

MINUTES OF



**RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair	Joseph McEachern
Vice Chair	Valerie Hutchinson
Member	Joyce Dickerson
Member	Norman Jackson
Member	Damon Jeter
Member	Paul Livingston
Member	Bill Malinowski
Member	L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.
Member	Bernice G. Scott
Absent	Mike Montgomery Kit Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Milton Pope, Tony McDonald, Angie McInchok, Daniel Driggers, Joe Cronin, Larry Smith, Teresa Smith, Jim Wilson, Stephany Snowden, Jennifer Dowden, James Hayes, Lashedra Pontoon, Monique Walters, Michelle Onley

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by the Honorable Joseph McEachern

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Joseph McEachern

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to adopt the agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.

CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve the following consent items:

- School District Two: \$92,116,750 (FY07 appropriated \$80,012,448; EIA: \$88,314,825; Requested: \$92,116,750; Cap: \$93,789,500)
- Recreation Commission: \$9,477,646 (FY07 appropriated \$9,060,812; Requested: \$10,642,690; Cap: \$9,477,646)
- Midlands Technical College: \$3,811,130 (FY07 appropriated \$3,682,764; Requested: \$3,811,130; Cap: \$3,817,823)
- Midlands Technical College-Capital: \$1,225,000 (Requested value of 1 mill, approve funding level)
- Midlands Technical College-Capital Debt Service: \$612,500 (Requested value of .5 mill, approve funding level)
- Library: \$17,168,622 (FY07 appropriated \$16,331,228; Requested: \$17,335,359; Cap: \$17,168,622)
- Riverbanks Zoo: \$1,646,618 (FY07 appropriated \$1,598,056; Requested: \$1,646,618; Cap: \$1,649,110)
- Mental Health: \$1,576,145 (FY07 appropriated \$1,539,014, Requested: \$1,588,262; Cap: \$1,576,145)
- Conservation Commission: \$640,000 (Requested .5 mill, approve funding level)
- Conservation Commission: Approve Capital Acquisition Program that would allow for reservation of fund balance to be used for purchase of land
- Neighborhood Redevelopment: \$640,000 (Requested .5 mill, approve funding level)
- Solid Waste: \$21,130,131 (Approve Funding Level—includes no fee increase or change in tax rate; includes 1 new position partially funded between other sources)
- Broad River Sewer System: \$5,093,812 (Approve Funding Level—includes two loans to Lower Richland & Hopkins Utility Systems)
- Lower Richland Sewer System: \$274,062 (Approve Funding Level—includes loan from Broad River system of \$181,632)
- Pond Drive Water System: \$8,270 (Approve Funding Level)
- Hopkins Utility System: \$52,740 (Approve Funding Level—includes loan from Broad River System of \$54,342)
- Parking Garage: \$219,850 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in user rate)
- Stormwater Management: \$2,770,543 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in tax rate; included six new positions—two are partially funded between other sources)

- **Roads & Drainage: \$5,270,000 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in fee; includes 1 new position partially funded between other sources [This item was reconsidered])**
- **Probate Court Advertising: \$42,999 (Approve Funding Level)**
- **Temporary Alcohol Permit: \$100,500 (Approve Funding Allocation—Solicitor: \$35,560; Appearance Commission: \$8,840; River Alliance: \$56,100)**
- **Title IV-D Civil Process: \$64,107 (Approve Funding Level)**
- **Solicitor Drug Court: \$56,436 (Approve Funding Level)**
- **Emergency Telephone System: \$1,398,000 (Approve Funding Level)**
- **Hospitality Tax: Approve \$10,000 of the \$35,000 Undesignated County Promotions for International Friendship Ministries/International Festival**
- **Hospitality Tax: Approve Funding Distribution—County Promotions [This item was reconsidered]**
- **Hospitality Tax: \$5,700,000 (Approve Funding Allocation)**
- **Industrial Park: \$1,054,424 (Approve Funding Allocation)**
- **Discretionary Grant (Approve Funding Allocation)**
- **All Departments: Amend budget based on current salary reports [This item was reconsidered]**

SECOND READING ITEMS

FY 2007-2008 Budget Ordinance – Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve this item as amended for 2nd Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

FY 2007-2008 Millage Ordinance – Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve this item as amended for 2nd Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Richland School District One: \$154,576,000 (FY07 appropriated \$149,722,082; EIA: \$156,609,298; Requested: \$160,327,584; Cap: \$154,576,000) – A discussion took place.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve \$154,576,000 for this item and have staff contact the Association of Counties for an opinion regarding the ramification of exceeding the cap. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Recreation Commission: Recreation Commission appropriation in excess of five mills is made w/ the following conditions; the appropriated fund use must include \$151,937 for the continuation of the free after-school programs JUMPS, Fighting Back and Tutorial – Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve this item. The vote was in favor.

Conservation Commission: Approve directing Conservation Commission to provide funding assistance to the Gills Creek Watershed group by providing match money for proposed Federal planning grant up to \$50,000 – Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Owens Field: Subsidizes \$71,125 grant match from general fund undesignated fund balance; would be no rate increase – A discussion took place.

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Owens Field: \$341,430 (Approve Funding Level—includes 30% hanger rental rate increase) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to eliminate this item.

The motion was amended to approve the funding level, but eliminate the 30% rate increase. The vote in favor of the amended motion was unanimous.

Accommodations Tax: \$555,000 (Approve Funding Distribution) – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve Mr. Livingston's proposed recommendations list which totals \$555,000.

The allocations were as follows: Access Leisure - \$4,000; Auntie Karen - \$4,000; Black Pages International - \$25,000; Celebrate Freedom—Air & Ground Show - \$8,000; Chick-fil-A Classic - \$5,000; Columbia City Ballet - \$10,375; Columbia Classical Ballet - \$10,375; Columbia International Festival - \$7,500; Columbia Metro Convention & Visitor Bureau - \$215,000; Columbia Museum of Art - \$10,000; Columbia Music Festival - \$15,000; Columbia Regional Sports Council - \$5,000; Columbia Regional—Rowing Center - \$5,000; Cultural Council—Richland and Lexington Counties - \$10,000; Historic Columbia - \$20,000; Humanities Council SC - \$5,000; Lake Murray Tourism - \$100,000, Midlands Intertribal Empowerment - \$2,000; Riverbanks Zoo - \$50,000; S. C. State Museum - \$4,000; SC Philharmonic - \$14,375; Township Theatre - \$25,000; and Administrative Costs - \$375. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Victim's Assistance: \$444,352 (Approve Funding at current revenue level—requires personnel reduction plan) – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to approve this item at the current revenue level. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Roads & Drainage: \$250,000 (Approve the use of undesignated fund balance as a one-time appropriation for the installation of up to four electric traffic signals. Alternate funding options will be identified for funding this program in future years.) – Ms.

Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve this item. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Roads & Drainage: \$240,000 (Approve Alternative Paving feasibility study—use undesignated fund balance) – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mass Transit: \$4,284,000 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in fee) – Mr. Livingston moved. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to reduce the transit fee from \$16 to \$10 per vehicle on residential and \$24 to \$18 per vehicle on commercial, to have the fee assessed on only one vehicle per person, and to have staff assess the fee and report back to Council at the 3rd Reading of the Budget to insure that continuity of the transit system is maintained. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Roads & Drainage: \$5,270,000 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in fee; includes 1 new position partially funded between other sources) – Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to reconsider this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The vote was in favor of approving \$5,760,000 for this item.

Tourism Development: \$1,050,000 (Approve Funding Level) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Fire Service: \$17,260,500 (Approve .5 mill increase to fund 8 positions at Gadsden and Blythewood stations) – The vote in favor of approving \$17,260,500 was unanimous.

Fire Service: \$16,793,849 (Approve Funding Level—includes no change in tax rate) – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to table this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: \$40,000 (Approve funding for high impact project-beautification/improvement to entrance of Fort Jackson from undesignated hospitality tax funds) – Ms. Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve this item. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: \$150,000 (Southeast Rural Community Outreach Ministry—one-time from undesignated hospitality tax funds) – A discussion took place.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. McEachern recognized that Wendy Brawley, Chair of Richland School District One and Paul Brawley, Auditor-elect were in the audience.

Hospitality Tax: \$50,000 (Montieth School—Complete Renovations of the school—one-time from undesignated hospitality tax funds) – Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: \$550,000 (Designated a minimum of \$25,000 and not more than \$50,000 annually to each Council Member for at least one project in their respective district with a 501-C3 rating from the undesignated hospitality tax funds. This would be contingent on Council's approval of the project. This will allow Council members the opportunity to formulate and organize their projects. The same procedures used for county promotions requests during the fiscal year will be applicable to these projects.) – Ms. Dickerson moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to send this item to the A&F Committee to formulate a policy regarding this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: Any undesignated h-tax dollars will be reflected as unappropriated reserved funds in the final budget – A discussion took place.

Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to send this item to the A&F Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: Approve Funding Distribution—County Promotions – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to reconsider this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve Mr. Livingston's proposed recommendations list which totals \$317,481.

The allocations were as follows: Access Leisure - \$5,750; Auntie Karen - \$4,500; Capital City/Lake Murray Country RTB - \$34,500; Celebrate Freedom Foundation - \$12,650; Columbia Classical Ballet - \$4,806; Columbia Metro Convention & Visitor Bureau - \$25,300; Columbia Music Festival Association - \$17,250; Cultural Council—Richland and Lexington Counties - \$15,000; Epilepsy Foundation of South Carolina - \$2,500; Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce - \$15,000; Greater Columbia Education Advancement Foundation - \$10,000; Northeast Fair Inc. - \$23,000; Palmetto Capital City Classic - \$25,000; Riverbanks Zoo & Garden - \$34,500; S.C.O.R.E. (Dodgeball) - \$2,300; S.C.O.R.E. (Inline Hockey) - \$11,500; S.C.O.R.E. (Lacrosse) - \$2,875; Scarborough-Hamer Foundation - \$4,300; South Carolina Philharmonic - \$5,000; South Carolina State Museum - \$11,500; South East Rural Community Outreach Ministry - \$17,250; Spring Valley High School - \$10,000; and Township Auditorium - \$23,000. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Council Services: \$100,000 (Governmental Affairs Liaison) – A discussion took place.

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to send this item to the A&F Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center—Completion of Maternal Healthcare Center at 1228 Harden Street—\$100,000 – Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to appropriate \$100,000 for Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center. A discussion took place.

Mr. Pearce proposed the following amendment: that Palmetto Health review and modify their agreement regarding the allocation of funds.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Human Resources: \$46,353 (Wellness Coordinator position) – Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item and to have the Administrator bring back funding recommendations by Third Reading. A discussion took place.

The vote was in favor.

Sheriff: \$45,000 (Richland District 5 School Board approved the hiring of one additional SRO at a cost of \$45,000. This would require approval of the position and an increase to SRO revenue of \$45,000 to offset cost.) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Auditor: \$87,750 (Assistant Auditor Position—salary and associated benefits) – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Discretionary Grant: \$5,000 (Fully fund Odyssey Golf Foundation request—will require reduction of other agency) – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve \$10,000 for this item and bring back a recommendation for adjustment before Third Reading. A discussion took place.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Outside Agencies: (\$8,750) (Capital Senior Center: Original funding was provided as a capital grant and not for operating and has been reduced each year since FY03. Recommend 5% reduction in funding consistent with previous Council agreement.) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to remove this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Outside Agencies: (\$10,000) (American Red Cross—FY07 outside agency funding was one-time. The agency is included in Discretionary Grant recommendation for FY08 for \$5,000. Recommend reduction of \$10,000 in outside agency funding.) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to remove this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Outside Agencies: Approve funding distribution – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded Mr. Jackson, to transfer \$5,000 to the discretionary grants. The vote in favor was unanimous.

All Departments: Amend budget based on current salary reports [This item was reconsidered] – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Hutchinson, to reconsider this item. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to reduce one Assistant Administrator position. A discussion took place.

Ms. Scott made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the Administrator's budget recommendation.

Mr. Jeter made a second substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the Administrator's budget recommendation and have the Administrator bring back to Council an ordinance clarifying the Assistant Administrator position that is in question.

Ms. Scott withdrew her substitute motion.

The vote in favor of the substitute motion was unanimous.

Sheriff—Continuation of Administrative Fee – Ms. Scott moved, seconded Ms. Dickerson, to approve the \$5.00 per hour fee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Hospitality Tax: Library Request – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson, to appropriate \$168,000 from the undesignated hospitality tax funds to expand and open the Ballentine branch. A discussion took place.

Mr. Malinowski amended his motion to read: that the library's undesignated hospitality tax funds request for \$168,000 be considered and approved. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Council Discretionary Grant – Ms. Hutchinson moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to return the funding level to \$50,000. A discussion took place.

Ms. Hutchinson withdrew her motion.

Capital City /Lake Murray Country – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to appropriate \$65,500 from the undesignated hospitality tax funds for this item.

<u>In Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Pearce	Jeter
Malinowski	Livingston
Jackson	Dickerson
Hutchinson	
McEachern	
Scott	

The vote was in favor.

Council Member Salaries – Mr. Jeter moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to refer this item to the A&F Committee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Total Budget: \$127,675,653 (Approve Funding Level—includes addition of 16.33 FTE and 2.2 mill increase) – Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Joseph McEachern, Chair

Valerie Hutchinson, Vice-Chair

Joyce Dickerson

Norman Jackson

Damon Jeter

Paul Livingston

Bill Malinowski

Mike Montgomery

L. Gregory Pearce, Jr.

Bernice G. Scott

Kit Smith

The minutes were transcribed by Michelle M. Onley