

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – November 19, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
AMENDED
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

Chairman Larry E. Greer – District #3, Presiding
G. Fred Tolly – District #1
Vice Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd - District #2
Clint Wright – District #4
Mike Holden – District #5
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, November 19, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. M. Cindy Wilson gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Council recognized Boy Scout Troop #12 from the First Assembly of God.

No citizens signed up to speak under the Citizens Comments section of the agenda.

Council heard from Mr. Rod Cowan, Boys and Girls' Head Track Coach of the Quick Striders Track Club from Westside High School. He said that the Quick Striders Track Club was formed from the Greater Anderson Track Club that has been around the Anderson area since 1978. He introduced Rita Allison and Dennis Martin, members of the Club team. They each gave Council a brief testimony of what the Club means to them. They all thanked Council and Mr. Mike Holden for their support of the Club.

Ms. M. Cindy Wilson started off by explaining the next item on the agenda, which is Rails to trails, pathways and SCDOT Transportation Enhancement Projects. The project will begin in District #7 primarily and will connect five of the towns on the eastern side of the County. Mr. Yon Lamberts, presenting the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, gave a presentation. He said that they were a statewide non-profit organization with offices in Columbia, Spartanburg, and Moncks Corner. They seek to conserve, in a non-adversarial way, South Carolina's natural and cultural resources, to preserve Historical buildings and landmarks, and to create and promote outdoor recreation with trails and greenways. One of the reasons they were called into the project was because of one of best-known projects – the Palmetto Trail. When complete will be a 425 mile, non-motorized hiking and biking trail that will run from mountains to sea in South Carolina. He said what Ms. Wilson is talking about is a 20-mile corridor Saluda River Valley Trail and will connect the towns of Pelzer, West Pelzer, Williamston, Belton and

Honea Path. There is an abundance of green space and will this will be a very "doable" project. He explained some of the most important benefits for Anderson County such as it would increase non-motorized transportation options, it would add another recreation facility, it would offer an powerful eco tourism corridor which will bring visitors into Anderson County, in addition it would help combat high-local levels of physical in-activity, it would help create more active physical environments in some of the communities through which the trail would run and it would also identify valuable community connections in open spaces. He said if the County wanted to do the project that there was a lot of work ahead. First a local task force that would guide them and give them direction to pursue the project. Cost estimates and funding must be studies for the project. Funding for this trail has been included in the 2002 South Carolina State Trails plan and would be eligible for funds from a "pot" of more than \$700,000 through the State Department of Tourism. Mayor Phillip Clardy of Williamston and Mayor Lollis Myers of Honea Path spoke in favor of the proposed project. Ms. Wilson announced that each municipality had contributed \$500 toward the cost of the study. Dr. Tommy Martin representing the Honea Path Merchants Association and the Partners for a Healthier Honea Path, said that they were excited about the project and one of the advantages it will enhance their quality of life through recreation and users of the trail will rediscover small town values. Mr. Josh Boggs who works at Will Sports Bicycles and a member of the Electric City Cycling club. He said that the majority of his customers ride for comfort and they have no place to go. They end up driving to Virginia or Georgia to ride these rail trails. He said that this would be a perfect opportunity for the County to keep their business around Anderson and to expand the eco-tourism industry. Several professors from Anderson County said that they would be delighted to take their classes to this kind of opportunity and from the equestrian side they are very excited to have the opportunity to take their families and be safe. Ms. Wilson said that this was actually a series of projects and are very different; however they are trying to link them all together. Several runners spoke and encouraged Council to consider the project. The Midway Road and portions of Highway 8 represent the use of Transportation Enhancement funds from the S.C. DOT and applications will be placed by the end of the month. Ms. Wilson said that the project would help promote good health, cleaner air issues, healthier bodies, and etc. This would also create a stronger sense of community and history; it will promote trade and tourism, and aide in the County's economic development recruitment. Ms. Floyd talked in favor of the project and encouraged all members of Council to contribute to the study. Mr. Dees said that this was the first information that he had received and asked if the project would be included in District #6. Ms. Wilson responded that yes the project would include a portion of Highway 8, portion of Midway Road, and a lot of students from Palmetto which are included in District #6. Mr. Dees asked about the easements from the railroads. He said that they would be working with the railroads and would not have to buy the easements. Ms. Wilson said that there was a 20%-80% match from the State for the work. (80% coming from the state) Mr. Greer made the following remarks: "Before we move on, I do want to make a real brief comment. This proposal includes a major community in my Council district and I'm kinda like Mr. Dees the first substantial information I saw was in the newspaper. I want to commend you on a very well done presentation. I saw some very good information tonight. I saw some very good support. I spoke with the mayor of my community today and also have spoken with one of the council members and even though this appears to be a very good proposal there are some questions unanswered so I'm gonna want to see some more information. I want to see what's involved, I want to see what we're talking about, I want to look at the right-of-ways, I want to look at some of the proposed routes, so I want to see what we're looking at and what we're proposing before I make up my mind concerning where we're going and how we're

going to get there. I think it has some good possibilities, but I'd like to be apprised to the information and have some input into it since it does go through my Council district." Council received the presentation as information.

Chairman Greer presented third and final reading of Ordinance #2002-033 – an ordinance to provide for the creation of the Thornwood Acres Special Tax District in Anderson County; to establish the nature of services to be performed therein; to designate the uniform service charge in the special tax district; to provide for the operation of the special tax district; and other matters related thereto. On the motion of Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance #2002-033 on third and final reading.

Chairman Greer presented second reading of Ordinance #2002-036 – an ordinance to amend Ordinance #98-019, as previously amended by Ordinance #99-029, #2000-063, #2001-014, #2001-046, and #2002-17 relating to the Industrial/Business Park of Anderson and Greenville Counties so as to enlarge the park. On the motion of Ms. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance #2002-036 on second reading.

Council took a 10 minutes recess at 7:10 p.m. Chairman Greer called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

Ms. Cindy Wilson moved to approve the distribution list of Accommodations Tax as presented in the agenda packet. Mr. Holden seconded. Mr. Wright moved to amend the tax distribution to reflect the figures on the spread presented before the meeting. Mr. Dees seconded the amendment. (This would be Column G on the spreadsheet.) Ms. Wilson said that Honea Path has never gotten much ATAX monies and they have really worked hard to bring in championships in the form of Checkers and Horseshoes. Now they are in line for the national championships. They were awarded \$6,000 for the National Checkers Championship and \$5,000 for the Horseshoe Tournament. They were then funded \$1,100 and \$1,300 respectively for their downtown projects. With Mr. Wrights amendment these will be cut from \$6,000 to \$2,500 and \$5,000 to \$2,000 and this doesn't seem fair to take all of it from Honea Path to give to the Anderson Arts Center, she said. Ms. Wilson moved to amend the amount allocated for the Honea Path Merchants Association be reduced from \$6,000 to \$5,000 and the Horseshoe Tournament from \$5,000 to \$4,000 which will give the Arts Center \$2,000 more. Ms. Wilson's amendment died from lack of a second. Ms. Floyd stated that as a member of the GAMAC Association she would recuse herself from the vote since GAMAC is an applicant for ATAX monies. (See recusal form attached as Exhibit A.) Mr. Dees noted for the record that he had resigned his position as a board member with the Easter Seals Society on Monday, November 18 which is a very best issues to put money in and he is not willing to remove any of the monies from the handicap of Anderson. Mr. Tolly called for the question. Vote was four in favor and two opposed on the call for the question. (Mr. Wright and Ms. Wilson abstained). Vote on the amendment as submitted by Mr. Wright was five in favor (Dees, Wright, Greer, Tolly, Holden) and one opposed (Wilson) and one absent due to recusal (Floyd). Motion carried. Mr. Wright said that he would like for Council to look at how we can "not rob Peter to pay Paul" and somehow put some of the monies back into the Honea Path area. He said one way would be to take a \$1,000 from the Balloon Federation for the Checkers or Horseshoe Tournaments. He then moved to amend the original amendment to reduce the appropriation of monies from \$15,000 to \$14,000 and add that to the Horseshoe Tournament. (Raise Horseshoe to \$3,000). Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was six in favor and one absent due to recusal (Floyd). Motion carried. Mr. Holden moved to

send the recommendation of the Accommodations Tax committee back for additional consideration. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was two in favor (Holden, Wilson) and four opposed (Dees, Tolly, Wright, Greer). Motion failed. Chairman Greer recommended that Council divide the \$14,000 appropriation for the Balloon Federation equally between them and the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center (Freedom Weekend Aloft). Mr. Holden seconded. Ms. Wilson said that the county had funded enormous amounts of money to the Balloon Federation. Vote was five in favor (Holden, Tolly, Wright, Dees, Greer), one absent due to recusal (Floyd) and one abstention (Wilson). Motion carried.

Vote on the original motion as amended was five in favor (Holden, Dees, Wright, Tolly, Greer), one opposed (Wilson) and one absent due to recusal (Floyd). Motion carried.

On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to accept Hickory Ridge into the county road system.

On the motion of Mr. Tolly, seconded by Mr. Dees, Council voted unanimously to appropriate \$5,000 for the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls club out of District #1's recreation fund.

Mr. Tolly moved to appropriate \$200 for the Senior Follies from each Districts: District #1, 3, 5, 6, & 7 (total \$1,000). Mr. Dees seconded. The funds will come from each district's recreation account. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to appropriate \$14,000 from District #6's Paving Account for the purchase of right-of-way so the County may repair a bridge that has been closed for several months (West Church Bridge). Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$5,000 from District #7's Paving Account for the Rails to Trails Study. Mr. Wright seconded. Mr. Wright moved to amend to include a \$1,000 from District #4's Recreation Account and Ms. Wilson seconded. Mr. Wright added to his amendment that \$1,000 also be appropriated from District #2's Recreation Account. Vote on the amendment was unanimous. Vote on the original motion as amended was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Greer, seconded by Mr. Wright, Council voted unanimously to appropriate \$585.00 from District 3's Recreation Account for the Grove Community Park for additional fencing.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Certificates and Training: -- Mr. Michael Miller, Instructor - First Responder Clandestine Lab Safety and Recognition
- b. Letters of Appreciation:
 - 1. For: Ms. Gracie S. Floyd From: Ms. Beatrice Thompson, Executive Director of Westside Community Center
 - 2. For: Road Maintenance - Mr. Aaron Smart's Crew (Mr. Ray Jarrard and Mr. Sean Reed) From: Mr. Jimmy Kalcos
 - 3. For: Road Maintenance - Mr. Jerry Cash's crew (Mr. Ray Johnson, Mr. Carl Dutton, Mr. Sammy Moore, and Mr. Michael Gregory) From: Mr. Gilliland
 - 4. For: Mr. Jay Patterson, Sign Supervisor From: Ms. Genny Hendricks
- c. Reports:
 - 1. District Paving Report
 - 2. Detention Center Litter Report - October 28-November 1, 2002
 - 3. Road Maintenance Litter Report (October)
 - 4. Building and Codes - October Report

Chairman Greer recommended that Council hold a final work session on the Land Use changes. Council agreed upon December 5 beginning at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Mr.

Holden moved to hold the workshop on December 5 and Ms. Wilson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL

Exhibit A – Recusal form.



ANDERSON
COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

Making News.
Making Progress.

MEMORANDUM

TO: COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, ANDERSON COUNTY
FROM: Gracie S. Floyd
DATE: Nov. 19, 2002
RE: Recusal from County Council participation due to potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety

County Administrator

Joey R. Preston

Council Members

Clint Wright
Chairman
District 4

Mike Holden
Vice-Chairman
District 5

G. Fred Tolly, Jr.
District 1

Gracie S. Floyd
District 2

Larry E. Greer
District 3

William C. Dees
District 6

M. Cindy Wilson
District 7

Clerk to Council

Linda N. Gilstrap

Pursuant to Section 8-13-700, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, I am hereby giving notice of my abstention from the matter regarding the issue of GAMAC

as it appears before Anderson County Council on Nov 19, 2002.

The potential conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety for which I am recusing myself and abstaining from participation is: I am a member of the GAMAC Association.

(for example: a personal or financial interest in the matter in question; a conflict or appearance of impropriety due to business or other relationships with one or more of the parties involved; and so forth).

This document is to be filed as a matter of public record, and is to be included with the official minutes of the County Council meeting at which the matter in question was brought before Anderson County Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie S. Floyd
date: 12/3/02

Anderson
County



2000

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