

MINUTES
LEXINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 22, 2005

Lexington County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 in Council Chambers, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Chairman Rucker presided; Mr. Jeffcoat gave the invocation; Mr. Derrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending: Bruce E. Rucker William C. Billy Derrick
 George H. Smokey Davis Debra B. Summers
 Bobby C. Keisler Johnny W. Jeffcoat
 John W. Carrigg, Jr. Joseph W. Owens
 M. Todd Cullum

Also attending: Art Brooks, County Administrator; Tim James, Deputy County Administrator, Larry Porth; Finance Director/Deputy County Administrator; Katherine Doucett, Personnel Director/Deputy County Administrator; John Fechtel, Director of Public Works/Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Anderson, County Attorney; other staff members, citizens of the county and representatives of the media.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

Appointment of Parliamentarian - Mr. Rucker appointed Mr. Derrick as the Parliamentarian.

Lexington County Recreation & Aging Commission - Letter of Support for a RFP Through the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging - Jay Criscione, Executive Director - Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Derrick authorizing the Chairman to execute a letter supporting a RFP through the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging for the Lexington County Recreation and Aging Commission.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting; no discussion occurred.

In Favor: Mr. Rucker Mr. Jeffcoat
 Mr. Derrick Mr. Davis
 Ms. Summers Mr. Keisler
 Mr. Carrigg Mr. Owens
 Mr. Cullum

Employee Recognition - Art Brooks, County Administrator - Mr. Brooks stated he received a letter from a citizen praising the Assessor's office for the quality of service he received.

Resolution - Larry Livingston - Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Derrick to approve the resolution.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	

Appointments - Assessment Appeals Board - Mr. L. Wayne Arnold - Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to appoint Mr. L. Wayne Arnold to the Assessment Appeals Board.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Derrick
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Health Services District Board of Directors - Ms. Heather Jackson - On behalf of Chairman Rucker, a motion was made by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Cullum to appoint Ms. Heather Jackson to the Health Services District Board of Directors.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	

Building Codes Board of Appeals - Ashton A. "Bo" Shuler - A motion was made by Ms. Summers, seconded by Mr. Cullum to appoint Mr. Ashton Shuler as the at large member for the Building Codes Board of Appeals.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Cullum	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Keisler

Mr. Jeffcoat Mr. Carrigg
Mr. Owens

Accommodations Tax Advisory Board - Mr. Rucker asked those who have vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board to please make appointments as soon as possible.

Bids/Purchases/RFPs - Mr. Derrick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat that the following bids/purchases/RFPs be approved.

Implementation of the Web Based Version of Banner - Information Services - Information Services requested the purchase of one (1) Dell server, one (1) Microsoft license, one (1) Oracle server license and technical currency for the implementation of a web based version of Banner. The Dell server will be purchased directly from the manufacturer (Dell Computer) through South Carolina State Contract Number 05-S6656-A11104, the Microsoft license will be purchased from Software House International through South Carolina State Contract Number 01-S4072-A7243, and the Oracle server license and technical currency will be purchased through SCT/ACS through the County contract.

The cost of the Dell server is \$2,735.79, the cost of the Microsoft license is \$493.30, the cost of the Oracle server license is \$8,400.00, and the cost of the technical currency is \$2,000.00. Total cost including applicable sales tax is \$13,629.09.

One (1) 750 GPM Tanker and (1) 1500 GPM Pumper - Public Safety/Fire Service - Competitive bids were solicited and advertised for one (1) 750 GPM tanker and one (1) 1500 GPM pumper for Public Safety/Fire Service. One (1) bid and (1) no bid were received.

The bid document was set up to provide pricing for pumper equipment as an option. A replacement schedule has been established to replace aging tankers as well as increase their water carrying capacity. The new tanker will carry 1500 gallons of water instead of 1000 gallons, which in some cases reduces the number of tankers that are needed to obtain needed water supply. The current pumper in service was purchased in 1975 and has pumping capacities of 750 GPM to 1000 GPM. These pumpers have an anticipated life expectancy of approximately 12-15 years. Based on these facts, a replacement schedule has been developed to replace these older pumpers and increase the pumping capacity to 1500 GPM. Staff recommended to award the contract to Slagle's Fire Equipment Company in the amount of \$488,649.71 including tax and optional equipment.

Fire Station Renovations - Hollow Creek, Boiling Springs, Fairview and Gilbert - Public Safety/Fire Service - Bids were solicited from twenty-three (23) qualified contractors for fire station renovations for Hollow Creek, Boiling Springs, Fairview, and Gilbert. One (1) bid and five (5) no bids were received.

The project includes all equipment, materials, and labor necessary for the renovation of the existing multi-bay garages at Hollow Creek, Boiling Springs, and Fairview Fire Stations. Included in the renovation of the existing two-bay garage at the Gilbert Fire Station was the new construction of a

40' x 40' steel frame two-bay addition. Grading and site preparation was included in this addition. These fire stations are approaching thirty (30) years old and are in need of extensive repairs. A renovation program has been implemented to improve the general appearance and efficiency of these stations. This is a three (3) step program which includes renovation of the office and living quarters, replacing the windows and exterior wooden siding on the office and living areas and replacing the metal panels, insulation and overhead doors on the bay area. The Gilbert Fire Station is in significant need of an addition to replace a pole building addition that is in very poor condition.

The Town of Gilbert asked the County to obtain optional pricing for block to match the street scape of the Town of Gilbert. The total cost for this option will be funded by the Town of Gilbert. At this time, the Gilbert Fire District is in the process of deeding a parcel of land to the County, on which the addition will be constructed. This process has not been completed to date.

Staff recommended to proceed with the three (3) renovations at Fairview, Boiling Springs, and Hollow Creek fire stations and to award the contract to MAR Construction. The total cost of the project including sales tax is \$220,175.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Chairman's Report - Solicitor's FY05/06 Budget - Mr. Rucker reported the Solicitor's office has delivered to him their FY05/06 Budget and presented their budget request to Mr. Art Brooks, County Administrator.

State Farmers Market - Mr. Rucker gave a brief update on the latest events surrounding the State Farmers Market. He said he met with Senator Jake Knotts and the subcommittee for the State Farmers Market and advised them that Lexington County's proposal was still valid and that Calhoun County was partnering with Lexington County to enable the County to issue tax credits to businesses that relocated to the State Farmers Market, if it was or would be relocated to Lexington County. Mr. Rucker stated after discussions with the subcommittee, it was evident that they were still looking to relocate the State Farmers Market in Richland County.

Midlands Technical College - Mr. Rucker reported he met with Drs. Russell and Rhames to review their proposal for Economic and Community Development.

Fire Service Awards Banquet - Mr. Rucker reported he attended the Fire Service awards banquet on February 15.

Municipal Association Meeting - Mr. Rucker reported he attended the Municipal Association

meeting hosted by West Columbia City Hall on Thursday, February 17 and toured their new facility.

Lexington High School - Mr. Rucker welcomed students from Lexington High School studying US Government.

Funds Provided Outside Lexington County - Mr. Rucker gave a brief update of funding that was provided to businesses or agencies outside of Lexington County in FY 03/04 through the Tourism Development Fee, Accommodations Tax Fee, and General Fund.

Proposed Budget Timetable - Mr. Rucker asked everyone to attempt to adhere to the schedule as outlined in order to complete the budget process by June 14, 2005.

Comments From Mr. Jeffcoat about the State Farmers Market - Mr. Jeffcoat said Council was asked to locate a site for the possible relocation of the State Farmers Market to Lexington County. He stated Lexington County had the best site and said the proposed site located near the interstate has an on/off ramp, is highly visible, and has the least amount of site preparation work; we are ready to go. He said Richland County has offered, what he considers to be, a “second class” site that is going to take a lot of money to prepare. It is in a crime area, it certainly doesn’t have any interstate exposure and it doesn’t have an on/off ramp for tractor-trailer trucks. It doesn’t have a lot of things that our site does, but our site doesn’t have millions of dollars attached to it so that we could buy that site. He said he has been involved with this process addressing the committees and said he is absolutely insulted by some of the comments that have been made toward Lexington County. He said one of Richland County’s members has made some off-colored comments about Lexington County. He said “she” has done a tremendous amount of damage for the “regional cooperation.” He said it is clear now that the only “regional cooperation” that we (Lexington County) have with Richland County is when we send them our money; that’s when we are cooperating with them. He said when they have an opportunity to step forward and help us, then we get off-colored comments about Lexington County and said he was absolutely offended by that.

Administrator’s Report - Mr. Brooks stated the Fire Service banquet was the 30-year anniversary of Fire Service. He said 22 employees who received awards have been employed with Fire Service since it began operations.

Mr. Brooks congratulated Judge Marc Westbrook on having the fourth floor courtroom in the Judicial Center named in his honor.

Zoning Amendment - Zoning Map Amendment - M05-02 - North Lake Drive Between Elton Meetze Lane and Regency Drive - Announcement of 1st Reading - Mr. Rucker announced first reading of Zoning Map Amendment M05-02.

Ordinance - Ordinance 04-11 - Approving the Fee-in-Lieu of Tax Agreement Between Lexington County and Nucor Corporation - 3rd and Final Reading - Third and final reading was postponed. A public hearing has been rescheduled for March 22, 2005.

Committee Reports - Planning & Administration, J. Owens, Chairman - Boards & Commissions Banquet - Mr. Owens reported as part of the Planning and Administration committee meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, Mr. Derrick asked the committee to consider implementing an annual Boards and Commissions banquet to recognize those individuals who are appointed by Council who unselfishly volunteer their time and talent as board members.

Mr. Derrick said it is a means by which Council can express our deep appreciation for all they do for the County and its citizens.

The committee voted to recommend that full Council approve the request.

Mr. Owens made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler to approve an annual Boards and Commissions banquet with staff making the arrangements.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Cullum	

Health & Human Services, J. Carrigg, Jr., Chairman - State Homeland Security Program for Third Year of Funding - Public Safety - Mr. Carrigg reported his committee met during the afternoon to consider the State Homeland Security Program grant. The grant will continue to support the State of South Carolina's Homeland Security goals that include, but not limited to, the detection of security threats and prevention of terrorist attacks; the reduction of the state's vulnerability at critical infrastructures; rapid response to critical incidents; and to minimize damage as well as accelerate recovery from terrorist attacks. This is a 100 percent grant with no matching funds.

Mr. Carrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Owens that staff be allowed to move forward with the grant application.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	

Justice, S. Davis, Chairman - Bulletproof Vest Grant - Law Enforcement/Public Safety - Mr. Davis reported the Justice Committee met on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 to discuss a grant request from the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Timothy James, Deputy County Administrator, had requested authorization to apply for a Bulletproof Vest grant through the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. James stated the Bulletproof Vest grant is a 50/50 percent grant to purchase 35 replacement vests for officers. The total cost of the vests is \$19,000. He stated the 50 percent match of \$9,500 will be appropriated in the FY2005-06 submitted budget request.

The committee voted to recommend to full Council to approve staff's request to move forward with the grant application.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keisler that staff be allowed to move forward with the grant application.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Derrick
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Committee of the Whole, B. Rucker, Chairman - Request for Proposal to Provide Review for all Residential & Commercial Development - Mr. Rucker reported as part of the Committee of the Whole committee meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, Mr. Davis discussed concerns of regulatory review activities in developments in Lexington County and asked the committee to consider securing a Request for Proposal to secure professional engineers to review services for all residential and commercial development.

Mr. Davis asked the committee to consider the following recommendations:

- (1) Request that staff prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide for private review services for all residential and commercial development.
- (2) Request staff to structure the request so the current County criteria would be used.
- (3) Request staff to confirm the pricing so that this service would be self sustaining (all expenses would be paid by the developer).
- (4) Request staff to determine the cost savings that a reduction in force would bring to the taxpayers.
- (5) Request staff to develop a RFP to be priced with independent field inspectors or using County inspectors.

The committee voted to recommend that full Council move forward with the Request for Proposal for engineering services.

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeffcoat to approve the committee report and that staff move forward with the Request for Proposal for engineering services as recommended.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting for discussion; no discussion occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Davis
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Derrick
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Cullum	

Airport Committee, T. Cullum, Chairman - Five-Year Plan and Airport Name Change - Mr. Cullum reported the Airport Committee met on Friday, February 18, 2005 to receive an update of FAA monies currently available, activities currently taking place at the airport, review the five-year plan for airport improvements, and the renaming of the airport.

The committee voted to recommend that Council approve moving forward with the recommended repairs and renovations in two phases.

The first phase would include making repairs to the beacon light, repairing all existing lighting, construction of the fuel farm, and the installation of an accessible coded gate.

The second phase would include making complete renovations of the lighting system and the installation of additional T-hangars. Funding for these projects will be provided from the current balance of \$225,000 and the additional \$150,000 to be awarded in October 2005 until funds have been depleted.

A motion was made Mr. Cullum, seconded by Mr. Derrick to authorize staff to move forward with phase one of the recommended repairs and renovations.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Davis asked, what funding will be used?

Mr. Cullum stated currently the County has available \$225,000 and will receive an additional \$150,000 grant in October 2005 from the FAA. The grant is 95 percent federally funded, 2 ½ percent state funded, and 2 ½ percent local funded.

Mr. Carrigg asked, what are the costs associated with the recommended repairs?

Mr. Cullum stated the beacon light repair is approximately \$10,000, repairing the existing lighting is estimated at \$20,000 and roughly \$60,000 with some additions of asphalt aproning around the fuel farm; it is less than \$225,000.

Mr. Carrigg asked, do we have any bids for these repairs?

Mr. Cullum said he recalls that Ellis Gammon, Fleet Manager, had previously submitted cost estimates for the construction of the fuel farm.

Mr. Derrick stated it was the intent of the committee to have bids prior to any renovations or repairs and said this was a recommendation of priorities that was required by the engineering firm to submit to FAA for approval.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	

Abandonment of Airport Road - Mr. Cullum reported the committee discussed allowing staff to contact the Mayor of Pelion to request that SCDOT abandon Airport Road leading into the Pelion Airport and at the same time the County will agree to maintain the road. Airport Road is approximately 410 feet long.

The committee voted to recommend that Council approve allowing staff to move forward to ask the Mayor of Pelion to request SCDOT to abandon Airport Road with the agreement that the County will maintain the road.

Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Derrick that staff be authorized to meet with the Mayor of Pelion to request SCDOT to abandon Airport Road with the agreement that the County will maintain the road.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked, why are we doing that?

Mr. Cullum replied, so we (County) can maintain the entrance way into the airport and not have to rely on SCDOT to keep up the right-of-way.

Mr. Owens asked, is it State maintained?

Mr. Cullum replied, yes.

Mr. Cullum stated, the County wants to have the ability to put up signage, plant trees, and to make

upgrades leading into the entrance of the airport as well as for security purposes.

Mr. Owens asked, can FAA funding be used on roads?

Mr. Cullum replied, no but “C’ funds could be used.

Mr. Rucker called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Cullum
	Mr. Derrick	Mr. Davis
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	

Opposed:	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
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Airport Name Change - Mr. Cullum stated the committee discussed the renaming of the airport and recommended that Council approve changing the name to Lexington County Airport at Pelion.

Mr. Cullum made a motion, seconded by Ms. Summers to approve the renaming of the airport to Lexington County Airport at Pelion.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Cullum stated by renaming the airport it will go on every FAA map as Lexington County Airport at Pelion and hopefully bring additional exposure to Lexington County.

Mr. Rucker called for further discussion on the motion, none occurred.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Cullum
	Ms. Summers	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Mr. Keisler
	Mr. Jeffcoat	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Owens	

Budget Amendment Resolutions - Council signed a supplemental appropriation increase of \$4,375 to appropriate funds received from the federal narcotics forfeiture for gas, fuel, and oil used by the narcotics investigation team.

Old Business/New Business - Impact Fees - Mr. Derrick asked about the status of the Planning Commission’s report on impact fees.

Mr. Compton, Director of Planning and GIS, replied he would follow up and get Council a report.

Executive Session/Legal Briefing - A motion was made by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Carrigg

to go into Executive Session to receive the legal briefing and to discuss personnel matters.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Carrigg	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Cullum	

Mr. Rucker reconvened the meeting in open session.

Matters Requiring a Vote as a Result of Executive Session - Chairman Rucker reported Council received the legal briefing, discussed personnel matters during the Executive Session and indicated there was one motion to be considered.

Department of Social Services - Mr. Jeffcoat made a motion, seconded by Mr. Owens to authorize staff to move forward with negotiations with MJA Architects for the construction of a building to house the Department of Social Services. The estimated total is \$4,150,000 - 4,350,000.

Mr. Rucker opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Derrick asked, where will the funds come from?

Mr. Rucker replied, HUD.

Mr. Davis stated it is his understanding that this is part of the County's five-year plan that was submitted to HUD for this particular project.

In Favor:	Mr. Rucker	Mr. Jeffcoat
	Mr. Owens	Mr. Derrick
	Mr. Davis	Ms. Summers
	Mr. Keisler	Mr. Carrigg
	Mr. Cullum	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana W. Burnett
Clerk

Bruce E. Rucker
Chairman