

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
June 15, 20159:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman J. Matthew Rivers, Vice-Chair Lenora V. Powe, Council Members: Kenneth A. Johnson, G. Franklin Plyler, Bruce E. Rivers, Robert G. Cole, Gerald L. Miller, Douglas A. Curtis and Mary D. Anderson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Denise Douglass – Administrator; Susie Boswell – Clerk to Council; Michelle Stanley – Finance Director; C. Heath Ruffner – County Attorney; Representative Richie Yow; Robert Monnie – The Link; Kim Burch – Director, Economic Development; Cherry McCoy – Economic Development; Woody Wilson – Titan Stainless and Jane Pigg – The Link. There were others attending the meeting who did not sign the sign-in-sheet.

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers welcomed everyone and Council Member Cole opened the meeting with prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt the June 15, 2015 meeting agenda. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

a. Local Government Fund – 2016/2017 General Fund Budget – Finance Committee Chairman Al Johnson

Thanked Finance Committee Members Anderson, Cole and staff for their hard work on the budget. Stated that he would like to discuss the reductions in the Local Government Fund in relation to the planning and formulation of the 2016/2017 General Fund Budget. Committee Chairman Johnson stated that the County was about \$630,336.00 short this year from what the County is supposed to be getting from the Local Government Fund. He stated that the Finance Committee felt that we were at a point where the County could no longer fund the State agencies, if the State didn't send the money they had promised in years past.

Council Member Johnson made a motion for Council to consider identifying all state mandated services, determining the cost to the County of providing those services, and notifying those entities that may be affected before December 31, 2015 that, if the Local Government Fund remains funded at levels below the statutory formula, the County has reached a point that it will have no choice but to reduce funding to those entities by a proportionate amount, subject to any specific statutory limitations. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Chairman Rivers: Advised that Representative Richie Yow was present at the meeting.

Representative Richie Yow: Good morning everybody. I'm Representative Richie Yow, of course I'm from the big city of Teals Mill. I wanted to talk with you and let you know that of course we were, our delegation did do an amendment to offset the local budget and to fully fund it which that got killed but we're still looking at some ideas to bring in extra funding. We're trying to get the budget passed and then take that extra funding and bring it to some of the local budgets to offset some of this stuff. I want to go on record and the record to state that on May 29 we sent out a letter, it was in a subcommittee meeting, that I had requested \$27,000.00 for the Voters Registration. I have not requested and most of you know that if I do want something, I will call and aggravate you. I've aggravated several of you, ain't that right Ms. Lenora?

Vice-Chair Powe: That's right.

Representative Richie Yow: But I would like to know by close of business today who actually said it. I got the information that said it come from the voter registration office but nothing actually said that I requested \$27,000. If Richie Yow requested \$27,000, I promise you, you going to know it before it comes into the meeting and I'll talk to you directly. Thank you for what you are doing and thanks for your time.

APPOINTMENTS

a. Sheriff Jay Brooks

Advised Council that after the last meeting, he went back to his office and they put everything out on the table and looked at their budget again with a critical eye. He stated that he stood before Council convinced that the Sheriff's Department budget is right, that the total numbers are correct, they are in line and are very workable. Stated that he agreed with the proposal that the Finance Committee has come forward with, with an increase in helping with salaries within their Department. Sheriff Brooks asked Council if they would allow their office to disburse the pay increase that Council is approving in the way that they see fit to keep their pay scale in line and to keep it on the road to getting fixed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Project Kitchen Ordinance - Public Hearing

Council Member Plyler made a motion to open the public hearing. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed. There were no oral comments from the public made at the meeting nor were any written comments received from the public.

Council Member Plyler made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Project Kitchen Ordinance – 3rd Reading

Council Member Plyler made a motion to pass 3rd Reading. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Kim Burch, Director of Economic Development

Introduced Mr. E.W. (Woody) Wilson, Chairman & CFO of Titan-Stainless, LLC and

advised that Titan-Stainless would be locating in the Lynches River Industrial Park. Ms. Burch stated that Economic Development would like to start a new tradition with their new industries by presenting Mr. Wilson with a rug in welcoming Titan-Stainless to Chesterfield County and South Carolina.

E.W. (Woody) Wilson, Chairman & CFO of Titan-Stainless

Mr. Wilson advised Council that the company is just a little over two years old and they have been having a problem finding a building that is big enough for the company. He stated they had come looking for a home and they are more than excited about the possibilities. He thanked Council for what they had done to help them get to Chesterfield County and that they just wanted to be a good corporate citizen and are here to be a part of the county.

b. Town of Pageland Lift Station/Utility Easement Ordinance – 1st Reading, title only

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to pass 1st Reading, *by title only*. Council Member Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

c. Lease Purchase (E911 Upgrades) Ordinance – 1st Reading, title only

Council Member Miller made a motion to pass 1st Reading, *by title only*. Council Member Bruce E. Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

d. Resolution Authorizing Termination of Federal Inmate Contract

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the termination of the Federal Inmate Contract as unanimously recommended by the Finance Committee. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

e. 2015/2016 General Fund Budget Ordinance – 3rd Reading

Council Member Johnson (Finance Committee Chair)

Advised everyone that the Finance Committee had worked hard on the budget and had looked at ways to make cuts and add more revenue. There was discussion regarding the 2015/2016 General Fund Budget.

Building Codes (Proposed Changes to Permit Fee Schedule)

Council Member Johnson advised that Mike Orr, Director of Building Codes, had talked with Council in the past and recommended they come more in line with other counties with buildings codes, with the fees and permits. Mr. Orr presented the proposed changes to Council at the Budget Retreat held on April 22, 2015 and it is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve these changes.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to accept the proposed changes to the permit fee schedule presented to Council at the Budget Retreat on April 22, 2015. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Attorney Ruffner advised that the revised fee schedule had already been incorporated into the Budget Ordinance.

Employee Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

Council Member Johnson advised Council that the Finance Committee had discussion on some sort of increase for employees, especially the lower paid employees.

Council Member Anderson then made a motion that Council accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the 2015/2016 General Fund Budget: to transfer \$165,367 from reserve, add 1.31 mills for operations, and add 1 mill to maintain the reserve, which includes the step cost of living adjustment for salary ranges of \$0 - \$30,000 of 5%; \$30,001 - \$35,000 of 2%; and \$35,001 - \$39,999 of 1%, and, further, to authorize the Sheriff to disburse his department's COLA (totaling \$41,170 salary and fringe) as set forth in the proposed Salary Schedule previously presented to Council. Council Member Cole seconded the motion.

There was additional discussion regarding the 2015/2016 General Fund Budget. Administrator Douglass advised that total required to be transferred from reserve was \$179,793 after calculating the exact additional amount for the 5% COLA for employees in the salary range \$0 - \$30,000 as discussed at the June 10, 2015 Finance Committee meeting.

Council Member Johnson: Advised that he felt they should handle the \$30,000 down only on the raises.

Council Member Curtis: Advised that at the Finance Committee meeting he sat in on, it was suggested \$30,000 and down to take care of the core folks, as far as retention and bringing those folks up and that a lot of those folks are anywhere from \$19,000 to \$21,000-\$22,000. He stated that he could not in good conscious vote to give somebody that makes twice that amount of money a raise. He stated he thought it was not financially healthy for the County to do it but if you do it across the board, \$30,000 and under that would take care of the vast majority of the retention problem.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: Stated that he was concerned about some people that in his opinion are underpaid and that he had asked for information concerning the salary of the dispatchers at the 911 Center. He stated he felt those people desperately need a salary adjustment as well as a cost of living increase and he would like to see Council adjust that starting salary over at the 911 Center by \$1,200 and give them a step increase so they can attract and retain good employees. He stated that if they make more than the \$20,000-\$22,000 then he felt they had surpassed that entry level and should just get the 5%.

Chairman Rivers: Advised that he did not have a problem with adding to, separately, something for the 911 Center because that is a critical issue with your first responders.

There was discussion regarding raising the starting salary and increases for the 911 Center employees.

Chairman Rivers: Advised he felt they should take a vote on the motion that was on the floor with Council Member Bruce E. Rivers' proposed additional salary adjustment for 911 dispatches, assuming Council Member Anderson would amend her motion which was seconded by Council Member Cole to increase the transfer by \$25,000 from the reserve, for a total from reserve of \$204,793, to cover the cost of the additional salary adjustment for the 911 dispatchers, and leave the total millage increase at 2.31. Is that amendment amenable to you, Council Member Anderson?

Council Member Anderson: Yes, sir.

Chairman Rivers: Is that amenable to you, Mr. Cole?

Council Member Cole: Yes, sir.

Voting in favor of the motion, as amended, were Council Members Anderson, Cole, Johnson, Bruce E. Rivers, Powe, Plyler, and Miller. Voting in opposition of the motion was Council Member Curtis. Motion passed.

Administrator Douglass: Advised Council regarding rollback millage. In a reassessment year, the County is required to use a special millage rate, referred to as "rollback millage," instead of the previous year's millage rate as the base millage rate. Specifically, if reassessment shows that the tax base has increased in value, the statutory formula adjusts the base millage rate downward so that it produces approximately the same amount of revenue as the prior tax year. We are still working on determining what that figure is, so just understand there will be a difference in it and she advised she would bring back to Council as soon as she gets that number. She advised the budget figures will be the same, it's the base millage rate number that will change.

Council Member Johnson: Advised that he would like to mention merit raises. The Finance Committee agreed to putting that in process. It will not be for this year but will give staff time to start doing an evaluation.

Council Member Curtis: Stated he appreciated the hard work everybody has done, didn't agree with all of it, but it's done. He advised he would like for Council to really consider holding all departments to line items, if they have to go over or take from a line item, it needs to be go by the administrator and finance director.

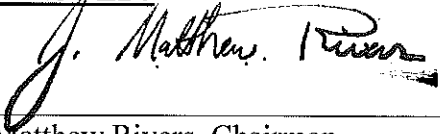
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not enter Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Council Member Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

APPROVED:



J. Matthew Rivers, Chairman

Date: 7-1-15

ATTEST:



Susie Boswell, Clerk to Council