

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Council Retreat - Saturday, February 10, 2001 - 8:00 a.m.

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

M I N U T E S

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

PRESENT

Chairman Clint Wright - District #4 - Presiding

G. Fred Tolly - District #1

Gracie S. Floyd - District #2

Larry E. Greer - District #3

Vice Chairman Mike Holden - District #5

William C. Dees - District #6

M. Cindy Wilson - District #7

Joey Preston - Administrator

Tom Martin - County Attorney

Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council

The retreat began with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Chairman Clint Wright called the retreat to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Anderson County Sports and Entertainment Center.

Mr. Fred Tolly gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Wright read several quotes and Mr. Dennis Lambries from the Center of Governance, Institute of Public Affairs was introduced as the Facilitator of the meeting. Mr. Preston explained that the reason for the meeting was to provide him and his staff a "blue print/road map" for next year and also would help provide a good start with development of the 2001-2002 budget.

Mr. Mike Holden had to leave at this time.

Chairman Wright asked Mr. Larry Greer to explain the next item on the agenda. Mr. Greer stated that he had contacted the State Climatology Office and asked them to do a presentation on the drought in Anderson County and the effects on the water table. Mr. Milt Brown from the State Climate Office gave a presentation to council. He said that it looked like the county was in for another challenge this summer. He said that the National Drought Monitor showed that the coast of South Carolina was best conditions; however, as you go inland it is abnormally dry. Lake Hartwell was at 654' January 1, 2000 and January 1, 2001 the water level was 5' lower than last year (649'). He said that a well in Anderson County lowest monitored was 4.41' last year it was 2.71' and this year. Eastern parts of the state and along the coast are in an incipient drought, which is the first stage, and the rest of the state is in a moderate drought. He explained the new record lows for the streams in Anderson and South Carolina. There were more forest fires in January 2001 than anytime in the last 15 years. We are under LaNina now which means we are dryer than normal wintertime, he said. It has been forecasted that there will be nine hurricanes and one will be a category three or higher during the hurricane season which is June 1 - November 30. There will be a dry spell climatologically sometime in May to the maybe the middle of June. The summer will be hotter than normal and will deplete the moisture in the soil. This was the fourth year not good for agriculture.

The following changes were recommended during the retreat to the Vision statement. Changes are in bold.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anderson County will be recognized as one of the most open and progressive counties in South Carolina, welcoming citizen involvement in all we do. The positive image of Anderson County will **"initiate a high quality of life"**. To attract new citizens who will bring with them new ideas and methods to initiate choices for a high quality of life.

ENVIRONMENT

Okay

Page 3 - February 10, 2001 - Retreat

SEWER

Change the word "SEWER" to " **COUNTY-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE**"

Page 3 - February 10, 2001 - Retreat

LIBRARY

Remove first sentence: "Anderson County will have a new main library and will be implementing a ... facilities."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Add words in bold: "Anderson county's ... nurturing new industries that will improve the choices of quality of life of out citizens. Last sentence: leave as is.

FINANCIAL

Add: "will" after the first word of the sentence: "We will provide the services our citizens ... expenditures."

RECREATION

Okay

COUNCIL/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Okay

SPORTS/ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

The Sports and Entertainment Complex will be viewed as the cornerstone for attracting events that improve the quality of life for Anderson County citizens. It shall continue to be a significant factor.... County. (Add words in bold.)

PUBLIC SAFETY

We will provide effective emergency response through a state-of-the-art centralized dispatch system. Public safety and law enforcement personnel are continuously achieving national certification and are retained in service by the County. (Add words in bold.)

Add new category to vision statement:

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Anderson County will develop, maintain, and closely monitor relations with all other levels of government and public sector bodies affecting the people of Anderson County to such a degree as to insure that the overall best interest of the people of the County are met, and if those best interests cannot be insured to provide the greatest degree of education and information possible to the people.

Anderson County Council Priorities for the Year 2005

Change of heading: Change actors to "participants"

Emergency Medical Services - move down the list (was priority #1)

Change Action needed: Delete wording and replace with: The EMS Commission will continue to administer uniform policies, pay scales, and uniform standards of practice for EMS squads and continue to monitor, upgrade and evaluate the squads.

#2 County Planning - leave high on list. Under timetable change first section to March 2001, second section to Ongoing.

Mr. Wright presented a "User Friendly" package that was presented by Mr. Dan McKinney, a member of the Planning Commission, that would be helpful to be handed out by the Planning Department to all citizens at zoning meetings. This explains what the citizens need to do for zoning, etc.

#3 Solid Waste Management, Recycling, and Litter control - Keep high on priority list. Last sentence under "Action Needed": as the last sentence: **"Need mandated public service on second and any subsequent offenses."**

#4 Roads "action needed" middle of paragraph - change the following sentence: Annually, acquire a list of pending state projects. To: ***Continue to acquire a list of pending state projects.***

#5 change project/goal name to INFRASTRUCTURE

Changes under "Action Needed" take out the last sentence, add: Implement water study to implement and develop a plan, start water quality assessment plan: Long Term: carry on with extending the water loop in phases (Belton, Honea Path, etc.), The County should begin meeting with whoever will be controlling the Duke Water System. The county should begin searching for grants that may be available for the water loop. Add: investigate what technology may be available. During the discussion of Infrastructure, Mr. Greer presented a hand out concerning water. He said that one of Anderson County's next critical issues would be water supply systems in Anderson County. He explained that it was imperative that the County needs to enlarge and improve the countywide water delivery system. He said that Anderson County, members of the Delegation and the water providers need to work together to develop a plan to meet the water needs in all of the people of Anderson county. Another area that the county is in need of improving is the county's road and bridge systems. Mr. Greer proposed that the local option sales tax or some other method be found to fund water system improvements, a road and bridge improvement plan and property tax relief for property taxes used to pay for school bond payments for school building construction.

#6 Recreation - Action Needed: Delete existing sentence and add this one: "Continue implementation of Anderson County's Recreation Master Plan" (Timetable: Ongoing)

#7 Sports and Entertainment Complex - add as the last sentence under Action needed: "Complete landscaping."

#8 County Library - Delete first sentence: Complete construction ... by 4/20/00.
Add: Enter into phase 2 for countywide libraries.

#9 County buildings and Grounds Action Needed - all have been accomplished - delete project #9

#10 Employee/Council Relations - add: Initiate employee incentives to insure continued employee retention and satisfaction. Add: Insure that all members of the County are being included in the personnel process and the county will adhere to the EEOC.

Council recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Wright called the meeting back to order at 12:40 p.m.

#11 Economic Development - Mr. Wright presented a plan for Council to consider that would outline the county's economic development strategy and create special incentives to encourage specific industries to locate in specific area. They also agreed with the idea to expand the types of businesses eligible for incentives, such as white-collar, service jobs. Council members agreed upon more diversity in economic development efforts. Make the following changes to the existing Action Needed column: "Use economic development incentives to recruit targeted industrial sectors and encourage operations to locate in targeted portions of the County. Continue working with private sector partners for the establishment and marketing of the industrial parks. Implement the targeted marketing study. Build upon relationships with existing industries. Seek funding to lengthen the airport runway to support economic development. Construct a water tank to serve the Airport Industrial Park. Proceed with the construction of the Anderson Farmers Market." Move these sentences to #13 Quality of Life: "Emphasize new choices of life assets in marketing the County, such as the library, YMCA, and Recreation and Entertainment Complex."

#12 Centralized Communications -

#13 - Quality of Life - add sentence from Priority #11, under participates add at the end: with all major population's areas, communities of interest.

#14 Citizens Involvement - change Project description - Enhance opportunities for citizen involvement in local government. Add to Participants: community organizations. Under action needed: Add put together a promotional plan

#15 Human Relations - okay

#16 Consideration of Local Option Sales Tax - tie in water with one cent sales tax.

Ms. Gina Smith gave a presentation on the vehicle property tax and the impact that this will cause. She said with the decrease the county will loose \$3,647,836 and schools \$6,403,838 for a total of \$10,051,674.

Page 7 - February 10, 2001 - Retreat

#17 - Boards & Commissions - delete entire section and add: Set up training sessions for all appointees. Timetable: March 01

#18 Delete under Action Needed "Adopt an ordinance...appointments, etc." Delete last sentence: "Prepare for ... 7 members." Add: Redraw lines for new census figures.

#19 okay

Mr. Bob Daly advised the County that they should begin planning for expansion of the Detention Center. The old Detention Center was built in 1957 and for 40 years nothing was added. 165 beds were added @ 3.5 million dollars. It cost Adnerson County \$11,000 per year to house an inmate. For efficient law enforcement in Anderson County you need more beds.

The retreat ended at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL