ten it's about a million. And you guys have added hundreds upon hundreds of them recklessly. You can't be watching society. You can't be watching the news. Your eyes have to be closed. It is insane to spend money in this current economy. But, hey, if you do it -- for instance, extending the 30th for the meeting because it was tied to this one, guess what, if you break a contract, what we gonna own them, one dollar a year for fifty years. We have to give them fifty bucks because we're gonna break their contract. They haven't spent any money so we don't have to worry about paying back investment. So if you do pass this December the 30th in this fly-by-night meeting that was added just -- I mean, it kind of seems obvious to me that somehow with the city it was worked out to make this seem a big issue so there would have to be called meeting for the city. Bull crap. It's about the employee buy-out in my opinion. And bottom line is, we need to not do this thing. But if y'all do what you're doing, come January I hope that the next council just simply breaks the contract with the city, pass it and rewrite it to where it's more legitimate to us, the taxpayers of Anderson County. As far as the pay -- I call it a pay raise because if you don't have to work you get money for doing nothing. As far as the pay raise to the county employees, I hope for the best, I hope that there's less of them to receive it, and I hope you guys understand how bad you're doing business compared to how the world is telling you everyday on the news everybody's finances is going downhill except for the money train water toters in Anderson County.

RICK FREEMANTLE: Mr. Chairman, you know, we hear a lot about how these meetings are orchestrated.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Your name, sir.

RICK FREEMANTLE: My name is Rick Freemantle.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you.

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

RICK FREEMANTLE: ... wasting time with this second reading. It's obvious to everyone in this room that you've already made your minds up on this matter. That being said, first let me say that I find it quite hilarious that the district four representative, one of several who voted to bring our county blue laws to their demise, would be concerned with a holy day such as Good Friday. That was almost as funny as when he tried to talk about ethics.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Let me remind the audience they need to be quiet, please.

RICK FREEMANTLE: At first I thought this was being done because the individual was errant in his behavior. But at last the truth won out, that desire has nothing to do with observing a religious day, but more to do with keeping up with the Joneses. Now all of a sudden y'all are worried about what other counties are doing. It matters not to you that this will cost the taxpayers of this county another hundred and forty-six thousand dollars just for the one day off. Other counties are trying to hold the line on wasteful spending. Is there a good reason why this trait hasn't been followed? Still some other counties understand full well that they do indeed have to answer to those who put them in office. And your ignorance of that realism has caused several of you your political lives. Is it not enough for you spoiled chickens, children, chickens, whatever, to have buried the good people of this county under fifty million dollars worth of new debt this one year alone? Now you want to add another hundred and forty-six thousand dollars to it. Do not misunderstand me. We have good county employees working for us in Anderson. However, as the previous speaker alluded to, with the bleak economic future ahead, the last thing we need to do right now is waste anymore of our financial treasure on another day off. I know these employees would not want to take advantage of those of us who also worked very hard everyday to ensure these fine people have a job in the first place. Many hard working taxpayers can only dream of what it must be

like to have all the paid holidays our county employees already have. Maybe, just maybe, you're doing this for the good reason that you want our employees to be able to observe this Christian day. If that be so, then why not split one of the other holidays we already have on the books into two half days? You could split Martin Luther King day into two halves. After all, I think he of all people would have been honored to share part of his day with God and His Son. Don't you think so? That way our county employees would have time to celebrate both of these remarkable days and would not cost us another dime. Considering that five of you up there may well have driven our county into bankruptcy this year with all your ill-advised, mean-spirited, financial aggressions towards the taxpayers of this county, the least you could do is try to save us a measly hundred and forty-six thousand dollars. You want us to think that you're concerned with the well-being of our county employees. Yet in light of your recent egregious act against the citizens of this county with your shameful waste of one point four million dollars worth of our tax money, the well-being of our county employees did not seem to be very high on your list of priorities then. Your actions not only did rob twenty-five people of a job, they threatened their future employment. You sat there and extracted the salary of twenty-five new jobs away from the hopes of people who desperately needed those jobs just to secure a payoff. Give them Good Friday off, you say. These twenty-five new positions not only would have given local people a job, they would have helped those employees already working for us by reducing their workloads. To add insult to injury, you have out-of-state workers performing their labors on our local government projects. And I cannot help but wonder how many of these folks are not even in this country legally. I believe our counties already have thirteen days worth of holiday time off at a cost of a hundred and forty-six thousand for each day. These thirteen days cost us already one point nine million dollars a year. One point nine million dollars in salaries, wages, that

are already being paid out, and you want to add another hundred and forty-six thousand dollars to the burden. No, I see this action to be just what it is coming from you, Mr. McAbee, just another way to stick your finger in our eye on your way out the door.

ELIZABETH FANT: Elizabeth Fant, Belton, district three. I have several facts that I just want to go over, kind of connected and yet disconnected, but they all apply to this business tonight. I agree with what's been said about the hundred and forty-six thousand. And you know, that's something that can always be done later, to add a holiday, but right now we're in a very strong recession and I think that county council needs to be responsible enough to the citizens to realize how deep this is impacting the county. I'm just gonna give you some facts that I researched this week. And please think about these. In 2008 we have already had twenty-five bank failures. Some of these have been in Georgia. We've had Wachovia that's on the verge of bankruptcy that Wells Fargo, yeah, Wells Fargo is buying out to keep it from being insolvent. That's right here in our town. In North Carolina Wachovia is a big employee. So it's real, it's right here, right here with us. Economic news every year gets worse, especially everyday now we hear something everyday that tells us that the recession is getting worse. It's much worse now than we even thought even a month ago. We have people who are -- big companies that are cutting jobs. Like AT&T right now is cutting twelve thousand people which is already four percent of their workforce. Dupont, another big company, two thousand five hundred jobs are gone. Viacom, eight hundred and fifty jobs gone. In November companies cut another three hundred and twenty thousand jobs in the United States. U.S. auto sales have plunged thirty-seven percent in November, the worst level in twenty-six years. Shaw Industries, right here in town, is closing by January the 29th. A hundred and seventy people will be without a job. Blair Mills in Belton, the last hold on textiles, three hundred people are losing their jobs by the end of December. And Belton really has no other

industries anymore. You know, it's mostly a post office, a police department, courthouse and lots of eating places. But if you go around Belton, which is where I'm from, you'll even notice that McDonald's and Hardee's and Wendy's, despite the fact that they advertise one dollar happy means, people aren't going. They don't even have a dollar extra to spend. And I know of a lot of elderly folks in Belton personally who are having to choose between groceries and medicine because their taxes have gone up so high. I go in the grocery store, and despite the fact that you see cars in the parking lot, when I wander down the aisle to get maybe my five items, that's what you see, if maybe five people, one on this aisle, one on another aisle, and they're not getting bags and bags of groceries. They are picking through those items, reading ingredients, comparing prices. You see them come to the front, and except for fresh vegetables and fruits and milk and things that you can't manufacture, they're getting the generic items. You go out here to the mall, you see a lot of cars out there because there are a lot of employees' cars. You walk through the mall, there are people out there but they're not shopping. Most of them are looking for a bargain if they can find it, and most of them are not buying. Where do you see people buying? They're buying at Big Lots and Fred's and the Goodwill and yard sales and the Jockey Lot, because they can't afford anything else. This recession is the worst economic situation since the Depression. And I don't think a lot of you are understanding how bad this is. I also want to address the matter of salaries. I have no personal beef with Joey Preston. I don't really know him. But I think you all have done a huge disservice to Anderson County by going ahead with that orchestration of a buyout. According to what I understand there is no such thing as an anticipatory ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ma'am, you're off the subject.

ELIZABETH FANT: No, I'm not.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

ELIZABETH FANT: I'm on the money. I'm

talking about money.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We're talking about giving the employees Good Friday.

ELIZABETH FANT: That's where I'm headed. The money is where we're talking about. There is not this extra money, Chairman. There's not this money to pay for this. And when you talk about people's salaries, I'm sure Mr. Cunningham is a very smart man and I have nothing against him, but to give him a salary of what he's getting, we just don't have that money for it. And we don't have the money to keep forking out for all these things that you are handing out on a list of twenty-five years down the line or fifty years. We don't have that money. Your citizens are strapped as much as they can do and there are people out here that need your help. They don't need a council to get up here and do self-serving interest or things that aren't gonna help them. They need your help. And where in the world is this money gonna come from? You've got forty percent of people already in Anderson County who pay no taxes. And the rest of us with the 2006 assessment, we can't give anymore, so I don't know where you're gonna get the money to pay for this holiday. So my last statement is, that can always wait till later. You can always add it later. But let's let one of your last actions of those of you who are leaving the county not be one where you push something through, Mr. McAbee's motion not be something that you push through because you want your last thing to go through. Let's do it in the interest of the people for once and let your behavior reflect the fact that you care about the people in Anderson County and hopefully when that motion comes up on December the 30th that all seven of you will vote it down. Thank you.

BROOKS BROWN: Brooks Brown, 700 Woodlake Road, district one. I've never heard such drivel in my life. We're gonna cut three or four hundred employees out of jobs. It's not gonna happen. What are you gonna give up, your roads getting paved? Maybe you want one person taking your tax money and you'll have a line from here to the interstate waiting

to pay your taxes. Of course, one thing we're not gonna get rid of is law enforcement. Or are we? Maybe we need to cut that down. You can always make cuts. You can always cut down employees. But what services are you willing to give up? And I bet if you took a vote right now these folks that spoke before me wouldn't give up a single service. They would want everything they've got. We're talking about a hundred and forty-six thousand dollars out of a hundred and fifty million dollar budget. One tenth of one percent of a dollar. Now I admit I'm a little prejudiced in this. My wife is a county employee. My wife works overtime and doesn't get overtime. She gets comp hours. You take your comp hours when you can get them. She hasn't been able to take them yet. She's worked here two years. How many of y'all are willing to work overtime for no pay for two solid years? None of you. And then you're gonna stand up here and deny a county employee, hard working, as little pay as they get anyway, one day's salary. One. And then you claim to be Christians. How dare you? You are not Christians. You need to go back and reread Romans. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

STEVE POPE: Steve Pope, Bellview Estates, county council district one. I really didn't come out here to really talk about this because this is a decision that the council is going to have to make. What we want you to remember, use caution. Judging from the comments made tonight, it's going to remind me of the days of prohibition. Somebody thought one time putting an amendment to the constitution to band the manufacture or transportation of alcoholic beverages would be a good idea. And it passed. Turned out the response wasn't exactly what they thought it would be and that amendment ended up having to be repealed. Just remember, members of council, any bad ordinance can easily be repealed by a new council coming in. So use caution and make certain this is exactly what you want and the results you want. Otherwise, you can pass it and it can easily be repealed. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Seeing and hearing none, the public hearing is now closed. Chair moves to approve Ordinance 2008-060. Is there a second?

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. Any discussion?

CINDY WILSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, may I?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Good Friday is a very dear day to me as a professed Christian. But because I'm also self-employed, I rarely get to take that holiday off, and I think that's probably the case with a lot of folks here. I would like to propose an amendment. I think that those of us who would like to observe Good Friday and any of these other holidays should have that opportunity. I would like to make an amendment to the second and third paragraphs of this ordinance, please. I'd like for it to read as follows: Whereas county council recognizes that Anderson County employees may select twelve paid holidays from the list of fourteen holidays and that Good Friday is an added paid holiday to the current list from which employees may choose any twelve paid holidays. Third paragraph. Whereas the council desires to amend Section 55-16 of Anderson County Code of Ordinances to incorporate Good Friday as an official paid holiday for Anderson County's employees. Adding to this that Anderson County employees may select any twelve paid holidays from the new list of the fifteen paid holidays. And I put that in the form of a motion, please.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to amend. We have a second by Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion on the amendment? Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

BOB WALDREP: A couple of things that kind of bother me about this particular issue is that first of all I thought that we were going to use the

old committee system, you know. Ever since I've been here I've heard, why don't we let the committees work? I don't know that there was any reference to a committee on this, which I thought it should be because there are issues, not just the money itself but the fact that we have I think a policy that not only are there paid holidays and I really didn't know how many we had until this issue started coming up. Is it thirteen now?

CINDY WILSON: Fourteen.

BOB WALDREP: Fourteen now. Would this be fifteen?

CINDY WILSON: Right.

BOB WALDREP: But in addition to the paid holidays we have those holidays that are declared to be holidays by the governor. Is that correct?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's included in the list.

BOB WALDREP: That's included in all the ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yeah. It's number fifteen.

BOB WALDREP: But the governor can, at any time he wishes to, declare a holiday. That's another one. Is that -- doesn't that add on to the list?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: That's number fifteen.

BOB WALDREP: Well, how many holidays does the governor traditionally order? Well, I hate to see this holiday taken on in the mantle of some Christian belief or something of that nature. I think that's unfortunate. I just think if people wish to observe Good Friday that this would give them -- this motion would give them an opportunity to observe that Good Friday. That's all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: If I understand Ms. Wilson's motion to amend correctly, the net effect of that is to reduce the number of holidays the county employees currently enjoy from fourteen to twelve.

CINDY WILSON: Yes.

LARRY GREER: Am I understanding that

correctly?

CINDY WILSON: Yes. Let me read the list of holidays.

LARRY GREER: Ms. Wilson, I have the list in front of me.

CINDY WILSON: All right. Well, maybe someone should read that for our citizens.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead, Mr. Greer. You have the floor.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We started -- this ordinance starts out to add another holiday. And I'll be honest with you, I'm very marginal on whether I vote for this or against it. We already have a fairly -- and I'll upset employees, but that's fine, let me upset them. We already have a fairly liberal holiday and vacation policy as far as the county is concerned. I understand, given the Good Friday as an additional holiday would help, especially with people who have children and schools are out during this time and it would allow for employees who have children to schedule trips away from home or whatever during that period of time maybe to go visit relatives or family or whatever. So in lieu of, and I'm not in favor of Ms. Wilson's amendment because it does reduce it from twelve to fourteen, but in lieu of what the ordinance is saying, could we not, and I'm just asking this in the form of a question and Mr. McAbee or somebody can respond to this, could we not include Good Friday as a fifteenth, but only allow the employees to choose fourteen? Now I yield the floor?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else?

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Of course, the council can do as it sees fit. I felt like this would bring us in line with a lot of other counties and we could offer it to the employees that they have Good Friday. It is a time of year when quite often children are out of school. It would allow them to travel for the Easter weekend. And I hate to put it in a position of where they have to give away something in order to get that day. You know, the councils in the past have seen fit

to establish the other holidays for particular reasons and I felt like Good Friday is valuable in and of itself.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman.

RON WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: If Mr. Greer will put his question in the form of a motion I'd be happy to second it. I think giving them the choice of the holiday with the existing number would be fine, but I'm not for expanding ---

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- Ms. Floyd asked for the floor first. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Have we considered the fact that on some years there will be only fourteen days, other years there will be fifteen, that in the election year, which I think is every even year, there will be fifteen days. And in the odd years there will be fourteen paid days, not fifteen days every year.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Right.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer called for the floor.

BILL MCABEE: I'm sorry.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At this time I move to amend Ms. Wilson's amendment to call for fourteen recognized holidays, including the fourteen that's included in the ordinance and adding a fifteenth that would include Good Friday, with the employees being able to select any fourteen of the fifteen holidays.

RON WILSON: Second.

CINDY WILSON: Second.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up.

BOB WALDREP: There was a second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. You're moving to amend that the employees have fourteen holidays with the option of choosing Good Friday.

LARRY GREER: As one of those fourteen.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: As one of those fourteen. Hold up. Audience, audience, please be quiet. One of fourteen. And we have a second. Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, I'm sorry. Mr. Waldrep, I'm sorry. Mr. Waldrep, go ahead.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clarify the motion, that's all, and to make sure that this is not an additional holiday, that this puts it within the realm of an option that these county employees would have. So by declaring it a holiday, you can only take it if you give up another holidays; is that correct, Mr. Greer?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Hold up. Mr. Cunningham, currently how many holidays do the employees get. During a non-election year.

LARRY GREER: Thirteen.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: It would be thirteen during a non-election year.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thirteen. So the answer is yes, this would be adding a holiday because Mr. Greer's amendment is to move it to fourteen. So yes, it will be adding a holiday in non-election years.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Do you yield, Mr. ---

BOB WALDREP: Yeah. I yield to Mr.

McAbee.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: Has anyone thought this through, that you could take it as an optional holiday? I mean, what if the auditor's office, everyone decides to take Good Friday but the treasurer's office doesn't? You can pay your taxes you just can't get your tax bill. What if I decide to take -- you're gonna be choosing from a grocery list. It means the county is gonna be open on every one of those holidays because somebody is gonna choose to work Christmas and take off the other holidays. Who's gonna come in and turn on the lights and the power? That means we're essentially gonna have to have the county open on every single day that the holidays are there because somebody is gonna choose all but one of

those holidays and somebody could indeed choose not to -- that they want to show up on Christmas or they want to show up on the 4th of July and take the rest of the list.

GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: You done, Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: I think having a list of optional holidays that you can pick from and you could leave off one means that we're gonna be open every day of the year every one of those holidays and if -- as I said, if the auditor's office -- if everybody in the -- and taxpayers out there, the citizens won't know what day county offices will be closed or which ones will or will not be open. If the treasurer's office elects to take 4th of July, but the auditor's office, everybody there decides they're gonna show up, you can get your tax bills printed, you just can't pay your taxes. likewise, if the auditor decides he's gonna -- everybody in there were to choose to take Good Friday off, you couldn't get your tax bills printed but you could go across to the treasurer's office and pay your taxes. Do you realize what a confused mess it could really be if you pick, you know, pick from a list all but one?

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment.

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Ms. Floyd asked for the floor. Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: I will yield to Mr. Waldrep.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep, she has yielded.

BOB WALDREP: I move to table.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I think you're complicating things. We have to -- we have a motion and we have a motion to amend. We need to clear up all those before we go anywhere else.

LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: I withdraw my amendment to include Good Friday as an optional holiday.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So we're back to Ms. Wilson's amendment, which is reducing down to twelve.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: I thought a motion to table is not ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Not appropriate at this time. We need to clear up -- if you withdraw your motion to amend, then you can move to table. Am I right, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if we are in discussion on any issue you may move to table at that point.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Really?

TOM MARTIN: It's my understanding that Mr. Greer has withdrawn his amendment to the amendment so we're now back to the amendment. And a motion to table would be appropriate at that point.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. So I stand corrected. You may move to table.

CINDY WILSON: Mr. Waldrep made the motion to table and I second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And that's non-debatable, right? Okay. Motion to table. All in favor of tabling Ordinance 2008-060, please vote. Two. Three. Very good. Oppose. Three. Abstain. It's a tie vote, so motion to table fails. How much time do we have, Mr. Martin? Chair moves to extend time by three minutes. All in favor of extending time by three minutes, please vote. Three. Okay. Oppose. Three. Four. Okay. I have to call for the vote then; right?

GRACIE FLOYD: Yeah.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: As is. It has not been amended; right? As is. We have to vote on the amendment. All in favor of Ms. Wilson's amendment to reduce the number of employee holidays to twelve giving the employees an option; is that right, an option to choose, please vote. You're not gonna vote for your own amendment? Aren't we having fun. All oppose. ...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2

MICHAEL THOMPSON: ... as is. Four. Oppose. Three. Four to three, the amendment passes. So it will be on the December 30th special called meeting.

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, if I might.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes sir, Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: As a point of clarification, I believe the chair stated the amendment passes. There was no amendment. The ordinance passes.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: I stand corrected. Yes, sir, the ordinance passes four to three.

TOM MARTIN: On, I believe two prior occasions dealing with Item number 7, I think a reference was made to a resolution, but of course, those were ordinances.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir, I stand corrected. At this time we need a break. Ten minutes.

BREAK

MICHAEL THOMPSON: First reading, Ordinance 2008-061, an ordinance to develop, pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976 as amended, a jointly owned and operated industrial business park to be known as the Project Palmetto Multi-County Park in conjunction with Abbeville County, South Carolina, such industrial business park to be geographically located in Abbeville, South Carolina, and other matters related thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

BOB WALDREP: Second.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Any discussion?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep. Turn your mike on, sir.

BOB WALDREP: Oh, I thought I had. About this park over in Abbeville, as I was driving through Abbeville the other day, is it located on the bypass over there, this huge, looks like a missile site, it's about eight or ten stories high, is that part of this Palmetto ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham, do you know

the location for this park?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chair, I don't know the specific location, but with your permission I'll ask Ms. Jones to ---

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Jones.

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: -- give us the specific site. I know a lot about Abbeville County, but I'm not familiar with the missile site.

BOB WALDREP: It's on the bypass as you're headed down on Highway 28 and you're going down toward Augusta. And you come into a tremendous building that's on the right. It looks like about eight to ten stories high. Is that part of this project?

HEATHER JONES: To be honest, Mr. Waldrep, I'm not certain if the building is part of the actual park or not. This was placed on the agenda last week and we received it on Friday. So we are trying to get all the pieces and parts together on it. I'd be happy to provide that answer to you, though, as early as tomorrow.

BOB WALDREP: Oh, that's okay. I just thought it was the most astonishing thing that I had seen in a long time in Abbeville. I've never seen anything that tall in Abbeville. And I think it has to do with making some kind of cable or something and the building has to be extremely tall because it has to deal with some kind of cable. Mr. Martin, you been down there?

TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, I have. I think that you're referring to the Prysmian Cable facility, and I don't think this is a part of that. And I'll confess, I'm not involved in this.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. I was just wondering what that was.

TOM MARTIN: I think that this, if I'm not mistaken, I believe this is for a pending project. They're referring to it as Project Palmetto, so I believe they're getting approval for the multi-county park before the project is actually announced.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

BILL MCABEE: The tower is the Pirelli Cable plant and it's part of the Abbeville-McCormick Multi-County Industrial Park.

TOM MARTIN: Now known as Prysmian.

HEATHER JONES: It changed names.

BILL MCABEE: Has it?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote, Ordinance 2008-061. All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Going to Item 11, acceptance of Pendleton Place Phase II final, Phase II final, into the county road system. So the chair moves to accept Pendleton Place Phase II final roads into the county system.

BILL MCABEE: Second.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr. McAbee. Any discussion?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: I assume Mr. Hopkins can tell us about the compliance with our road requirements. Is there any problem with this?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Hopkins.

HOLT HOPKINS: Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has been fully inspected throughout the whole process and it meets county standards.

BOB WALDREP: Is it a new road?

HOLT HOPKINS: Yes, sir, it is, about a half a mile long up near Pendleton, just outside Pendleton.

BOB WALDREP: Okay. Thank you. That's all.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. And for the record, the road names are Dana Lynn Lane, Margaret Mary Lane and Vanessa Rae Lane, 2532 feet of paved roads. Anyone else? Chair calls for the vote. All in favor of accepting these roads into the county system, please vote. Unanimous. Appointments. Yes, we took it out of order. Appointments. Do any council members have appointments? Seeing and hearing none, we're moving on. Item 13, requests by council

members. Mr. Waldrep, do you have any requests?

BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, I have one request on my recreation account to go to the Anderson Free Clinic for a thousand dollars.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Chair seconds. Any discussion? Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Anything else, Mr. Waldrep?

BOB WALDREP: That's all. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I have two, please. I would like to appropriate one thousand dollars out of district two's recreation account to the Eastside Concerned Citizens Group for their school program, their school project they have for the children. Also, I would like to appropriate one thousand dollars from the district two rec account to the Cancer Association of Anderson County. This money stays here in Anderson and it helps, you know, our people.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair seconds. Any discussion? All in favor, please vote. Unanimous. Is that it, Ms. Floyd?

GRACIE FLOYD: That's it. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer, any appropriations? None? None from Mr. Greer. Mr. McAbee?

BILL MCABEE: None, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: None. None for me. Mr. Ron Wilson, any appropriations?

RON WILSON: No, sir.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: No, sir. Ms. Wilson, any appropriations?

CINDY WILSON: None at this time. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. We're moving on to 14, year-end progress report for county council district two. Ms. Gracie Floyd.

GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Every year at this time I have the honor to talk about district two and the successful -- and the successes that we have had in that area. This year is no different. I'm very proud of the fact that we've had several

groundbreakings in district two and that -- you know about the houses that we have done. And we have some big things coming down the pike, one of which is that we're applying for another grant. That's going to help the folks in that district. We have heard from the Appleton Mill people and they have given us permission that we needed to get onto that property so we could continue working to see what's in the ground so we could try to clean up that property as we do the one on Gossett Street. We have selected someone to do the work on the Gossett Street site. We are -- we've had a request to add three new community organizations. Can you believe that? We have three new organizations coming in district two. One will be on Amity Road. One will be on the Belton Highway. And one is going to be downtown. So we will be walking and those leaders, the leaders have all been identified and we're ready to start our meetings, which we will -- you'll be introduced to them on -- in the next year. We broke ground at McFalls Landing for the pavilion and I'm really excited about that and the people in the community showed up and they too are excited about the fact that we're gonna do that. If you have noticed, the county annex courthouse is coming along very well and we're soon going to be able to cut the ribbon on that day park that is right next to it. I would like for you all to come and have your lunch out there and do some walking, meditate, pray, just come and act plain ole me, you don't have something to fuss about, just come on out. My constituents are really happy about the season, the Christmas season that's coming up, and they're having a lot of parties. And several council members and I have been invited, you know, to these parties and I'm just really excited about that. District two is alive and we're doing very well. I have been encouraged by them to keep on keeping on and that is my intent. I thank all of you who have truly supported us in our struggle to become better than what we've ever been and to just keep climbing as well as we've been doing. There are some of you in the audience that I'd like to thank personally because I just could not have done

this. Everybody isn't here. But Mr. Brown, Brooks Brown, I want to thank you for your encouragement and your support in getting and helping us to work toward our goals that we need. Mr. Hopkins, couldn't have done it, couldn't have done it without you, with the houses that you've knocked down and cleaned up. We did a lot of cleaning up this year, folks. I can't think of his name in the back now. Boy, I was doing so well too. Dewey, thank you for all the help you gave me with the sewer and the plumbing. Well, not plumbing. The sewer and everything that we've done in that area trying to get people what they needed with the water and stuff. Angie. Angie, thank you. You and Clifton both for all the help you gave us in publicizing our endeavors. Ms. Jones, we're still looking for that grocery store. And I want to thank you because one is coming. Okay. Now we're looking for a restaurant to put next to the grocery store. I hear that there is a grocery store, Bi-Lo's in fact, this is all rumor now, but I know that they're clearing out the trees. So I'm just holding on to that as Bi-Lo is coming on the Belton Highway to serve that area over there. But we're still looking for a hotel. And we definitely would love to have a Waffle King. Now I have talked to the manager at Waffle King and he's interested, but we just need to go and kind of like help him out a little bit. Okay. All right. We've worked very hard this year in district two. We've worked very hard. We've worked late in the night, early in the mornings. To all the county employees who were there who answered the telephones and who showed up, who ran off the papers, who just really, really worked, I just thank you. I just thank you. I feel real good about the accomplishments that we have made this year. And we are definitely looking forward to 2009. Bring it on. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Done?

GRACIE FLOYD: Uh-huh (affirmative).

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 15, questions regarding recent actions of county council. Ms. Wilson, you have ten minutes.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Earlier this evening we were advised by the newest Chamber of Commerce president that we were saving millions of dollars by the severance package that was offered to our former administrator. I want to point out first of all that the last time the citizens of Anderson County were told that a controversial railroaded contract would save the county millions of dollars, that was when Allied Waste bought the Big Creek Landfill. No bids were taken, no bid procedure was observed, no advertisements. One company tried to make an offer that was actually one point two million dollars higher than Allied Waste. Where are the millions of dollars that we were supposed to have saved? The solid waste department, which is actually the enterprise fund, has been in the red almost every year since 1998, sometimes by a few hundred thousand dollars, other years around a million or so. Now, to be fair, Allied Waste has made some improvements over there. However, there are several chronic continuing violations. The company very arrogantly allows trucks in after hours in violation of its contract with the county. And I know this by the families that call me that they can't sleep at night. These are working families, children in school. They're awakened in the wee hours of the morning with trucks and equipment running. And yes, the contract price for burying our waste continues to increase. And just a few -- well, I guess a month ago we borrowed three point two million dollars to upgrade and expand the convenience centers, even though we no longer own the Big Creek Landfill. The cost of running the solid waste department continue to escalate as do the number of employees. So where are the savings? Now that brings us to the severance package. There have been a number of violations of the Freedom of Information process. I won't go into all of them. We have parliamentary procedure violations or breaches. We were advised by Mr. Tom Bright who is the attorney our council engaged to advise us that there was no anticipatory breach. None. We were also advised that because our council has a fiduciary responsibility that it probably wouldn't be wise to try to buy him out. And he was

also quoting case law to us. So I have to ask the question, why would we do such a thing? And giving our track record of saving the county millions of dollars, where are those savings? Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Item 17, administrator's report. Do you want to highlight anything, Mr. Cunningham?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Chairman, the report stands as submitted. I would comment just a couple of things that didn't make it into the administrator's report, which is information that you have, I just wanted to remind you of. One is, I think I gave each of you copies of some information about old McCants as I promised it last time, for your packets. Information regarding some concerns with the legal files currently maintained by McNair. That was just for your information as well. And tonight I think I gave you a copy of responses to some of the questions that were brought up at the last council meeting that I wanted to make sure that each of you had, as well as response to an issue that was brought to my attention by Ms. Wilson on yesterday that I did attempt to address. So you have that information. And I wanted to make sure that each of you had it so that you could go over it. Again, I'm always available. If you have questions about any of that I will certainly try to answer those questions and make myself available to address those. And finally, this is not on there, but Ms. Floyd mentioned an opening of the park next to the county courthouse annex. I think the dedication ceremony for that park is actually this coming Friday at eleven a.m.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: This coming Friday?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: This coming Friday at eleven a.m. And following on that same day at two p.m. is the groundbreaking for the Manse Jolly Convenience Center site.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: For the what site?

MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: The Manse Jolly Convenience Center site off Liberty Highway. So just wanted to announce those things. And again wanted to make sure that you were aware of the information that

I provided. And again, I'm open and available to answer any of your questions. I will certainly try to make myself available to you to address any of those concerns.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, sir. Citizens comments other matters. Do we have any, Mr. Martin?

TOM MARTIN: Yes, sir, you have three.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Three. Instructions. Meetings of county council are legislative meetings based upon the representative form of government and are regulated by parliamentary procedures and are not town meetings. Accordingly, citizens comments is for the receipt of citizens' opinions, comments and input. It is not a time for debate, question and answer or dialogue. Each person will be allowed not more than three minutes to address county council. You're asked to please refrain from addressing members of the audience by name. Please direct your comments to the council chair and only to the council chair. State your name, address, the council district in which you reside. Mr. Martin.

TOM MARTIN: Bennie Sue West.

PENNY SUE WEST: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of council.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Address.

BENNIE SUE WEST: You don't know my name as hard as I worked for your election?

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Name, address and the council district in which you reside, please.

BENNIE SUE WEST: Bennie Sue West.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, ma'am.

BENNIE SUE WEST: 1308 Hanover Road. Mr. Waldrep is my representative. In the constitution it gives us the right in the first amendment to redress our government and that's what we have done. In the administrative report there was a question about why was this one put in the minutes? Apparently to some of us it was necessary because it included the buyout contract, it included Mr. Cunningham's contract, and it would hopefully deceive Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson into voting for the minutes when they did not agree

with what you all did. You left them out of the legal and democratic process. The constituents of Mr. Waldrep's and Ms. Wilson's were not represented in that decision. And you complain about how we act, and the five of you have shamed us beyond anything I have ever witnessed. Number two, Mr. Preston, a former employee, this weekend he was seen taking boxes out of this courthouse. I don't know what was in them. Does anybody know what was in them? And why does he even have keys to this building? He's no longer an employee. And this lawsuit Mr. Preston had against Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson, now our administrator has taken that over. I can't begin to tell our new administrator how disappointed I am in that. And it does not -- it's not compatible with the faith that you profess. And I'm disappointed. I hope you'll drop that stupid thing. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Mark Powell.

MARK POWELL: Mark Powell, Williamston, district seven. It's a shame that Madame Gracie isn't here. It's a shame that the Napoleon complex Bill McAbee isn't here. The bottom line is, the things that you have done as council, especially those of you who are leaving council unfortunately two weeks after today because you've extended your power of term until the 30th of December. You know, it's hard -- Ms. Gracie does lots of good things. A lot of you council members do lots of good things. But when you have gentlemen stand up and say that, gosh, we can't pave roads because of this, that and the other, you know, I don't know how old his wife could be, but I don't know why we hired her anyway. She seems pretty darn old if she's married to him. Maybe we need to look at that policy. We have a situation that we have an administrator that left us. He had a contract that was written by our attorney who doesn't seem to be able to answer, since I've been here, at least a third of the questions that you council members ask him. I'm beginning of you three that's still up there, the three -- or four that's up there -- to relook at the situation. I don't know if he's officially resigned or if he just gets fired or what, but please let's

hire a lawyer who can sit at that spot, and I don't care what you ask him, he can answer it and never have to say, I've got to refrain because my company represents an interest in that. That is just crap. We hire too many lawyers. Hire a lawyer. Okay. Hire one lawyer. Whatever you want him to do, he does it. I have no clue what we're talking about, this lawsuit against Cindy and Bob, but I will say that if it's about trying to get information and getting county employees to work, I do want to point out that Gracie Floyd, Ron Wilson, Larry Greer and Michael Thompson seem to have got the council -- as council members to get the people across the street and in this building jump through hoops to get them information. It is very surprising that all that work was done, them asking people to do things on their behalf when we're trying to restrict two. I will point out again to you, Mr. Callahan (sic), as a Christian, as your article stated in the paper, unless you're going to prove to be as scumbag as the council members that have put you on as an administrator and keep your job without ripping your contract up and looking to the incoming council and say, I want to work for you, but I want you to hire me, I want you to want me. I don't want to be forced, I don't want to get a buyout golden parachute like Joey Preston got. If you don't do that, I struggle with identifying you as a fellow Christian because you know they did that in a wrong way. Please rip the contract up and ask them to give you one with the current council members' signatures on it. Thank you.

TOM MARTIN: Rick Freemantle.

RICK FREEMANTLE: My name is Rick Freemantle. You know, after all the millions of dollars that we threw down the rat-hole of economic development, now finally they've figured out that we need infrastructure along I-85. It's too bad it took so long for them to listen to commonsense. How many years have we been telling you folks that? How many times have we come before you and ask, why are you not doing that? Why are you putting sewers down through fields and creeks where no one lives? Do you think

the deer are gonna use them? We've been told that York County is using some type of a franchise for their sewer services. We must remember this same county, under a one cent sales tax ponzi scheme led York County to believe that they would complete ninety-three millions dollars worth of projects within a seven year period. They are now entering a period that will complete twenty-one years of service work for the same projects. Gonna total almost two hundred millions dollars by the time they complete the original projects. So I don't think we need to use them as an example of where we wanna go. We've got five experts and one former administrator who are real good at that. What a year it's been for you, Mr. Chairman. You certainly have a lot to be proud of. You denied people the right to speak in these halls until you were confronted and stopped in your tracks. You're responsible for throwing two senior citizens out of these halls. One of them a retired military person who fought for your right to sit there and act arrogant and stupid. Another one for simply making a face at you, you threw him out. How big of you. Mention was made about our hundred and fifty million dollar budget and how no one is gonna wanna wait in line to pay for their taxes. After what this crew has done to us this past year, you'll be lucky to have anyone in line paying their taxes. It's pretty sad even further that the same individual is more worried about his wife getting that one ridiculous day of pay that he's willing to forego the livelihoods of the rest of the people in this county who work hard to support this county. He doesn't give a rat's behind how that one day is gonna affect them in their homes at their dinner tables. For the council woman, and I think my Freudian slip was absolutely correct earlier, chickens, for the council woman who was just complaining earlier that she had nothing in her packet dealing with the possibility of sewer franchises, I believe she said she was perplexed. That didn't seem to bother her or any of you other five a couple of meetings back when you were given a payoff document which cost the taxpayers of this county one point

fourteen million dollars. And you didn't care a whit where that money was coming from to pay for that. And on one further note, Mr. Ron Wilson, you didn't represent district six either. You represented yourself and probably your own wallet.

TOM MARTIN: Those are the only citizens under other matters.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. Remarks from county council. Ms. Wilson.

CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very concerned that the majority here tonight found it necessary to come back for a third meeting this month, which is unprecedented. And two of those majority members left early, as they did the last meeting. It really seems just really tragic that the service of each of us individually to our districts is suffering because people leave early from the meetings and try to set up additional meetings just to serve some strange agenda. Most of you who voted for that won't be back, but yet you're going to try to railroad something through December 30th. It just makes no sense. We've had no real committee meetings all this year. We have standing committees that are provided for in our Codes of Ordinances, and except for when Mr. Waldrep instated those standing committees, they've never been used in the eight years I've been on council, until suddenly we slap together a personnel committee. And it didn't quite match the description in our Codes of Ordinances. I just want to make a promise to the people of this county and that is that I will continue working really hard to be accountable and from what I've seen and heard of the new council members coming on, it seems that that's going to be their approach to local government too. And I don't think you'll find the new council coming on treating our citizens disrespectfully. I think you'll find that it may take a while to dig to the bottom of the deep pit of debt that has been dumped on this county, some of it in ways that we don't really understand, but I will promise you that we will all work very hard, very diligently, to find the information and bring it to our public and then try to

make whatever decisions are necessary to take this county forward. And that would be a progressive thing. That would be a positive thing once we can do that. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Waldrep.

BOB WALDREP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's been a long road toward some goals that I've had in Anderson County. And my goals have been simple, accountability, transparency, open access. I think we're getting there and I certainly don't want to carp or get personal with anybody on the council. I just want all of you to know that I wish you a very Merry Christmas and may you have the peace that passes all understanding at this time. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer.

LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just gonna ramble for a little bit. I started this journey in January of 1999, ten years ago. And I came on to council with one major goal in mind at that point in time. And I heard something very loud and clear across council district three at that time and that was that it had been overlooked. And it had not received its fair share of the services of Anderson County. And as I pursued and looked at the records of what Anderson County had done and I did find the records and I did get the information I needed, I found that that was true. We had been paying a three mil sewer tax for a large number of years with no sewer infrastructure in our council district. The only benefit we got from that sewer tax was locating industry along 85. And that is a good thing. It did -- it does provide jobs for the people who live on my end of the county. But as a district we were not receiving very much. We had been paying that sewer tax since 1985, '83, whatever year it was. And I estimated we had paid over three million dollars as a district into that sewer tax and had received very little from it. So one of the goals I had was to do everything that I could to work with the other members of council and to bring those things to that council district. I had a philosophy, if they're gonna cut the pie, we want a piece. And that was how I operated

and that's how I went about it. We've made a lot of positive improvements across the council district. We've provided recreation facilities where there were no recreation facilities. We've paved roads, numerous roads. We have put in new bridges, new culverts. We've done a lot of things across the council district. We supported senior citizens' groups that had never been supported before. Some groups were supported in one area and not supported in the other. And we made it equal across the district. So when I go home and put my head on my pillow, I pass the pillow test. I don't feel like I've done a bad job. I'm not a scumbag. I am a sinner. But I'm saved by the grace of God through my Lord Jesus Christ and my sins are forgiven. Are yours? Good. I hope they are. And I've endured a lot of things over the course of the last six or eight years. I've had numerous rumors spread about me. I've had my sons accused of things that was totally false. In this past election, someone even went on that radio station and said that I had a girlfriend. You know what, they're correct, I do have a girlfriend. She's sitting right back there. She's my wife that I've been married to for over forty-one years. Now, that's the part that I'm fed up with, I'm disgusted with. I'm tired of looking at you mean spirited people who all you want to do is gripe and complain. That's all. Now, the question I'm wondering is what are you gonna do come January when you don't have some of us to gripe and complain about? I guess you'll have to find something else to gripe and complain about. The answer is to all of this, you're like the dog that chases the car, you've caught him, now you're wondering what you're gonna do with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Wilson.

RON WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been here for a couple of years and contrary to what was said earlier about me not representing my district, I am reelected and I'll be here for two more. A lot of things have changed with me being here. Once you get in this seat oftentimes it's not quite like you think it's gonna be. I know nothing

about the people coming on this council. But what I hope, and we've seen it here again tonight, is that somehow some civility will return to this chamber and especially to this council. I participated in making it what it is and for that I'm sorry. But if we're gonna move forward and we're gonna work together for the benefit of the taxpayers of this county and the people that live here, we've gotta find a way to be civil with each other when we disagree. That has not occurred tonight, and I don't know -- without a miracle I don't know how it will occur. Because this county is severely pulverized. But it's my hope and even my prayer that somehow another this will occur. One of the ladies spoke tonight about the economy. There's not any doubt that we're in one of the worst economies that we've seen since the great depression. How long will it last and how severe will it get? I don't know. And I don't think anyone does. And but I would say in closing it's a season that I hope will have new beginning. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New York. Thank you.

MICHAEL THOMPSON: This meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30 P.M.

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Special Called Meeting – December 30, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

Chairman Michael Thompson, Presiding
Bob Waldrep – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
Vice Chairman Bill McAbee – District #4
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Michael Cunningham – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman – Clerk to Council

ABSENT

Ron Wilson – District #6

A verbatim transcript of the meeting is hereto attached for your approval.

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Eddleman, CCC
Clerk to County Council

State of South Carolina)
County of Anderson)

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
DECEMBER 30, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE:

MICHAEL THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN
BOB WALDREF
CINDY WILSON
LARRY GREER
GRACIE FLOYD
BILL MCABEE
RON WILSON (ABSENT)

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A special called
2 meeting for the Anderson County Council, December 30,
3 2008 at 1:00 p.m. will now come to order. We have the
4 Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation by Council Member
5 Bob Waldrep.

6 INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ordinance's third reading,
8 2008-0058, an ordinance to authorize the leasing of
9 certain athletic fields for recreational purposes at
10 the property formerly known as McCants Middle School
11 and other matters related thereto. This ordinance was
12 tabled on December the 16th, 2008. The Chair moves to
13 remove from the table Ordinance 2008-0058. Is there a
14 second?

15 BILL MCABEE: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second by Mr.
17 McAbee. All in favor of removing from the table
18 Ordinance 2008-0058, please vote. Four. Opposed?

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman?

20 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. Four
21 two, so the motion to remove from the table is
22 approved. We are now in discussion and I have
23 confirmed with the Clerk that we were in discussion at
24 the last meeting when this was tabled so we are in
25 discussion. Ms. Floyd?

26 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
27 I'm going to make a motion to -- I make a motion that
28 we go back to the original form of this ordinance as it
29 was first presented to us at this time. That's in the
30 form of a motion.

31 BILL MCABEE: Second.

32 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a motion to amend
33 the ordinance to go back to the original form and that
34 being the fifty year lease; is that correct?

35 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay.

37 BILL MCABEE: As it was originally
38 presented on first reading am I to understand?

39 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I speak?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment, please. Fifty
41 year lease and as original ---

42 GRACIE FLOYD: Presented.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Presented. Mr. Martin, you
44 got that? Ms. Wilson, yes, ma'am.

45 CINDY WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At
46 the last council meeting the first item in that package
47 was a letter from the City of Anderson requesting that
48 we remove that item from the agenda. And we have since
49 learned in reading the newspaper, and I believe other
50 council members have had discussions with the City of

1 Anderson, that they have requested that we not do
2 anything with this item until the new council comes in.
3 And I believe I see Mr. John Moore here from the City
4 of Anderson. I think it would be appropriate that
5 perhaps Mr. Moore be asked his wishes. And I think
6 that since we've been requested in writing to withhold
7 a vote on this pending the new council, then I think
8 it's entirely appropriate and polite to honor their
9 wishes. Thank you.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry, go ahead.

11 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair?

12 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, at the last
14 meeting also a committee was formed to meet with the
15 City to see if we could get on the same accord on this
16 thing. After not hearing from anyone concerning the
17 fact that we were not going to have a meeting, I did
18 meet with Mr. Moore and the City to find out just what
19 was going to happen then. I met with them at two
20 o'clock -- thank you. I met with them at two o'clock
21 yesterday and it was the consensus at that time that we
22 go on with the plans that we had about this facility,
23 about leasing them this facility for fifty years and
24 following through with the first, with the first
25 ordinance that came down.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Any objection to Mr.
27 Moore coming up and speaking for himself? Turn your
28 mike on. Mr. Waldrep.

29 BOB WALDREP: I just had a comment in
30 response to some remarks made from council woman from
31 district two, is that as chairman of that committee I
32 contacted a councilman from district three who is on
33 the committee and we did have a discussion about where
34 we were on this particular issue. I had a conversation
35 with Mr. Moore and I received the indication that the
36 process the City would have to go through to negotiate
37 any kind of changes would make it impossible for us to
38 make the decision by this meeting. And so that was the
39 reason that, Ms. Floyd, that I did not get in touch
40 with you. And that I think Mr. Greer and I kind of
41 decided that it would be futile and wouldn't be any
42 need for a meeting. Now, if you've had a meeting alone
43 with the City, apparently, and you have another
44 perception and understanding about what took place I
45 think the words were, you had reached a consensus and
46 with that I would assume that that would be a consensus
47 with yourself because you did not meet with Mr. Moore,
48 I mean, Mr. Greer and I. Again, I apologize for the
49 fact that we did not have a meeting, but I think it was
50 the consensus of two of us that we would wait until the

1 City had a chance to negotiate. Now, the reason that
2 I'm going into this in some detail is that there were
3 issues about time. One of them was whether we would
4 have five year renewable options on the lease and then
5 there were some issues with regard to the charges that
6 would be made. And I think that was a concern that
7 some of us had on council with regard to the
8 differences and charges to City residents and County
9 residents. And that's why we felt like that in
10 deference to some degree to what the City wanted to do
11 was to make a presentation to show why their lease
12 situation was a good proposition. We never got to that
13 point and that's why I always like to think that we
14 would spend a little bit of time and reflection in
15 meeting with the people that we're going to be signing
16 a lease with, particularly since it would be for fifty
17 years. I would not believe that any of us would be
18 around to see the termination or the end of this lease
19 but maybe some of us are that optimistic. Anyway,
20 that's the comment I wanted to make. The last thing I
21 wanted to say and also in deference to Ms. Wilson, I'm
22 a little bit reluctant to put Mr. Moore in the middle
23 of this situation. I don't know how much comfort he
24 feels in that but certainly that's the prerogative of
25 the council. Thank you, sir.

26 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman, may I ---
27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: One moment. Mr. Moore, do
28 you feel comfortable coming up and speaking? Please
29 come forward, please. Can you give us a standing where
30 the City is on this issue at the present?

31 JOHN MOORE: I will. Thank you, Mr.
32 Chairman and members of County Council. I apologize
33 for all the confusion, but I think first and foremost
34 that there are many partnerships between the City and
35 the County and we're in the process of elaborating
36 those for the current council and the new council.
37 I'll assure you the intent of the City and the County
38 in the former McCants site is nothing but notable. And
39 that is to provide playing fields for City and non-City
40 residents alike. As you may know in the way of
41 background, I'll try to be very brief, currently the
42 lease agreement was needed for at least a year to
43 continue the program, adult flag football and youth
44 football. And that's done in an association. It's not
45 necessarily a City league. We have teams from Starr-
46 Iva, and other surrounding communities that come in and
47 play, pay and play on an equal basis with City
48 residents. So we wanted to continue that. The City
49 has maintained the field, irrigated it, programmed all
50 the sports there for, like I say, residents in and out.

1 As far as the lease there are a lot of options. A one
2 year lease just makes sure the City knows it has the
3 authority to continue doing what it's doing in the way
4 of current programs. As you know, the recreation
5 master plan that the City has put together with input
6 from a lot of folks, both again in and outside the
7 City, does refurbish all the green space in the McCants
8 area. The old Nardin field which many people are
9 familiar with, a hundred thousand dollars is being paid
10 for out of the hospitality fee that the City has.
11 We'll be going pretty soon to redo those ball fields so
12 they can be put back in program status. There will be
13 two baseball fields. The other part was the McCants
14 football field. I will have to say being an
15 Andersonian I played my high school football there so
16 that place is near and dear to me and I want to see it
17 stay and preserved for others to play. Our intent is
18 to refurbish that field whether it be the new track
19 around it. We've talked about Special Olympics being
20 housed there. Continue youth and adult football on
21 that site. Other events could be held in the stadium.
22 So back to your question on the lease, we are ready,
23 the recreation master plan has been out there and the
24 City has plans for the whole site, Nardin and the upper
25 field of in excess of six million dollars to improve
26 all that. Now, I think you would understand, just like
27 leases with the Farmer's Market, the City owns that
28 land and the County has a long term lease when it built
29 this building. We would want at least fifty years to
30 put that kind of money in that land. On the other
31 hand, as I told Mr. Waldrep and I have talked to Ms.
32 Floyd, we think it's a great plan, whether this current
33 council deals with it or future council or anybody in
34 the community. We're more than willing to share that.
35 We think people would be excited about it. So there
36 are a lot of plans at work. Ms. Wilson, thank you. We
37 have no problem. If you approve the fifty year lease
38 we're going to sign it and get moving full bore with
39 those improvements. If you decide not to, then we'll
40 work with whoever you ask us to in the future. Does
41 that answer your questions?

42 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, sir. Thank you. Ms.
43 Wilson, you had a comment?

44 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. That's all.

45 MICHAEL THOMPSON: All right. Anyone else?

46 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman?

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer?

48 LARRY GREER: Mr. Moore, would you step
49 back to the mike, please? Excuse me. In conversations
50 with Ms. Floyd yesterday I understand that the City is

1 agreeable to include some type of clause that ensures
2 equal treatment of County teams participating with the
3 City teams in tournament playoffs and championships, is
4 that correct?

5 JOHN MOORE: Sure.

6 LARRY GREER: Thank you.

7 JOHN MOORE: All of our programs are a
8 little different, Mr. Greer, but any team that plays in
9 our regular season, whether they be from Starr, Iva,
10 Pendleton, or even outside the area, they play in our
11 league which most of them do, I say our league because
12 it's City and County, then they play in the post season
13 tournament. I think we've provided a letter to the
14 County Council to that effect.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman? Mr. Greer,
16 are you finished?

17 LARRY GREER: Thank you.

18 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd?

19 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman, I do have a
20 letter to that effect. Pass it, please, down to Mr.
21 Greer because the letter was for him.

22 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We do have a letter?

23 GRACIE FLOYD: Yes.

24 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Very good. Anyone
25 else?

26 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman?

27 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. -- are you done?

28 GRACIE FLOYD: No, I was going to make a
29 statement.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Go ahead. You have the
31 floor.

32 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. Thank you. Yes. Mr.
33 Chairman and fellow council members, this particular
34 site is in district two. And having been there for
35 awhile now since it became vacant from the school, it's
36 just been like an eye sore on that part of the County.
37 I think that this is a wonderful idea to get it back to
38 serving the people of Anderson County and the people in
39 District Two particularly those people in that
40 neighborhood. The fifty year lease is not a factor to
41 me because it takes about that long to get something
42 done and nobody -- yes, it does. When we were getting
43 the -- when we were going to do the Farmer's Market we
44 had -- the City gave us the fifty year lease that we
45 did in order to get that done. Nobody wants to have to
46 go through this kind of thing for five years and then
47 five years again and then five years after that. I
48 think it's a wonderful thing for the County, a
49 wonderful thing for District Two and I'm asking your
50 vote to support this.

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have been notified that
2 time has expired.

3 LARRY GREER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
4 extend by two minutes.

5 MICHAEL THOMPSON: The Chair seconds the motion
6 to extend by two minutes. All in favor of extending by
7 two minutes, please vote. Unanimous. Mr. Greer, I
8 believe you asked for the floor?

9 LARRY GREER: I did. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at this time I move to amend
11 the amendment to the ordinance to include a provision
12 that states that the teams participating from outside
13 the City would be treated in an equal matter in
14 tournament play and championship play as City teams.

15 BOB WALDREP: Second.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a motion to amend the
17 amendment to treat -- basically to treat County teams
18 equally. Second by Mr. Waldrep. We are in discussion
19 on the amendment to the amendment.

20 BOB WALDREP: Mr. Chairman, may I ask Mr.
21 Greer a question? You know, Mr. Greer, had a
22 discussion about the equal treatment and I just wanted
23 to make sure that I was fully understanding the
24 satisfaction that you have with regard to the equal
25 treatment. I thought at one time we were talking about
26 something else and that was maybe the other use of the
27 facility. Was that something else, something different
28 from what we're talking about now on this issue of
29 equal treatment?

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Greer?

31 LARRY GREER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 When we were discussing this previously it also
33 included the fees to participate in these various
34 activities. And, you know, sometimes you can't get
35 everything you ask for and this is one of those times
36 where I think we got as much as we could get and I'm
37 willing to settle for equal treatment of the teams in
38 the tournament and championship play.

39 BOB WALDREP: Okay. I just wanted to make
40 sure that that was something that we're satisfied with.

41 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Okay. Chair calls for the
42 vote on Mr. Greer's amendment to the amendment for
43 County games to be treated equally, is that close
44 enough?

45 LARRY GREER: In tournament and
46 championship ---

47 MICHAEL THOMPSON: In tournament and
48 championship issues. All in favor of Mr. Greer's
49 amendment please vote. Six, zero. Please also -- let
50 me go back a little bit. Please note in the minutes

1 that Mr. Ron Wilson is absent from this meeting. That
2 vote was six, zero. Ms. Floyd's amendment going back
3 to the original fifty year lease as originally
4 presented, all in favor of Ms. Floyd's amendment please
5 vote. Four. Oppose, two. Mr. Waldrep and Ms. Wilson
6 oppose. Anyway, the amendment passes. All in favor of
7 ordinance 2008-058 as amended by the two previous
8 amendments, please vote. Five. Opposed?

9 CINDY WILSON: I'm abstaining. Thank you.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Zero. Vote is five, zero
11 and one with Ms. Wilson abstaining.

12 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman?

13 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

14 BILL MCABEE: At this time I move
15 reconsideration of Ordinance 2008-058.

16 MICHAEL THOMPSON: A motion to reconsider. Do
17 we need -- we need a second.

18 GRACIE FLOYD: I second it.

19 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second. All in
20 favor to reconsider Ordinance 2008-058, please vote.
21 Four. Oppose, one. Abstain, one. Four, one, one, so
22 we are considering, with Mr. Waldrep in the opposition
23 and Ms. Wilson -- no, I'm sorry, backwards. With Ms.
24 Wilson in the opposition and Mr. Waldrep abstaining.
25 But anyway, we are considering, and we are back into
26 discussion. Do we need to talk about this again?
27 Chair calls for the vote on Ordinance 2008-058. All in
28 favor please vote. Four, five. Opposed. Abstain.
29 Five, zero, one. The same as -- okay. Now we can move
30 forward I hope. Ordinance 2008-060, an ordinance
31 amendment Chapter 55 of the Anderson County Code of
32 Ordinances pertaining to personnel policies and
33 procedures of Anderson County and other matters related
34 thereto. Chair moves to approve. Is there a second?

35 BILL MCABEE: Second.

36 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We have a second, Mr.

37 McAbee. It's yours. Do you have anything to say?

38 BILL MCABEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It has
39 been pointed out to me that we have an uneven number of
40 holidays each year. That is, that there is not the
41 same number of holidays every year because the general
42 election day is a holiday but it is only a holiday
43 every other year, the odd numbered years. And at this
44 time in the interest of evening up the number of
45 holidays every year I move to amend Ordinance 2008-060
46 to -- so that the Good Friday holiday is only
47 applicable in years in which the employees do not
48 receive the general election holiday.

49 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham, would that
50 be odd or even years? I think it would be odd years.

1 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: I believe Good Friday will
2 be on odd numbered years.

3 BILL MCABEE: Correct.

4 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So, Mr. McAbee
5 moved to amend the ordinance to include Good Friday in
6 odd years and in even years they will get the general
7 election day.

8 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chair, I second that
9 motion.

10 MICHAEL THOMPSON: And it is seconded by Ms.
11 Wilson. So am I correct on my motion -- on his
12 amendment? Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Martin, somebody?

13 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman. Point of
14 order. I second that one.

15 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.

16 GRACIE FLOYD: You said Wilson.

17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I
18 do apologize.

19 GRACIE FLOYD: It doesn't matter. Just for the
20 sake of the record.

21 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd seconded it. Now,
22 I am correct. Okay. On odd years Good Friday, even
23 years they would get the general election day. Okay.
24 And we have a second.

25 CINDY WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

26 MICHAEL THOMPSON: So we are in discussion and
27 Ms. Wilson wants the floor.

28 CINDY WILSON: Thank you. I just wanted to
29 ask a question. Did anyone in our county government
30 get a list of all the counties in the state of South
31 Carolina and what holidays they observe? I understand
32 some counties have far less paid holidays than Anderson
33 County. But as there was not sufficient time with the
34 holidays and a lot of closings, I didn't have an
35 opportunity to call the Association of Counties myself
36 to find that out.

37 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman.

38 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee?

39 BILL MCABEE: Well, I did have time to do
40 that and I did it before I introduced this. Most
41 counties in South Carolina do give Good Fridays.
42 Actually most counties in South Carolina give more
43 holidays than Anderson County. In fact, many counties
44 give their employees their birthday as a holiday and
45 Easter Monday as a holiday. So, no, we are actually
46 near the bottom of the list in number of holidays given
47 our employees and most counties give Good Friday.
48 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Chairman?

50 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Ms. Floyd.

1 GRACIE FLOYD: Thank you. I'd like to ask
2 a question of Mr. Cunningham.

3 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Sure. Go right ahead.

4 GRACIE FLOYD: Mr. Cunningham, with this
5 odd even year thing now would that be a stress on the
6 County? Just how would that affect the County and the
7 budgets and the finances and all that?

8 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Cunningham.

9 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: Ms. Floyd, Mr. Chairman
10 and Council, because we have a listed number of
11 holidays already what this would do in essence would
12 simply be every other year to keep that number the same
13 so we would have no net impact because we already have
14 those holidays.

15 GRACIE FLOYD: We would have what now?

16 MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: We already have fifteen, I
17 believe, is the number of listed holidays, but we don't
18 have that every year, so all this would do would simply
19 be to keep the number of holidays the same that we have
20 listed. So it should be no impact on us as it relates
21 to finances or management of that.

22 GRACIE FLOYD: Okay. No net impact on the
23 County. I received a telephone call yesterday from a
24 citizen who was concerned. I thank her for calling. I
25 thank her for expressing her opinions. But I want to
26 ensure her -- I don't know if she's here today or not,
27 but I wanted to ensure her that there is no impact.
28 This would be no impact on the County. Okay. Thank
29 you.

30 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Thank you. All in favor --
31 the Chair calls for the vote on Mr. McAbee's amendment.
32 All in favor please vote. Four. Oppose, one.
33 Abstain, one. The vote is four, one and one with
34 Waldrep voting no and Ms. Wilson abstaining. All in
35 favor of Ordinance 2008-060 as amended please vote.
36 Four. Oppose, two. The vote is four, two with Mr.
37 Waldrep and Ms. Wilson in the opposition. The
38 ordinance has passed as amended.

39 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman?

40 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee.

41 BILL MCABEE: At this time I move
42 reconsideration of Ordinance 2008-060.

43 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Is there a second? Is there
44 a second to reconsider?

45 GRACIE FLOYD: Second.

46 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I have a second to
47 reconsider. All in favor to reconsider Ordinance 2008-
48 060, please vote. Three. Opposed? Three. The motion
49 to reconsider dies. We are adjourned.

50 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

1 MICHAEL THOMPSON: We are adjourned.
2 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman, I've got to
3 present this to you.
4 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I thank you for the plaque,
5 Mr. McAbee, but we are adjourned. Correct, Mr. -- the
6 audience will be quiet. Mr. Martin.
7 TOM MARTIN: Mr. Chairman, the conduct of
8 council is always up ---
9 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. Chief.
10 TOM MARTIN: The conduct of council is
11 always up to council. If council chooses to amend the
12 agenda they may do so.
13 BILL MCABEE: Mr. Chairman?
14 MICHAEL THOMPSON: Mr. McAbee, I just presume
15 you just give that to me privately, you know.
16 BILL MCABEE: Thank you.
17 MICHAEL THOMPSON: I'm not into, you know,
18 fanfare. But thank you. We are adjourned.
19
20 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:27 P.M.