

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Regular Meeting – January 15, 2002
Linda Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy, Deputy Clerk to Council

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
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 Gilstrap – Clerk to Council
Tammie Shealy – Deputy Clerk to Council

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, January 15, 2002 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Larry Greer called the meeting to order. Mr. Clint Wright gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Larry Greer announced that no citizen's were signed up to speak under agenda matters. Under other matters the following citizen addressed council.

1. Mr. Dan Harvell – Mr. Harvell thanked Clint Wright for the effort he made for searching for options and alternative ways of collecting taxes. He encouraged all Council Members to look into alternative ways of collecting taxes also. Mr. Harvell also expressed to Council that putting money into a train system is a good idea and would like to see any grant monies collected for a train system to be considered for a high-speed rail system. Once a high-speed rail is in place then taxpayer's monies should be used to fund local rail lines. Mr. Harvell asked Council to start a new year striving for accountability. He stated that even though many on Council appear to be confident about accountability, he urged Council to go about their work in a manner that exhibits accountability to citizens.

Dr. Bob Austin, Chairman of Keep America Beautiful shared information and recognized board members and staff members of KAB by requesting them to stand. Dr. Austin discussed the 2001 accomplishments of KAB and shared the 2002 goals. A bag

with a KAB t-shirt and reading material was provided. One of KAB goals is to work with the County in developing a Tree Ordinance, which would assist the County in receiving the Tree City/Tree County USA Award from the Forestry Commission. Dr. Austin thanked Council for their support and personally gave each a verbal invitation to attend the upcoming volunteer recognition luncheon on Monday February 25, 2002 to be held at the Civic Center in Anderson starting at 11:00 a.m. sponsored by the KAB Board.

Mr. Chuck Watkins, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee presented Ms. Janice Yates from the Anderson County Sheriff's office Records Division as the Employee of the Month for December 2001. Ms. Yates was presented a gift certificate to a local restaurant, a golf shirt, and an employee of the month plaque. Council Chairman Larry Greer stated that without good employees such as Ms. Yates, Anderson County would not have the many goods and services to offer.

Chairman Larry Greer presented appointments of standing committees. He stated that the County Code of Ordinances authorized the Council Chairman to make these appointments. The following committees appointments were presented for approval:

1. Finance Committee
Members: Mr. Clint Wright – Chair
Ms. Gracie Floyd
Mr. Larry Greer
2. Public Safety/Health and Human Services
Members: Ms. Cindy Wilson – Chair
Mr. Mike Holden
Mr. Bill Dees
3. Administration Policy/Rules Committee
Members: Mr. Larry Greer – Chair
Mr. Fred Tolly
Ms. Gracie Floyd
4. Planning/Public Works Committee
Members: Mr. Fred Tolly – Chair
Ms. Cindy Wilson
Mr. Bill Dees
5. Recycling/Solid Waste Committee
Members: Ms. Gracie Floyd – Chair
Mr. Mike Holden
Mr. Clint Wright
6. Economic Development Committee
Members: Mr. Bill Dees – Chair
Mr. Clint Wright
Mr. Larry Greer

Mr. Dees made a motion to approve the appointments as made. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The Chairman recognized Ms. Floyd who asked that Council consider delaying the appointments until the February 2 Council Retreat. This would allow time for Council Members to review the committees and determine which committees they might be best suited for. Ms. Floyd made a motion to table the appointments until the

Council Retreat; Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried four to three with Ms. Floyd, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Holden and Mr. Tolly voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Holden moved to appropriate \$2,000.00 from District #5 Asphalt account for assistance with a project for the Homeland Park Fire Department. Mr. Tolly seconded the motion, which carried unanimous. Mr. Holden also moved to appropriate \$2,000.00 from District #5 Asphalt account for assistance in grading at the Centerville Fire Department for their new building. Mr. Tolly seconded the motion, which carried unanimous.

Ms. Wilson asked for a point of special privilege to make a request. Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$50,000.00 from District #7 paving account to go toward the realignment of an intersection in Honea Path. She noted that Representative Townsend had secured one half of the money needed for the project from the S.C. DOT. Ms. Wilson also thanked Representative Townsend for his help. Mr. Tolly seconded the motion, which carried unanimous.

County Planning Director Jeff Ricketson stated that the planning engineering staff had inspected the roads of Rolling Creek Subdivision and found that they were in compliance with the County's minimum road standards. Mr. Ricketson recommended that Council accept this Subdivision into the County's Road System. Mr. Wright made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mr. Dees seconded the motion, which carried unanimous.

County Administrator Joey Preston announced a walk through tour of the new museum on Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Preston encouraged Council Members to look at the latest Friday Report from the Association of Counties outlining the first week of the General Assembly.

Mr. Preston informed Council of an issue concerning the Department of Social Services. The Department of Health and Human Services contracts with the DSS to provide the pre-qualifications for Medicaid services. This function takes about twenty to twenty-five DSS employees to honor the contract. Due to state budget cutbacks, DSS has reviewed the contract and determined the actual cost of perform the service and requested the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse DSS the actual cost for providing Medicaid pre-qualification services. The Department of Health and Human Services has declined DSS request and will provide Medicaid pre-qualification themselves. This decision may affect the jobs of those people employed by DSS who are currently providing pre-qualification. Additionally DSS has offered to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to utilize space in the DSS building without consulting with the County. Since the formula used to determine reimbursement to Anderson County from DSS utilizes square footage, Anderson County could lose some State reimbursement.

Mr. Preston is compiling a list of un-funded state mandates and bills that affect local government services. This list will be presented at the February 2 Council Retreat.

Mr. Preston announced that Anderson County would be receiving approximately two million dollars from the Tobacco Wastewater Infrastructure Fund. \$1,039,000 will go to the Highway 8 sewer interchange, which is part of the County sewer plan, providing 100% funding of this project. \$744,000 will be utilized for the Starr-Iva Sewer line and \$121,000 will assist the Town of Honea Path with a one million gallon potable water tank. Mr. Preston pointed out that other Counties failed to request this money and expressed his thanks to his staff members who prepared the applications allowing Anderson County to obtain these funds. Mr. Preston pointed out to Council that due to the County's professional staff this application was prepared in-house without using an outside firm.

Ms. Wilson requested Mr. Preston to provide updated information on the January 7, 2002 Airport Commission meeting. She expressed concerns related to the proposed closure of a road and the status of the sell of property at the Airport. Mr. Preston advised Ms. Wilson that a previous agreement existed to relocate the road when the County obtained a grant to extend the runway at the Airport. An agreement exists with adjacent property owners to allow this road to be relocated. Anderson County is waiting for approval of the grant from the Federal Government. Mr. Martin advised Ms. Wilson that he was unsure of the status for the sell of the property at this time.

Ms. Wilson announced that the Ad Hoc EMS Response Time Committee will have a meeting on January 29, 2002 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Pelzer Rescue Squad Substation. She invited every one to attend.

Mr. Tolly asked the County Attorney to draft an ordinance for the next council meeting that would change the Economic Development's board composition because of an error in the code.

Ms. Floyd asked citizen Dan Harvell to come forward with his kind remarks he made concerning the new transit bus system.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectively submitted:

Tammie Shealy, Deputy Clerk
Anderson County Council