

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 22, 2002

PRESENT: Chairman Walker, V. C. Gunnells, Councilmen Brown, Thomas, Calhoun, Forrester, Attorney Pruitt, Gene Klugh, Interim Director

Chairman Walker called the Public Hearing to order. The purpose of the public hearing was to consider an Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of All Right, Title And interest in, and all Rights and Obligations Under an Inducement Agreement between Abbeville County, As Lessor, And Pirelli Communications Cable And Systems USA, LLCC (F/K/A Pirelli Cables and systems LLC) as Lessee, Authorizing Among other Matters, The Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, to Pirelli Power Cables and Systems USA, LLC, Newly-formed Affiliated Entity of the Lessee. Mr. James Vorrasi, Vice President, Taxes commented on the re-organization of Pirelli Cables.

Chairman Walker called the regular meeting to order with prayer given by Councilman Thomas.

I. First item on the agenda was approval of April 8th County Council Meeting Minutes. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve minutes that was seconded by V. C. Gunnells and passed unanimously.

II. Presentations:

A. Presentation of plaque to Marion Tucker for his 10 years of service as a member of the Planning Commission.

B. Presentation by Thomas M. Turner, DSS Director of their Annual Fiscal Year Report ending June 30, 2001. He explained that with welfare reform, limits have been placed on the amount of time a person may stay on welfare. He provided figures to show that of the county's population of approximately 26,000 people, about 4,000 live in poverty and only 2000 are covered by food stamps. He said the agency was changing on July 1 and will no longer be involved with Medicaid. That responsibility will pass to the Department of Health and Human Services.

C. Mike Campbell, Superintendent of Schools updated members of Council on the World Class Education Initiative. He briefed council on the status of the initiative by saying it was alive and well and had reached some of its goals of creating an all day alternative school and having all three district high schools being on the same schedule. He said they were down to the initiatives that cost money and that budget cuts have hampered the progress on these initiatives.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Personnel & Administration: Councilman Brown, Chair had nothing to report.

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B. Finance; Chairman Walker, Chair said they were unable to hold finance committee meetings last week but would like to schedule a finance committee meeting for Tuesday at 6pm. This would involve our County Director, Finance Director as well as the Treasurer, if needed. He asked that the Finance Committee and the County Attorney meet at the council chambers at 5:30, prior to that meeting

C. Public Works: Vice Chairman Gunnells, Chair had nothing to report.

D. Intergovernmental Relations: Councilman Forrester, Chair (Councilman Thomas interim) Councilman Forrester said that Mr. Klugh had some changes to make on the ordinance concerning guidelines for boards and commissions before 3rd Reading.

E. Planning & Industrial Development: Councilman Thomas, Chair referred to a handout concerning a zoning workshop that was going to take place on May 16th. He felt it was an opportunity for council members and our planning and zoning commissioners to attend this workshop. The cost would be \$50 per person. Chairman Walker said that we needed to check the training line item for availability of funds. If anyone was interested, they needed to contact Ms. Chrisley

F. Education, Recreation, Health & Welfare; Councilman Calhoun, Chair had nothing to report.

G. Public Safety, Councilman Brown, Chair had nothing to report.

H. Ad-Hoc Committee on Office-Space; Vice Chairman Gunnells, Chair had nothing to report.

I. Ad-Hoc Committee on Computerization of County Government, Chairman Walker had nothing to report.

IV. Old Business:

A. 3rd Reading of an Ordinance on guidelines for Boards and Commissions. Mr. Klugh noted on page one that the Zoning Board of Appeals should have 7 members. At the top of page 2, he noted that an appointee might be reappointed only after he/she has been off the Board or Commission for at least one year. Under the third paragraph, another paragraph needed to be added which was: " For those Boards and Commissions on which County Council makes recommendations to other bodies, the selection process will be the same as the process used for Boards and Commissions appointed by the Council." Under the next paragraph entitled "Attendance" a second sentence should be added to read - "Failure of a member to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings of a Board or Commission in a calendar year would constitute grounds for immediate removal of the member from the Board or Commission." Chairman Walker said that these changes were recommendations of the committee. By a vote of 6-0, council voted to amend the ordinance. By a vote of 6-0, Council voted to adopt the ordinance as amended

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B. 3rd Reading of an Ordinance Authorizing the Transfer of All Right, Title, And Interest in, and all Rights and Obligations Under, an Inducement Agreement between Abbeville County, As Lessor, and Pirelli Communications Cable and Systems USA, LLC (F/K/A Pirelli Cables and Systems LLC) as Lessee, Authorizing Among Other Matters, The Payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes, to Pirelli Power Cables and Systems USA, LLC, Newly-Formed Affiliated Entity of the Lessee. Councilman Thomas made a motion to have 3rd Reading that was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

V. New Business:

A. Approval of bills for payment: Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve bills for payment excluding the fiscal year 2001 closure payment of \$130,000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

B. Chairman Walker made a motion to add to the agenda 1st Reading to modify our current fiscal year budget to include the transfer of \$130,000 from the general fund into the closure account for the sub-title D Landfill. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

C. Chairman Walker made a motion to have 1st Reading on the transfer of \$130,000 from the general fund to the sub-title D cell closure funds. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

D. Consideration of request from Sammy Lewis, Veterans Affairs, to purchase a copier for that office: Chairman Walker said that during the budget process, the Veterans Affairs Director had requested a new copy machine. In looking at his accounts, he had some funds of which he wasn't going to expend. The total cost of a new copier would be \$725.95. He stated that he could transfer funds from capital projects in the amount of \$400 and \$150 from training and travel. He would still need an additional \$175.95. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve a transfer of \$175.95 from the lump sum distribution fund to the Veterans Affairs Office to finish payment for the copier. Motion was seconded by V. C. Gunnells and passed unanimously.

E. Consideration to abate penalties on Strick. Chairman Walker said Strick sold their facility to Great Dane and they recently became aware that there was a fee due and that the penalty had accrued to \$20,538.60. After a brief discussion, V. C. Gunnells made a motion to abate the penalties when the fee of about \$130,000 is paid. Motion was seconded by Chairman Walker and passed unanimously.

F. Consideration of 1st Reading to amend Ordinance No. 2000-4 entitled Abbeville Building Codes: Councilman Forrester made a motion to have 1st Reading to the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown. V. C. Gunnells explained that this was a fine or penalty that can be imposed on a contractor or person who is in violation of the code. After further discussion, council agreed that this be 1st Reading by a vote of 6-0.

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G. Consideration of request from Treasurer, Judy Scott to transfer \$100,000 from the Local Option Sales Tax to the General Fund: Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve the transfer. The motion was seconded by V. C. Gunnells and passed unanimously.

H. Approval of Resolution that the Plan by Abbeville County Council adopted on November 26, 2001 shall be officially called Abbeville County Council Plan 3: After a brief discussion, Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the resolution that is officially called Abbeville County Council Plan 3. Councilman Forrester seconded this motion. It was adopted unanimously.

I. Request from the Public Works Department for assistance: Mr. Agan said that after taking over the public works, they have had a list of requests for assistance in cleaning up cemeteries and assisting municipalities in other clean up efforts. Attorney Pruitt said that public money cannot be used on private property and that state inmates cannot work on private property. Sheriff Goodwin said that Corrections could cut of its long-standing practice of providing inmates to the county if they are used improperly. After further discussion, Councilman Forrester made a motion to table this while the contract with the SC Dept. of Corrections is studied. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

J. Vehicle for Emergency Services. Emergency Management Director, Steve McDade addressed council by saying that the transmission on the vehicle he is now driving was in poor condition and had about 170,000 miles on it. He requested funds for a new vehicle. Councilman Thomas addressed Council by saying that there was funding in the Public Safety Fee for such a request and that the funds would go to EMS in the event of a shortfall or an emergency need for a vehicle. As of February when he checked on it, we had over \$33,887 in that account waiting to be used. He, therefore, asked Steve to come before council requesting this amount of money for a vehicle. Councilman Thomas made a motion to turn this request over to the Finance Committee. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

K. Chairman Walker asked that one item be added to the agenda. There is an ordinance in place wherein we committed \$500,000 to the Donalds/Due West Water Authority for construction of the waterline being installed between Donalds, Due West and Abbeville. They have come forward to ask for this money. He, therefore, made a motion to add to the agenda a request to have the County Treasurer prepare a check for \$500,000 to the Donalds/Due West Water Authority in accordance with the ordinance that was passed. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously. Chairman Walker made a motion that we instruct the County Treasurer to cut a check in the amount of \$500,000. Councilman Brown seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Session:

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A. Jaimie Gilbert of the Development Board to discuss with the council a contractual matter regarding the sale of property at the Abbeville Industrial Park to an industrial prospect.

B. County Director to discuss a personnel matter.

Councilman Thomas made a motion to go into executive session that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

After reconvening regular session, Director Klugh informed council that we were unable to fill the Planning Director position. Council asked Mr. Klugh to continue the search process.

VII. Chairman Walker made a motion to add to the agenda an item dealing with support to the Lakeland Center for entrepreneurs being established at Erskine College. V. C. Gunnells seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

Chairman Walker reported that Erskine College is seeking funds to establish an entrepreneurs incubator program at the college. Approximately \$86,000 is available from the Rural Infrastructure Fund of the S.C. Department of Commerce. It will be necessary for the County to be the applicant for the grant as well as the recipient. Chairman Walker stated that the Council was in support of the development of the Lakeland Center. He made a motion that was seconded by Councilman Thomas for the County to apply for the funding and to administer the grant if it is received. The motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Councilman Gunnells, seconded by Councilman Brown, the council voted unanimously to adjourn.

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