

**RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 16, 2001
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kit Smith, Chair; L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair; Susan Brill; Paul Livingston; Joseph McEachern; J.D. "Buddy" Meetze; Anthony G. Mizzell; Joan Brady; Bernice G. Scott; Thelma M. Tillis; James Tuten

OTHERS PRESENT: T. Cary McSwain, Michielle Cannon-Finch, Larry Smith, Amelia Linder, Milton Pope, Tony McDonald, Darren Gore, Monique Walters, Pam Davis, Mullen Taylor, Jim Prater, Ash Miller, Stephany Snowden, Marsheika Martin

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by the Honorable Jim Tuten.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to adopt the agenda as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Ms. Evelyn Bush spoke of concerns regarding item 4-a (Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance: Old/New agreements)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: December 19, 2000

Mr. Mizzell moved, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to approve the minutes. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Regular Session: January 2, 2001

Ms. Scott stated she wanted the minutes to reflect that it was by unanimous decision to elect Mr. Pearce as vice-chair. She requested to vote on the Vice-Chair again.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to reconsider the minutes in order to elect Mr. Pearce unanimously. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Smith stated this would be placed on the agenda as Item-6 and then re-number the agenda.

Ms. Smith stated she wanted to defer the minutes after they are voted on because of more information needed on a particular item.

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**REPORT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION
ITEMS**

Mr. Larry Smith, County Attorney, stated there are no items on the agenda for executive session.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Council Retreat

Mr. T. Cary McSwain, County Administrator, stated staff is in the process of polishing the verbiage on the goals of Council and should be distributed to Council the following Tuesday.

Department of Mental Health

Mr. James Starnes, Coordinator of Human Services with the Department of Mental Health, thanked From Richland With Love and County employees for participating in the Giving Tree Project.

Report on Genesis Cable

Mr. Milton Pope, County Administrator, updated Council on the ongoing situation with Benchmark Cable Company. He stated several community meetings were held in the Northeast area and it was requested to have a transfer of ownership from Benchmark Cable Inc. to Adelphia Cable. Mr. Pope stated Benchmark was sent a letter extending that time for a 90-day review period.

A technical review of the system was performed based on FCC requirement and the system is operating and functioning soundly. Council is requested to pass a Resolution to allow the transfer from Benchmark to go forward to Adelphia Cable Company. A public input session is also requested at some time to allow citizens to come and mention any other particular problems. Mr. Pope stated Ms. Judy Carter, County Ombudsman, ran a report reflecting only nine complaints in the past six months from that particular area.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. Tuten recognized Jamie Clark, a neighbor and high school student, who was observing the activities of Council in County Government for a report in her American Government Class.

OPENING/CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

Detention Center: Privatization of Medical Services

Ms. Smith opened the floor to a public hearing. No one signed up to speak. Ms. Smith closed the floor to a public hearing.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Smith named the following items on the Consent Item Agenda:

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- 1-a) Detention Center: Privatization of Medical Services [Third Reading] – An ordinance amendment to add \$380,689.00 from the Fund Balance to provide additional funds to cover prison health services.
- 2-a) Circuit Court: Alternative method for selecting Grand Jurors [Second Reading] – An ordinance amendment to adopt an alternative method of selecting and impaneling grand juries and grand jurors.

Mr. Pearce requested removing item 1-a from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

The vote in favor was adopting the consent agenda was unanimous.

1. THIRD READING ITEMS

a. Detention Center: Privatization of Medical Services

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve this item.

A discussion took place regarding a revision for renewal. Mr. Smith stated the contract is still in the process of being put together and asked for input and specific guidance regarding the terms of the contract.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

b. Budget Amendment: Township renovations (deferred from 1/2/01 Council meeting)

Mr. McSwain stated Darren Gore, Finance Director, has looked at the potential of some refunding. He stated there is one issue that is capable of refunding which was the addition to the Detention Center in 1994, which has a potential savings of more than \$150,000.00. He stated Mr. Gore would report what is being paid now, what can be paid and if the 10 million dollar expansion to the jail is done, how it would impact the County and what the debt service would be.

Mr. Gore reported the current maximum debt payment on the 1994 bond issue that the County is looking at refunding and the 2 million dollar note to the City of Columbia was \$1, 077,592.00. The County could do the refunding issuance and include the cost of the Township renovations. He stated on this particular scenario he assumed the 50/50 agreement with the City would hold and the payment would be \$1,037,412.00 which would reduce the payment about \$40,000.00 a year. Over the term of the particular issuances, the County would save about \$570,000.00.

A discussion took place. Mr. Gore stated the 1994 Bond Issuance was a 20 year issuance which will ran out March, 2018. He stated the percentage on the bond was around 6 to 6-1/2 percent with a present value calculated as of April 1st at 4.515%. Mr. Gore recommended Council to expend the

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funds based on the time period with a reimbursement from the bond refunding proceeds.

Mr. Gore stated the expansion of the jail could be added to the refunding issuance as well increasing the debt payment amount to \$1,823,635.00.

The discussion continued. Mr. Gore stated Council would receive packets with this information simplified.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to adopt the budget amendment for third reading with an amendment to direct staff to negotiations with the City and to issue debt to reimburse the Fund Balance and to include the roof for a total package amount of \$1,030,000.00.

Mr. Tuten requested for the minutes to accurately reflect figures stated.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. McSwain thanked Mr. Gore for his work on this issue.

Ms. Smith asked Council to review a fax memo she had sent to Mayor Bob Coble.

3. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION

- a. Approval of a Resolution to appoint and commission Tonie Carlotta Pringle as a Code Enforcement Officer for the proper security, general welfare, and convenience of Richland County**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the Resolution. The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (deferred from 01/02/01 Council meeting)

- a. Central Carolina Economic Development Alliance: Old/New agreement**

Mr. McSwain stated he met with staff and asked Ms. Amelia Linder, Staff Attorney, to review the entire agreement. He stated Ms. Linder assured him that everything in the intergovernmental agreement is now in the articles of incorporation and the constitution bylaws of the alliance. It does not require an additional contract from the County with the exception of extra things being done with the alliance that other counties do not do. He stated the contract would be before Council for renewal.

A discussion took place.

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Mr. Livingston requested a copy of the agreement with Central Midlands to review the language.

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to defer this item to the February 6th Council meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. REPORT OF RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

a. Appointments to the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council-2

Mr. Livingston stated there were two vacancies to be made to this board. He stated there are two applicants, Ms. Kimberly A. Kennedy and Mr. Benjamin Spry who are incumbents. Mr. Livingston stated the committee did not meet because the applicants were incumbents.

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to appoint the two incumbents to the board. The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. RECONSIDERATION OF JANUARY 2, 2001 COUNCIL MINUTES

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to reconsider the election of the vice-chair. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to nominate Mr. Greg Pearce for Vice-Chair. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pearce was elected as Vice-Chair.

Ms. Smith requested to defer the minutes and asked for council members to support this as she has a constituent who has an interest on the Robertson Creek Road issue. She wants to gather more information before waiving his rights for reconsideration on that matter.

Ms. Scott requested for the minutes to reflect "that the County did not have any interest in the road at all. The County does not have any kind of easements for that road."

A discussion took place.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to approve the minutes. The vote was in favor. Ms. Smith opposed.

7. CITIZEN'S INPUT

Ms. Annette Halter spoke regarding the high water bills residents have been receiving at Colonial Villa apartments.

8. MOTION PERIOD/ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Economic Development Conference

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Ms. Smith announced that she provided council members information about an economic development conference in Washington, D.C., and encourages council members to attend.

b. Support for the Arts

Ms. Smith gave notice that she will introduce an ordinance dealing with support of the arts for Council's consideration.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m.

Kit Smith, Chair

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair

Joan Brady

Susan Brill

Paul Livingston

Joseph McEachern

J.D. "Buddy" Meetze

Anthony G. Mizzell

Bernice G. Scott

Thelma M. Tillis

James Tuten

The minutes were transcribed by Marsheika G. Martin