



Richland County
Special Called
July 6, 2021 – 4:00PM
Zoom Meeting
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Livingston, Chair, Yvonne. McBride Vice-Chair, Bill Malinowski, Derrek Pugh, Allison Terracio, Joe Walker, Gretchen Barron, Overture Walker, Jesica Mackey, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kyle Holsclaw, Stacey Hamm, Tamar Black, Sandra Hayes, William Bilton, Lori Thomas, Ashiya Myers, Leonardo Brown, Judy Carter, Chris Cowan, Dale Welch, Randy Pruitt, Elizabeth McLean, Dr. John Thompson, Geonard Price, Zachary Cavanaugh, Harry Polis, and James Hayes.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 4:01.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Terracio, seconded by Ms. Barron, to approve the agenda as published.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for the record, he does not believe this item is properly before us since Council did not vote to hold Zoom meetings. Therefore, we are picking up where we left off and there is no need for a meeting and/or vote.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, J. Walker, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, and English.

Opposed: Malinowski

Not Present: Newton

The vote was in favor.

3. **TO OFFICALLY TAKE ACTION TO RESUME IN-PERSON COUNCIL MEETINGS EFFECTIVE JULY 13, 2021** – Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Mr. Pugh, to resume all regularly scheduled Council meetings in-person and to allow staff, and other individuals, to convene at alternate locations to maximize public participation.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to divide the question.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, J. Walker, Barron, O. Walker, Mackey, and English,

Not Present: Newton.

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Livingston stated the motion before us is to resume in-person Council meetings on July 13th.

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Ms. Barron moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to resume in-person Council meetings effective July 13th.

Ms. Mackey stated, for clarification, we are moving forward with the Administrator's reopening plan presented in the Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Ms. Barron responded in the affirmative.

Ms. English stated she has a question regarding safety, and the number of person's unvaccinated. She noted Richland County is only 42%, and people with disabilities are at a higher risk of contracting the virus. We need to ensure that all the safety protocols are in place.

Ms. McBride stated she did not recall the reopening plan being presented to full Council.

Ms. Barron stated Mr. Brown reported out the plan to reopen on July 13th. In addition, Chambers has been outfitted to protect staff, Councilmembers and speakers at the podiums. The amount of people allowed in Chambers will be limited. She noted the intent of her motion was to have staff to be able to participate remotely to maximize public participation in Chambers.

Mr. Brown stated everyone entering the facility will go through a security protocol. Chambers will be cleaned and sanitized. Seats will have stickers noting the seating capacity is limited to 61 persons. Face coverings will be required due to being in an enclosed space for more the 15 minutes. Councilmembers, staff seated at the desk, and the speakers at the podium will have barriers on both sides. They are working on a hybrid approach to allow citizens to participate in person or virtually.

Ms. McBride inquired if Councilmembers could Zoom into the meetings.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski responded Councilmembers would have to make that decision, and not Mr. Brown, based on Council Rules. He noted Council would have to decide to forgo the Rules, unless it was a Special Called meeting we are not allowed to call in. He stated Council will need to decide if they are going to allow remote participation, and how.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if Mr. Brown's plan is to return to in-person meeting, and also to allow the public and Councilmembers the option to attend the meetings virtually.

Ms. Brown responded his plan anticipates adding a resource the County did not previously have.

Mr. Walker inquired if the motion is to go back to in-person meetings, or to approve the plan, which would allow the option for Councilmembers and the public to attend virtually.

Ms. Barron responded her intent was to hold in-person meetings, with the capability of the public having an option to call-in and participate.

Mr. O. Walker offered an amendment to allow Councilmember to attend virtually.

Ms. Barron responded she did not know if she could agree, based on Council Rules.

Ms. McLean responded this would have to be addressed in Council Rules, unless it is a Special Called meeting.

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Ms. Newton inquired, if whatever allows Council to attend by Zoom now, would extend with the return on July 13th.

Ms. McLean responded what allowed Council to meet via Zoom were circumstances, and Council Rules were never addressed. FOIA and the Supreme Court put in emergency provisions to allow us to meet remotely and bypass the normal rules. In a typical situation, and going back to a regular course of business, the rules will need to be addressed to set the exact parameters.

In Favor: Malinowski, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, J. Walker, Barron, Mackey and Newton,

Opposed: O. Walker and English

The vote was in favor.

Mr. J. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, for reconsideration.

In favor: McBride, O. Walker, and English

Opposed: Malinowski, Pugh, Livingston, Barron, Mackey and Newton

Present but Not voting: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

Ms. Barron stated, for clarification, her motion was to allow staff to attend from alternate locations (i.e. Zoom) to allow maximum public participation, per Mr. Brown's plan.

Mr. Livingston noted Council should allow the Administrator to instruct his staff how to move forward.

4. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:37PM.