

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Called Meeting - May 23, 2000 - 6:00 p.m.

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

G. Fred Tolly - District #1
Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Clint Wright - District #4
Chairman J. Mike Holden - District #5
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, May 23, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Larry Greer gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Joey Preston explained that the called meeting was for third reading consideration by County Council of the 2000-2001 fiscal year budget. (Ordinance #2000-091 - an ordinance to adopt the Anderson County Budgets for 2000-02001, including a possible override of statutory limitations on millage rate increase, for the sole purpose of supporting Anderson County Rescue Squads and

Anderson Metropolitan Area EMS service, and including a public hearing on such millage increase, to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2001, and to make appropriations for such Anderson County Budgets for County ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the County may levy a tax other than for Tri-County Technical College purposes; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Anderson County for such County ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of the operating and capital budgets of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2001, and to make appropriations for such Anderson County Budgets, for Tri-County Technical College; to provide for the levy of taxes on all personal and real properties in Anderson County on which school tax may be levied for such Tri-County Technical College purposes; to provide for the levy, assessment, and collection of expenditure of said taxes and other revenues coming to the County during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Anderson County.) Mr. Preston stated that the Council was faced with the issue of funding the rescue squads throughout the County and also negotiating a contract with Med-Shore. Issues are still outstanding as to the terms of the contract and what the funding level will be and how that particular funding will become available. In the process of developing the budget, we learned that Council would be limited in its' ability to raise that additional money if a public hearing on the *possibility* of levying any type of a future millage increase to be able to fund the rescue squads was not held, he said. Incorporated into the budget ordinance is the ability for Council to do that in the future, if they desire. This budget does not include a proposed tax increase because all of the negotiating is still underway. Mr. Martin stated that the proposed budget, like Mr. Preston stated, does not include a proposed millage rate increase for any purpose. The only issue that County Council has to resolve is how to come up with in excess of \$2.5 million for the rescue squads continued existence and/or to provide the enhanced EMS Metro Service in the Anderson Metro Area. State law previously indicated that where a new service had to be provided or where there was an increased cost of existing service that was within

the authority of the County Council to fund, the law was changed to say that if there is an increase in millage beyond a certain percentage (this case is 2.2%) which is the consumer price index increase for the past federal government fiscal year that several things had to happen before Council could do this. First a called meeting specifically for that purpose, provide notice of the called meeting and a public hearing. So County officials complied with the statute to leave all the options open for council. Mr. Martin indicated that the *only* authorization for millage rate increase was for the special revenue fund for the EMS services. (Rescue squads and Anderson Metro Squad in the Anderson area).

A public hearing was conducted for the sole purpose of the possible override of statutory limitations on millage rate increases for the sole purpose of supporting the Anderson County Rescue squads and Anderson Metropolitan Area EMS service which are separate millage for each one. No comments were heard during the public hearing. Mr. Tolly moved to approve third reading of Ordinance #2000-019 as explained and discussed. Ms. Floyd seconded. Mr. Holden said that the only way this millage rate increase can happen is when Council comes back with a recommendation as to what the Council wishes to do. Mr. Greer asked the following questions regarding the budget: 1) Page 16, Section Summary of Revenue-General Fund permits for buildings, electrical, heating and air, land use, plumbing, etc.: It shows a \$77,000 increase in those permit costs. Is this a fee increase or is it based on increase in number of permits issued? Mr. Preston replied it was based on the number of permits issued. 2) Page 16, General Fund Account #5046 Innovation and Financial Planning - shows salary increasing by \$12,090 which is 15.4%. Mr. Preston said this was an upgrade for a Web Manager's position. 3) Road Maintenance Account shows that the stone supplies and asphalt account has decreased and pipe account had decreased. He asked if the County can continue the same level of road maintenance services and repairs with this budget. Mr. Preston said yes. Mr. Holden explained to Mr. Preston that he thought Council needs to look out for all County employees with salary increases from Road Maintenance to the "top" guys. Mr. Holden requested Mr.

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Preston to closely scrutinize that type thing as far as being fair to all County employees. Mr. Greer said in the projected revenue account #200-159 - the fine for littering is projected to generate \$1,000 worth of revenue and the account #200-161 is projected to generate \$2,200 of revenue for parking fines. Why is more money generated for parking than littering? Mr. Preston replied that last year everything was lumped together and also Magistrates who find someone guilty are assigning public service time rather than actually requiring a fine assessed. Mr. Holden stated that he wanted it clearly understood that nothing will be done for EMS until it is brought back to Council. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Floyd, Council voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss a contractual issue and to receive a legal briefing.

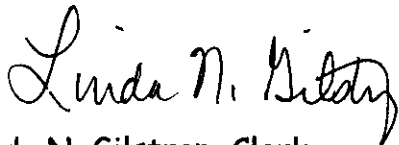
On the motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to come out of executive session back into regular session at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Martin explained that during executive session Council received information only on pending contractual matters and received a legal briefing. No action was taken in executive session.

Council thanked Mr. Preston and his staff for their hard work on the budget.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL