

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
February 1, 20129:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman J. Matthew Rivers, Vice-Chair Lenora V. Powe, Council Members: Kenneth A. Johnson, G. Franklin Plyler, Bruce E. Rivers, Crawford Moore, 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; William B. Rogers – Solicitor; James McGonigal, Karen Stangel – Paws and Claws/Shelter Committee, Joy Young, Kathryn Horton, Jerry Gaskins – Paws and Claws, Victoria McGonigal, Debbie Boan, Frances Taylor, Nancy Updegrave, Brenda Quick, Donna Rivers – CCCOA; Ralph Laney – DSS; Patrick Sutton – Pee Dee Animal Rescue and Foster, Karen Kissiah – The Cheraw Chronicle; Leighton Bell – The Link and Annanell Freeman – Paws and Claws. 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 Bruce E. Rivers opened the meeting with prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adopt the February 1, 2012 meeting agenda with any amendments approved by Council. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 11, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Council Member Cole made a motion to adopt the January 11, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

None

APPOINTMENTS

a. The Honorable William B. Rogers, Solicitor

Advised Council that he had sent a letter to Administrator Douglass, stating that the solicitors as a group filed a lawsuit against Lending Tree, which is a mortgage broker for violating some of the state laws about disclosure in doing loan closings and as a result of that lawsuit there has been a settlement and the different solicitors have received some checks in December 2011. He stated that the solicitors as a group asked that the money go directly to the counties versus going to the State and the amount of the check that they

got for each county was based on the number of loan closings done in that county and he stated that he told Administrator Douglass he had like a little cheat sheet and he presented it to Council for them to review. He stated this was the first half and there is also suppose to be another check before August of this year and that he was anticipating about the same amount. The amount of the check was \$4,449.42 and made out to Chesterfield County and the Fourth Circuit Solicitor's Office. He stated that he had already endorsed the check to present to Council. He stated that he did request, since he was anticipating additional funding losses at the end of this fiscal year, that are not from the county or the state but that he was going to lose some grants because they are in the third year of several grants. He stated that what he had been trying to do with his office was when he had an opening, he had just not been filling that position and that he had been anticipating this for the past year and that things he had been doing in the office should prevent him from having many more personnel losses. He stated that as in his letter to Administrator Douglass, he would like Council to consider giving him half the money so that he could continue doing what he was doing within his office.

Council Member Powe made a motion to accept the proposal by William B. Rogers, Solicitor. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim McGonigal – Citizen

Stated to Council his concerns on the proposed ordinance change and policy change regarding the Animal Shelter. He stated that the new policy of charging \$39.00 for rescue groups to pull dogs from the Chesterfield County Animal Shelter was going to be a detriment in many ways to the animals and rescues but to Chesterfield County it will be both fiscally and to its reputation. He commended Council for improvements made to the shelter in recent months both in operations and infrastructure. He stated that the shelter had been on the backburner and underfunded for many years and out of the public eye and that the only time it makes the news or draws attention is for negative reasons. He stated that he implored the county not to implement the \$39.00 pull fee for rescues.

Kathryn Horton – Citizen

Stated she was shocked to find out about some of the things that was going on at the Animal Shelter and she and her husband wanted to help be a part of the solution. She stated she wanted to better the name of her community and that the young voters of the community wanted to see some changes made in many areas not just in the shelter. She stated that she occasionally provided transportation for some of these rescues to help move an animal from one city to another city to get it to a safer environment. She stated to Council that she was asking for a second chance to make some changes with the shelter to give the young voting people of this community an opportunity to stand together to help get organized to make things better.

Joy Young – Citizen

Ms. Young stated that she was before Council for two reasons, one was to read a statement for someone because she could not get off work to attend the meeting and the other was to let some know that she was not going to shut up. Ms. Young read a statement from Lisa Funderburk, Pageland, SC, a copy of which she presented to Council, regarding an incident that occurred in late November 2011 of a dog being shot in her neighborhood. She stated that she felt the laws should be changed, that a homeowner should not have the right to shoot a friendly animal for menacing ducks and that she would be glad to answer any questions.

Jerri Gaskins – Paws and Claws

Stated her feelings and concerns regarding the pull fee and that a \$39.00 pull fee was a little over the top for what rescue groups could afford to pay. She also thanked Council for the changes that have been made at the shelter. She stated that Paws and Claws had worked hard to better the shelter. Ms. Gaskins presented Council with some numbers that she got from October 13, 2011 when she started as Shelter Manager until January 18, 2012 when she resigned her position at the shelter and the vast majority of the animals that were being saved were by rescue not by adoptions and not by being reclaimed by the owners. She stated that she would like Council to continue to work with them, talk with them and try to get these animals saved. She stated that right now the shelter was at an 82% rescue rate and that this rate was better than some of the bigger counties in the State and that we are saving more animals than some of the finest facilities in the State of South Carolina. She asked Council to please reconsider the pull fee and work with these rescue groups as best they can. Thanked Council for listening to what she had to say.

Karen Stangel – Paws and Claws/Animal Committee

Thanked Council for the attention to the necessary animal shelter improvements made and to the maintenance crew that has been working at the shelter to make the facility cleaner and more efficient with upgraded septic lines, holding pens and heat to knock the chill off the animals and workers. She stated that Council Member Plyler and Council Member Curtis have been instrumental in providing for these tasks. She thanked shelter personnel for the exceptional job that they have done since they were hired the middle of October 2011. She expressed her concerns over the ordinances and stated that there was no teeth in the ordinances to deter undesired behavior or a clear action for the offenses. She also spoke on a spay and neuter program for the county. She also stated that she had an individual talk to her about puppies and kittens being sold at flea markets and festivals and that they didn't think that was a good idea and Ms. Stangel stated she thought that should be a prohibited act. She also stated that these animals were only going to impact the intake at the shelter and would just become another item. Thanked Council for their time.

Mary Tomlore (?) – Citizen

Stated that she had been an animal lover all her life and that she was speaking for the herself and the animals. She stated that she thought the people that were present and were speaking regarding the animal shelter knew what they were talking about and that she wished Council would just put everything aside and start working with them. She stated that they were good, smart people and knew what they were talking about. She also stated that she thought Council would be wise to take Joy Young in and let her help.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. SSRC Ordinance/Infrastructure Credit Agreement Public Hearing

Council Member Powe made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Council Member Moore 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. Council Member Bruce E. Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

b. Animal Services Ordinance Public Hearing

Council Member Plyler made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Council Member Cole 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 Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. SSRC Ordinance/Infrastructure Credit Agreement - 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. Animal Services Ordinance – 3rd Reading

Council Member Plyler made a motion to pass 3rd reading. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

No action was taken by Council at this time regarding the \$39.00 pull fee for animals from the shelter by rescue groups.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

None

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Johnson

None

Council Member Plyler

The Sandblast Rally is this weekend and hope everyone will turn out to attend and make it a success again this year.

Council Member Moore

None

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers

None

Council Member Cole

None

Council Member Miller

None

Council Member Curtis

Mr. Curtis stated that one thing he would like for the County to explore is a matter concerning Codes Enforcement regarding agriculture buildings. (Barns and metal sheds for equipment and/or hay)

Council Vice-Chair Powe

Would like to let everyone know that next month Mr. Tim Eubanks will be here to let us know how much the garbage/solid waste fees are and show how much money we have saved. It has been very profitable and he is going to bring some figures to us at the next meeting .

Council Chair J. Matthew Rivers

Chairman Rivers stated council members are probably going to be hearing from himself and the administrator periodically with the continued lobbying we need to do on the Local Government Fund, so keep your cells ready, we may be hearing more from that. Stated that he received a call from one of the staff people with the Association last week to keep that going, not that they thought it was effective but that they have had some rumblings that it is getting better from our point of view potentially and that we don't need to let off. Reminded Council that the secretary of the Ways and Means Committee is Representative Neilson, who is still representing this County for this year and so anyone that has a connection with her, might want to revisit that and that would certainly help our County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers recommended Council enter into Executive Session in accordance with S.C. Law, Section 30-40-70 of the S.C. Code of Laws, to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter.

Council Member Curtis made a motion to enter Executive Session. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to exit Executive Session. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers reported Council is back in regular session. No action was taken and no motions were made in Executive Session.

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt and enter into the joint agreement regarding animal services that was submitted by both the sheriff and our staff. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Chairman Rivers advised that Council was also taking a matter into consideration regarding the security of the Chesterfield Armory by which the Sheriff asked that the same be secured by himself and his department for which Council is in agreement and that agreement and the terms thereof will be carried out by our administrator.

Council Member Curtis made a motion to accept the agreement to extend the deadline on the administration building property per the Town of Chesterfield along with the second matter regarding the \$1.00 per year lease on the helipad. The terms of that was received by letter. The terms of that will be by formal agreement and lease amendment done during the month of February. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

J. Matthew Rivers, Chairman
Date: March 7, 2012

Susie Boswell, Clerk to Council