

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – February 1, 2005 – 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

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

ABSENT

G. Fred Tolly – District #1

(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 1, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2005 meeting as mailed. Mr. Thompson seconded. The following correction on page one was recommended. Fourth paragraph: "Vote for Mr. Bill McAbee was three in favor (Wilson, Thompson, & McAbee)." Delete the following from the sentence: "and four opposed (Tolly, Greer, Dees, Floyd)." Vote on the minutes as amended was six in favor. (Mr. Tolly was absent.)

Chairperson Floyd asked the Council members to delete the following items from the agenda: Item #7 and delete agenda item #10 (C).

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Agenda Matters: The following citizens spoke: Mr. Brooks Brown, and Mr. Dan Harvell.

Other Matters: The following citizens spoke: Ms. Elizabeth M. Peace, Mr. Brooks Brown, Mr. Elliott Holman, Mr. Michael Deanhardt, Mr. Ed Jean, and Mr. Dan Harvell. All remarks were received as information.

A special presentation was made by Mr. Barry Coats, President of Special Olympics South Carolina to the employees of the Community Relations Division. He said that the hospitality that he's received from Anderson County, over the years, stands out over the rest of South Carolina. He thanked the County for what they've done over the years for the Special Olympics. He presented awards for the Anderson Independent – Ms. Karen Rommelmeyer as Outstanding Media Support, Area Program Award was presented to Anderson County – Area 14; Ms. Suzanne McMahan and Ms. Gloria Byrd. All other employees were recognized for the contributions during the Area 14 Special Populations games.

Sheriff David Crenshaw and Mr. Tim Busha gave a short run-down on the Sheriff's Department and the restructuring that has occurred. Mr. Tim Busha reported that they have increased the uniform presence on the street to 22 officers per patrol shift. He said that all of the changes were made within the perimeters of the existing budget. He said that response calls have been reduced to around 12 minutes, no calls have been held by dispatch until there is an officer available. He gave comparisons from last year and this year. Council received the presentation as information.

Mr. Bob Strother gave a presentation on the Appalachian Council of Governments' return on investment. He said that Anderson County's annual investment in the Appalachian COG is \$74,948. The return to Anderson County on that investment in 2004 was \$11,008,913 – a return on investment ratio of \$147 to \$1. He explained how the return on investment worked. He also explained additional services provided to Anderson County by COG during 2004. He said that coming up during 2005 the new COG programs and projects would include work on an application for \$500,000 for the City of Anderson water system improvement project, provide training for Planning Commission and Boards of Appeal members to meet requirements of 2003 Land Use Dispute Resolution Act, and continued expansion of the terrorism awareness and radiological emergency training programs. Council received the presentation as information.

Council recessed for 5 minutes at 7:15 p.m. Chairman Floyd called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

Chairman Floyd presented second reading of Ordinance #2005-001 – an ordinance authorizing: (1) the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax and incentive agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina (“Anderson County”) and ■■■ Real Estate Investments, LLC (The “Company”), pursuant to which Anderson County shall covenant in such fee agreement to accept certain fees in lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes; (2) special Source Credits to reimburse the Company for a portion of the costs of certain infrastructure or real property costs incurred in connection with a manufacturing or commercial enterprise serving the economic development of Anderson County; (3) the benefits of a multi-county park to be made available to company; and (4) other matters relating thereto.

A public hearing was held and no comments were received; therefore the public hearing was declared closed. Mr. Greer moved to approve the ordinance on second reading and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was six in favor and none opposed. (Tolly-absent).

Chairperson Floyd read second reading of Ordinance #2005-004 – an ordinance authorizing the transfer and sale of certain Anderson County Real Property; authorizing the execution and delivery of real property deeds related to the same; and other matters related thereto. (Northern Anderson EMS building). A public hearing was held and Mr. Brooks Brown asked if this was the sale of the property for the Northern Anderson EMS and Mr. Dees responded yes. He said that SHARE provides assistance for people who cannot help themselves. No more comments the public hearing was declared closed. Mr. Dees moved to approve and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Floyd read first reading of Ordinance #2005-003 – an ordinance approving a request by Robert Bannister to rezone 2.2 acres at 5606 Highway 24 from C1-N (Neighborhood Commercial) to C-2 (Highway Commercial). A public hearing was held; no comments were received. Mr. Greer moved to approve and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bill McAbee moved to reconsider first reading of Ordinance #2005-002 – an ordinance to approve a request by Carey Makison to rezone 2.15 acres at 2401 Old Williamston Road from R-20 (Single Family Residential) to C1-N (Neighborhood Commercial). The ordinance was voted down at the last meeting. Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was five in favor and one opposed (Thompson). Mr. McAbee was on the prevailing side therefore it was in order for Mr. McAbee to raise the motion for reconsideration. Ms. Wilson asked what the current zoning was. Mr. McAbee explained that the current zoning was R20 and they are requesting C1N (Neighborhood Commercial). Mr. Ricketson said the applicant hadn't given any specific use of the property – just would like it classified as Neighborhood Commercial. He said that the Comprehensive Plan calls for the area to be low-density residential and the Planning Commission felt that this would be considered a “spot zone” if it was rezoned because it is in the middle of an area that is all zoned residential. That is why they recommended denial of the request. Mr. Greer asked wasn't it true that there was commercial property already in use within site distance of the property. Mr. Ricketson said that there was a grandfathered mini storage warehouse as well as a radio station. Vote was four in favor (Floyd, Dees, Greer, McAbee) and two opposed (Wilson, Thompson). Motion carried.

Chairperson Floyd read first reading of Ordinance #2005-006 – an ordinance approving the Area Four Future Land Use Map. Mr. Jeff Ricketson explained that this was the second of five land use updates for the Planning Areas in Anderson County. The Planning Commission recommends adoption of the map/plan as the Area Four Future Land Use plan. Ms. Wilson moved to approve and Mr. McAbee seconded. Mr. McAbee asked Mr. Ricketson about changing a piece of property outside of Pendleton High as residential – he said that with that area not being zoned, regardless of what is on the map, would the project go through. Mr. Ricketson responded yes. Vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Floyd read Resolution #R2005-010 – a resolution authorizing the Anderson County Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Morningside Community Development Association, Inc.; and other matters related thereto. Ms. Floyd moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Dees seconded. Mr. Martin explained the purpose of the resolution. Ms. Wilson said that it was important to have help from our County as far as tearing down dilapidated, dangerous, and unsightly structures and she is definitely in favor of helping in that regard but considering the sewer fund is about \$712,000 in debt for the last fiscal year and with additional bond payments coming due this coming year, she is not in favor of giving tap on fees to entities like this. She asked about clauses 1 & 2 at the bottom of the Community Revitalization Agreement – #1 --“The County, either through its employees or through independent contractors shall complete the Project, at no cost to Morningside.” #2. “The County shall supply all equipment, labor, including project management and field inspections, and equipment necessary to complete the Project, also at no cost to Morningside, and shall afford to Morningside as much fiscal relief from sanitary sewer connection fees as County policy allows.” She said that was troubling language and the County has an open-end agreement and the County does not know what all of this will cost. Mr. Martin asked Council to look at the 5th “Whereas” clause. (“Whereas, the County, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, acting by and through its County Council desires to assist Morningside, a non-profit, community organization, in improving the Property by tearing down and removing the dilapidated structure from the Property (the “Project”), and affording as much fiscal relief to Morningside with regard to sewer connection fees as County Polity allows; and,”) he said that it defines “Project” as tearing down and removing the dilapidated structure so the only thing that the agreement commits to is that the County will tear down and remove the structure. The sewer connection fees would be as County policy allows. She asked what the policy allows and Mr. Martin explained that there was a policy precedent in that regard. Mr. Preston said that it would not cost the County that much money. Mr. McAbee asked if Road Maintenance will do the work and Mr. Preston responded yes. He also asked if the house across the street from the Alternative School was done in the same way. Ms. Floyd said that the City was responsible for the demolition of that house. Mr. McAbee asked about an assessment of the structure for asbestos and etc. Mr. Martin said that he was told the only asbestos was in the shingles and it was not pliable asbestos. Vote was unanimous.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mr. Joey Preston said that he informed Council at the last meeting that the County Divisions and elected officials would be coming before Council to make a presentation on their mission and progress and some of their challenges. Mr. Holt Hopkins gave a presentation on the County Transportation Division and the five departments (Airport, Engineering, Fleet Services, Road Maintenance, and Transportation Administration) of the Division. He pointed out the department administers the County “C” fund program for the Anderson County Transportation Committee. Ms. Wilson asked how many non-sheriff vehicles were in the county and Mr. Hopkins said approximately 388, which includes vehicles, pickups and vans-minus approximately 180 sheriffs’ vehicles. Ms. Wilson said that she had placed a request that Council look at reorganizing the County’s fleet of vehicles which are non-sheriff vehicles and non-heavy equipment. She said the plan could be phased in and over time it would save the County a lot of money.

She said that citizens are concerned that the County has County Department heads/personnel driving more luxurious type vehicles. She said it was time that Council consider keeping the cost of individual vehicles into a more modest range. She asked Council to look at her plan and consider it. Mr. Hopkins said that they try to standardize, as much as possible and she needs to understand that there are wide variety of services that the County has to match the vehicle with the job. She asked for a list of who drives county vehicles. Mr. Preston said that the County has a list of all employees that take vehicles home and he has to sign off on all of them that are taken home. Council received the presentation as information.

Mr. Bill McAbee moved to reappoint Ms. Fran Shirley to the Library Board and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. McAbee moved to reappoint Ms. Nancy McCannon to the Farmers Market Board and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Michael Thompson moved to reappoint Mr. Lee Barnett to the EMS Commission and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thompson moved to appoint Mr. Gerald Shealy to the District #5 Zoning Advisory Committee and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bill Dees moved to reappoint Mr. Michael Upton to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to reappoint Mr. Joe Thomason to the Athletic Commission and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to reappoint Mr. K.C. Elrod to the Farmers Market Board and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to reappoint Ms. Ardeth Dunlap to the Library Board and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. M. Cindy Wilson moved to reappoint Ms. Julie Hart to the Library Board and Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Chairperson Floyd moved to appropriate \$3,000 to the JBECO Community Center to assist with mold removal and Mr. Greer seconded. The fund will come from District #2 Recreation Account. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Larry Greer moved to appropriate \$2,000 from District 3 Recreation Account to assist the Grove Fire Department with a new truck. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate up to \$10,000 from the District 3 Recreation Account for matching money for a sewer grant for the Town of Iva. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to add the following roads to the District 7 Paving list for paving. Goodrich Street C-01-0198 - \$20,118, C-07-0098 Ramsey Street - \$1,193, C-07-0088 – Allan Street - \$10,598, C-07-0100 Baby Street - \$3,380, Town of Honea Path – HP 19-1770 Robinson Street - \$12,662, West Pelzer 01-0026 Railroad Boulevard - \$29,363. Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to approve the paving of a parking area for the Honea Path Fire Department so that their 40' long fire truck can exit the station. The estimated cost is \$3,250, which would come from District 7 Paving account. Mr. McAbee seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. John Ferguson gave a report on the proposed closing of the Flight Service Station. He said that the Federal Government plans to privatize this section of the Federal Aviation Administration. The bids were sent and a private contractor has won the bid and they are planning to consolidate the 58 flight service stations in the United States down to 20. He said that they are moving the County's Flight Service Station. Mr. Dees moved to approve Resolution #R2005-011 – a resolution requesting the Anderson County Legislative Delegation, State officials of the State of South Carolina, and the U.S. Congressional Delegation representing Anderson County to undertake all possible efforts to assist Anderson County and the people of Anderson County in keeping the Federal Aviation Administration Automated Flight Service Station in Anderson in operation. Ms. Wilson seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Chair Floyd informed Council of an Appreciation Dinner and a City/County retreat. She said to please pick a date and get it to her as soon as possible.

Chairperson Floyd appointed Mr. Bill Dees to the Economic Development Partnership and Mr. Terrace Hasson to represent the County.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: (time requested 5/allotted 5 minutes)

- a. Certificates of Training: Lt. Josh Briggs – Managing the 9-1-1 Center
- b. Letters of Appreciation:
 1. For: Road Maintenance (Mr. Jerry Cash's Crew) From: Ms. Julia Hughes
 2. For: Officers Prickett, Simone, and Bowman (Public Safety) From: Ms. Terrie Copeland
 3. For: Mr. Garren Titus From: Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd
 4. For: Mr. Jerry Singleton of Wastewater Management From: Denny Murdock
 5. For: Lt. Josh Briggs, Director 9-1-1 Center From: Steven Kelly, Sky Care
- c. Reports: Anderson County Litter Report

- d. Letter to Michael Deanhardt from Mayor Richard Shirley
- e. Request for donations for the Vasser family
- f. 2004 Supplement for the Freedom of Information Act Handbook for County Government
- g. Anderson County Pelzer/West Pelzer Wastewater Projects
- h. Anderson County and Town of Williamston vs. CSX Transportation, Inc.

Remarks from Council:

Mr. Dees asked about the retreat and if the date was still February 4th. Chairperson Floyd said she would get back with him on that. Mr. Dees thanked all County employees and the job that they do. He said that it is time for healing – loyalty is a two way street. He said that however does not change his views on society. He has always had similar views – he was raised in a conservative home with a lot of love. He was raised by people who voted most of the time and who voted their conscience and they encouraged him to do the same. He said he studies the person and then he makes his vote. He said that blood had been sp [REDACTED] for the right to vote your own conscience.

Mr. McAbee applauded Mr. Hopkins on his presentation.

Mr. Greer said that the SHARE organization was a non-profit organization intended to help those less fortunate. He said it was an organization that tends to work with people different from the standard way that it is done. They help them to learn how to help themselves. He said that it was time to put all rhetoric behind County Council and start working for the betterment of the County.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Preston and his staff for the tours put together visiting all the County Departments. He said he was very impressed.

Ms. Wilson also thanked the Transportation Department for their presentation. She asked that they come back with a more standardized fleet before budget time.

Chairperson Floyd announced that the East Whitner Street Alliance was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant from the Reynolds Foundation. The work was done by Mr. Kirk Stutler with Partners for a Healthy Community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman
Clerk to Anderson County Council