

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – February 3, 2004 – 6:00 p.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 meeting in compliance with guidelines set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act*.

PRESENT

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

(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, February 3, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Clint Wright called the meeting to order and then asked Council member Gracie S. Floyd to give the invocation. Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Bill Dees moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2004 meeting and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Wright recognized a Boy Scout Troop from Anderson First Assembly of God Church. Scout Leader Jerry Wheeler was also recognized.

Mr. Dees moved to approve Resolution #R2004-003 – a resolution memorializing United States Army Captain Kimberly Hampton for giving her life in serving and defending the United States of America; and other matters related thereto. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous. Mr. Dees presented a framed copy to the parents of Captain Hampton and told them that Captain Kimberly Hampton was certainly their biological child but she was also our child – a child of the State of South Carolina and the United States of America.

Citizen Comments:

Mr. Brooks Brown said that he read in the *Greenville News* that certain documents posted on-line included personal identifiable information such as social security numbers. He said that a simple policy directive would correct this. Instead of the whole document being put on line – just the index of the document would be recommended.

Mr. Dan Harvell, on behalf of the Anderson County Taxpayers Association, thanked Mr. Wright for agreeing to come on the radio tomorrow. He also commended Mr. Dees for his good job as chairman during 2003.

Mr. Brandon Grace introduced Ms. Suzanne McMahan as Employee of the Year (2003). Ms. McMahan was congratulated and Council thanked her for her outstanding job performance. Mr. Matt Davis was announced as January – Employee of the Year. Mr. Matt Davis is an employee of the Economic Development Department. Council also congratulated Mr. Davis.

Mr. Gray Suggs with Elliott Davis Accounting Firm introduced two associates: Senior Manager Tom McNeese, and Laura Smith a Share Holder out of the Greenwood office. He asked Ms. Smith to explain the 2002-2003 year ending audit. Ms. Smith called Council's attention to page 13 and 14, which is the External Auditor's Opinion. She said the audit was unqualified opinion on the financial statements, which is the highest level of financial reporting opinion that the County could receive. What this says is that the financial statements included in the document are fairly presented in all materials respects. Other details of the audit were explained. She stated that the General Fund Balance at June 30 unreserved – undesignated was approximately 10.7 million dollars. Mr. Suggs said that Ms. Wilson sent her a letter with 6 points and he responded to her. Ms. Wilson read on page 3 in reference to the Landfill Host fee said that consequently the litigation brought on by Ms. Wilson and others have cost Anderson County lost revenue and associated legal fees that was spent to defend the sale of the landfill. Ms. Wilson said that she has not been involved in any legal action of the sort so she required that the state be retracted. He said that if she needs further explanation he was available to discuss further. Council received as information.

Chairman Wright read second reading of Ordinance #2004-001 – an ordinance imposing a prohibition on certain vehicular traffic on Airy Springs Road (C-2-40), Browning Road (C-7-16) and Paulan Road (C-6-25); and other matters related thereto. A public hearing was held and no comments were received. Mr. Dees moved to approve Ms. Wilson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Wright read second reading of Ordinance #2004-003 –an ordinance authorizing the amendment of Anderson County supplemental ordinance #2003-044 (LINWA, LLC Project – Special Source Revenue Bond); redesignating the bond of 2003 as the bond of 2004; revising the maturity schedule of the bond; and other matters relating thereto. A public hearing was held. Mr. Michael Thompson of 650 Hunters Lane said that he was opposed to the ordinance because in his opinion it was bad business to use public money for private gain. The facility is supposed to be an assisted living facility – there are numerous assisted living facilities in the county that were established without taxpayers' dollars. He asked Council to reject the ordinance. Ms. Lib Peace also spoke. She said that the Legacy Retirement Home is not tied into the LINWA Special Source Revenue bond. She said that she understands that the LINWA is paying for the fee-in-lieu of tax. Mr. Dees moved to approve and Ms. Floyd seconded. Ms. Wilson said that the Legacy has a 501(3) C and has the highest rent structure of any apartment complex in the County. The LINWA project, which is adjoining and was originally part of this property benefits from 11.5 million dollars low interest JEDA loans, she said. She said that the County has borrowed \$975,000 for infrastructure that does directly benefit the Legacy in that – to run a sewer line a few feet as opposed to a couple of miles is certainly a benefit. The Legacy has low paying jobs, with high rent and is a very lucrative business that pays no taxes. She said she was not opposed to what they are developing – just opposed to paying taxes that benefit the development, she said. Chairman Wright said that the LINWA, LLC tax credit on investment is different than your normal "run of the mill" fee-in-lieu, second – the County has already voted in favor of this project one time before. Mr. Holden told Mr. Thompson that if his taxes went up – only a small amount came from the County Council and he needs to realize that about 73% of the increase came from the schools. Mr. Greer said that he has opposed the LINWA incentive package from the beginning on principal. He said he would continue to vote in the opposition. Vote was five in favor and two opposed (Greer, Wilson). Motion carried.

Ms. Wilson moved to reappoint Mr. Dan McKinney to the Planning Board and Mr. Lawton McIntosh to the Tax Appeals Board for another term. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Tolly moved to reappoint the following individuals:

- Mr. Tom Allan – Broadway Lake Advisory Committee
- Mr. John Brown – Human Relations Council
- Mr. Fred Whitten – Museum Board
- Mr. John Pete Stathakis – Sports and Entertainment Center
- Mr. Roy J. Hess – Sports and Entertainment Center

Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to reappoint the following:

- Mr. Dora Ruth Adams – Anderson Oconee Behavioral Health
- Mr. Norville Spearman – Airport Commission
- Mr. Paul Wigington – Board of Assessment Appeals
- Mr. Brian Goodwin - Construction Board of Adjustments & Appeals
- Mr. Dick Bales – Economic Advisory Board
- Ms. Annie Williams – Human Relations Council
- Ms. Frances Davenport Evans - Museum Advisory Committee
- Ms. Gena Merritt – Parks & Recreation
- Mr. Alva Goodwin – Planning Commission
- Mr. Danny Tollison – Sports & Entertainment Center

Mr. Greer seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Tolly moved to appropriate \$500 from District #1 Recreation Account for the T.L. Hanna Athletic Booster Club to help with their annual Spring Stinger Car Show. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate \$2,000 from District #3 Recreation Account to help the Grove Fire Department funding for truck repairs. They have received a FEMA grant of \$18,500 of which the matching portion must be used to repair the truck. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Holden asked Mr. Holt Hopkins to give a progress report on the Airline/Abbeville Hwy. Intersection. He said that the SCDOT has committee to put up a traffic light.

Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$6,376 for a sidewalk project on Broad Avenue in Honea Path. The funds to come from District #7 paving account. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$4,730 to help assist the Town of Pelzer with a drainage project at the Pelzer Park. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Holden, Council voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of Smith Ridge Subdivision, Phase I, Woodson Lake Subdivision, Phase III into the County road system.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Certificates and Training: Ms. Tina Rogers – Risk Management Course

- b. Letters of Appreciation: For: Mr. Aaron Smart's Work Crew (Mr. Phil Brown, Mr. Calvin Scott, Mr. Frank Chester, Mr. Gerome Telford, Mr. Wilson James, Mr. Anthony Williams, Mr. Joey Worley, and Mr. James Leonard) From: Ms. Martha Passailaigue
- c. Reports:
 - 1. Detention Center Litter Report of January 5-8, 2004, January 12-19, 2004
 - 2. Quarterly Report for Appalachian Council of Governments
- d. Minutes:
 - 1. Tri-County Transportation Study November 19, 2003 meeting
 - 2. Airport Meeting - December 1, 2003
 - 3. Transportation Safety Meeting of January 9, 2004
- e. Proposed Speculative Building at Anderson Airport Business Park
- f. Article on public transit
- g. Detention Center - Population Growth - Budget Implications
- h. Grant received for 2 automatic external Defibrillators
- i. Richey Order - Re: Catrina Lane
- j. Letter from Michael D. Thompson: Re: Letter to Editor
- k. Letter from Department of Justice - Pendleton Precinct Zoning Referendum
- l. Federal Aviation Administration - lease to Anderson County
- m. Budget Transfers

Remarks:

Ms. Wilson: "Just some house keeping matters. I've had phone calls from the Friendship area this week, they still have not had written confirmation that the Convenience center will remain open and requested that I ask about that and also if we could get an accounting of all appropriations that have been made to the Friendship Walking track. Evidently there's been some snafus - they have not received their money. They will be meeting with Mr. Newton, Thursday to go over some improvements - and we need to know how much money they have been allocated. I know I've made a number of appropriations and they haven't found those funds yet. Second of all - February 9 will be the due date for the legal expense vendor files access as per my formal Freedom of Information Request. Thank You."

Mr. Holden - none

Mr. Tolly - none

Mr. Dees - Mr. Dees said that he would like to say to the Hampton Family that they are parents to a true American hero. She gave her life for us and he thanks the Lord for her presents and where she is tonight.

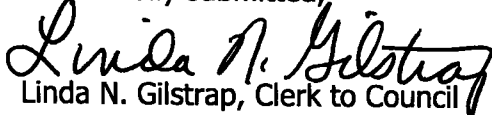
Ms. Floyd said she was pleased to read the Airport minutes and the fact that the county has hired two part-time mechanics. Ms. Floyd also talked about a District #2 Community meeting that was held and the turnout was great - nearly 100 people came.

Mr. Greer said that he received a letter from a bidder from Anderson County talking about Local Preference and it maybe time for Council to look at. Also at the last meeting the QRV came up and in his opinion this is a life or death issue. He said that he has been involved in emergency services for a good number of years and Council needs to keep an open mind as council pursues this. He said that he has two goals - one is the QRV and one is that the County provide a quick response time to everyone in the County.

Mr. Wright asked Council to be thinking about a date for a joint work session with the Planning commission tentatively set for February 23. Also a date for the Tri-County Technical College's budget presentation was mentioned.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council