

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
March 4, 2015 9:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman J. Matthew Rivers, Vice-Chair Lenora V. Powe, Council Members: Kenneth A. Johnson, G. Franklin Plyler, Bruce E. Rivers, Mary D. Anderson, Robert G. Cole, Gerald L. Miller, Douglas A. Curtis.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Denise R. Douglass – Administrator; Michelle Stanley – Finance Director; Susie Boswell – Clerk to Council; C. Heath Ruffner – County Attorney; Stanley Potthoff; Jerry Gaskins; Rodger Griggs; Ben Crowley; Sylvester Griggs; Wilson Griggs; Ben Teal; Chris Teal, Charles Teal, Victoria McGonigal; Monica Knight; Laura Robbins; Amber Starnes, George McCoy and Eddie Kirkley. There were others attending the meeting who did not sign the sign-in-sheet.

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers welcomed everyone and Council Member Plyler opened the meeting with prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt the March 4, 2015 meeting agenda with any amendments approved by Council. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 4, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt the March 4, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

None

APPOINTMENTS

a. Dr. Ron Bartley, NETC

Appeared before Council and advised he was at meeting for two reasons, one to celebrate with them and the second to invite Council to an event that was being planned in Cheraw. He advised he had been working for about a year and a half trying to get Chesterfield County a Certified Work Ready Community and that it has big implications for economic development.

He advised that all their goals had been met and they did it in about a year and a half. The celebration is that the County will be, it is still pending right now but we will be a fully Certified Work Ready Community and this is a good thing for Chesterfield County.

Dr. Bartley advised that his second topic is an invitation to Council. He stated he had been working with a group called Pioneering Healthier Communities and that there are a number of things they promote. He advised that they are promoting the use of the Great Pee Dee River in Cheraw as a canoeing or kayaking venue to help bring tourism as another way to bring economic development to the county. They have scheduled the Great Pee Dee Blueway Paddle Day for Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 9:00 am. He advised they would have somewhere between 30 and 50 canoes that day and wanted to extend an invitation to any member of Council that would like to participate in the event.

**b. George McCoy, Fire Chief & Eddie Kirkley, Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
Alligator Fire District**

Eddie Kirkley, Alligator Fire Department

Appeared before Council and advised Council that he and Chief George McCoy were in attendance to represent Alligator Fire Department. He stated that they understood there is a possibility of an annexation going on in the Cedar Creek area and that it was noted to them by way of a write up in the Link Paper. He stated they had no idea this was taking place and had no involvement. He also stated that he wanted Council to know they are not opposing it but if there is anything they can do to help with this matter, they would like to be more involved because this affects their district tremendously.

Chief George McCoy, Alligator Fire Department

Advised Council he is the Chief of Alligator Fire District and also the Chairman of the Board of Directors. He stated he understood what the people that live around the Alligator Fire District were trying to do but Alligator Fire District Board of Directors nor the Alligator Fire Department had been involved in any aspect of this process and that they are the ones that will be directly impacted. He stated he felt they should be included rather than excluded under the discussion and possible approval process. He also stated he was not saying they are opposed to the idea, only the manner in which it was being presented. He advised that Alligator Fire District and Patrick Fire District have a good working relationship and he wanted that to continue and make sure that all questions are answered and all concerns are taken into consideration. He stated they had within Alligator Fire District very few, probably 6-8 homes that are outside of five miles of one of their stations and that they are in the process of establishing an Automatic Aid Agreement with Sandhills Fire Department to make sure those people are within five miles of a station so that they will get the full benefits of their rating as well.

Chairman Rivers:

Stated that in looking at the Agenda, public comments would be coming up and that he was assuming there would be public comments on this issue but if you look on the Agenda pass

public comments, this item is not on the Agenda. He stated that he wanted to make it clear from Council that this issue was brought to Council in the public forum last month so they have had less than thirty days on it and that this is not unusual and that he can understand the lack of information. Chairman Rivers advised that he had talked with Ms. Douglass and that right now they are still gathering some information from outside legal sources on this issue. This is not the easiest legal issue when you are talking about fire districts, maps and taxing units. He advised that he had talked with Administrator Douglass last week and they are getting information from Mr. Zeigler with Haynsworth, Sinkler and Boyd which is an outside firm the County uses in addition to the county attorney. We have not received the benefit of that information and advised that once the information had been received it would be forwarded to the Finance Committee with the county attorney and administrator working with the Finance Committee along with those representatives from those three entities. Chairman Rivers stated that unless he heard some opposition from a council member or if another council member has got a better plan, then he felt they should proceed with the administrator working with these three entities and the finance committee.

Heath Ruffner, County Attorney:

If I may, this may help with the Public Comments. I spoke with Mr. Kirkley within the last week or so and basically explained to him what the Chairman has just said. We have been working on this. I have been working with our outside counsel on this. It is similar to the process we had with Cheraw and Cash within the last couple of years. It is not a one Council vote and it is done. In addition to having three readings and a council public hearing, there is some other enhanced public notice requirement so there would be adequate opportunity for public input and for input from the fire departments. As Mr. Curtis said, there is a financial aspect of this that needs to be reviewed and given due diligence and we will certainly do that. As the Chairman said, I just want the public to know and the fire departments to know that we are working on this. It will be a rather extended process and I certainly understand from a citizen's standpoint that they want their insurance lowered but ultimately what they want is if they have a fire, they want to know that a fire truck is coming to service them.

Chairman Rivers:

We look forward to the committee working with these gentlemen and/or ladies about getting a resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Laura Robbins, Citizen

Advised that she is a teacher at Plainview Elementary and lives in the Plainview area. She advised Council as to how her insurance on her home had been increasing over the years and that she had ten years of statements to show. She stated that she was not trying to downgrade anyone and she realized there may be negative effects of fire zones but that this just seemed unfair to have something like this happen just because of a line that draws a fire zone.

Stanley Pothoff, Citizen

Stated that in not contacting Alligator and Patrick he would take a lot of the blame for that and the reason for it is because he knew how fire departments are about you trying to do this to them or you trying to do that to them and he stated that he didn't want to get that started up. He stated that he was not trying to take anything away from Patrick. He also stated that he was told to turn in the letter to Council that he turned in at last month's meeting.

Rodger Griggs, Chief of Patrick Fire Department

Stated that someone might be outside of the five mile radius but if they call, they go. He stated they do not have a jet airplane to get there but they do go and do the best they can with what they got but it is not them, it is the ISO Rating. He stated that it would not make any difference to him if it was five miles or ten miles, they would still go. They are making these new regulations they have to go by. He stated that no one has contacted him or had anything to say to him about this change. He also stated that if the community would get together with all of them and get on the same page and if the community is willing to help with some land, buildings and trucks, they would be more than glad to put a station down there but they can't afford but so much. He stated they were more than willing to work with everyone if they are willing to work with them. Advised Council that he was willing to work with Alligator Fire District and that he had no idea that anything was being said or was in the works regarding the Alligator Fire District and Patrick Fire District.

Chairman Rivers: Advised that this matter would be turned over to the Finance Committee and that the Administrator and the attorneys will be working with the Finance Committee on this matter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Multi-County Park Agreement Ordinance Amendment (Lancaster County – Silgan Containers Manufacturing Corporation) – Public Hearing

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. There were no oral comments from the public made nor were any written comments received.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Vice-Chair Powe seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Multi-County Park Agreement Ordinance (Lancaster County – Silgan Containers Manufacturing Corporation) - 3rd Reading

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to pass 3rd Reading. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. Multi-County Park Agreement Ordinance (Kershaw County) – 2nd Reading

Council Member Miller made a motion to pass 2nd Reading. Council Member Bruce E. Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

c. Board of Assessment Appeals Amendment – 2nd Reading

Council Member Anderson made a motion to pass 2nd Reading. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

d. Coroner Fee Schedule Ordinance – 1st Reading, by title only

Vice-Chair Powe made a motion to pass 1st Reading, **by title only**. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Chairman Rivers advised that this matter was being forwarded to the Finance Committee.

e. Project Kitchen Ordinance – 1st Reading, by title only

Council Member Plyler made a motion to pass 1st Reading, **by title only**. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Chairman Rivers advised that there would be a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 9:00 am regarding 2nd Reading on this Ordinance.

f. Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act – Resolution

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Resolution. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

None

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

a. Surplus Property (Road Department) – Douglass

Requested that Council declare the following as surplus property:

1995 Ford E250 Van – 184,437 miles (VIN #1FBJ531H65HC00703)
2003 Ford Crown Vic – 181,812 miles (VIN#2FAFP71W4D4X110861)
1996 Ford F250 Truck – 219,186 miles (VIN#1FDHF25H9TEB17235)
2003 Ford Explorer – 156,168 miles (VIN#FMZU72K8411A29985)
Chevy Express Van – 192,141 miles (VIN#1GCFCG15W421154040)

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to declare the above listed vehicles as surplus property. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

b. Animal Shelter Bid Award – Douglass

Advised that staff had sent out a Request for Proposal for the construction of the new animal shelter, which includes everything but the kennels. Only one response was received for this RFP and staff has reviewed and found everything to be in order. It also has been submitted to the Building Committee as well and it is recommended that Council award this to Eagle Construction out of Bishopville, SC in the amount of \$739,000.

Council Member Plyler made a motion to accept the bid of Eagle Construction in the amount of \$739,000. Vice-Chair Powe seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

c. Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Board Appointment – Douglass

Council Member Johnson made a motion to re-appoint Council Member Gerald L. Miller to the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority Board. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

d. Library Board Re-Appointments (Announcement – Douglass

The following re-appointments have been made to the Library Board:

Council Member Miller	District 2	Rosea Miller
Council Member Johnson	District 3	Rebecca Burch
Council Member Curtis	District 4	Elizabeth Rivers
Council Member Anderson	District 8	Jim Anderson

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Cheraw Fire Contract Increase – Douglass

Advised that Staff had received a memo from the Town of Cheraw in regards to the renewal of the Cheraw Fire Contract. The addendum to the contract states that both parties agree to review and determine a new fee by March 31, 2015 for a period of two years. The Town has proposed a modest increase in the amount of \$5,000. The County is currently paying \$300,000. The increase will bring the amount to \$305,000.

Vice-Chair Powe made a motion to renew the Cheraw Fire Contract for a period of two years in the amount of \$305,000 per year. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Johnson

None

Council Member Plyler

None

Council Member Anderson

None

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers

Glad to see everyone here interested in the fire services in our county. These new regulations that fire departments are up against right now are very stringent and ISO is requiring new regulations. We on the western end of the county have been trying to work together to make sure that we provide the best service for the western end of the county, Mr. Miller's District, Mr. Johnson's District as well as mine. Pageland Fire Department, High Point, East Side, West Side and Sandhill, we've been working together and we have worked out an agreement between the departments for an Automatic Aid Agreement, we had that signed and ISO accepted it and we have eliminated some problems on that end of the county. ISO is using the GPS System. They use to go by road miles but their using the GPS System. If you come up a foot short, you out of that five mile, you are out. The Automatic Aid Agreement that we presently have is working well and I have mentioned this to you, to work together to try to come up with an agreement to have an Automatic Aid Agreement. We on my end of the County are struggling for volunteers and this has helped us tremendously on the number of people we have that are responding to our actual calls that are just inside the city and we are fortunate to have our surrounding fire departments to respond with us and that has worked well. The fire departments involved need to get together and look at these solutions for the betterment of everybody in Chesterfield County. It's not a perfect solution but will help you as far as your insurance is concerned.

Council Member Cole

None

Council Member Miller

None

Council Member Curtis

None

Council Vice-Chair Powe

Don't forget the Sandblast Rally this weekend.

Council Chair J. Matthew Rivers

I have just one thing, I had a pleasant surprise yesterday. I told you about this last August. I've been working on the jail with the Public Defender's Office and it has fluctuated from 11-12 pages. I was working back in Chesterfield County yesterday and it came in and I had a five pager. I called Tim Eubanks and asked him about it and he said it's the best he's seen the jail in eighteen years. I've got to do the averages because this is hot off the press and that five pages includes Family Court and our Federal inmates, that's not General Sessions. It was twelve pages, now its five pages. I told yall I would report back when I had answers about whether the plan works but I'm not going to report back with that, the plan does work. Hopefully that's something Council will keep doing in the future to save you a bunch of money. We are saving a bunch of money.

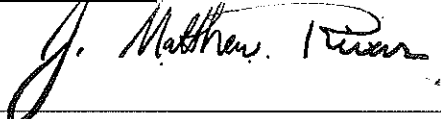
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not enter Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

APPROVED:



J. Matthew Rivers, Chairman
Date: April 1, 2015

ATTEST:



Susie Boswell, Clerk to Council