

**RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 19, 2000
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Kit Smith, Chair; L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair; Susan Brill; Paul Livingston; Joseph McEachern; Tony Mizzell; Stephen F. Morris; J.D. "Buddy" Meetze; Bernice G. Scott; Thelma Tillis; James Tuten

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Cary McSwain, Tony McDonald, Darren Gore, Milton Pope, Michelle Cannon-Finch, Larry Smith, Mullen Taylor, Ash Miller, Marsheika Martin, Monique Walters, Stephany Snowden, Chief Harrell, Joan Brady, Jim Prater

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:15 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by the Honorable Jim Tuten.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Ms. Evelyn Bush spoke of concerns regarding Third Reading and Consent Items being held at the same time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 12, 2000: Regular Session

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to approve the minutes. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Smith stated the 4-H Club Presentation needed to be added to the agenda. She stated this would be placed after the Report of the County Attorney.

Mr. Livingston stated Project Heat needed to be added under the Report of Economic Development.

Mr. Tuten moved, seconded by Ms. Brill, to approve the agenda as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

REPORT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

Mr. Larry Smith, County Attorney, stated the McClanahan and Sloan lawsuit cases needed to be discussed in Executive Session, as well as the Coroner's issue.

PRESENTATION – 4-H Club

The 4-H Club thanked Council for recognizing the club and gave a description of what the club has been doing throughout the community. The club presented Council and staff with homemade bakery.

REPORT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

On behalf of staff, Mr. McSwain wished Council a Merry Christmas.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Budget Amendment – Solid Waste Tire Disposal Fee [Third Reading]

Ms. Smith opened the floor for a public hearing. She stated no one signed up to speak and closed the public hearing.

Budget Amendment: Broad River Regional Enterprise Fund [Third Reading]

Ms. Smith opened the floor for a public hearing. She stated no one signed up to speak and closed the public hearing.

Full-Time Position: Treasurer's Office [Third Reading]

Ms. Smith opened the floor for a public hearing. She stated no one signed up to speak and closed the public hearing.

Participation in Southeast high speed rail study [Second Reading]

Ms. Smith opened the floor for a public hearing. She stated no one signed up to speak and closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Budget Amendment – Solid Waste Tire Disposal Fee [Third Reading]

Third Reading approval given to a budget amendment in the amount of \$51,250.00 from undesignated fund balance to the Solid Waste Department's budget to fund this and the increase previously approved by administration.

Budget Amendment: Broad River Regional Enterprise Fund [Third Reading]

Third Reading approval given to this budget amendment to the re-appropriate funds in the amount of \$1,200,000.00 from last fiscal year for land acquisition and engineering expenses required for an upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant.

Full-Time Position: Treasurer's Office [Third Reading]

Third reading approval to a new full-time position for the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to adopt the Consent Agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.

THIRD READING ITEMS

County Council: Elected Officials Pay Plan – Public Hearing

Ms. Smith opened the floor for a public hearing, but no one signed up to speak. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Morris moved to approve this item with the deletion of section-D (upon re-election, elected officials shall receive 5% pay increase, which shall take effect at the beginning of the new term in office). The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded Ms. Scott, to give Third Reading approval to an ordinance amendment that adopts the elected officials' pay plan established by County Council in the FY 2000/01 budget. The vote was in favor. Mr. Morris opposed.

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SECOND READING ITEMS

Participation in Southeast high speed rail study

Ms. Smith stated this was to bring Amtrak High Speed to the Midlands.

Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. Morris, to give Second Reading approval of a budget amendment in the amount of \$7,500.00 to help fund an economic impact study to convince approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Budget Amendment: Township renovations

It was moved and seconded to give Second Reading approval for a budget amendment in the amount of \$800,000.00 for Township renovations, with the directive to explore other options for funding.

A discussion took place on reimbursing the Fund Balance.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ordinance authorizing an expenditure for the USC arena

Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to give Second Reading approval of transfer of \$2,500,000.00 in tourism development fees from the County to the University of South Carolina to assist with construction. The vote in favor was unanimous.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance: Old/New agreements

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston to approve this item.

Mr. Larry Smith, County Attorney, stated he spoke with Mr. Mike Briggs from the Economic Development Alliance and Mr. Briggs requested for Council to approve the termination of the old agreement and work on the final language of the new agreement at the beginning of the year.

Mr. McEachern withdrew his motion

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to defer this item to the January 2, 2001 meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Coroner's retirement issue

Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to forward to the end of the agenda to be discussed in Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

REPORT OF RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Appointments to Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals-2

Mr. Livingston stated no applications were received and recommending re-advertising.

Appointments to the Conservation Commission-6

Mr. Livingston stated there are six vacancies to this board.

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Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to re-appoint the six existing persons subject to their willingness to serve.

Mr. Ash Miller, Research Analyst, stated these appointments are made by each Councilperson. He stated Ms. Tillis wants to replace her appointee.

Mr. Morris/Mr. Tuten withdrew their motions.

Mr. Livingston instructed Council members to select appointees prior to January 25, 2001.

Appointments to the Historic Columbia Foundation –1

Mr. Livingston stated no applications were received and requested re-advertising.

Ms. Smith suggested extending an invitation to the commission to dissolve the committee and requested for Ms. I. DeQuincey Newman to represent the County on the foundation.

Mr. Livingston stated this would be considered and discussed under notification of this board.

Appointments to the Midlands Commission on Homelessness-3

Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended no action to be taken at this time until further review by the Commission is completed.

Appointment to the Planning Commission-1

Mr. Livingston stated there is one vacancy on the commission and three applicants were interviewed.

The vote was as follows:

<u>Ronald Caughman</u>	<u>Eugene C. Green</u>	<u>Larry M. McBride</u>
0	Morris	Livingston
	Meetze	Smith
	Pearce	McEachern
	Brill	Scott
	Tuten	Tillis

There was a tie vote between Mr. Green and Mr. McBride.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to defer this item to the January 2nd Council meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Notification of vacancy on Building Board of Adjustment and Appeals Committee-4

Mr. Livingston stated there are four vacancies on this board with two incumbents and one person not eligible for re-appointment.

This was received as information.

Notification of vacancy on the Employee Grievance Committee-1

Mr. Livingston notified Council of one vacancy on this committee.

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Notification of vacancy on Historic Columbia Foundation-1

Mr. Livingston notified Council of one vacancy on this committee.

Notification of vacancy on Midlands Commission on Homelessness-2

Mr. Livingston notified Council of two appointments to be made to this Commission. He reminded Council that the entire board would be reviewed before re-advertising.

Notification of vacancy on Planning Commission-1

Mr. Livingston notified Council of one appointment to be made to this commission.

Notification of vacancy on Board of Zoning and Appeals-2

Mr. Livingston reminded Council of two additional members added to this board. He stated this would be advertised.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Project Heat

Mr. Livingston stated this needed to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Morris, to discuss this matter in Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Ms. Evelyn Bush spoke of concerns regarding a private meeting with Burroughs and Chapin.

PRESENTATION

On behalf of Council, Mr. Pearce presented Mr. Morris with a plaque recognizing seven years of service (1993-2000) on Richland County Council. Other Council members commended Mr. Morris for his service as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Smith stated the following items needed to be discussed in Executive Session:

- Project Heat
- Coroners Retirement Issue
- Legal briefing on the McClanahan lawsuit
- Legal briefing on the Sloan lawsuit

Ms. Brill requested to add a legal briefing on the Jason Wages lawsuit. Ms. Smith stated this would take a unanimous consent of Council. No one opposed.

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to go into Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Council went into Executive Session at approximately 7:00 p.m. and came out at approximately 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Meetze moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to come out of Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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Legal Briefings on Pending Lawsuits

Ms. Smith stated the legal briefings on the Jason Wages, McClanahan and Sloan lawsuits were received as information.

Project Heat

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Morris, to instruct the County Administrator to proceed with negotiations as discussed in Executive Session. The vote was in favor. Mr. McEachern and Ms. Smith opposed.

Coroner's Retirement Issue

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve the payment out of the Personnel Department for money identified by Cary McSwain and instructed Mr. McSwain to come up with a suggested policy for the County to handle any other similar cases within 30 days and to forward this to the Administration and Finance Committee meeting in January.

The vote was as follows:

<u>In favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Morris	Meetze
Livingston	Smith
Pearce	McEachern
Brill	
Tuten	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passed.

MOTION PERIOD

Meeting with Legislative Delegation

Ms. Smith requested that the Legislative Delegation be invited to a meeting on January 8 with time and arrangements to be determined by staff. She recommended the Chair, Vice-Chair and committee chairs work with administration to determine an agenda.

Retirement Benefits

Ms. Scott requested staff to review retirement benefits for Council Members.

Reminder of Swearing-In Ceremony and Retreat

Ms. Brill reminded Council of the Swearing-In Ceremony on January 2nd at 3:00 p.m. and the Councils' retreat on January 11-13th.

Point of Personal Privilege

Ms. Tillis thanked staff for being so helpful to her during her two years of service with the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

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Kit Smith, Chair

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair

Susan Brill

Paul Livingston

Joseph McEachern

J.D. "Buddy" Meetze

Anthony G. Mizzell

Stephen F. Morris

Bernice G. Scott

Thelma M. Tillis

James Tuten

The minutes were transcribed by Marsheika G. Martin