



Richland County Council

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

June 27, 2017 – 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Pearce, Chair; Bill Malinowski, Paul Livingston, Jim Manning, and Norman Jackson

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Roberts, Tracy Hegler, Kevin Bronson, Brandon Madden, Gerald Seals, Ismail Ozbek, Michelle Onley, Brad Farrar, Quinton Epps, Sandra Yudice, Janelle Ellis, and Michael Byrd

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Pearce called the meeting to order at approximately 6:03 PM.

APPROVAL MINUTES

- a. May 23, 2017 – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

- a. Council Motion: Based on the mission of the Conservation Commission, I move that the Rowing Club and Historic Columbia be placed under the management of the Conservation Commission [N. JACKSON]
– Mr. Pearce moved to divide the question.

Mr. N. Jackson stated based on the motion he does not believe you can split the question. A motion can be made at the end of discussion on how to move forward with it.

Mr. Pearce stated they are entirely different. The Rowing Club is actually the Rowing Club property that is addressed. Whereas Historic Columbia is a 501(c)(3) organization funded entirely separately.

Mr. N. Jackson inquired if the Rowing Club owned the property.

Mr. Pearce responded the Rowing Club does not own the property, but operate the property under an agreement with the County.

Mr. Pearce's motion to divide the question died for lack of a second.

Mr. N. Jackson stated the intent of the motion is to have each organization report to the Conservation Commission instead of Administration, but not to change the structure or current contract(s). The Conservation Commission recently received approval to hire a Coordinator to manage or oversee all properties the County owns. At the end of the fiscal year, a report should be given to the Conservation Commission because their mission is in line with what these organizations are doing. The Conservation Commission's mission is to promote tourism and protect conservation and historic properties. Historic

Columbia manages the Woodrow Wilson House and some other properties. The Rowing Club operates County-owned property.

Mr. Pearce requested Mr. N. Jackson to clarify the intent of the motion.

Mr. N. Jackson stated his motion was to move Historic Columbia and the Rowing Club to report to the Conservation Commission, which will have a Coordinator that will address any problems that arise. He further stated, the County is not interested in hiring people or going into park management.

Mr. Malinowski seconded Mr. N. Jackson's motion for discussion.

Mr. Livingston stated he did not have the mission of the Conservation Commission before him, but he cautioned the committee on moving forward with this item if the reason for the motion is because it's County-owned property. He stated he can name other County-owned properties. He inquired if the Conservation Commission would be managing those properties as well.

Mr. Livingston further stated the Rowing Club is very different from Pinewood Lake in the sense that the County does not fund them. The organization actually benefits the County by generating opportunities for Hospitality and Accommodations Taxes. Therefore, his recommendation would be to not move forward with the motion and develop a process.

Mr. Manning inquired if the Rowing Club reports to Mr. Seals.

Mr. Livingston stated the Rowing Club reports to their non-profit board.

Mr. Manning further inquired if Historic Club reports to Mr. Seals.

Mr. Seals responded in the negative.

Mr. Manning stated he cannot support the motion to move the organizations when they organizations are not currently reporting to the County.

Mr. Pearce stated the Rowing Club is at the end of a very large tract of property. He would like to see someone managing that property for the benefit of the citizens. Presently Public Works maintains the property, but no one is assigned to manage the property. Therefore, he sees no problem with the Conservation Commission having a more active role and making recommendation on needed improvements. The Historic Columbia Foundation, on the other hand, follows all the guidelines of Hospitality Tax and reports through the Hospitality Tax accountability system.

Mr. Malinowski inquired what other entities, other than Historic Columbia, the County owns the property that is under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Seals stated the Township Auditorium and a couple more, but he cannot name them off the top of his head at present.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the other entities are required to report back to Administration (i.e. spending, activities, etc.).

Mr. Seals stated that do not report back to Administration, although they are subject to reporting to the County.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if Historic Columbia has the same requirement.

Mr. Seals stated it is different in that the reporting is through the Hospitality Tax process.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the only funding Historic Columbia receives from the County is Hospitality Tax unless they make a special request.

Mr. Seals responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Manning, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation to approve the movement of the Columbia Rowing Center property management under the Richland County Conservation Commission.

Mr. N. Jackson stated Pinewood Lake Park Foundation reports Hospitality Tax to the grants committee. Council approved placing them under the Conservation Commission because it meets the mission. Historic Columbia meets that mission also. Each entity has a 4-year renewal contract, which is renewed annually. Historic Columbia could lose their contract next week if the County gave them a 30-day notice that they no longer wanted to use them and use another organization. They do not have a permanent contract to say they will do it in perpetuity. Mr. N. Jackson further stated the Conservation Commission could not hire people to run Pinewood Lake Park. The Coordinator will help develop eco-tourism and assist with troubleshooting at the park.

Mr. N. Jackson is concerned the Rowing Club does not report to anyone even though the property is owned by the County.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to call for the question. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The vote in favor of the substitute motion was unanimous.

- b. Council Motion: The City of Columbia announced that they will be targeting Hospitality Tax businesses in the unincorporated area for annexation to take HTax funds. The City receives more than \$10 million annually while the unincorporated area receives over \$5 million annually. The County spends more than half its funds in the City while the City spends its funds in the City only. I move unless the City develops an IGA or MOU with the County not to take target and take the County HTax funds that Richland County then there should some discussion to reevaluate collection of the HTax funds [N. JACKSON] – Mr. N. Jackson stated there was an article that stated the City of Columbia is trying to expand. The City is targeting areas in the unincorporated area to annex that generates Hospitality Tax. The City receives \$10 million and the County receives \$5 million annually in Hospitality Tax, yet the County spends the majority of the funds in the City.

Mr. N. Jackson's recommendation was to draft a MOU or IGA with the City regarding this matter.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to add this item to the D&S work session scheduled for July 18th.

Ms. Kennedy stated the City is currently trying to annex four areas in her district.

Mr. Malinowski made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. N. Jackson, to direct staff to move forward with discussions with the City of Columbia regarding an IGA or MOU, which would state the City would not take the Hospitality Tax from the entities they annex. This item should be placed on the July 11th Council meeting agenda.

Ms. Kennedy requested that everything be in writing as she has been lied to about annexation in her district.

Ms. Myers stated the issue annexation and Hospitality Tax revenue matters are coming from the policy makers and not staff. Therefore, this may need to be addressed at that level instead of with meetings amongst City and County staff.

FOR
Malinowski
Livingston
Manning

AGAINST
Pearce

The vote was in favor.

Mr. C. Jackson stated there seems to be a growing list of things that are contentious between City staff, County staff, the two administrations and the two policy bodies. He stated, he believes it is appropriate for Council to consider a formalized conversation and discussion with the appropriate City personnel (policy level and administrative level) to talk about the issues.

Ms. Dickerson stated there are plans to hold an informal discussion with the City and County to address these type of issues, so agreement can be reached on where we are and how to move forward.

Mr. Seals stated there was a recent meeting at which there was an agreement to work with County Council to hold a meeting in September for the purpose of socializing, as well as, addressing issues that are of mutual concern to the two policy bodies.

Mr. Livingston requested a copy of all the City ordinances that relate to annexation. County Council should then start looking at what they think about the different policies the City has regarding annexation and how we could make them work better for everyone.

Mr. C. Jackson stated he believes the discussion needs to be bigger than annexation. The other issues that have come up (i.e. Fire Service) won't get addressed if the discussions are limited to annexation. This needs to be a formal discussion with an agenda and all of the issues identified by Council and staff need to be placed on this agenda.

- c. Intergovernmental Agreement to Appoint Judge Caroline Streater to the position of City of Forest Acres Judge – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the agreement.

Mr. Malinowski inquired why the City does not pay Judge Streater directly and not involve the County.

Judge Simons responded to Mr. Malinowski's inquiry.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if Judge Streater had an accident while travel to and from her employment is there a possibility she can enter into a legal suit against her employer, which would be the City of County depending on where she is traveling.

Mr. Farrar stated it would get fact specific; therefore, it would be handled on a case by case basis.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM.