

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Called Meeting – June 21, 2005 – 5:30 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
G. Fred Tolly – District #1
Bill McAbee – District #4
Michael Thompson – District #5
William C. Dees – District #6
Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Linda N. Eddleman - Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy – Deputy Clerk to Council

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING, PURSUANT TO SECTION 6-1-320 (C) SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, 1976, AS AMENDED, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF GIVING THIRD READING CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO ANDERSON COUNTY ORDINANCE #2005-017, THE ANDERSON COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR 2005-2006, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING SPECIAL REVENUE MILLAGE PURSUANT TO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH, AND AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 6-1-320 (C) SOUTH CAROLINA CODE, 1976, AS AMENDED, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BY THE ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO ALL OF ANDERSON COUNTY, SUCH INCREASED SPECIAL REVENUE MILLAGE TO BE PLACED AND ACCOUNTED FOR EXCLUSIVELY IN A SPECIAL REVENUE FUND OF THE COUNTY DEDICATED AND TO BE USED TOTALLY AND EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUCH ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE SERVICES AND OPERATIONS.

(During times of discussion and presentations the minutes are condensed and paraphrased.)

A called meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson Gracie S. Floyd called the meeting to order and explained that the called meeting was for the purpose of giving third reading consideration and approval to the Anderson County Budget ordinance #2005-017. Mr. Larry E. Greer gave the invocation. Everyone pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Chairperson Floyd welcomed Mr. Sloan and his daughter Toni Lea Sloan to the meeting.

Attorney Tom Martin explained that State Statute did not address whether a public hearing was required or simply citizens' comments was adequate; therefore he recommended to Council and Chair that they treat the "Public Comments" section as a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING/CITIZEN COMMENTS: Agenda Item, Only – Mr. Ed Jean of 1212 Crestview Road said that he had been pleasantly pleased with some of the reactions from the two new Council people. He publicly complemented Mr. Michael Thompson on his effort and time taken to study the issues to

make recommendations. He also thanked Mr. McAbee for the way he has handled things. Mr. Brooks Brown said that he saw where Greenville County gave their employees a 3.5% increase; the state passed a 4% increase, with the exception of law enforcement, which got 10%. He said he saw where Anderson County reimburses employees for upgrading their education. He said he would hate to see a waste of talent where the County educates their employees and then they leave for higher pay. Mr. Tim Williams of 810 East Calhoun Street thanked the two new Council members for the excellent jobs they were doing. He said he still feels the same about the wasteful spending of the Administrator and that is one of the reasons that the budget needs to be increased. He said he would like to see the Park Police done away with and the money be given to the Sheriff. Their budget is (he thinks) about \$330,000. The KAB program could be done by all volunteers and if necessary by inmates at the Detention Center. He said that the County did not need to pay employees \$80,000 to pick up paper (trash). He said he sees the abuse of authority by Council members by not listening to the public who want to reduce the taxes and not listening to each other when there is a better idea. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Dees moved to approve on third reading Ordinance #2005-017 – an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, 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 Anderson County maturing during said fiscal year; to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Anderson County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, 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 taxes may be levied for such Tri-County Technical College purposes; to provide for the levy, assessment and collection of certain other taxes and fees; to provide for the 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. Tolly seconded. Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Martin to refer to page 22 of the Ordinance - Section XXXI. Employee Raises – she asked if the proposed 2% cost of living raise for employees making \$30,000 or less would apply to County Council members. He said yes, it was his belief that it did. He informed her that the wording in the section needed to be changed where it reads "A 2% cost of living adjustments will be granted to such employee(s) whose salary is \$30,000 or less and who have been employed by the County for a period of at least three months on July 1, 2005." Need to change three to six, he said.

~~He also said that Mr. Preston had raised a question as to whether the County Council are considered part time. He said he was sorry but he had not researched the issue and therefore could not answer it.~~ Ms. Wilson also asked about the section dealing with a \$300 match per year of employee contributions to the S.C. Deferred Compensation program (401K). Mr. Martin replied that it's been there in prior years but wasn't in the current budget. Ms. Wilson said at the last meeting Mr. Greer had made an amendment pertaining to the paving funds and the wording is not the same as reflected in the budget ordinance. She then moved that the paving fund allocated to each Council member be renamed the Paving and Infrastructure account and funds in the account will be used for paving and to provide matching funds for infrastructure projects in each district. She said previous histories have proven that these monies have resulted in more funds being available when used this way. Each request would be subject to Council's approval. The amendment will allow greater flexibility in the use of the funds and bring opportunities for leveraging funds in these districts. It will also allow Council members to respond to requests in their districts that will benefit the County as a whole. Motion died from lack of a second. Ms. Wilson also said that at the last meeting a motion was approved that Mr. Preston would provide sample scenario budgets from recommendations from Mr. Thompson and Mr. Greer. She said she was

informed that she could come at 3:00 today to look at them. She said concerning the Business Analyst department the Administrator remarks that as originally submitted, the Business Analyst department only increased by \$2,785, which was personnel costs. She said that last year's actual was \$93,615.02 and the proposed \$103,825. Museum Budget – last year's actual \$162,464.57 proposed \$211,295. Community Services actual was \$120,397.56 and the proposed was \$182,055. Farmers Market actual was \$22,294.88 proposed \$40,805. The Engineers' budget last years actual \$546,713.75 proposed \$814,210. She recommended that Park Police be held at last year's funding which is \$226,827.93. The ASEC's budget was actual \$1,104,865 and the proposed increase was \$1,160,140. Her recommendation on Public Information was to abolish the budget and place the single employee who was originally there back into the Administrator's budget. She recommended on cutting county memberships by 10%. This year's proposed budget is \$107,665. On Building and Grounds the county went from \$1,474,691.96 to proposed \$1,815,440. She also recommended that at Exit 14, which increased the budget, that the County provide funding for the maintenance of the exit but to try to involve the County's Master Gardeners and some of the Garden Clubs, which would save the County, a good bit of money. The Animal Shelter went from \$389,201.42 to proposed \$528,275. She recommended that the Council half the increase to approximately \$69,000 increase. KAB is basically two departments and the total funding for them is \$378,875 for the portion that [REDACTED] come from the host fee, she recommended that the Host fee be transferred to the Solid Waste department because the Host Fee is a revenue from the Big Creek Landfill. And that is supposed to be used to offset the tremendous deficit in Solid Waste. On the dues and subscriptions she recommended cutting by 50%. The County spends \$57,815 on this. She recommended cutting meals by 20%. The County currently spends \$53,385. On the Stitchery, she said that the Administrator continues to refuse to show County Council where in last years, where in this year's budget, or where in the proposed budget is the purchase authorized by Council. The Capital budget on Indigent Care – she asked about last years actual expenses the County spent \$830,358 the explanation is that the State mandates the expense and it's been in the "neighborhood" of \$625,000-\$650,000 per year. [REDACTED]

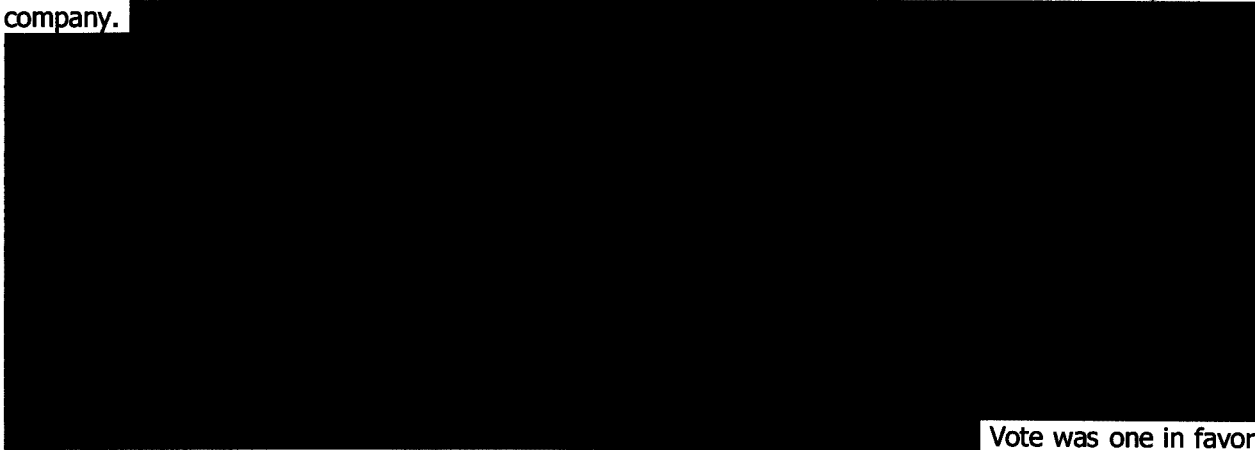
[REDACTED] She said she would like to know why there is a dramatic increase and a dramatic decrease. She asked if the county really needed to provide KAB with a \$20,000 vehicle. Where is the justification for \$55,000 vehicles, \$45,825 vehicles? She said that there was a vehicle list totaling \$2,495,955. [REDACTED]

~~What she was given is not in any way a sample scenario of the budget rather it's stating that if the budget is not passed tonight employees will be fired and that is not the case, she said.~~ Chairperson Floyd said that an amendment was needed to correct section XXXI – to change "three" months to "six" months. She then moved to amend the ordinance as she just explained and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous. Chairperson Floyd said that at the last meeting Mr. Greer had a list of essential departments that he didn't want to be cut. She said all of the departments were essential and the amendment would create undue hardships to other departments having to make up the difference. Mr. Thompson seconded. Ms. Wilson asked Chairperson Floyd if her amendment included the part concerning the restrictions on the use of paving funds. Ms. Wilson said that what was written in the proposed budget ordinance also added several other expenditures. She asked if engineering and design services for paving which has been provided in-house now would be billed to the Council district paving account? Chairperson Floyd asked Mr. Thompson to withdraw his second so she could make the motion over again. Chairperson Floyd moved that the County look at only the departments that were cut at this time. Mr. Thompson seconded the amendment. Mr. Greer said that he had been in discussion with Mr. Preston concerning the intent of the motion to amend made at the last meeting and based on discussions with Mr. Preston that amendment at this time is not necessary because there has been a way found to make the 1-mil reduction without having an adverse effect on any department. So he would like an explanation from Mr. Preston on how he plans to achieve that 1-mil reduction. Attorney Martin explained the amendment proposed by Chairperson Floyd. Mr. Preston read the following budget reductions:

1. Since most departments have held the line or cut their operating budgets from prior years, reinstate all departments back to their original level of funding as submitted at first reading; meaning they will not be asked to reduce their operating budgets by 3.41%. We cannot afford to cut the operating budgets of the departments any further in our estimation; again, without impacting service delivery.
2. Stagger filling the new positions that are recommended for approval until late December 2005 in the General fund. This would save \$315,522.
3. And finally reduce the workers compensation line item by \$139,778.

The three steps will yield a "balanced" budget for FY06. Mr. Greer moved to add the account #6500-100-164 to the exemption part of the amendment and not on the restrictions approved on the account to Chairperson Floyd's amendment. Vote was six in favor and one abstention (Wilson). Vote on Chairperson Floyd's amendment was six in favor on one opposed (Wilson). Council took a five-minute break at 6:15 p.m. Chairperson Floyd called the meeting back to order at 6:32 p.m.

Attorney Martin said that during the recess he attempted to complete the research into the question by Ms. Wilson concerning pay increases for County Council. He said that County Council members are considered part-time employees and are therefore exempt from the merit increases but not cost of living increases. State law currently says for elected officials any increases would not apply until the next Council comes into office. So by passing the budget County Council would not be voting on an increase for Council. Mr. Greer talked about the park police. He said that there had been some interest in moving the Park Police to the Sheriff's Office but in discussions with the Sheriff's Office and Mr. Preston it has been indicated that the Sheriff's Office has no interest in incorporating the park police into the Sheriff's Office because it would be an increased cost, less protection to the County's recreation facilities because under statutory law they would have to handle things other than protecting our parks, and it would increase the cost to the taxpayers having to have additional and more improved equipment. Ms. Wilson moved to take from account #5043 – Finance – take the budgeted amount from line item #339 – Management Consulting - \$82,252 and apply it to line item 301 – Audit for a total of \$122,250 to provide for expanded procedures in auditing and precluding the County's present external auditor from doing Management consulting while they are the County's current auditors. Mr. McAbee seconded. Mr. McAbee wanted to know the purpose of the motion. Ms. Wilson said that the Sarbanes-Oxley act as it is currently written means that your external auditor should not be doing management consulting for the company.



Vote was one in favor (Wilson) and six opposed. Motion failed. Mr. McAbee said that on page 21, Section XXIX – "The administrator shall report to the County Council monthly on all such transfers exceeding \$2,500 and above, once received." He moved to strike that line and insert the following language – "The Administrator must have County Council's approval prior to any such transfer exceeding \$2,500." Ms. Wilson seconded. During the time the chair was announcing the vote, Mr. Greer asked to go back and get clarification on the amendment. He said that his concern was during the audit year there is a lot of transfer activity and he asked if that would create an unworkable situation on Finance Staff and the auditors. Mr. Preston recommended that Council not do this because it works. Mr. Greer asked Mr. Preston to give council an indication on the number of transfers. Ms. Gina Humphries said that at the

end of the year it might be 30 - 40 transfers. She said that she was more worried about an emergency situation where the county would need to transfer funds. So this could put the Council in a situation of having to call an emergency meeting. Vote was two in favor (McAbee, Wilson) and five opposed (Floyd, Greer, Tolly, Dees, Thompson). Motion failed. Ms. Wilson moved to amend the budget by taking \$10,000 out of the sewer levy for district 7 to provide funds for Dunn and Dunn to do a feasibility study to run sewer from Williamston to Honea Path, which would open up a large area for economic development. The amendment died from a lack of a second. Mr. Dees said that directly affecting law enforcement in South Carolina the State is giving all state employees 4%, plus an additional 6% for a total of 10%. Beginning July 1, everyone will begin to pay .25 percent more out their salary into the retirement system and Anderson County will also be paying more. July 1, 2006, will be paying another .25 percent for a total of .50 percent additional for the next two years. He said this bothers him that the County only saw fit to only give those under \$30,000 a raise. He said he thought that was a terrible way to treat the employees. Other Counties are giving 3 – 3-1/4%, 3-1/2%, and even up to 4%, the Police and State Retirement systems are issuing a 3.4% raise. Mr. Dees said that a gentleman told him that he had information that Greenville County's budget was less than Anderson County's. He said that Greenville County's operating budget was \$99,000,000 for 2006 \$103 million. He said that the total operating budget in Greenville County is \$177,370,605. Mr. Preston said that the operating budget is \$38 million compared to Greenville County's \$99 million. Ms. Wilson asked what the population of Greenville County compared to Anderson County.

Mr. Tolly called for the question. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was six in favor and one opposed (Wilson). Motion carried. Vote on the budget ordinance #2005-017 as amended (change 3 months to 6 months, and deleting the restrictions on the departments effected by budget cuts) was four in favor (Tolly, Greer, Dees, Floyd) and three opposed (Wilson, Thompson, McAbee). Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Eddleman
Clerk to Anderson County Council