

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNTY COUNCIL MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 9:00 A.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Susie Boswell – Clerk to Council, Michelle Stanley – Finance Director, Denise Douglass – Administrator, Heath Ruffner – County Attorney, Stephen Plyler, Jerry Gaskins, Karen Stangel, Brenda Quick, Jim McGonigal, Faye Johnson and Peggy Smith – Human Resource. 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 asked Council Member Plyler to open the meeting with prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers stated that there were two legal matters that needed to be added to #16 to be discussed in Executive Session one of which was attached to materials and an issue regarding redistricting. Council Member Plyler made a motion to adopt the September 7, 2011 meeting agenda with amendments approved by Council. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. .

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. August 10, 2011 Regular Meeting

Council Member Miller made a motion to adopt the August 10, 2011 Regular Meeting minutes with approved changes. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

b. August 31, 2011 Special Meeting

Council Member Powe made a motion to adopt the August 31, 2011 Special Meeting minutes with approved changes. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. Council Members Bruce E. Rivers, Kenneth A. Johnson, George Franklin Plyler, Robert G. Cole, Gerald L. Miller and Lenora V. Powe voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Curtis did not vote, as he was not present at the August 31, 2011 Special Meeting.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

None

APPOINTMENTS

a. Joy Young, Citizen

Thanked the press for covering the animal issues from the beginning until now.

Stated that she thought things seem to be progressing and moving and it would not have happened if it had not been for the Cheraw Chronicle, The Link, The Progressive Journal, Channel 15 and Channel 3 and she thanked all of them and asked that they stay with them and record the progress because she felt that things were going to start moving. Thanked Council for taking some of the steps that they had taken and stated that she may be overly optimistic but she felt secure that now that things have started moving that County Council would keep pushing until we have a better life for the animals and have cleared up our reputation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fay Johnson, Citizen

Expressed her feelings about the Jefferson Armory matter regarding Fiber Fuels. Stated that she had been writing articles and that Leighton Bell had been publishing the articles but that she now had a Blog up and running and she was going to make everybody accountable for what they do.

James McGonigal, Citizen

Stated that he had just moved here from New Jersey three months ago and that he had actually bought property here three years ago. He thanked Joy Young and everyone attending the meeting for the animals for bringing attention to what happened along with the press. He stated that he had been coming to the meetings for about three months and had been volunteering at the shelter, welding fences and different things. He stated that everybody was there to get everybody back on the same page, both the Sheriff's Department, the rescue groups and the County Council and that hopefully it stays in the forefront and moves forward. He stated he moved to Chesterfield because it was a tight community, very nice people and great southern hospitality and the incident that happened in March wasn't right but he thinks we can move forward with that as long as everyone works together and keeps this in the forefront.

Stephen Plyler, Citizen

Stated this was quick because he just found out about it in the Link yesterday. Stated that what he would like to say is about the animal shelter. He stated that most property owners that have no domestic animals would oppose being taxed for this cause and if non-animal owners want to donate by proposing a \$1.00 or \$2.00 tax on property owners, they should be able to check a box and donate \$5, \$10, \$100 whatever they want to donate on property taxes if they pay. People on fixed incomes do not need any extra tax. South Carolina has a leash law and Chesterfield County should consider implementing it. That is, if a domestic animal is not on your property it is suppose to be on a leash. Stated he thought there was a better way to fund this by no more taxes on property owners.

Addressed Council about what Representative Ted Vick has proposed as far as the 7% on the growth of property tax on the insurance companies to fund the SC Forestry Commission. He proposed to Council that County Council write a letter to Representative Ted Vick and oppose this. He said this would only be passed on to the policy holders and that homeowners would get less coverage or reduce their coverages or maybe even drop their coverage completely. He stated that the people in South Carolina are having a tough time already, fixed income people more so than others and that a letter from Council may help to deter this 7% add on.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Redistricting Plan Ordinance – 1st Reading (title only)

Council Member Plyler made a motion to pass 1st reading (title only). Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Road Committee

1. Landfill Hauling

Vice-Chair Powe stated that at the last meeting Tim Eubanks brought to Council's attention that he had found another landfill to haul garbage, which is Waste Connections in Wadesboro, North Carolina. It is about 20 miles away so the first thing is we will save a tremendous amount on fuel cost by hauling it to Anson County rather than all the way to Bishopville. He has contacted DHEC and that facility has been permitted by DHEC for the State of South Carolina. The other thing is that the tonnage we will have would be \$27.00 rather than the \$29.00 we are currently paying per ton.

Council Member Plyler: How long is that rate guaranteed on that tonnage?

Tim Eubanks: We have a five year commitment with CPI only.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: They are willing to give Chesterfield County a long term commitment, as far as the tipping fee. The only thing Council would need to do is amend the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Council Member Powe made a motion to change landfill agreement to Waste Connections in Wadesboro, North Carolina. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

a. Animal Shelter Committee Appointment – Council Chair Rivers

Council Chair Rivers advised that he had talked to several members of the animal community along with Mr. Eddie O'Cain based out of Columbia with the Humane Society and that as he recalled Mr. O'Cain is the person in our Consent Order. He is basically the one that turns us in if we violate it every quarter so we have to work out

things with him. Chairman Rivers advised that our first date of compliance is October 1 of this year. He stated he believed we had an animal community devoted to the Animal Shelter and that Council would handle the Animal Shelter and the Sheriff would handle the laws and things up to the gate. Chairman Rivers proposed that a seven person committee be established, four of which will be council members and three will be persons from the animal community. He stated that he had spoken to all four of those council members and also some persons in the animal community. The seven person committee will be comprised as follows: Four council members beginning with Council Member Plyler, Council Member Cole, Council Member Moore and Council Member Curtis. He stated that he had talked with Council Member Plyler at length about him chairing that committee and that he had agreed to do so and as far as the other three committee members, that he had spoken to members of Paws & Claws and other animal members and they will submit three names. Those three names will be submitted today to our administrator, one of which will be from Paws & Claws. He stated that he had talked with Ms. Young and she is going to talk with Ms. Kimrey and some others that are present and they will submit those names today and thought they were all in agreement and very enthusiastic about this.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

a. **Grievance Committee Appointments/Re-appointments – Administrator Douglass**

We have three council members that need to appoint members. The appointments are as follows:

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers – Kevin Thurman
Council Member Gerald Miller – Lorene Green
Council Member Al Johnson – Tim Eubanks

Council Member Powe made a motion to accept the names that were nominated. Council Member Moore seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. **Appointment to Alligator Fire District – Douglass**

Announced that Council Member Plyler has appointed Robert L. Griggs, Jr. to serve on the Alligator Fire Department Board. This is just so it will be reflected in the minutes. The letter has already been sent out.

c. **Employee Assistance Program – Peggy Smith**

Human Resource Department and Administrator have contracted with First Sun to implement an EAP Program (Employees Assistance Program) here in Chesterfield County. Information regarding this program was handed out to Council. The program will be offered to employees and their families to assist them with financial, legal counseling, adult care resources, parenting and adoption, child care resources or college consultation resources. This program has been implemented in most of the counties in the state. Mrs. Smith stated that this had been discussed with our Labor Law Attorney and the attorney said that they had dealt with this company and was very impressed with

this company. Mrs. Smith advised Council that pamphlets had been given to employees regarding this program. Thanked Council for their time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crawford Moore

None

Bruce E. Rivers

None

Douglas Curtis

Stated that he wanted to formally acknowledge Jay Lewis as being Interim over the Animal Shelter and that Mr. Lewis had made a big difference and he appreciated what he has done over at the Animal Shelter and we need to continue working with Mr. Lewis during the transition period. Stated that Mr. Lewis had some ideas on how we can improve and that he would just like to thank him for the service that he has done over there.

Lenora V. Powe

We have Ms. Branson here today. She is our new Chief Librarian.

Ms. Branson: I am happy to be here and look forward to working with you.

Gerald L. Miller

None

Kenneth A. Johnson

None

George Franklin Plyler

None

Robert G. Cole

None

J. Matthew Rivers

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers recommended Council enter into Executive Session in accordance with S.C. Law, Section 30-40-70 of the S.C. Code of Laws pertaining to two legal matters.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to enter Executive Session. Council Member Plyler seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Council Member Johnson made a motion to exit Executive Session. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman J. Matthew Rivers reported Council is back in regular session. No action was taken and no motions were made in Executive Session.

ADJOURN

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

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

J. MATTHEW RIVERS, CHAIRMAN

DATE: October 5, 2011

SUSIE BOSWELL
CLERK TO COUNCIL