

ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Regular Meeting - August 21, 2001 - 6:00 p.m.

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council

AMENDED (PAGE 6)

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 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

The official meeting of the Anderson County Council convened in the Council Chambers of the Historic Courthouse on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Larry Greer gave the invocation and everyone stood and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Public Comments: Mr. Charles Crowe - he said he was there regarding the postponing of reassessment. He called everyone's attention to the Quote of the Day: "Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen." Also, on the Appalachian Council of Governments, he asked if the County was locked into the Strategic Plan for a period of time or could there be changes. He asked when would July's Civic Center Board meeting minutes be ready. He said that the agenda

looked like Mr. Tolly was giving the YMCA \$5,000, what Mr. Tolly is doing is that he is recommended that the County approve spending \$5,000 of taxpayers money to the YMCA. Mr. James Boiter - Mr. Boiter referred to Resolution 2001-034 and the closing of Hampton Road. He complained that the county was closing the road. (Mr. Tom Martin stated that the only road on the agenda for closing was Cherokee Trail.) Mr. Chester Kapp - Mr. Kapp talked about receiving a financial statement, which is important for good business. Mr. Michael Deanhardt - spoke regarding the cut in state public safety funds (highway patrol). He suggested that a resolution be sent to the Governor complaining of this important service and why more than 10 million dollars was cut. Mr. Dan Harvell - Mr. Harvell thanked Council for delaying the reassessment for one year. He suggested that Council give the public what the figures will be and suggested that Council consider eliminating property taxes with a consumption tax. Council received all remarks as information.

Mr. Thomas R. Irby, Engineer talked with Council regarding the closing of Hampton Road. He gave a brief history of Hampton Road and how the road is shown on a map from 1877, which is a part of the old Keowee Road system. He said, in his opinion, that by closing the road, Anderson County was providing a gift to the developer with a potential value of more than two million dollars. The developer will pay the County over \$545,000 in taxes. Council received all remarks as information.

Mr. Larry Greer presented Mr. Joey Preston a framed resolution sent to Anderson County from Abbeville Council congratulating the County on receiving the J. Mitchell Graham Award.

Ms. Kathryn Campbell gave a presentation on the development of a Convention and Visitors Bureau, which is a non-profit organization typically, formed by local government. The intent and purpose is to service and attract visitors to the community. She said there were five bureaus in South Carolina and Anderson's would be six. The mission of the bureau would be to fuel the local business climate, broaden the tax base, by serving visitors as a means of bringing money into our community. Ms. Campbell explained that the "30% fund" was the available revenue that is distributed to the tourism organizations as deemed by the County. State statute says that 30% must be used for these type activities. It was noted that advertising for the area festivals would increase the occupancy of area hotels if

the advertising is in the right area. This would result in an increase in the accommodations fees. Council received the presentation as information.

Ms. Floyd showed members of Council an article from the *Charlotte Observer* received from her sister-in-law from Rock Hill about Anderson's Sports and Entertainment Center.

Sheriff Gene Taylor gave a noise committee update to Council. He stated that the Committee had met and primarily talked about looking at the fact that the Noise Ordinance was okay but needed a little work, particularly regarding loud music from cars. He said that the distance from a car to off the right of way needed to be cut down from 100' to 50' or maybe less. The setbacks of a lot of houses in Anderson are much less than 100'. There is also a provision in the ordinance where the person must first be warned. In some circumstances, use of discretion is advisable. Sheriff Taylor will have another meeting and try to present changes to the ordinance to Council by their September 18, 2001 meeting.

Mr. Michael Cunningham introduced Mr. Chuck Watkins as the new Chairman of the Human Resources Committee. Ms. Suzanne McMahan was presented as Employee of the Month for July 2001. Ms. McMahan is the Director of the County Special Populations Program. She was presented the special items that all Employees of the Month receive. Council commended Ms. McMahan for her outstanding service and dedication to her job and Anderson County residents.

Council took a 5-minute recess at 7:30 p.m. The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Tom Martin presented second reading of Ordinance #2001-005 - an ordinance to amend Article II, Division 8 of Chapter 38 of the Anderson County Code of Ordinances, imposing restrictions on billboards and off-premises directional signs in Anderson County; and other matters relating thereto. A public hearing was held. The following individuals spoke: *Mr. Robert Chase* from American Outdoors said that he was concerned that a huge business advantage is being give to Lamar Outdoor Advertising with the proposed ordinance with the one for one

replacement. Whether it is a 1 for 1, 2 for 1, 3 for 1 they do not care they believe the County is trying to limit billboards being every 300' and they totally agree with that, he said. He said the 3 for 1 would even make it better. They have no other problem with the ordinance and they feel like the objective is not to control outdoor advertising, but it is to give Lamar Outdoor Advertising the advantage in the Anderson County area. Mr. Wright said that the County was not in the business of writing ordinances to protect certain businesses in the County and takes opposition to his statement. *Mr. David Quinnle* of American Outdoors asked Council to look at the section regarding the 500' from a residence requirement. He asked for consideration to raise the height limit on interstate, said they were concerned with section dealing with renewal fees (\$75.00) would be subject to periodic adjustment by County Council, would like to see Minimum setbacks stay at 5'. *Mr. Charles Crowe* stated that not only was sign owners and County council involved in this the property were involved also. He said he considers this as double-taxation. As a property owner, you pay taxes on the property and then there will be a fee for these billboards. The public was declared closed. Ms. Floyd moved to approve on second reading and Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. Mr. Greer said he listened as American Outdoors talked about the replacement ratio (1 for 1 or 3 for 1). He said he was offended about the comment that County Council was trying to help one business over another. That was never the intent of the proposal, he said. He also said that the old signs would have to be "grandfathered" because the county had no choice. If the County had a 1 for 3 (take down three and replace with one) the County has a choice put one up or repair the three that they have. So a 1 for 3 ratio will not assist with taking care of the older type billboards it would cause them to remain in place because that company is going to repair those instead of taking them down. He also said that he likes the 500' requirement from a residence and would like for it to stay at 500'. He urged Council to read carefully the definition of a billboard this ordinance deals with all signs in Anderson County that are not off-premise directional signs and he stated he was prepared to vote tonight. Ms. Floyd asked how the County arrived at the 70' rule for signs on interstate highways. Mr. Greer moved to table and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was six in favor and one opposed (Mr. Wright). Mr. Wright opposed the motion because he did not have the opportunity to ask questions before the motion to table was received.

Mr. Tom Martin presented second reading of Ordinance #2001-026 - an ordinance approving a rezoning request to change from R-20 (Single Family Residential) to P-D (Planned Development) 15.26 acres at the southern corner of Old Williamston Road and Cobb's Way, located in Council District #1 within the Hammond School Voting Precinct. Mr. Tolly moved to approve and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Martin presented second reading of Ordinance #2001-028 - an ordinance authorizing the transfer and sale of certain Anderson County real property to Westwind, Inc.; authorizing the execution and delivery of real property deeds related to the same; and other matters related thereto. There will be a final survey to determine the exact amount of acreage. Ms. Floyd moved to approve and Mr. Holden seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Martin presented first reading of Ordinance #2001-029 - an ordinance directing that the implementation of real property reassessment in Anderson County be delayed for one (1) year, as authorized by statute; and other matters related thereto. Mr. Greer moved to approve the ordinance and Mr. Tolly and Mr. Dees seconded. Ms. Wilson asked that the three school districts in her district receive the figures on reassessment as soon as possible to use as a planning guide. Ms. Floyd said all school districts in her district are in favor of delaying the reassessment. Mr. Greer said that he also took offence that Council members were doing this as a form of re-election. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Larry Greer presented Resolution #R2001-033 - a resolution approving and endorsing the Anderson County section of the Regional Strategic Plan for Economic Development by the Appalachian Council of Governments; and other matters related thereto. Mr. Greer presented updated versions of the plan at each Council members' station. The first six pages are additions by the Council of Governments to the plan of which they have been incorporated into the plan and are designed by highlighting. A faxed letter from the Mayor of Williamston was received earlier today of several items he would like incorporated into the plan. Mr. Greer moved to approve (as amended) the Resolution R2001-033, which is the Anderson County's portion of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development and Mr. Dees seconded. Mr. Tolly asked for clarification if the amendment he submitted concerning the

Airport was included. Council said that it was. Ms. Wilson read the Mission Statement for the process. She said there were several hundred people in Anderson who participated in 1992 and 1994. It was a broad cross section of citizens, entities, schools and others. Her concern was that she was involved with discussions of this important plan. She said there were many projects, which should be included in this plan. She said that there had never been a public hearing on the Hampton Road closing. She requested that Hampton Road be retained in the County road system. She requested that Concord and Brown Roads be included in the state system and the replacement of the bridge on Brown Road will be very expensive and she would request that it be included in the Transportation Section. Omitted was upgrading and improvements for Hopewell, Breazeale, and Cheddar Roads which are major thoroughfares. She also requested that the deadline remain open on the Transportation section because of many more projects, which need to be considered. On the Water section - the Belton-Honea Path Water does have their plan in and hopefully is in time to be included in the Plan. Solid Waste- she would like for there to be an open discussion about the clause that reads: "Explore the establishment of a C & D landfill or transfer station in the northern park of Anderson County". Under Wastewater Treatment - the county does not need to expedite permitting under the DHEC processes. The county needs to clarify the procedures and the steps for industries, our citizens and for all of our development plans. Mr. Townsend and Mayor Myers have faxed letters for items to be included in the plan and Mr. Preston is amendable that these will be included in the plan. Ms. Wilson stated that she did want Long Road, Highview Road, Hampton Road, Welcome Road, and Midway Road part of the plan discussed more further. Needs for getting traffic in and out of Harriet Circle needs to be looked at. Mr. Greer asked everyone to look on page 153 (under water), which states that the plan was an open-end plan. This will allow Anderson County to add plans, as they are necessary. He also asked everyone to look on the bottom of page 165, which reads, "Continue to update the Comprehensive Ten-Year Sewer Plan and implement projects defined in the latest update to the plan." This makes the plan open-ended and provides a means for making changes in the plan. He said that there were a lot of people invited to add input into the plan; however, a lot of people did not show up. Ms. Floyd asked for clarification on page 171 listed under *Roads needed to serve key industrial sites*. Mr. Pelisser stated that these roads were in the area of the Alliance park and would provide access to the park. Mr.

Tolly stated that there were other designated as potential industrial sites by the Commerce Department in Columbia and also Anderson County. Mr. Greer moved to amend that we limit discussions to specific amendments to this plan. Chairman Wright agreed that this was what he was trying to do by helping Ms. Wilson work her way through the amendments that she would like to make. He said that the Williamston request needs to be added in the plan at this time. Ms. Wilson moved to amend the plan to include the projects as requested by the Mayor from the Town of Williamston. Mr. Greer seconded. Vote was unanimous. Ms. Floyd stated that she would like to have been invited these meetings regarding the development of the plan. Ms. Wilson also asked for inclusion of the realignment of the intersection in Honea Path (Highways 76 & 252) and with the proposed new elementary school for School District #5 at the Harriet Circle location - add for roadwork to be done there. Mr. Preston will forward specific language to COG for inclusion of these two projects. Mr. Holden seconded the second amendment presented by Ms. Wilson. Vote was unanimous. Vote on the original motion as amended twice was six in favor and one abstention (Ms. Wilson abstained because of a possible conflict of interest with one section of the plan). Motion carried.

Council recessed for 5 minutes at 8:15 p.m. Chairman Wright called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Tom Martin presented Resolution #R2001-034 - a resolution expressing intent to cease County maintenance and to authorize County consent to judicial abandonment and closure of portions of certain Anderson County Roads; granting encroachment permits as to such portions of said Anderson County Roads; and other matters related thereto. (These roads referred to are: Cherokee Trail and Warrior Trail). Mr. Holden moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Tolly seconded. Mr. Martin stated that the signs have been posted and no public hearing was required. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Martin explained Resolution #R2001-035 - a resolution approving the execution and delivery of an equipment lease purchase agreement in the amount of not exceeding \$1,770,860 to defray the cost of acquiring various equipment as approved in the County's 2001-2002 annual budget; and other matters relating thereto. Mr. Martin recommended the acceptance of the low bid for 3.59%

submitted by First Municipal Credit Corporation. Mr. Holden moved to approve and Mr. Dees seconded. Vote was unanimous.

On the motion of Mr. Tolly, seconded by Mr. Dees, Council voted unanimously to approve the appropriation of \$5,000 from District #1 for Scholarships for underprivileged children at the YMCA.

Mr. Greer made the following statement for Mr. Charles Crowe regarding the reason why the recreational fund account projects are not budgeted each year. He said that this is for unforeseen things that come up through out the year that Council members must act on to serve their constituents.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate \$3,000 from District #3 Recreation funds for the Iva Senior Citizens building for the heating and cooling system and vendor to be paid upon completion of the job. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate \$3,099 from District #3 paving funds for the Zion Senior Citizens in Belton for paving of the walking track behind facility and also the parking lot. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous. The County will do the work.

Mr. Greer moved to appropriate \$3,000 for the Belton Senior Citizens Group who meets in the old Methodist Church building at the new Belton Farmers Market. The funds to come from District #3 Recreation funds for installation of a heating and cooling system in the building. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Floyd moved to approve District #2 Paving list with the addition of Prevost Street South, which was left off. Mr. Holden seconded and vote was unanimous.

Ms. Floyd moved to appropriate from District #2 Recreation funds the amount of \$2,000 for basketball goals at the Jefferson Street Park for the kids in that community. Mr. Dees seconded and vote was unanimous.

Mr. Holden moved to appropriate \$320 from District #5 Recreation Funds for purchasing of playground equipment for a project at New Prospect Elementary School. Mr. Tolly seconded and vote was unanimous.

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On the motion of Mr. Dees, seconded by Mr. Holden, Council voted unanimously to approve the acceptance of Topsail Bay, Phase I into the County Road system.

Mr. Tolly congratulated Mr. Ed Hillhouse on his 80th birthday.

Ms. Floyd recognized a new constitute he attended the complete meeting.

Mr. Wright said that political leader Floyd Spence had passed away asked everyone to remember the Spence family during this time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

(a) Certificates and Training:

1. Mr. Tommy Thompson and Mr. Taylor Jones - Basic Public Information Officer Course

(b) Letters of Appreciation:

1. For: Anderson County (Sponsor) From: Ms. Kathryn Ponder-Campbell
2. For: Anderson County Farmers Market - From: Ms. Laura McClellon
3. For: County Council - From: Mr. Bo Gilreath
4. For: Mr. Joe Moss, Mr. Chris Robinson, Mr. Phil Brown and Mr. John Sears - From Mr. Huley Johnson

(c) Minutes:

1. Anderson Regional Airport Minutes - June 25, 2001
2. Civic Center Advisory Board Minutes and Letter - June 25, 2001
3. Anderson County Transportation Division - August 10, 2001

(d) Reports:

1. Detention Center Litter Report - July 11 to July 20, July 31 to August 3 and August 6 to August 10, 2001
2. Anderson County Litter Report - July 2001
3. Public Safety Monthly Training Report - July 2001
4. Public Safety Monthly Compliance Report - July 2001
5. Public Safety Monthly Environmental Enforcement Report July 2001

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6. Public Safety Monthly Complaint calls by department
7. Building & Codes Monthly Report - July, 2001
- (e) Balloon Federation of America article - Donner Wins Nationals!
- (f) B.P. Barber and Associates - Anderson Regional Landfill Lateral Expansion - Public Notice Project No. 97605
- (g) Finance Department Letter

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda N. Gilstrap, Clerk to Council
ANDERSON COUNTY COUNCIL