

September 23, 2014
Charleston, SC

A meeting of County Council of Charleston County was held on the 23rd day of September, 2014, in the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers, Second Floor of the Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building, located at 4045 Bridge View Drive, Charleston, South Carolina.

Present at the meeting were the following members of Council: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Chairman, who presided; Colleen Condon; Henry E. Darby; Anna Johnson; Joseph K. Qualey; A. Victor Rawl; Herbert R. Sass, III; Dickie Schweers and J. Elliott Summey.

Also present were County Administrator Kurt Taylor and County Attorney Joseph Dawson, III.

Rev. Robert Reid gave the invocation. County Attorney Joe Dawson led in the pledge to the flag.

The Deputy Clerk reported that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of the minutes of September 9, 2014, seconded by Mr. Summey, and carried.

Chairman Pryor announced that the next item on the agenda was resolutions and recognitions. Mr. Summey moved approval of the resolutions and recognitions, seconded by Mr. Rawl, and carried.

Chairman Pryor asked Mrs. Ercelle Moore Chillis to come forward to receive a resolution in honor of her 100th birthday.

The resolution is as follows:



**A RESOLUTION
OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Honoring Ercelle Moore Chillis on the Occasion of Her 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore was born on September 14, 1914, during a hurricane, to the late Donnie and Susan Moore; attended Society Hill School on Secessionville Road and

worked long hours in the fields and at the shrimp factory to help her parents purchase property on Scott Hill Grimbball Road Extension, where the family moved to in 1927; **and**

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore moved to Newark, NJ, in 1930 where she married and raised a family of two sons, who died young, and two daughters, **Constance Parker** and **Donna Payton**; **and**

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore worked as a domestic, a factory worker and health care aid for over 50 years to support her family through the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, and more; **and**

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore Chillis and her husband, **Theodore Chillis**, returned to James Island in 1983 to live on a portion of her father's estate and live her retirement dream of planting trees, flowers, and vegetables, working part time, and attending James Island Evening High School and nursing her husband at his time of sickness before his death in 1987; **and**

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore Chillis continued to work part-time until she was 85 years old, cut her own grass until she was 90 and still cultivates her gardens, exercises at the Low Country Senior Center, visits the sick, cooks, bakes, and drives; **and**

WHEREAS, Ercelle Moore Chillis is a member of First Baptist Church of James Island, serves on the Missionary Board, and was an Executive Board Member of the Lighten-Up Weight Loss Program and remains an advocate of a healthy lifestyle through dietary control and participation in physical activity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that **Charleston County Council** does hereby recognize the many contributions of **Ercelle Moore Chillis** and wishes her a very happy 100th birthday.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.
Chairman

Chairman Pryor asked Whitney Ringler, founder of Chase After a Cure, to come forward to receive a resolution proclaiming September 2014 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Charleston County.

The resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION
OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, cancer is the No. 1 cause of disease-related death among children; **and**

WHEREAS, 15,780 children between birth and age 20 are diagnosed with cancer each year; **and**

WHEREAS, 70 children are diagnosed with cancer each year at the Medical University of South Carolina.

WHEREAS, neuroblastoma accounts for 15 percent of all childhood cancer deaths; and

WHEREAS, neuroblastoma has one of the lowest survival rates of all pediatric cancers and there are few effective treatments for children who relapse with neuroblastoma.

WHEREAS, efforts of **Chase After a Cure** raised much-needed funds for childhood cancer research at the Medical University of South Carolina, benefiting children and families in Charleston and beyond.

WHEREAS, Chase After a Cure is recognizing September 2014 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging citizens to help in its mission to chase away childhood cancer.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Charleston County Council**, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against childhood cancer, does hereby join in the observance of and proclamation of the month of September 2014 as

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in Charleston County and encourage all citizens of Charleston County to recognize the critical importance of helping our youngest citizens in the fight for their lives.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Teddie E. Pryor, Chairman
September 23, 2014

The next resolution was proclaiming September 2014 Literacy Month in Charleston County. Chairman Pryor announced that Trident Literacy Association requested that the Clerk mail the resolution.

The resolution is as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the need for a highly literate citizenry increases as our community moves toward an increasingly technological future; **and**,

WHEREAS, approximately 25% of Charleston County's adults experience literacy issues that impact severely on their lives and families, their ability to work productively, and their full participation as citizens and residents of our community and state; and

WHEREAS, Trident Literacy Association provides instruction to more than 1,000 adults in Charleston County annually, helping them improve their skills so they can earn their GED and WorkKeys Career Readiness Certificates, learn English as a Second Language, gain computer skills, qualify for jobs and contribute to our economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County Council deems it important to recognize and highlight the economic and societal importance of literacy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in meeting duly assembled, that Charleston County Council does hereby proclaim September 2014 as Literacy Month and September 24-30, 2014, as Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in Charleston County, South Carolina, and urges its citizens to learn more about the importance of literacy and to become involved with literacy in our community.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Teddie E. Pryor, Chairman
September 23, 2014

Chairman Pryor requested that Deputy Administrator of Community Services Christine DuRant, Charleston Center Director Dr. Chanda Brown, and Charleston Center Accreditation Manager Steven Donaldson come forward to receive a resolution proclaiming September 2014 Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month and September 20, 2014 Addiction Professionals Day as well as to be recognized for the Charleston Center's Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities accreditation.

The resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION
OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, substance use disorders are serious, chronic, but manageable public health problems affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds, having huge medical, societal and economic costs; **and,**

WHEREAS, educating our residents about the many ways substance use disorders affect children, families and communities can help foster a better understanding of these disorders and the stigma associated with them; **and,**

WHEREAS, Charleston County supports helping citizens live productive lives free from the impact of alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviors and promotes active recovery for persons whose lives are affected by addiction.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Charleston County Council,** does hereby join in the 25th anniversary observance of and proclamation of the month of September 2014 as

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION
RECOVERY MONTH**

in Charleston County and encourage all citizens of Charleston county to recognize the achievement of those who seek to overcome the stigma and secure the benefits of substance abuse treatment and recovery.

ALSO

WHEREAS, addiction professionals are uniquely qualified, frontline health care professionals vital to the process of guiding patients with addictive disorders to recovery; **and**,

WHEREAS, these dedicated professionals are committed to increasing public knowledge of alcohol and drug dependency and to enhancing the care of individuals, families and communities through treatment, education and prevention programs; **and**,

WHEREAS, National Addiction Professionals Day recognizes and honors the work of addiction professionals while raising awareness about the effectiveness of alcohol and drug addiction treatment

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Charleston County Council**, does hereby join in observance of and proclamation of September 20, 2014 as

ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS DAY

in Charleston County and encourages all citizens of Charleston County to recognize addiction professionals for their commitment to reducing chemical dependency among our residents.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Teddie E. Pryor, Chairman
September 23, 2014

Chairman Pryor recognized Dr. Brown who reported that the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) is an international accreditation body formed in 1966 which is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Dr. Brown shared that Charleston Center had received the highest accreditation award provided by the organization, a three year award, for the last 21 years which means that Charleston Center has highly conformed to the business and clinical standards. County Council was proud to recognize the accomplishments of the staff at Charleston Center.

Chairman Pryor asked Deputy Administrator for Transportation and Public Works Jim Armstrong to come forward in order to recognize two outstanding employees. Mr. Armstrong stated that the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy is a yearlong program that starts in September and concludes the following August. The Emerging Leaders

Academy provides intensive leadership and management training within the context of Public Works. It encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers, and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter and branch levels.

The candidates must be professionals who have been working in the field of Public Works for ten years or less and those who have demonstrated an interest in advancing their careers within the profession. The Academy's activities included monthly one-hour conference calls, a two-day retreat in Kansas City, and attendance at the APWA International Public Works Congress and Exposition. APWA pays for all expenses and travel to Kansas City, while the county sponsors the travel to the International Congress, which will be held in Phoenix, AZ.

Just some of the topics covered over the program include:

- Defining Leadership
- Exploring Ethics
- Proactive Thinking
- Negotiation Skills
- Presentation Pointers
- Leading Change
- Time Management
- Media Relations

It is expected that participants will also complete reading assignments and other class projects as requested by the Academy Coordinator. They will also be teamed with a senior Public Works mentor to discuss and review training assignments throughout the year. The following year they will serve as advisors to the State APWA board.

This is the first time that anyone from Charleston County has been selected for this program. Rarely do two people from the same state make the cut. It is almost unheard of for them to be from the same County; however two of our own Public Works employees, Kevin Limehouse – Customer Service Liaison and Ryan Peterson – Technical Supervisor, have both been selected to participate in this year's APWA Emerging Leaders Academy. The skills Kevin and Ryan will learn in this program will help them to better serve the citizens of Charleston County.

Chairman Pryor requested that the members of the Greenbelt Bank Board come forward. The Chairman stated that at its meeting of August 24, 2014, Council took action to approve the closing of the rural greenbelt program and that in recognition of their dedication to the greenbelt program, Council wanted to extend their gratitude for the service of these dedicated volunteers. Chairman Pryor also stated that as a result of Greenbelt Bank Board recommendations, Council had awarded \$66.3 million rural funds to protect 16,700 acres (average cost per acre of \$4,000/acre) of which \$48 million was used to purchase 4,890 acres for park land. The Greenbelt Bank Board Members who were present were Ellen Unger, Edwin Cooper, John Templeton, Charles Salmonsens, Wilbur Johnson, T. Heyward Carter, Hugh Lane, Master Bines, and former Board Member Margaret Blackmer. Mr. George Bullwinkel was unable to attend.

The Chairman stated that the next item on the agenda was the Consent Agenda. Ms. Condon moved approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Rawl, and carried.

Consent Agenda items are as follows:

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson regarding the need to accept funding from the 2014 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. It was stated that this grant is a direct allocation which can only be used for criminal justice initiatives and that the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) calculates the yearly award amount based on a formula of crime statistics and population. It was shown that the award for North Charleston for 2014 is \$60,466 and North Charleston has allotted \$20,000 of this direct award to the Solicitor's Office to partially fund a General Prosecutor to prosecute North Charleston cases. It was further shown that the Solicitor's Office is requesting to use the \$20,000 to fund a General Prosecutor for a limited amount of months. The number of months which will be funded will be dependent upon the salary of the chosen prosecutor. It was further stated that the grant period will run from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2017; and that there is a 1.0 grant-funded FTE associated with this request. It is also stated that at the conclusion of the grant period, the FTE position will be dissolved if no further grant funding is available, and the City of North Charleston will serve as the fiscal agent for the direct allocation award.

Committee recommended that Council allow the Solicitor's Office to accept a portion of North Charleston's direct allocation from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in the amount of \$20,000, with the understanding that:

- The \$20,000 will be used to fund a General Prosecutor to prosecute North Charleston cases for a limited amount of months.
- The City of North Charleston will serve as the fiscal agent for this award.
- The grant period will run from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2017; there is a 1.0 grant-funded FTE associated with this request, and at the conclusion of the grant period, the FTE will be dissolved if no further grant funding is available.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson regarding funding appropriated by the State of South Carolina to allow the Solicitor's Office to hire a Violent Crime Attorney. It was stated that because the State's budget was not passed until June 30, 2014, the Charleston County Budget did not include these funds and no request for a FTE was included. The Solicitor's Office is requesting that Council allow the Solicitor's Office to add an FTE at this time, with the understanding that this position is fully funded by the State, and there will be no cost to the County.

Committee recommended that Council approve one (1) FTE for the Violent Crime state appropriation in the Solicitor's Office.

The Chairman stated that the next item on the agenda was appointments to Boards and Commissions. Ms. Condon moved approval of items A-G, seconded by Mr. Summey, and carried.

Items A-G are as follows:

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to make an appointment to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancies for the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board was previously made.

An application for appointment was received from Thomas J. Doyle, III.

The Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee advises County Council on the expenditure of monies received by County Government from the accommodations tax. The Committee is composed of seven members who must be residents of unincorporated Charleston County, four or more of whom must own, or derive income from hospitality industry businesses in the unincorporated portion of the county. Members are appointed by County Council for three year terms.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Thomas J. Doyle, III to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to make appointments to the Procurement Appeals Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancies for the Procurement Appeals Board was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Caroline Axman, Sheila Daniels, and Fred Palm.

The Charleston County Procurement Appeals Board meets only in the case of a formal protest by a vendor, regarding the solicitation of an award or an appeal from a determination made by the Director of Procurement. The Chairman of this five member Board must be an attorney. Terms are for two years.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Caroline Axman, Sheila Daniels, and Fred Palm to the Procurement Appeals Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to recommend that the Governor make an appointment to the St. Andrew's Parks and Playground Commission. It was stated that an announcement of vacancy for the St. Andrews Parks and Playground Commission was previously made.

An application for reappointment was received from Carol Etheridge.

The St. Andrews Parks and Playground Commission is a Public Service District formed by the state legislature and is composed of five volunteer citizens that live within the Public Service District. The Commission is appointed by the Governor, upon recommendation of Charleston County Council for a term of three years. The duties of the Commission include preparing an annual budget to be approved by Charleston County Council and making and maintaining policy for the Agency. The staff of St. Andrews Parks and Playground report to the Executive Director who in turn reports directly to the Commission.

Committee recommended that Council recommend that the Governor reappoint Carol Etheridge to the St. Andrew's Parks & Playground Commission.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to make appointments to the Business License/User Fee Appeals Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancies for the Business License/User Fee Appeals Board was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Austin James Anderson, John Apicella, Jillian Barton, Ian Ford, Julie Moore, Ben Powell, and Hay F. Sparks, III.

The Business License/User Fee Appeals Board is a six member board that is charged by County Council to receive testimony and make written determinations concerning appeals of citizens and the business community aggrieved by any action taken by the Business License/User Fee Department. Half of the members of this board must be either CPAs or attorneys and other applicants are encouraged to have a strong legal and/or financial background. Meetings are scheduled in the evenings, after normal working hours, on an as-needed basis. All determinations made by this Board are final unless the decision of the Board is appealed to Council within ten days after service of the Board's decision. Terms of the Business License/User Fee Appeals Board are for four years.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Jillian Barton, Ian Ford, Julie Moore, and Hay Sparks to the Business License/User Fee Appeals Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to make an appointment to the construction sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancy for the construction sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Committee was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Cherie Liollo, Henry Woodward Middleton, and Kirk Mills.

The Community Development Advisory Committee provides policy guidance for and exercises oversight with respect to activities and services provided under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Committee makes recommendations to County Council on matters affecting the Consolidated Plan and other related matters as the common interest of the participating governments may dictate. The Committee consists of representatives from 9 (nine) local governments and 4 (four) non-government partners. The non-government partners must be one representative from each the financial, legal, and construction fields as well as one community-based representative. Terms of the Community Development Advisory Committee will initially be staggered with two members holding one year terms and two holding two year terms. Following initial appointments, terms will be two years.

Committee recommended that Council appoint Cherie Liollo to the construction sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to recommend that the Governor make appointments to the Charleston County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancies for the Disabilities and Special Needs Board was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Corky Carnevale, Donald Cronin, Jennifer Hartig, Robert Himmelsbach, James Alex Jackson, Latosha Jenkins-Fludd, Julie Moore, Scott Moore, Virginia Guest Nichols, Mitchell Sherr, Hay F. Sparks, III, Maryann Wagner, and John Alexander Warren.

Members of the Disabilities and Special Needs Board are appointed by the Governor for four year terms. County Council recommends to the Governor persons to be appointed. The mission of the Board is to assist people with disabilities in meeting their needs, pursuing their dreams and achieving their possibilities; and to minimize the occurrence and reduce severity of disabilities through prevention. The Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Committee recommended that Council recommend that the Governor appoint Corky Carnevale, Dick Cronin, Alex Jackson, Maryann Wagner, and Virginia Guest Nichols to the Charleston County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury regarding the need to recommend that the State Forester make an appointment to the Charleston County Forestry Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancy for the Forestry Board was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Norman Ketchie and Robert M. Rakoske.

The five members of the Charleston County Forestry Board shall assist in the general conduct of the forestry program in the County. The Board shall review, revise, and adopt the annual forest fire protection plan. Members of the Board shall reside in Charleston County. Appointments are made by the State Forester upon recommendation of County Council. Terms are for five years.

Committee recommended that Council recommend that the State Forester appoint Robert M. Rakoske to the Charleston County Forestry Board.

Chairman Pryor stated that at the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, there was a tie vote on the appointment for the financial sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Board. It was stated that an announcement of vacancy for the financial sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Committee was previously made.

Applications for appointment were received from Patrick King and Joseph Cyrus Semsar.

The Community Development Advisory Committee provides policy guidance for and exercises oversight with respect to activities and services provided under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Committee makes recommendations to County Council on matters affecting the Consolidated Plan and other related matters as the common interest of the participating governments may dictate. The Committee consists of representatives from 9 (nine) local governments and 4 (four) non-government partners. The non-government partners must be one representative from each the financial, legal, and construction fields as well as one community-based representative. Terms of the Community Development Advisory Committee will initially be staggered with two members holding one year terms and two holding two year terms. Following initial appointments, terms will be two years.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the two candidates, Patrick King and Joseph Cyrus Semsar. The roll was called and the votes were recorded as follows:

Condon	- King
Darby	- Abstain
Johnson	- King
Qualey	- Semsar
Rawl	- King
Sass	- Semsar
Schweers	- Semsar
Summey	- King
Pryor	- King

The vote being five (5) for King, three (3) for Semsar, and one (1) abstention, the Chairman declared Mr. King was the appointee to the financial sector seat on the Community Development Advisory Board.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, regarding the 2014 Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Housing Needs Assessment. It was stated that on March 11, 2013, County Council sent a letter to the BCDCOG requesting that a regional housing needs assessment be completed and that the COG Board approved this request and their staff began working on the project. It was shown that Charleston County Zoning and Planning staff assisted with the project in 2013 to complete the document in a timely manner. It was also shown that the drafting of the Assessment involved participants from both the public and private sectors, as well as from non-profit organizations.

Committee recommended that Council approve the 2014 Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Housing Needs Assessment. Ms. Condon moved approval of the committee recommendation, seconded by Ms. Johnson, and carried. Messrs. Qualey, Sass, and Schweers voted against the motion.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the information provided by County Administrator Kurt Taylor, Emergency Medical Services Chief of Operations Charles Millican, and Chairman Teddie Pryor regarding personal protective equipment for EMS employees. It was stated that Chairman Pryor had been in discussions with EMS staff and Deputy Administrator for Community Services Christine DuRant for several months regarding the need to better prepare EMS personnel to respond to dangerous emergency scenes by providing the staff with personal protective equipment such as bullet-proof vests. It was shown that staff had researched the type of protective garments which would best suit the County's needs.

Committee recommended that Council authorize staff to issue an Invitation for Bids to purchase personal protective gear for use by the EMS Department.

Mr. Summey moved approval of the committee recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Condon.

Judge Rawl stated that he had no problem protecting personnel, but he felt that the proposal was tactically inappropriate and that he feared it would hamper the ability for the paramedics to do their job.

Mr. Summey stated that at times a perceived normal situation can escalate quickly and people in the backline can get injured.

Mr. Sass stated that he had some questions about protocol. He asked how the Sheriff and EMS work together and if the EMS workers would be wearing the protective equipment at all times.

Assistant Sheriff Mitch Lucas answered Mr. Sass' questions by stating that he has wanted paramedics to wear soft body armor for years. He stated that in an incident, the policy is that in an incident, paramedics come as close as they can, law enforcement secures the scene and then calls in the paramedics. He stated that paramedics are in dangerous situations every day and recalled the recent Cycle Gear incident where the

paramedics had been called into the crime scene by law enforcement, but the paramedics later told deputies they believed they were called in before the situation was under control and felt like they had been in a dangerous situation. Charleston County would not be the first county to provide the protective equipment for paramedics and that to his knowledge Beaufort, Spartanburg, Bluffton, and a number of other jurisdictions around the state currently provide this equipment to paramedics.

Mr. Schweers asked what the path forward would be if Council approved this request.

Deputy Administrator for Community Services Christine DuRant stated that if this were approved, staff would begin the process to implement operational protocols in compliance with FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, and other entities around the nation which have already started to implement these types of protocols. Field testing by Charleston County paramedics would take place in order to see which type of vest would allow them to perform their job the best. She stated that minimum requirements would be put in place for certain situations and the paramedics would always be free to don the vests if they felt the situation warranted it.

Mr. Rawl commented that moving forward there needed to be a holistic look at protocol and our paramedics need to understand they are not to enter into a critical situation until they have been cleared by the command structure on the ground. He stated that in some way issuing these vests the County may be unconsciously empowering the EMTs by giving them a device that does not protect you from getting killed, but may give them a comfort factor that they are able to respond more actively to a dangerous situation and to take risks that are not warranted.

Ms. Johnson asked about the practices of other agencies which provide protective equipment to EMTs.

Mrs. DuRant stated that there is a wide variety of practices in place across the country. Some agencies fully outfit paramedics, some offer a discount for employees to purchase their own protective equipment, others only outfit their tactical response teams, and some provide vests on each ambulance.

Ms. Johnson asked about specific protocols for when the body armor would be worn.

Mrs. DuRant stated that there would most likely be a tiered system which would include certain situations where the body armor must be worn and then there would be other situations where the EMT would put the body armor on because of past experience with a certain type of call or a certain citizen, and there would never be a situation where the EMT could not wear the body armor, but the County would establish minimum requirements based on when the armor must be worn based on national information and research leading to objective and methodical decisions.

Ms. Condon thanked Mrs. DuRant and Deputy Chief Millican for their work on this project. She stated that she understood some Council Members' concerns about other first responders not under the County's jurisdiction, but she felt County Council had a responsibility to protect the first responders who work for Charleston County.

Mr. Rawl asked for clarification on the motion.

Chairman Pryor stated that the motion was to authorize staff to issue an Invitation for Bids to purchase personal protective gear for use by the EMS Department and the final award of bid would come back to the Finance Committee.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The roll was called and the votes were recorded as follows:

Condon	- aye
Darby	- aye
Johnson	- aye
Qualey	- aye
Rawl	- nay
Sass	- aye
Schweers	- aye
Summey	- aye
Pryor	- aye

The vote being eight (8) ayes and one (1) nay, the Chairman declared the motion to have passed.

A report was furnished by the Finance Committee of September 18, 2014, that it considered the County Attorney's contract. It was stated that the current contract with Joseph Dawson, III, is due to expire in December 2014.

Committee recommended that Council authorize the Chairman to execute a three year contract with an option for a two year renewal to provide legal services for the County of Charleston with Joseph Dawson, III.

Mr. Summey moved approval of the committee recommendation, seconded by Ms. Condon.

Mr. Rawl stated that he would be voting against the recommendation, not because he has an issue with Mr. Dawson's performance, but that he believes the appropriate relationship between the County Attorney and the County should be as an employee, not a contractor.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the motion. The roll was called and the votes were recorded as follows:

Condon	- aye
Darby	- aye
Johnson	- aye
Qualey	- nay
Rawl	- nay
Sass	- aye

Schweers	- nay
Summey	- aye
Pryor	- aye

The vote being six (6) ayes and three (3) nays, the Chairman declared the motion to have passed.

The Chairman asked if any Council Member wished to make comments.

Mr. Schweers thanked the Bank Board members for their service. He stated that there was a lot of expertise on that board and that if the County had to pay them for their expertise, we would not have been able to afford it. He also thanked Cathy Ruff for her service and stated that she did an excellent job presenting the applications and remained neutral, fair, even-handed and professional at all times.

Ms. Johnson also thanked the Greenbelt Bank Board members and Ms. Ruff for their service. She also commented that the County needed to consider how it could better serve the rural areas of the County with EMS service.

Mr. Darby, Ms. Condon, Mr. Sass and Mr. Qualey thanked Ms. Ruff and the Greenbelt Bank Board members for their service.

Mr. Rawl also thanked Ms. Ruff and the Greenbelt Bank Board members for their service and also thanked Steve Dykes for his years of leadership and dedication at the helm of the Economic Development Department and requested that the short film which was presented at the Industry Appreciation Luncheon be displayed on the County's website.

Chairman Pryor stated that the County Attorney had received communication today from representatives of Project Open House regarding the purchase of a portion of 995 Morrison Drive. Mr. Pryor stated that a Letter of Intent had been received and he was going to direct staff to sign the Letter of Intent since Council had already taken a vote to direct staff to investigate the possibility of selling a portion of the property as part of economic development incentives to Project Open House. Mr. Pryor asked how soon after the Letter of Intent was signed a proposal could be brought back to Council for consideration.

Mr. Taylor stated that staff would try to bring the proposal back to the October 2, 2014, Finance Committee.

Mr. Qualey stated that he did not believe Council had authorized staff to move forward with selling the portion of 995 Morrison Drive and he believed Council had directed staff to do a comprehensive overview of the entire acreage.

Chairman Pryor stated that there were two separate items on the agenda. One was for the financial incentives for Project Open House and the other was for the Master Plan for 995 Morrison Drive.

Mr. Qualey stated that this was a sole-source bid and he believed this was preferential treatment for this entity. He stated that he believed that the entire parcel should be looked at as a cohesive unit and that just because someone sent the County a Letter of Intent did not mean the County had to sign it.

Mr. Pryor stated that whatever staff negotiates with Project Open House will have to come back to the full body of Council for a vote.

Mr. Qualey disagreed with the discussion of this item since Council had not seen the Letter of Intent.

Mr. Dawson stated that he would be happy to provide Council with a copy of the Letter of Intent. He also stated that he was under the impression Council had taken two separate actions at its previous meeting. One was to take a comprehensive look at 995 Morrison Drive and the other was to entertain some proposal from Project Open House regarding a portion of the property.

Mr. Qualey stated that his understanding was that the entertaining of a proposal was contingent and based upon the results of the Master Plan for the property and that he did not understand the rush to have this one developer buy this portion of the property. He also stated that this is not an economic development issue, but is being called one for the sole purpose of selling the property.

Mr. Pryor stated that this issue had already been debated previously and the action of Council stands.

Mr. Summey stated that he originated the motions regarding this item at the previous Council meeting and there were two facets. One was to develop a Master Plan for 995 Morrison Drive and the other was to direct staff to engage with the economic development prospect to find out what their terms are and bring back the negotiations to Council for a vote on the contract. He also stated that he believed the Chairman's intention was to update Council of the progress staff had made since there had been a tendency to criticize the Attorney, Administrator, and Chairman for not keeping other Council Members in the loop when they were acting on directives of Council.

Mr. Sass stated that he also believed that 995 Morrison Drive needed to be developed following a comprehensive plan.

Mr. Rawl asked the County Attorney to research whether disposing of County-owned property as an economic development incentive goes against the County or State's procurement policies.

Mr. Schweers requested a copy of the Letter of Intent before the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, October 2.

Mr. Dawson stated that he would distribute a copy of the letter to all Council Members following the meeting, that it was non-binding, was a way for the other party to know if

the County was interested in negotiating, and that staff would negotiate a contract and then bring the terms of the contract back to Council for consideration.

Chairman Pryor stated that because Council had already voted to authorize staff to negotiate with Project Open House, Mr. Taylor had the authority to sign the letter of intent to begin negotiations.

Mr. Qualey stated that he disagreed.

Ms. Condon read the motion regarding negotiations with Project Open House, which specifically included the sale of the portion of 995 Morrison Drive.

Mr. Qualey asked if the sale of 995 Morrison Drive was specifically included in the motion. Ms. Condon stated that the sale of the portion of 995 Morrison Drive was part of the original presentation from Project Open House.

Chairman Pryor stated that this discussion had already been debated, discussed, and voted on at the last Council meeting. There being no further business to come before the Body, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned.

Kristen L. Salisbury
Deputy Clerk of Council