

November 3, 2014  
Charleston, SC

A meeting of County Council of Charleston County was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2014, in the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers, Second Floor of the Lonnie Hamilton, III Public Services Building, located at 4045 Bridge View Drive, Charleston, South Carolina.

Present at the meeting were the following members of Council: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Chairman, who presided; Colleen Condon; Henry E. Darby; Joseph K. Qualey; A. Victor Rawl; Herbert R. Sass, III; Dickie Schweers and J. Elliott Summey. Council Member Anna Johnson was absent.

Also present were County Administrator Kurt Taylor and County Attorney Joseph Dawson, III.

Chairman Pryor gave the invocation. County Administrator Taylor led in the pledge to the flag.

The Clerk of Council reported that in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of the minutes of October 21 and October 30, 2014, seconded by, Mr. Sass, and carried.

**Purple Heart  
County  
Resolution**

A report was read from the Finance Committee under date of October 30, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Veterans Affairs Officer Donald O. Morillo regarding a request that Council adopt a resolution declaring Charleston County a Purple Heart County. It was stated that the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by an Act of Congress, is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, make sure we never forget, and that this resolution would be one way to foster goodwill between Charleston County and active and veteran members of the Armed Forces.

Ms. Condon moved approval of the resolution, seconded by Mr. Rawl, and carried.

The Chairman requested that the resolution be entered into the record of this meeting.

The Resolution is as follows:



## **A RESOLUTION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

### *Proclaiming Charleston County a Purple Heart County*

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart is the oldest declaration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the Purple Heart was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by an Act of Congress, is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, make sure we never forget; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Charleston County has had a number of residents make the ultimate sacrifice in armed conflicts and has an even larger number of residents who have been awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Charleston County has a large population of highly decorated military members, both active and retired, living in its communities; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Charleston County recognizes the commitment and increasing sacrifices military families are making.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that **Charleston County Council** does hereby proclaim Charleston County, South Carolina, to be a **Purple Heart County**.

**CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Chairman  
November 3, 2014

An ordinance increasing salaries for Council Members and the Chairman of Council was given second reading by title only.

**AN ORDINANCE  
INCREASING SALARIES FOR CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND  
THE CHAIRMAN OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS  
RELATED THERETO**

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on second reading of the Ordinance. The roll was called and votes recorded as follows:

Ms. Condon	- aye
Mr. Darby	- aye
Ms. Johnson	- absent
Mr. Qualey	- nay
Mr. Rawl	- nay
Mr. Sass	- aye
Mr. Schweers	- abstained
Mr. Summey	- absent at time of voting
Mr. Pryor	- aye

The vote being four (4) ayes, two (2) nays, one (1) abstention and two (2) absent, the Chairman declared the ordinance to have received second reading approval.

The Chairman announced that the next item on the agenda was the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Condon, and carried.

The Consent Agenda is as follows:

A report was read from the Finance Committee under date of October 30, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor regarding the need to commission an employee of the Assessor's Office as a Code Enforcement Officer for Charleston County. It was stated that in 1994, Charleston County Council adopted an ordinance authorizing the issuance of a uniform ordinance summons, to be used to enforce any County ordinance by code enforcement officers commissioned by County Council. It was shown that the commissions are on an annual basis and subject to renewal or rescission every year, and additional officers are commissioned as needed. It was shown that Meghan Evans is an employee in the Assessor's Office who has moved into a new position which includes duties to enforce County Ordinances.

Committee recommended that Council commission Meghan Evans, an employee in the Charleston County Assessor's Office, as a code enforcement officer effective immediately through December 31, 2014.

A report was read from the Finance Committee under date of October 30, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Facilities

**Code  
Enforcement  
Officer/  
Assessor's  
Office**

**Hollywood  
Library Lease**

Director Dan Chandler regarding a lease agreement between the County of Charleston and Town of Hollywood for a facility to house the St. Paul's/Hollywood Branch Library, located at 5151 Highway 165, Hollywood, SC. It was stated that the Lease Agreement began on January 1, 1985, for twenty-five (25) years and was extended through December 31, 2014 for a rental amount of one dollar (\$1.00) per year, with all expenses incurred by the County. The County would like to amend the Lease Agreement to extend the term for five (5) years, beginning January 1, 2015. It was shown that this Lease Agreement can be cancelled by either party with a ninety (90) days written notice. All terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreement will remain the same. Committee recommended that Council authorize the Chairman of Council to sign an amendment to extend the lease agreement for a period of five (5) years, beginning January 1, 2015, for the property located at 5151 Highway 165, Hollywood, South Carolina. The rent will be one dollar (\$1.00) per year for the continued use of a library.

**City of North  
Charleston  
Urban  
Greenbelt  
Project**

A report was read from the Finance Committee under date of October 30, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Greenbelt Programs Director Cathy Ruff regarding an urban greenbelt project application which was received from the City of North Charleston. It was stated that the application has been reviewed by the Urban Grants Review Committee and the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (CCPRC) and that both bodies are recommending approval of the following project:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Funding</b>
City of North Charleston	1325 Sumner Avenue	Fee Simple	2.47	\$39,500

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:**

The City of North Charleston (applicant) and Landowner indicate that the property was purchased at an auction held by John Dixon & Associates. They are receiving a 10% premium (\$2,500).

**URBAN GREENBELT FUNDS STATUS:**

The City of North Charleston currently has \$1.9 million remaining of their urban greenbelt funds allocation.

Committee recommended that Council:

1. Approve the urban greenbelt projects as recommended by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission and the Urban Grants Review Committee, provided that upon approval, grant agreements will be executed between the County and appropriate parties.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Funding</b>
City of North Charleston	1325 Sumner Avenue	Fee Simple	2.47	\$39,500

2. Authorize the County Administrator to require the execution and delivery of proper agreements and instruments to implement the conditions of the approval of the grant funds, and to effectuate the goals of the Greenbelt Program ordinances and policies.

3. Authorize the use of \$39,500 to be funded from a combination of Greenbelt Operating Contingency and/or 2011 General Obligation Bonds.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of committee recommendation, seconded by Mr. Sass, and carried.

A report was read from the Finance Committee meeting of October 30, 2014, that it considered the information furnished by County Administrator Kurt Taylor and Deputy Administrator for Finance Keith Bustraan regarding Charleston County's Financial Policies. It was stated that the financial policies were approved in 2007 and that according to bond rating agencies, such policies are one indicator of a government's strong financial management. For example, the Standard & Poor's rating agency assesses Charleston County's financial policies as "strong, well-embedded, and likely sustainable." S&P goes on to favorably summarize the key financial policies:

"Throughout the fiscal year, management reports budget-to-actual performance to the board; when necessary, it allows amendments to the current budget. The county has adopted a rainy day fund that equals 4% of the subsequent year's budget; it is guaranteed the first \$500,000 of any general fund property tax revenue surplus. In addition, the county targets the undesignated, unreserved general fund balance at more than one-and-a-half months of the following year's budget. Further strengthening its financial practices, management prepares five-year financial forecasts as part of its budgeting process and presents the forecast as part of its annual budget."

However, since the economic downturn, tighter guidance from credit agencies and updated Best Practices from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) suggested a policy update review. Recommended changes are:

- Financial stability policies have been strengthened to correspond with updated best practices (in particular, fund balance size);
- Revenue policy language has become more concise and transparent; and
- Minor language and titles updated.

Committee recommended that Council approve the recommended updates to the County's Financial Policies.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of committee recommendation, seconded by Mr. Sass, and carried.

A report was read from the Special Finance Committee under date of November 3, 2014, that it considered the information furnished in Executive Session regarding the Administrator's contract.

Committee recommended that Council extend the contract with County Administrator Kurt Taylor for one year and authorize the Chairman to negotiate a salary subject to approval by County Council.

Mr. Rawl moved approval of committee recommendation, seconded by Mr. Sass, and carried. Ms. Condon voted nay.

The Chairman asked if any Member of Council wished to bring a matter before the Body.

**Council  
Comments**

Mr. Rawl thanked staff and citizens in attendance for their patience while Council had been in Executive Session for an extended period of time and stated that Council had dealt with two of the most contentious issues facing them in some time.

Mr. Darby asked the County Attorney what the result would have been if the vote for Council Member salaries had tied.

Mr. Dawson stated that the ordinance would have failed for not passing second reading.

There being no further business to come before the Body, the Chairman declared the meeting to be adjourned.

Beverly T. Craven  
Clerk of Council