ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – June 21, 2005 – 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

[redacted]

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

Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd, Presiding
Vice Chairman Larry E. Greer - District #3
G. Fred Tolly – District #1
Bill McAbee – District #4
Michael Thompson – District #5
William C. Dees – District #6
Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman - Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy – Deputy Clerk to Council

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

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 7:10 p.m.

Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd called the meeting to order and Mr. Bill McAbee gave the invocation. Everyone pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Ms. M. Cindy Wilson moved to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2005 meeting and Mr. McAbee seconded. Mr. Thompson gave a list of corrections needed; Ms. Wilson also gave several needed changes, Mr. Dees went over several typographical errors with the Clerk, and Mr. Greer asked that on page 5 lines 2,3,and 4 be checked for accuracy. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes with the above-mentioned corrections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Matters - No citizens signed up to address Council on agenda matters.

Mr. David Scott, Human Resources Committee Chair presented Ms. Sharon Nicometo from the Community Relations Division as Employee for the month of June 2005. Mr. Scott said that the May Employee of the Month had a conflict and was unable to attend. Council commended Ms. Nicometo for her service to Anderson County. Ms. Nicometo was presented a gift certificate, and a plaque.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Larry E. Greer said that over the past six weeks – 2 months Council had gone through the process of developing a budget for Anderson County and in his opinion it has been one of the most thorough processes since he's sat on Council. He said that he wanted to make it very clear that at no time was he ever considering a 6-mil tax increase. At the last council meeting, there were some comments made concerning how council arrived at the compromise for this budget. At the last Council meeting, he stated that he asked those in his office to leave and he closed the door and he pondered the budget. He pondered where he thought he could go with the budget. He said he's since been called a liberal and been compared to John Kerry for his position on the budget. He said he was in a very awkward and difficult position because the best as he could determine the people in his council district were almost split down the middle of what they wanted. About 50% didn't want any tax increase and 50% wanted some type help to go to the sheriff's office. He arrived at the possibility of offering the 2-mil tax increase compromise and reducing the general fund budget by 1 mil. He stated again that there was never

any hidden agenda, never any back room meetings to make this happen. He said he didn't do the budget rather he offered an idea – a compromise. Declared

Chairperson Floyd presented Resolution #R2005-027 – a resolution in support of the issuance by the South Carolina Jobs-Economic Development Authority (JEDA) of its Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Tri-County Technical College Foundation, LLC Project) Series 2005, Pursuant to the provisions of Title 41, Chapter 43, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding $8,000,000. A public hearing was held and the following individuals spoke. Mr. Brooks Brown of 700 Woodlake said that this was an $8,000,000 bond for Tri-County Technical College, which requires governmental approval and doesn't affect the County's taxes in any way. The public hearing was closed. Mr. McAbee moved to approve and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Floyd presented Resolution #R2005-024 – 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; granting encroachment permits as to such Anderson County Road; and other matters related thereto (Campbell Road C-15-160B). Mr. Greer moved to approve and Mr. McAbee seconded. Mr. Holt Hopkins explained the abandonment and he recommended that Council abandon the property. Vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS: – No appointments were made.

REQUESTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mr. Tolly moved to appropriate $2,000 to the Good Neighbor Cupboard and Mr. McAbee seconded. The funds to come from District 1's recreation account. Vote was unanimous.

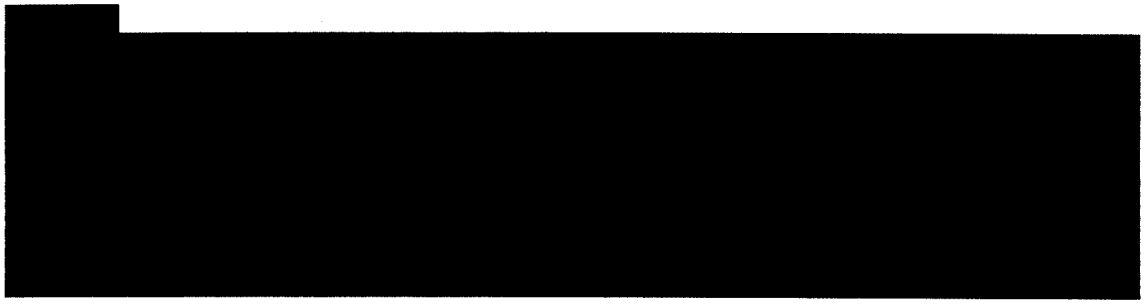
Mr. Tolly moved to appropriate $1,000 to the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home for their recreation fund. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Floyd moved to appropriate $2,000 to the Arts Council Summer Youth Program and the funds to come from District 2's Recreation account. Mr. McAbee seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate $400 from the District 3's Recreation Account to the Iva American Legion Post for their July 4th celebration. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous.

District 4 – None
District 5 – None
District 6 – None
District 7 – None

BEAVERDAM SEWER LINE QUESTIONS: Ms. M. Cindy Wilson said that the request, which was typed and mailed, to the Council office on June 15 was a request that the following items be on the agenda for June 21st meeting. "BRIEF EXPLANATION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, DEWEY PEARSON, AND ENGINEERS OF DESIGN SOUTH REGARDING EXPENSES, FINES LEVIED, AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN ON BEAVERDAM SEWER LINE PHASES 1A AND 1B. THE ADMINISTRATOR TO DECIDE HOW MUCH TIME HE WILL NEED." Not only she have a total refusal of the questions answers there were other situations that arose, she said. She read a request that was made to Mr. Tom Martin regarding the United States Army Corp of Engineer's Cease and Desist Order (3/16/05) concerning Anderson county's unauthorized activities and unlawful discharge and filling of wetlands on Beaverdam Phases 1A and 1B and the County Administrator's refusal to answer related questions. The letter reads:



~~She read the letter, which is on file in the Clerk to Council's office.~~ She said she still has not gotten answers. She encouraged all members of Council to look at the organizational chart. She said that council's bosses are the voters of Anderson County; the only employees of council are the Clerks to Council and the Administrator. These said she has been advised that these are very serious matters that are being reviewed by a number of entities and yet Council does not have answers. She said she requests some enlightenment.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

a. Letters of Appreciation:
   1. To: Mr. Tommy Seigler From: Ms. Jan Reidenbach
   2. To: Mr. Joey Preston From: Ms. Laurie H. Ashley, Meals on Wheels Executive Director
   3. To: Mr. Joey Preston From: Major General Harry B. Burchstead, Jr.
   4. To: Mr. Tommy Thompson From: Mr. Steven A. McDade, Director Abbeville County Office of Emergency Management
   5. To: Mr. Tommy Thompson From: Mr. Phil Little
   6. To: Mr. Tommy Thompson From: Chief Billy Gibson, Anderson County Fire
   7. To: Mr. Michael Miller From: Chief Jonathan Tingen, Powdersville Fire Department

b. Minutes: Anderson County Transportation Division Safety Meeting

c. Reports:
   1. Environmental Enforcement, Animal Control – May 2005 Report
   2. 9-1-1 Dispatched Calls Report
   3. Building and Codes May 2005 report

d. Newspaper Article on Richland County Budget
e. S.C. Statehouse Report
f. Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve
g. Savannah River Basin Task Force correspondence
h. 2005-2006 Workers' Compensation Renewal
i. State Mandated Cost-of-Living Increases
j. Letter from Treasurer-Elect regarding budget cuts
k. DHEC Kitchen Inspection at Detention Center
l. Clemson Area Transit Ridership Calculated
m. Correspondence – Sheriff's Office FY 06 Budget
n. Justice Assistance Grant Program for Anderson County Sheriff's Office
o. Funding for Sheriff's office – Letter to Mr. Bill Dees From: Charley D. Hill
p. Information requested by Ms. M. Cindy Wilson
q. Anderson County Job Market Analysis and Comparison
r. Departmental Transfers for the month of January and May 2005

Chairperson Floyd asked Mr. Preston to check the members of the Savannah River Basin because correspondence she received did not have her name on it and she would like it corrected.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Other Matters. Mr. Archie Morgan coming as a private citizen asked Council to think about the Sheriff's budget and where the law enforcement in Anderson County was now as opposed to years ago. He asked Council to evaluate the sheriff's budget if he had 80% of what he asked for. Mr. Ed Jean of 1212 Crestview Road said that he felt like it was going to be a great, new fiscal year. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Preston and staff for their accomplishments on the budget. He also congratulated Council. He suggested that the budget process begin on April 1. He suggested that the video tape recording man raise his hand and ask the Chair to stop the meeting so he can change the tape so that no footage of the meeting is lost. Mr. Dan Harvell asked council to keep in mind that as long as council stays on track the budgets will continue to grow and we'll be at 150 million before anyone knows it. He said he agreed with Mr. Jean to begin the budget process earlier.

REMARKS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Wilson said that debate and public comment regarding public policy is always the healthiest approach. She said she appreciated that Council had more of that during the process. She said she is

still lacking some information such as where Council authorized the Stitchery purchase and he has the other questions. She asked Council to join her in requesting that also.

Mr. Dees said that council does spend a lot of time in the budgetary process and some of it is necessary and maybe perhaps most of it. He asked Council support in the issue to ask Mr. Preston to look at Council doing a two-year budget – that way the citizens would know – Council would know and the county would be locked in except for any emergency issue for two years. He said he would appreciate a report back to Council concerning this. He asked Mr. Preston to look at the County doing the videotaping. [redacted] ~~Mr. Dees congratulated Representative Dan Cooper for being elected chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He complimented U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham for voting his conscience on the issue regarding Federal Judges.~~

Mr. Thompson he said with passing Resolution #R2005-027 the County was one step closer in placing a Tri-County Technical Campus in his district. He said a company from Florida would occupy the Smith Lab on 29 sitting vacant for years. He said the trip he made to Columbia he was able to acquire $235,000 for the repaving of Centerville Road from 28 Bypass to 187. He said that if President Bush does not veto the Transportation Bill a million dollars is coming to district 5 for bridges.

Mr. McAbee agrees that Council should start the budgetary process earlier. He said the State begins their process in December. It would be a more open process for the citizens and maybe easier on County Council.

Mr. Greer said that he agrees that the County may need to start the budget process earlier. He asked Nick with the Independent Mail that he check his numbers on what the tax increase would mean to the Sheriff's office. Today's article said that his increase would bring him 3.2 million. Mr. Greer said that the correct number is more like 1.5 million. Mr. Greer said that he also has some money in the Transportation Bill if it passes. He said that he hoped the Water grant is moving forward also. He said that Anderson County was doing well and all districts are moving forward and improving.

Mr. Tolly said that the 11-year-old boy missing in the wilderness in Utah had been found and was in good spirits and good health. He said that the majority of Council wanted to do something for the Sheriff's department, and the majority wanted to cut the budget some and he's happy that both were done.

Chairperson Floyd said that it was suggested that the County begin budget preparations in January/February. She reminded Council that the budget was cut to the "bone". She asked Mr. Hopkins way she didn't get in on the bridge money for Broadway Lake. She said that Amity Road would be receiving repairs by the State by the end of next year. She said that she currently has 14 different community task forces.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to County Council