

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
Regular Meeting – August 17, 2004 – 6:00 p.m.
Linda N. Eddleman, Clerk to Council

AMENDED
M I N U T E S

All area newspapers, radio stations and television stations were informed of this meeting in compliance with the guidelines set forth in the *Freedom of Information Act*.

PRESENT

Chairman Clint Wright, District #4 – Presiding
Vice Chairman Mike Holden – District #5
G. Fred Tolly – District #1
Gracie S. Floyd – District #2
Larry E. Greer – District #3
William C. Dees – District #6
M. Cindy Wilson – District #7
Joey Preston – Administrator
Tom Martin – County Attorney
Tammie Shealy – Deputy Clerk to Council
Linda N. Eddleman, 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, August 17, 2004 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Clint Wright called the meeting to order and then asked everyone to observe a moment of silence in memory of the late John Gates, Sr. Council Member Larry E. Greer gave the invocation. Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Dees moved to approve the November 5, 2003, November 18, 2003, and the July 20, 2004 minutes as mailed with the correction of several typographical errors. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Citizen Comments: Mr. Brooks Brown stated that at the last meeting there was a scheduled presentation by the Taxpayers Association but when asked by Ms. Floyd what it was about they mentioned his name. Since then rumors have been circulated that they plan to attack him. He said he's okay with that however he has a problem with the forum if the group is allowed to come forward before County Council and are allowed to attack him or any other citizen individually. The business of the County is to protect the citizens, he said. If council puts the Taxpayers Association on the agenda and allows the group to attack him then Council has sanctioned what they said and this is a misuse of power. If this happens he said, then he will call on the Chairman to rule them out of order. Ms. Karen Ellison asked that Council remove from the table her rezoning request on Highway 29. She asked for C-2 Highway commercial. She was told that Ms. Wilson was to remove the ordinance from the table. Mr. Rodney Cobb said that he appreciated Council opening the meeting with a prayer. He talked about problems

on the "alphabet" streets, Appleton, and Anderson Mill sites. He said that they needed support, and they needed to get things "moving" to get the neighborhoods cleaned up. Ms. Pauline Cobb also talked about the "A, B, C" streets and the need to clean the mill site up. Mr. Michael Deanhardt said that his remarks were for all the political leaders who were showing disrespect for the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights and threats to continue to break the law by the Wright Court ruling over prayer to Jesus Christ at political meetings. He said what people should be worrying about is not some hell after this life but the hell we create in this one and only life. He asked the entire Council of their opinion of the court ruling on prayer at political meetings. Mr. Ed Jean told Ms. Wilson that he appreciated her involvement in some recent meetings he'd attended. He said on July 27 at School District #5 a meeting was held for the Hopewell and Hammond School Precincts regarding the comprehensive planning meeting for future land use. Some of the things that happened at the meeting concerned him. He talked about a "flyer" that was distributed and signed by a "concerned citizen". At the meeting, Council Representative, Cindy Wilson, set the tone of the meeting, which turned out to be a "bitch" session. A lot of people were upset over the conduct and how the meeting was handled.

General Sinclair with the 151st Signal Battalion thanked Council for their "Welcome Home Ceremony" for the battalion that was deployed to Iraq. He said the Home Coming has become a model for the state. General Sinclair presented County Council with a plaque, which contained an American Flag that was flown by the 151st Signal Battalion over Baghdad on September 11, 2003. Chairman Clint Wright thanked General Sinclair and all the members of the 151st Battalion.

Ms. Sarah Robinson with Palmetto Pride and Coordinator for Keep South Carolina Beautiful announced a pilot program for the state. She said in conjunction with Anderson County's month long October Deeds of Pride, they have put together a plan for the first week of October (2-9, 2004) to be Anderson County Pride. The idea is to bring together local municipalities, volunteers, citizen groups, and County and City governments to work together for one big cleanup effort. They will have the Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation out cleaning up the interstates, also. Council received as information.

Ms. Floyd moved to approve Resolution #R2004-032 – a resolution recognizing and honoring Anderson County resident Joshua J. Fowler on his selection as the 2004 Young Engineer of the Year; and other matters related thereto. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous. Ms. Floyd asked Mr. Fowler and him family to come forward and at that time she presented him with a framed copy of the resolution. She commended him for his outstanding achievement.

Ms. Wilson moved to approve Resolution #R2004-031 – a resolution recognizing and honoring Anderson County Resident Riley Harvell on his election as President of the American Legion Boys Nation; and other matters related thereto. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous. Ms. Wilson asked Mr. Harvell and his family to come forward. Ms. Wilson read the resolution and then a framed copy was presented to Mr. Harvell. Ms. Wilson also commended Mr. Harvell for his hard work and outstanding achievement.

Mr. John Lummus announced that AFCO (Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corporation) would invest an additional 20 million dollars in Anderson County. AFCO currently has 362 employees. They will invest an additional 20 million dollars and they are asking for Council's approval of a

fee-in-lieu agreement for a 20 year, lock millage agreement which would bring their millage rate down from 10.5% to 6%. Ms. Wilson moved to approve Resolution #R2004-035 - a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an Inducement Agreement by and between Anderson County, South Carolina and Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corporation, whereby, under certain conditions, Anderson County will execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement for a project involving not less than twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) investment. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Tolly moved to approve first reading of Ordinance #2004-028 – an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement between Anderson County, South Carolina, as lessor, and Associated Fuel Pump Systems Corporation (AFSCO); and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a fee in lieu of taxes. Mr. Greer seconded. Mr. Martin stated that the documents had a built in requirement that AFSCO would invest not less than \$5,000,000 by the end of the fifth year and not less than \$20,000,000 by the seventh year or they will lose the benefit of the fee in lieu of tax and they would have to repay the difference between the normal taxes and the fee in lieu of tax. Mr. Greer also stated that the agreement included a clause that there would be no financial obligation to the County. Vote was unanimous.

Ms. Floyd asked that Item #14 (a) be moved up to the next item on the agenda. Chairman Wright said that Council would move up after the next item is completed (Presentation of New Voting Machines). Council agreed.

Ms. Patsy Brown, Registrations and Elections Director, said that under the Help American Vote Act for Anderson County - \$3,000 per precinct was received from the State to buy new voting systems for each County in the entire state. This represents \$1,708,000 for the cost of the equipment for Anderson County. Ms. Brown demonstrated one of the new voting machines. Council thanked Ms. Brown for the demonstration.

Ms. Gracie S. Floyd presented first reading of a new ordinance (#2004-024) – an ordinance amending Chapter 10 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to buildings and building regulations of Anderson County; and other matters relating thereto. She said the ordinance would regulate the height of weeds/grass and etc to 12" and the ordinance calls for enforcement to be by the Building and Codes Department. She said that the County already has an ordinance dealing with weeds; however, the enforcement is not adequate. Ms. Floyd moved to approve and Mr. Tolly seconded. Mr. Greer asked if existing employees of the Building and Codes Department would carry out the enforcement and Mr. Preston replied yes. Mr. Greer said that he did not have a problem with the 12" requirement however he had a problem with the 10-acre provision. He said that when you go to 10 acres – you are talking about large tracts of land – not residential property. The Ordinance does not include an exemption for agricultural activity on the 10-acre tract. He said that he agrees that the abandoned mill sites need to be addressed. He offered an amendment that Council reduce the 10 acres to 4 acres, exempt agriculture use on the land, and a clause be included that the ordinance applies to abandoned mill sites regardless of the size. Ms. Wilson seconded the amendment. Chairman Wright said that he has some of the same concerns but he was not ready to vote on the amendments until he received more information on it. He suggested that Council look at the suggestions/proposed amendments. He asked Mr. Ricketson to come up with verbiage for the amendments for the next meeting for discussion. Mr. Dees asked about

the enforcement in the municipalities. Mr. Martin said that the County did not have any authority to pass any ordinance, which applies, to municipalities. Mr. Martin also said that Ordinances approved by Council only applies to the unincorporated areas of the County. After further discussion, Mr. Greer withdrew his amendment and Ms. Wilson withdrew her second. Vote on the original ordinance as presented was unanimous.

Chairman Wright presented first reading of Ordinance #2004-025 – an ordinance recognizing and consenting to the conversion of BMW Manufacturing Corp. to BMW Manufacturing Company, LLC in connection with a lease agreement between Anderson County and BMW Manufacturing Corp. Mr. Dees moved to approve and Ms. Wilson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Council recessed at 7:20 p.m. for 5 minutes. Chairman Wright called the meeting back to order at 7:25 p.m.

Ms. Wilson moved to remove from the table Ordinance #2004-015 – a request by Karen Ellison to rezone 4 parcels at the southeast intersection of Hwy. 29 and McAlister Road from R-A to C-2. Properties identified by TMS# 196-03-02-001,002, 003, and 004. The ordinance was tabled on June 1, 2004 after the public hearing was held. Mr. Greer seconded. Ms. Wilson read a memo from Mr. Steve Newton stating that the Planning Commission voted June 8th to uphold its earlier recommendation that the property be rezoned to C1-N. Mr. Martin stated that there was an existing motion to rezone the property to C1-N, which was tabled on June 1. Vote was unanimous to approve the rezoning of the property to C1-N.

Mr. Dan Harvell, speaking on behalf of the Anderson County Taxpayers Association, said that he was on the agenda to clear up and set the record straight regarding some matters that occurred at the Council meeting about a month ago. He said that he and the entire membership of the Anderson County Taxpayers Association were viscously and wrongfully attacked for their concern over the "hip-hop" concern, which turned obscene at the William A. Floyd Amphitheater. His concern was not because it was a concert in which mostly black people were attending but the fact that such an event was taking place on County property-property that is funded by the taxpayers. He said that he knew the concert got out of hand. He said that he was there to encourage the County to do their "homework" a little bit more carefully and he also urged the Administration of the Civic Center to be more careful and do more research to prevent this from happening again. He said his accuser, a county resident, who has spoken at the Council meetings on many various subjects was just looking for attention. He assumed that he acted independently. He said that many people asked him how he could sit there in silence while such vile rhetoric was spewing from his mouth. His answer has been and his thinking was that when such a person chooses to portray himself in such an ignorant way his actions keep judgment upon himself not his intended target. He did not say that "hip-hop" was performed or enjoyed only by blacks and he did not infer that Ms. Floyd's summer work program for youth was for only black children. His accuser recently stood and addressed Council on how the County could succeed from the Union. He also cannot help but question how someone who does not salute the American Flag wishes to restrict freedoms at County Council meetings or does that really make sense after all, he said. Mr. Holden also chose to "jump on the wagon" claiming that an article in the *Times Examiner* was disparaging to Mexicans. He said that anyone reading the article would have realized that "illegal immigration" was there concern. He said that to infer that the contributors of the *Times*

Examiner are anything but average citizens of our county who have courage to stand against over-taxation, wasteful spending, and matters of ethics, all of which impact every citizen of Anderson County is simply ludicrous, he said. Mr. Harvell said that he hoped that the individual, making these accusations, was acting totally alone, if he is not alone in this then the County certainly has problems that Anderson County does not need.

Ms. Wilson said that she sent a letter to the County Administrator on July 26 stating that as a Council member she was entitled to look at the legal expense vendor files at no cost. The letter basically stated that as a Council member she was entitled to the information, (not legal case files which contain sensitive information) rather the narrative invoices. On August 13, she received Mr. Preston's response (she read the letter). She came on August 16 into Ms. Rita Davis' office and gave her a personal check in the amount of \$673.17. She said that as a member of Council that she is entitled to the information and should not have to pay for it. She read another letter sent to the Clerk to Council asking for reimbursement from the County for the \$673.17 for expense incurred in the course of performing her job. The letter said that she has never sought reimbursement for phone expenses, since June 2003 she has not sought reimbursement for mileage, and since fiscal year 2000-2001 the County did not pay for trips on her behalf except for one meeting in August 2001. She said it was amazing that in 2004 in a modern, progressive County in South Carolina that a Council member is denied information.

Chairman Wright presented third and final reading of Ordinance #2004-020 – an ordinance amending Ordinance #99-003, the Anderson County Comprehensive Plan 1999, as adopted April 20, 1999, and amended by Ordinance #2001-037, as adopted November 20, 2001, by amending Planning Area One, Future Land Use Map to include Planning Area One, Proposed Future Land Use Map, as endorsed by the Anderson County Planning Commission on June 8, 2004. Mr. Dees moved to approve on third reading and Ms. Floyd seconded. Ms. Wilson stated that she attended all of the planning meetings and she noticed not long after the final meeting that the map for Toney Creek, which included the landfill in it, the footprint of the landfill had increased dramatically. She said that the precinct is un-zoned and the citizens did not recognize that until looking at it much closer. Ms. Wilson asked to go on record that the map that was listed as the current land use map for the Toney Creek, Cedar Grove, Bowling Green, and Williamston Mill, in that regard, is dramatically smaller than what Council has been given. Vote was six in favor and one opposed (Wilson).

Chairman Wright presented second reading of Ordinance #2004-019 – an ordinance authorizing the acceptance of electronic payment for property taxes; and other matters relating thereto. A public hearing was held and the following individuals spoke. Mr. Brooks Brown said that the County was going to collect taxes electronically and the County will have to pay between 1-3% to collect the taxes yet the Administrator said that he couldn't squeeze another nickel out of the budget. He said he was opposed to paying anybody to collect taxes for us. No further comments; the public hearing was declared closed. Mr. Greer moved to approve the ordinance on second reading and Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. Wilson said that the ordinance would be helpful to citizens want to avail themselves to the convenience and expense will be born by the individual using the service and not the county. She asked council to consider discussing later the possibility of working with the Treasurer to make it so that citizens who wish to go to their bank and pay their taxes. Mr. Greer said that Council had before them an amended version and he asked if the motion was to approve the amended version. It was determined that the motion was for the original version; therefore, Mr. Greer moved to amend the ordinance to

include a new Section (e) "The Anderson County Treasurer shall, annually, select a vendor to implement the terms and provisions of this Section, in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section 2-639 and 2-641." Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous. Vote on the original ordinance as amended was unanimous.

Chairman Wright presented second reading of Ordinance #2004-022 – an ordinance amending Chapter 14 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances entitled Cable Communications, by establishing procedures and conditions by which nonexclusive cable television franchises in the unincorporated areas of Anderson County, South Carolina are granted, and setting forth the terms and conditions accompanying such grants and other matters related thereto. A public hearing was held and the following individuals spoke. Ms. Ethel Clark Standard – complained about the having to pay for 22 stations on the basic cable plan with several of the channels with stuff that is of no interest to seniors. Mr. Brooks Brown also talked about the franchise and encouraged Council to amend the ordinance to add the public access channel to the agreement and require it as part of the franchising agreement. The next was requested verbatim. Mr. David J. Herron with West Carolina Communications LLC - "West Carolina Communications is a wholly owned subsidiary of West Carolina Rural Telephone Cooperative. The Cooperative owned by and serves its customers within the rural areas of Abbeville, Anderson, Starr/Iva area, Anderson and McCormick Counties. The Coop was formed over 50 years ago to provide telephone service through out these rural areas where no one else wanted to provide the service. Technology has changed in recent years that establishes and enables us to provide cable television programming over existing telephone facilities. Through the use of fiber-optic and copper cables and advanced electronics we can provide video to 85-90% of our customers – even in rural areas where they have a density of less than 20 per mile. the television service that is available today is satellite or the customer's own outdoor antenna. We only proposing to serve the rural areas presently served by West Carolina Rural Telephone Coop to provide cable services to the telephone subscribers of West Carolina Telephone Coop in the rural areas of Starr/Iva in the Anderson County District 3. In this area we have just over 2000 telephone customers and if we could provide cable to approximately 50% of those which is very liberal. We would only be talking about 1000 customers. We are very interested in Ordinance #2004-022 because we have applied for a cable franchise for a portion of Anderson County and we'd like to point out a few things to Council that council should keep in mind when they deliberate the proposed ordinance to make sure that small company concerns are met and the taxpayers of Anderson County understand the possible full impact of the ordinance. I would like to address four of our major concerns with the ordinance. Number 1 is creating a regulatory environment, which could result in an additional cost to the taxpayers of Anderson County. The County may have to create a department to provide franchise administration and oversight, which could cost the taxpayers a lot of money. Establishing and maintaining the public access education and government channels for live broadcast could also be very costly to the taxpayers. Even though the cost of establishing the "peg" channels could be funded from grants and other sources. It still would cost to produce programming and maintaining the system. This would also would have to be born by the taxpayers of Anderson County and would cost a lot more money. One County which we are familiar with has a budget of over 8 million dollars for its' cable communications department. Is Anderson County ready for this kind of budget requirements? #2. It establishes additional costs and fees to the cable customers by requiring franchise fees on top franchise fees. Franchise fees on late fees as well as other non-subscriber revenue such as advertising incentives and so on. Franchise fees are passed on to the customer and it could result in them having to pay more than 5% in additional fees to the County. While the franchise states that the franchise fees are not to be deemed a tax it "walks like a duck and it talks like a duck". Inter-connection. (Not clear) to adjacent cable systems, which could be very, costly if the adjacent systems are using different technologies. It could be ... (not clear) Administrative and reporting requirements would add additional costs. Expensive telephone answering equipment and surveys to monitor answering time is very costly. It requires free service to all County locations at the highest tier of service. It requires free cable modem service for which the County does not have the authority to franchise to regulate. Courts have deemed that to be an information service. For a small company like us who only plan to serve a small portion of the county and does not plan to have facilities to serve the town of Anderson or the County courthouse – the public education and government access channels can add tremendous costs with cable operators would have to recovery from their customers by requiring two channels initially, possibly two additional channels, promotion costs, bill stuffs, advertising and etc on top of that. The cable company would have to provide a per-subscriber access fee of \$1.00 per customer per month is in the franchise. Leaks to the courthouse from ... (not clear) so those links could be very costly to us since we do not serve the town. For small systems we cannot serve the town or courthouse these requirements could add as much as 6-9 dollars additional cost. That's more than any of the other 12 franchise areas that we have including the municipalities in Anderson

County of Starr and Iva. It could actually deter competition because of added cost to the cable providers. It could be construed as recriminatory and anti-competitive because satellite and wireless cable providers do not have the same restrictions and regulations and do not have to pay franchise fees and provide free services to the County and costly requirements. That concludes my remarks. I did submit our specific remarks to the franchise item by item to Councilman Larry Greer which is was very attentive and I appreciate the devotion and the time that he gave to us and I've also submitted our comments to Mr. Cunningham and he has those and I understand they have met about them and incorporated some of our concerns, or specific concerns, into the ordinance that you have before you tonight. I appreciate that and I appreciate your attention." No further comments the public hearing was declared closed. Mr. Dees moved to approve and Ms. Wilson seconded. Ms. Wilson said that at the last meeting it was determined that the County made \$660,000 + as a result of the current cable arrangement with Charter. She asked what amount of each cable subscribers' monthly fee comes to the County and is there a change as per the document. She also asked what the cost was for the government channel made available through Charter. Mr. Cunningham responded to Ms. Wilson's questions. Mr. Greer said that he would vote for the ordinance on second reading; however Council needed a chance to review between now and third reading. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Wright presented second reading of Ordinance #2004-023 – an ordinance amending Chapter 55 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances pertaining to personnel policies and procedures of Anderson County; and other matters relating thereto. A public hearing was held; no comments were received. Mr. Tolly moved to approve and Mr. Holden seconded. Mr. Greer suggested that Ms. Bloodgood come back and sit down and talk to County Council and he requested that Ms. Bloodgood and Mr. Preston work out a day that County council can meet with Ms. Bloodgood. Vote on the un-amended version was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Ms. Wilson, Council voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of Bailey Creek Subdivision into the County road system. Mr. Tolly said that because of the big amount of water damage/problems in our subdivisions – after the County has received the roads into the County system – he will in the future always asked if all the water problems have been addressed and can the County be assured that it will be no further expense to the county. Mr. Hopkins said that with the new ordinance, the County has a lot more ability to protect the County from problem subdivisions.

On the motion of Mr. Dees, seconded by Ms. Wilson, Council voted unanimously to approve the 2004 paving project deferrals. The following projects needed to be re-funded from the FY 2004-2005 district paving funds.

C-09-0149 – Brentwood Circle -- \$35,408.56 (District #1)
C-15-0090 – Waybrook Way -- \$9,947.89 (District #2)
C-15-0099C – Pecan Drive -- \$9,078.75 (District #2)
C-05-0023 – Whitten Road -- \$32,157.23 (District #4)
C-15-0082 – Mount Vernon road -- \$18,517.45 (District #5)
C-01-0025C – Bennington Court -- \$ 5,159.41 (District #6)
C-01-0177 – Stone Drive -- \$23,716.74 (District #7)

Ms. Floyd moved to appropriate \$500 for Crime Stoppers from District #2 Recreation Funds. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Greer asked that Mr. Hopkins come to the microphone. Mr. Greer said that he had received several complaints over the last several weeks about the lake and getting the right of ways on roads cut. Mr. Hopkins said that they were behind because of the heavy rains, and severe

mower/equipment problems. Out of 10 mowers they are struggling to keep 5 running. Also the mowers are part time and they were not hired until June. Mr. Hopkins said that they tried to supplement the problem with a mowing contract to help keep up.

Mr. Wright moved to appropriate \$8,000 for paving at Midway Elementary School. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous. The funds to come from District 4 paving funds.

Mr. Holden moved to approve an appropriation of \$1,500 from District #5 Recreation funds for the Westside Track team (Quick Striders). Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to appropriate \$500 from District #6 – Recreation funds for Crime Stoppers and Ms. Wilson seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Dees moved to appoint Mr. Scot Dunn of 517 Shadow Oaks Drive, Easley, South Carolina to the Land Use and Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Wilson seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$500 from District #7 paving account for a driveway pipe at 2 Washington Street in the Town of Williamston and remove Burkett Street from paving list and replace with Marguerite Street in the Town of West Pelzer. The increase in cost will come from the District #7 paving account. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to appropriate \$5,000 for the Cheddar Youth Association for capital improvements at their facility on Youth Center Road and \$10,000 from District #7 Recreation Account for the Honea Path Fire Department to help purchase a ladder truck. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Wilson moved to appoint Mr. William H. Moorhead to the Anderson County Planning Commission to serve an un-expired term and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- a. Letters of Appreciation: For: Mr. Holt Hopkins and Staff From Mr. Tommy D. Thompson
- b. Reports:
 - 1. Building and Codes Monthly Activity Report for June 2004
 - 2. Road Maintenance Litter Report for June 2004
 - 3. District Paving Report
- c. Meetings/Minutes:
 - 1. Transportation Division Safety Meeting – June 25, 2004, July 9, 2004
 - 2. Anderson Regional Airport – June 7, 2004 meeting
 - 3. Anderson County Development Partnership June 15, 2004
- d. Newspaper Article on "The case of the missing fire truck"
- e. Mr. Joey Preston's reply to Ms. M. Cindy Wilson's letter of May 19, 2004

COUNCIL MEMBERS REMARKS:

Mr. Dees – Mr. Dees stated that the United States Supreme Court ruled many years ago that we do not have unlimited rights of free speech for example you can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater. So we are restricted, he said. He said that he personally thanked his God that we live in a country, where anyone, within reason, can come into this Council Chambers and have their say. Why? Because many, many have died on foreign fields of battle and in this country. The matter of prayer is a very personal issue between them individually and their God. He said that

he has only one God, however we are commanded in the Chapter of Romans to do as man says. Also in Matthew we are taught how to pray, by Jesus himself. We are proud to be Americans, we are proud to be free, and he is proud to worship his God in a Country where he can.

Ms. Wilson – Ms. Wilson said that she continued to have concerns about sewer project installation, construction, and maintenance thereof. There was a visit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – they walked two segments of two projects. She said she was happy to report that one segment was much better handled than the 1B project. There were still violations. The 1B project, which has been in the ground for a year, has had some serious violations and she hopes that the County will work with the regulatory agencies and make the corrections.

Mr. Greer - Mr. Greer commended the lady who spoke concerning the cable franchise ordinance – to him it took courage to expound upon her religious convictions and her religious beliefs. He said he read the Constitution of the United States and it states that Congress shall pass no laws establishing religion (or something to that effect) but we forget about the two phrase, which goes along with it. It says "or preventing the free exercise thereof. You can't make laws establishing religion but you can't prevent the exercise thereof. So he made a decision, as a member of the governing body he may be bound by that decision of that court so the next time it is his turn to offer the pray – he will not be up there as a council member – he will be down at the podium as a citizen of Anderson County and he will offer the prayer that is on his heart and not what court says he has to.

Mr. Holden – no comments

Ms. Floyd – Ms. Floyd thanked her constituents for the work that they've been doing in the surrounding areas of District #2.

Mr. Wright - Mr. Wright said he was saddened today that the community has lost an individual who probably stood for speaking his mind more than anyone present and he did it with style and class. He said that there was disagreement and Council handled it like Mr. Gates would have handled it – he spoke his mind, told everyone what he thought, but he used style and elegance to do it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda N. Eddleman".

Linda N. Eddleman
Clerk to Anderson County Council