

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Regular Meeting - , March 16, 1999 - 6:00 p.m.

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

MINUTES

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

PRESENT

G. Fred Tolly - District #1
Larry E. Greer - District #3
Vice Chairman Clint Wright - District #4
J. Mike Holden - District #5
Joey Preston - Administrator
Tom Martin - County Attorney
Linda N. Gilstrap - Clerk to Council

ABSENT

Chairman William A. Floyd - District #2

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, March 16, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Clint Wright presided over the meeting. The chairman was ill and not able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Larry Greer asked his pastor, Rev. Landrum Reese from Mount Bethel Church to give the invocation. Everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

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On the motion of Mr. Greer, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted four to zero to approve the minutes from the March 2, 1999 meeting as mailed.

Public Comments: The following individuals spoke during the public comments regarding the Beaverdam sewer line: Dr. Philip Wilmeth, Mr. Glenn Hardy, Ms. Pat Seawright, Ms. Cindy Wilson. Their remarks are attached as part of the minutes.

Ms. Ellie Walters, representing the Anderson Alliance for the Prevention of Child Abuse which is a Foothills United Way Agency, presented Council with Resolution #R99-009 - a resolution recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Walters presented 700 bookmarks and several blue ribbons for County employees. On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution as presented.

Council recognized the County's Telecommunication graduates, which will be the new 9-1-1 staff for the centralized communications center. The following individuals were recognized: Ms. Pamela Garner, Ms. Willie M. Clinkscales, Ms. Brenda Gay, Ms. Linda Rook, Ms. Laura Thoma, and Ms. Miriam Wooten.

Solicitor George Ducworth announced that Capt. Michael J. Vergis is the recipient of the Future Council Leadership Award and was presented a combination plaque and trophy. Capt. Vergis volunteers hours of his time to put on a Juvenile Boot Camp with at-risk kids in Anderson County. He started with 7 kids and now he has over 90. He also has 10-12 officers who help with the boot camp.

Sheriff Gene Taylor introduced his Reserve Officers who have served a total of 10,000 hours at no cost to the County other than a uniform and a gun. The Officers recognized were Mike Bailey - over 750 hours, Homer Booth - over 1750 hours, James Philyaw - over 1250 hours, Rick Whatley - over 750 hours, Tommy Riggins - over 1,000 hours, David Johnson - over 750 hours, Janet Poulson - over 250 hours, Chris Sanders - over 500 hours, Sissy Jones (hours not announced). Absent: Ms. Bennie Hyder - over 500 hours, Anthony Kelly - over 250 hours, Michele Hendrix - over 500 hours, Sherry Mauldin - over 500 hours. Council commended these reserve officers. Mr. Tolly also thanked the officers for the Buck-a-Cup March of Dimes drive.

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Mr. Bob Palmer, with Design South, gave a report on the Feasibility Study on providing sewer service to the Beaverdam Creek area. He said that in November he was contacted by the County and asked to help evaluate the feasibility of providing this sewer service to the area. Facts: The Beaverdam Creek Basin is generally defined by Crestview Road and Cox Road on its south side, SC Highway 81 on its west side, SC Highway 8 on its north side and Midway Road on its east side. The basin is some 10 miles long and almost 2 miles wide. It is over 12,000 acres in size. Anderson County and other planning authorities believe that this is going to be our growth area. Six and Twenty Basin suggested alternative: The Six and Twenty Creek Basin is located adjacent to the Beaverdam Creek Basin on the west side. Six and Twenty discharges into Lake Hartwell. It has 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Highway 81 and 3 miles of I-85 in its drainage basin. Six and Twenty currently treats around 200,000 gallons per day and can go to $\frac{1}{2}$ million. DHEC looks at the size of the stream that you are discharging into and the type of treatment plant that you have. The City, Anderson County, and Homeland Park Water & Sewer District entered into a contract with the city some years back and whereby we purchase treatment capacity in these plants. We have an unallocated capacity in the Rocky River Plant of about 860,000 gallons. We have 2-300,000 gallons remaining in the 6 & 20 WWTP. Because of the size of the stream and the degree of treatment it has been determined that 6 & 20 treatment levels are much more stringent than at the Rocky River WWTP. Conclusions and Recommendations: Expansion of the 6 & 20 WWTP and construction of additional sewer lines will be required to meet the wastewater needs of future residential, commercial and industrial development that will occur in the Six and Twenty Creek Basin. Providing new capacity in the 6&20 WWTP will be very expensive due to the expected discharge limits released to 6&20 and Lake Hartwell. With treatment expansion in the 6&20 basin becoming limited by combination of cost factors, pretreatment standards and future permitting the wastewater needs of the Beaverdam Creek Basin should be met elsewhere. The traditional approach of installing a trunk sewer along the creek is the proper engineering strategy for providing sewer service to the Beaverdam Creek Basin. It is the most cost effective and environmentally sound alternative, in their opinion. It should allow the Beaverdam Creek Basin to develop in a complete and orderly fashion. He recommended that the County conduct wetland surveys. He said that he did not see an alternative plan that has been suggested by several people.

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Council received Mr. Palmer's report as information.

Mr. Wright presented second reading of Ordinance #99-001 - an ordinance approving the financing of the improvement, construction and equipping of certain sewage collection facilities (Highway 76/Sandy Springs Sewer Extension) in Anderson County through borrowing by the County of \$1,500,000 from the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. A public hearing was held and no comments were received. On the motion of Mr. Tolly, seconded by Mr. Greer, Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on second reading.

Mr. Wright presented first reading of Ordinance #99-003 - an ordinance to adopt the Anderson County Comprehensive Plan, February 1999, and all maps and materials therein. Mr. Jeff Ricketson said that this was the draft plan approved by the Planning Commission and is required by State law. This is an update of the 1994 plan. Mr. Greer offered the following amendment to the Plan--Chapter 8 Change from: "Anderson County will purchase a tract of 500 acres in the southeastern area of the County and partner with private developers to develop a senior citizens park with a full range of housing style choices and with full amenities and infrastructure." Change to: "Anderson County will provide infrastructure and partner with private developers to bring about the development of a full service senior citizens residential community(ies) in Council District #3." Change from: "Anderson County will purchase a tract of 500 acres in the southeastern area of the County and develop a multi-county industrial park with Abbeville County with full amenities and infrastructure." Change to: "Anderson County will provide infrastructure and partner with private developers to bring about the development of an industrial park or parks in Council District 3." Mr. Tolly seconded the amendments and vote was unanimous. On the motion of Mr. Greer, seconded by Mr. Holden, Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on first reading with the amendments. Mr. Ricketson announced that the next planning meeting will be held in the Beaverdam Community on April 1.

On the motion of Mr. Tolly, seconded by Mr. Greer, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution #R99-008 - a resolution to provide for the commissioning of certain named law enforcement officers, to provide for the proper security,

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general welfare, and convenience of Anderson County. (Tony Barnett-Environmental Enforcement Officer).

On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Greer, Council voted unanimously to approve the bid for asphalt paving from Ashmore Brothers for a total price of \$3,813,042.05. This includes "C" fund and district fund monies.

Mr. Greer moved to abandon a portion of Devonshire Road (C-12-50) just off Highway 412. The end is a nuisance to the community. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Holden, seconded by Mr. Tolly, Council voted unanimously to resume minimum maintenance on a portion of Hopkins Road (C-8-38).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- (a) Certificates and Training:
 - I. Ms. Susan D. Pierce - Emergency Preparedness - IS-2
- (b) Minutes:
 - I. Anderson County Transportation Committee
 - II. Department of Public Works Safety Meeting
- (c) Final Decision and Order - Big Creek Landfill
- (d) Budget Transfers
- (e) Grant Award - Economic Development (\$134,250)
- (f) Census 2000 Project Report

Mr. Greer said that several meetings ago he had requested Mr. Preston to come up with numbers on a designated inmate crew to police the sides of the roads and try to clean up the County. Mr. Greer moved to ask that Mr. Preston include approximately \$80,000 in the 1999-2000 proposed budget. Mr. Holden seconded. Council discussed. Mr. Preston said that with the host fee from the Big Creek landfill this can be used for the funding of the program. The second year will be less. Vote was unanimous.

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Public Comments: Other Matters - Ms. Kristy Harrell spoke regarding the sewer line. See attachment for verbatim.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk
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Philip Wilmeth:

My names is Philip Wilmeth, I live at 112 Pine Ridge Drive, in Belton, although it's really in Anderson. I am a physician and I've been practicing in Anderson for over twelve years. We chose Anderson because it's a beautiful city full of friendly people, and we have not regretted coming here at all. My practice at Medicus and the Micro-Surgery Center employ over 100 people, and I vote and pay taxes as well as most of our employees. Anderson is now home for me and my family. I own property along Beaver Dam Creek and we plan to build a house there soon.

I am very much opposed to putting the sewer line down the creek. Primarily because of the risk of polluting a pristine natural waterway. One of the few in our area which has not been contaminated. A few weeks ago I heard a presentation at the County Medical Society meeting about on going problems with PCB contamination in Lake Hartwell. This cancer-causing chemical is still present, in dangerous levels in the lake's sediments and the fish taken from the lake, even though Sangamoe has not used it since before I arrived here. Once a water resource is contaminated, there is no practical way to clean it up. I do not want to see this happen to the creek here. I don't want to worry about my children playing in Beaver Dam Creek because of dangerous chemicals, or bacteria. I know there are certainly alternatives which are safer and probably less costly to taxpayers. The residents of the area do not need it; it will benefit only a few industries in the industrial park. Pumping over to the Six and Twenty plant or building the line on an established road like Highway 81 is a safer plan. Don't try to tell us that this is being done for the benefit of the citizens of Anderson County, we know better.

Please don't ram this sewer line down our throats.

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Ms. Kristy Harrell:

Thank you for letting me come tonight. Um, My name is Kristy Harrell, and um, I'm a public servant too, and when I first heard about the sewer line I really didn't think that much of it, neither did my husband; but when I saw those pictures that you have seen tonight it alarmed me. It really scared me, and then I started reading the Water Bureau reports about what happens to the water, about the contaminates that are found in it, it really worried me, because we're drinking that water, and our animals are drinking that water, and our grass is drinking that water, and we're eating animals, the cows and it's scary to me. And, I really decided that I had to become a part of this because I felt like I have a responsibility to my children and to your children. I'm an educator and I believe that what I'm doing is the right thing. And, I want you to look at those pictures, and tell me that we're doing the right thing. By putting the sewer lines down creek basins. So just think about it, I know your public servants too, um and we all have to be accountable to the public. Like I said, I am one too. So I just ask you to really think about it, and look at those pictures and join us in really looking at what's best for our County.

And, I appreciate the work that you do and the time that you give us, and uh, thank you for letting me be here.

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Mr. Glenn Hardy:

My name is Glenn Hardy, I live on 1415 Keone Circle, which is off Midway Road. But, me and my wife own the Old Country Smoak House on 81, and uh, what I'm here to say is I'm for the sewer on 81, because of the fact that I can't run my business more than four days a week because I don't have sewer. I go through a tremendous amount of water because of the cleaning aspects plus the amount of water that the septic tank will take, plus the ground. I'm pumping my septic tank twice a week, I mean twice every month, I mean once every two months, I'm pumping my septic tank. And, I'm pumping my grease tank every month, just to keep me running for four days. So, I'm for the sewer on 81. I don't know the issues over on Beaver Dam Creek. I'm not involved in it, but I do want it in front of my business in order for me to grow. I want to open another day. I want to add on another 100 seats. If you come by my business on our busy days, you'll see that we're busy and we've got a lot of people coming in and out the door.

So, I've been in business for 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and uh, it's ya know, 81 is a commercial road. The four-lane is already affecting my business they're taking sixteen of my parking places, and I'm having to work with South Carolina state on that issue. So, I need the sewer in front of my business, so any way I can get... I want it on 81. If they don't want it, we want it.

Thank you.

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Ms. Pat Seawright:

My name is Pat Seawright, I live at 730 Autumn Lane, and my property does go along Beaver Dam Creek. At the last meeting I asked the question why this sewer line was being put down our creek, when there is an alternative at the Six and Twenty Waste Water Treatment Center; there is an alternative down Hwy. 81. We have pristine drinking water that is pure by DHEC's standards. Please don't mess up one of the last pure streams in Anderson County when you do have alternatives and you have voting citizens who will support you in finding those alternatives.

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Public Comments - Agenda Matters:

Ms. Cindy Wilson Speaking:

Hi, I'm Cindy Wilson; I live at 129 Steeple Chase, which is a Belton address. Our family's farms are on Hopewell, Long, Midway and Wilson Roads. I want to tell you that we've tried desperately to meet with you in a quiet, private manner in the past several months, and this is not our fashion to come make a spectacle of ourselves. But, I do want to call your attention to some water quality issues in the County. We've got posters here showing current sewer line maintenance and also um, new sewer line construction, um, I didn't know how we could properly display this but I hope everyone, thank you (to someone who helped her with the microphone) can look.

We have the Big Creek sewer line, we have one out near Saluda River, and we have um, scenes from our Beaver Dam Creek, which tests absolutely pure and pristine. Um, and this is um, Six and Twenty and we've got Rocky River, which is down stream from Big Beaver Dam. Big Beaver Dam and Little Beaver Dam join to form Rocky River. I want you all to look at the water from Rocky River, right below Cobbs Glen where the sewer lines start. This, on the other hand, is water taken on Long Road at the bridge. It's pure, and I think you see the contrast sitting here. I have some information from DHEC; right down stream from us where the sewer lines start, there are reports of copper and zinc, and excessive and eqaunic life acute standards. There are high levels of fecal color from bacteria excursions. I use all of these big words, but the fine line is where the sewer started in Anderson County, and there is contamination.

I think at this point we really need to address what we have, we need to carefully take care of what we have in the way of resources. We started out (Tom Martin: "one minute please) with the question about our sewer line and we have a better alternative for this County, it will cost less, it will give people on 81 sewer immediately, and at a more cost effective rate, and we want people to ... (tape unclear)

Please give thought to this. Thank you.

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Mr. Nick Frangias:

My name is Nick Frangias, and I live on 400 Long Road. My wife and I own Omega Farm, which is a horse farm, and Mr. Tolly, I expect you to conduct a survey to verify that the majority of the constituents do support your sewage route. You will find that a majority support Highway 81 alternative, that we support. That land can be acquired much faster and far less expensive to complete than the county's plan.

DHEC tested our water and found it to be pure, further down stream that is not the case, where industry is located.

The County needs to look at our water for future use as the County grows. Mr. Tolly, you and the Council are servers of the people not lords of the people. You must communicate with your constituents, because of your lack of communication with your constituents by refusing the numerous times we have asked you and the Council to attend our meetings so that we may agree on the common solution. We are here now debating the issue, and having a mistrust of you and the council.

Thank you.