

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting - December 18, 2001 - 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

M I N U T E S

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 Clint Wright - District #4 - Presiding

G. Fred Tolly - District #1

Gracie S. Floyd - District #2

Larry E. Greer - District #3

Vice Chairman Mike Holden - District #5

William C. Dees - District #6

M. Cindy Wilson - District #7

Joey Preston - Administrator

Tom Martin - County Attorney

Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council

Tammie Shealy, Deputy Clerk to Council

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

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, December 18, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Cindy Wilson gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Wright asked for approval of minutes from the November 20, 2001 meeting. Mr. Greer moved to approve and Mr. Holden seconded. Ms. Wilson asked for the following amendments. Page 7 - it states that Mr. Preston stated that there was an airport plan that was approved several months back - he said that there was a plan being worked on. Page 12 under Council members remarks - she requested that all of the remarks made by

Mr. Holden be verbatim. Mr. Dees announced that he had made the Clerk aware of some typographical errors. Vote was unanimous.

Citizens Comments: 1. **Betty Rees** representing District #7 said that she had a serious water need. They have paid a 3 mill taxes since 1986 and they have not seen anything representing sewage; however, they do need clean drinking water with several wells going dry. She said that to better serve their community, they would like to see the sewage lines be converted to waterlines. 2. **Frank Kellam** said he was one of a growing number in the Taxpayers Association who are alarmed at the growing waste and irresponsibility in the County. Many members of the association are constantly studying the budget and the expenditures of the current Administration. As a request under the Freedom of Information Act, he requested for the following information: for each vehicle owned by Anderson County which is driven for personal use for calendar years 2000 and 2001 he would like the year model, make and body style, total miles driven during each year, how many was reported as personal miles, total cost of operating the vehicle for each year, and of the total cost how much reported as employee earnings or employee benefits. He also asked that the Employee's name, title and department by each vehicle. He also requested a list of all reimbursements and other expenses for each Council member for the calendar years 2000 and 2001. 3. **Ed Jean** talked about the new elementary school that will be in/around T.L. Hanna High School. He said that on Crestview there are people who speed and that needs to be addressed. Mr. Jean congratulated the council, attorney, and administrator on the way the four-hour meeting was held on December 4, 2001. 4. **Tim Williams** said that about 90 days ago he attended a meeting and after the meeting Security Officer Bill Striewing approached him on the courthouse steps and informed him that he would have him arrested if he came back into the Courthouse and spoke again. He asked County Council to give him an executive session to discuss items, which concern him, and items that Cindy Wilson has brought up. 5. **Amos Wells, Jr.** a concerned citizen for good government, commended his Council Representative, Gracie Floyd for her concerns for District #2 and the county as a whole. He said good government comes only when there is participation among citizens and their representatives. 6. **Dan Harvell** said that in reference to the last Council meeting, it was discussed during the meeting that County officials wanted to send the videotape to Condon's Office along with other documentation;

however, he said that he was not so sure that it was a good idea. He said that the vindictiveness that came through was overwhelming and it did not do Anderson County proud to have a meeting like that and that the tape did speak for itself. To try to tie Ms. Wilson to the Beaverdam and to say that this is just a personal agenda that deals with only Beaverdam is just ludicrous, he said. She was one of many citizens that were not in favor of the Beaverdam project in the manner that it was going to be done. He also talked about the length of time used on the definition of what a forensic audit is and he said he was not so sure that they had the correct meaning.

7. **Charles D. Crowe** said that three words described how the last meeting looked to those in the audience and on television; shame, embarrassed, and disgusted. He said that Council should not have allowed a paid employee demand an answer from a member of Council. 8. **Gina Smith-Dahle** responded to four of Mr. Kellam's budget questions. One - why has the Administrator's Office budget increased by \$194,000 per year since 1997? She said that was not correct. The Administrator's budget had increased by \$195,000 over a 4-year period. The reasons for that is because Council has increased from 5 to 7 members, there have been three positions added to the department; Assistant to Administrator, the other two are two Secretary II positions. Both of these positions were taken from other departments. Two-Why did Anderson County need to add a public information office, which costs \$148,000 per year. This office was added and approved by the Anderson County Council as part of the vision process and the purpose of the Office is to promote a positive image of the County so that it will be recognized as one of the most open and progressive Counties in South Carolina, also to promote achievements, to inform the general public, surrounding Counties, and economic developers of Anderson Counties progress and investments in the future. Three - Why did the Personnel Department's budget grow by \$190,000 since 1997? Again, this is a five-year period. In this area, two additional positions have been added. The reason is that the County is now serving now approximately 600 full time employees. Compared to most industry the County's ratio of personnel staff to employees is still very low. The County is the first in the state to win the Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for two consecutive years. This had contributed to an Experienced Modifier Decreases in our workers Compensation increase which has saved the county over the last four years \$113,000 in Workers Compensation Insurance.

Ms. Cindy Wilson asked for a Point of Personal Privilege. Ms. Wilson said that it had been brought to her attention that the County needed to have people with disabilities to register with the County's EMS, fire departments and etc. She said citizens who are on oxygen would have many canisters of oxygen and if there were fire at that location the County Fire Departments would not be aware that it could be a very dangerous situation. She has forms that the County could look at and also look into if an ordinance needs to be approved to address this problem. Also, in all of the uproar of the last meeting, there were several items that she wanted to address at the last meeting but there was not time, so she requested that she be able to address a few of those at this time. Ms. Wilson handed out papers to council members. She asked Mr. Preston to read the dates on the report. Starting date 5-21-97 and ending 2-20-01. The report says that \$437,313.51 has been paid to Cline, Brandt and Kochenower. She said in addition to that the County has paid around 110-113 thousand dollars for an EMS audit. She said that at the last meeting when she asked Mr. Steve Blake from the firm what the County paid per year or what we've paid, he replied around 20-25 thousand per year. She asked Mr. Preston to check into this that she would like to know more. Mr. Gray Suggs of Elliott and Davis presented some of his findings; all that he gave Council was a one-page report on invoices he checked. She asked him which 7 projects he reviewed and he could not remember and she asked him if he had seen all the invoices he was not certain. He found that we paid B. P. Barber Engineering Firm around \$3,000,000. She said that from a printout she reviewed not long ago, indicated more like \$3.7 Million at the end of June 30, 2001. So it would appear that Mr. Suggs has not had an opportunity to review all of the invoices. She requested a copy of all the working papers and documents that Mr. Suggs examined. Both the Resolution and other letters, it is referred to some type of personal and financial gain that she has in keeping a major sewer line off her family's property. There is never any mention as to what that personal or financial gain would be and she would like to know what that is. She said that she would be working on answering some of those questions; however, a lot of the documents needed to any of those questions have not been provided to her. She said that she has been requesting on a fairly regular basis a copy of the County's monthly financial statements, which should be provided by the Administrator on a monthly basis. She has a subject description document #6LR128 General Entry Transaction Summary for 7-1-01 - 9-30-01 and she asked Mr. Preston if that was the

document that he called a monthly statement. She asked for a proper monthly financial statement with vendor names and other information needed to examine the document. She thanked Council for the opportunity to have all this out in the open, as it is an attempt to have an honest, open, accountable local government. She said that she would work with other members of Council if they would work with her so that Council can get the right documents and have them looked at in a proper and public way.

Mr. Mike Thorne, an employee of the Oconee Nuclear Station for Duke Power. Mr. Thorne presented the County a check in the amount of \$10,000 for partnering for preparing for a nuclear problem at Oconee Nuclear Station. This check is for financial support for the partnership. He thanked Anderson County for their support.

Mr. Jim Culwell and Mr. David Jones gave a power point presentation of what was happening with the Belton Area Partnership. Completed initiatives supported by Anderson County were discussed and also remaining initiatives requiring County Council's support. Council thanked Mr. Culwell and Mr. Jones for their presentation and then received as information.

Ms. Sheila Hanna Wiles, 1st Vice President of the South Carolina Chapter of Association of Public Safety Communications Officers. She said that during their annual meeting last month, Anderson County Public Safety won three major awards. The first award was the Palmetto Award for an individual Telecommunicator in recognition of his/her exceptional professionalism in the field of emergency communications and acknowledges the special contributions of a Telecommunicators whose daily performance of their duties is an installation and example to others in the field. Ms. Julia Nichols won the Palmetto Award for her development of a fire hydrant computer program, which would assist other Telecommunicators with fire calls. The second award - Team 9-1-1 Award of Merit was presented to the Department for their outstanding exemplarily handling of a specific 9-1-1 emergency. All Telecommunicators present were Patty White, Sherry Bower, Nancy Combs, Cheryl Dixon, Beverly Oliver, Katie Erwin, Julia Nichols, Jerry Shealy, and Pam Garner. Public Safety also won the 9-1-1 Center Award. Council commended the center for their outstanding work and their dedication to Anderson County.

Mr. Pat Flack withdrew his request to be on the agenda (item #4).

Mr. Chuck Watkins, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, presented Council with the Employees of the Month for November. The Maintenance and Ground Workers from the Building Maintenance Department, Central Services Division were selected for the level of service that they provide to the entire County. All employees were presented the special gifts associated with this award.

Council took a 10-minute break at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Wright called the meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m.

Ms. Gracie Floyd asked for a Point of Personal Privilege and the Chairman granted her the request. Ms. Floyd moved to take the noise ordinance off the table. Mr. Greer seconded and vote was six in favor and one abstention (Ms. Wilson). Motion carried.

Ms. Floyd asked all members of Council to write down their concerns that have been discussed with her. After she receives all the concerns, then she would like for it to go back to the Committee to rework these issues. Council agreed. Ms. Floyd moved to refer this back to the committee and Mr. Greer seconded. The proposed ordinance number is 2001-047. Ms. Floyd said that there was some confusion with the committee concerning the leadership. Council agreed that this was a task force with the Sheriff as acting Chairman. Mr. Dees suggested that the Committee work an assessment of other counties and cities that have similar ordinances. Mr. Greer called for the question. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Tom Martin presented third and final reading of Ordinance #2001-049 - a general bond ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of Anderson County, South Carolina Special Source Revenue Bonds (Plastic Omnium II Project); prescribing the form of the bonds; limiting the payment of the bonds solely from certain revenues; and pledging certain revenues to such payment; creating certain funds and providing for payments into such funds; and making other covenants and agreements in connection with the foregoing. Mr. Tolly moved to approve on third reading and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Martin presented third and final reading of Ordinance #2001-050 - a first supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of an Anderson County, South Carolina, Special Source Revenue Bond (Plastic Omnium II Project) series 2002, not to exceed \$1,000,000; and other matters relating thereto. Mr. Tolly moved to approve the ordinance and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Martin presented third and final reading of Ordinance #2001-051 - an ordinance to reapportion the County Council Districts of Anderson County, as to population, prior to the next general election following the adoption by the State of South Carolina of the 2000 decennial Census, pursuant to section 4-9-90, South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended; and other matters relating thereto. A public hearing was held and the following is a verbatim transcript of those comments:

#1. Charles Crowe, Five Forks Community - I spoke on it; I thought we already had a public hearing. I didn't know you had to have two.

Chairman Wright - We don't have to have two but we are doing a second one so everyone has a chance to speak.

Charles Crowe - I'm not going to repeat everything that I said at the last one and since this is the season of Goodwill, I'd like to thank those of you on Council who did, like Ms. Gracie Floyd she was gracious enough to take a phone call at home late one night from me on my concerns. You, Mr. Chairman, you were helpful in everything to do with the redistricting. And there is only one little dinky area and I just wished I could thank another member if he'd been willing to just straightened out the lines a little bit. We did take some of those split districts-split voting precincts and changed that or at least ya'll did so we are very thankful about that and I don't know of any other changes at this time other than what I mentioned at the last public hearing and will those be part of the record too?

Mr. Martin - Yes sir.

Charles Crowe - I mean the last the last what I said about the last. You know I don't want to - here it is Christmas, I don't want to throw it on your, in your laps again about the way the way it was done. I still don't like that and I do think that there ought to be a better way not just for Anderson County, I'm not talking about just Anderson County, I'm talking about when you have to redistrict it's a crying shame that first of all we have go under Federal guidelines because I don't reckon the whole world don't have to do this I think it's just us poor people in the South who have a little Southern

heritage. But anyway I appreciate it and I'll yield to anyone else who would like to speak to it.

Chairman Wright - Mr. Crowe to answer your question, both public hearings will be a matter of record for the Justice Department. Anyone else?

#2. Dan Harvell, Highpoint Precinct. I'll preference my remarks by saying that whenever I speak to you all I want you to understand that I speak to you with the utmost respect for the office you hold. I would like to sort of reiterate what Mr. Crowe said at the second public hearing on this. I don't claim to be a prophet but when I spoke to you before the first, before the first map was drawn, I sort of made some predictions about the way I thought this map might end up and when I saw that first draft it was worst than I had imagined it might be. Now I appreciate the fact that you went back and you looked at things and reconsidered and changed it considerably. I appreciate that but it still kind of bothers me a little bit why it was ever drawn that way to start with. Now I know Ms. Floyd said that, that was the first plan that was just like a piece of paper you throw into the trash. But it was kind of hard for me not to take that as some sort of influence and like I say I appreciate the fact that you did change it but to also say once again how I agree with what Mr. Crowe said during the second reading of this is that why could we not exchange White Plains based on the way the districts are configured. Why could we not change I believe it's White Plain for Pelzer and West Pelzer. It seems to me like looking at that in a cohesive manner that, that might serve its constituents just a little bit better and I think it would be more fair I think it would be just as fair for Mr. Dees as it would be for Ms. Wilson to have that, to have that change made. But anyway, thank you for the reconsideration that you gave it but I would ask that you would consider doing that one more re-adjustment there. Thank you very much.

Chairman Wright - Thank you.

#3. Ed Jean. And Charles and Dan, I guess I'm in disagreement. I don't know what's happening to me here but seems to me that I've been coming to some of these meetings and I remember seven Council people voting unanimously, seven to zero on the, the new deal. So my question to Charles and to Dan, why are we debating this when the Council folks themselves had agreed to this unanimously?

Chairman Wright - Very good, I have trouble with that word too. Anyone else.

Charles Crowe (from the audience to the Chairman) could we answer?

Chairman Wright - No.

(Laughter from everyone.)

Charles Crowe (laughing) Thank you. (laughing)

Chairman Wright - (laughing from everyone) At a public hearing you get one turn okay, you get one turn. Okay. That's why we don't limit the amount of public hearing time; you get to say what you want to the first time. Anyone else? Then seeing none we'll declare the public hearing closed. At this time I'll entertain a motion that we adopt #2001-051 on third reading.

Mr. Dees - So moved.

Chairman Wright - We have a motion do we have a second?

Mr. Holden - Second.

Chairman Wright - We have a second, do we have any further comments or questions?

Ms. Wilson - I'll respond to Mr. Jean. There's not much hope of getting it changed so there's no point in quibbling over it at this point. Thank you.

Chairman Wright - Anyone else. Okay. All those in favor? Seven and zero.

Mr. Martin presented Resolution #R2001-062 - a resolution designating the New Foundations Children and Family Services Inc. as an entity in Anderson County to provide transportation to persons with disabilities (for van grant). Mr. Greer moved to approve and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cindy Wilson moved to appoint Ms. Caroline Glenn to fill a vacant position on the Zoning Advisory Group for the Hammond Voting Precinct for District #7. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Mike Holden moved to appropriate \$500 from District #5 for Westside High School Student Scholarship for class trip to Washington, DC. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Gracie Floyd moved to appropriate \$200 to help with a toy fund drive from District #2 Recreation Account being handled by Channel 8. She said that she donated \$200 of her own money to the endeavor. She also challenged all other Council members to give to this drive. Mr. Holden seconded. Mr. Holden amended the motion to appropriate \$200 for the same purpose. Vote on the motions were unanimous.

Chairman Wright moved to appropriate \$2,000 from District #4 Recreation Money to help assist the Town of Pendleton with the Veterans Park. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Preston told Mr. Wright and Council member that he and the employees appreciate their leadership during 2001. Employees of Anderson County have pledged to do their best to make sure their Vision Statement and Goals and Objectives and the work of this County moves forward.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL