

**RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
JUNE 6, 2000  
6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Kit Smith, Chair; L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair; Susan Brill; Paul Livingston; Joseph McEachern; J.D. Buddy Meetze; Anthony G. Mizzell; Stephen F. Morris; Bernice G. Scott; Thelma Tillis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** T. Cary McSwain, Michielle Cannon-Finch, Tony McDonald, Larry Smith, Milton Pope, Tonya Dunham, Marsheika Martin, Pam Davis, Ash Miller, Mullen Taylor

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CITIZEN'S INPUT**

Ms. Smith stated no one signed up to speak at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Meetze moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve the following minutes:

<b>May 16, 2000:</b>	<b>Regular Session</b>
<b>May 23, 2000:</b>	<b>Zoning Public Hearing</b>
<b>May 23, 2000:</b>	<b>Special Called Meeting</b>
<b>May 25, 2000:</b>	<b>Special Called Meeting</b>

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was requested to move items 1-b and 1-c to the top of the agenda. The vote in favor was unanimous.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

Mr. Larry Smith, County Attorney, stated the contractual matters were the only items on the agenda to be discussed in Executive Session.

**Ordinance authorizing the execution of a lease with Columbia Cellular Telephone Company for the construction and operation of a cellular communications tower at the Richland County Judicial Center, 1701 Main Street in Richland County – PUBLIC HEARING**

Ms. Smith stated one person signed up to speak to the public hearing.

Mr. Gary Pendington, Attorney for Columbia Cellular Telephone Company, spoke "in favor" of this item.

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Mr. Meetze moved, seconded by Mr. Morris, to approve this item for Third Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Robert W. Mitchum, From RS-2 to C-3, TMS 19904-02-09 and 10, Rabon Road**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve this item for Third Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The following persons spoke to the Budget Public Hearing.

Mr. Robert C. Lente - Midlands Technical College  
Mr. Johnson – Midlands Technical College  
Ms. Patience Musingarium - Midlands Technical College  
Mr. Benjamin Thomason – Midlands Technical College  
Dr. Noble Cooper – Columbia Museum of Art  
Mr. Reginald "Rex" Wilson - Richland Public Library  
Mr. Bob Fuller – Salvation Army  
Mr. Jack Skolds – Salvation Army  
Mr. Thorne Compton – Trustus Theatre  
Mr. Kevin Ballance – Richland School District One  
Mr. Lonnie L. Shealy – Richland School District One  
Mr. Tom Ellis – Richland Public Library  
Ms. Tracy Gould - Community Mediation Center  
Ms. Deb West - Richland County District One  
Mr. Vernon Kirkpatrick – big ticket items  
Ms. Heather Dale – Richland County District One  
Mr. John Emerson - Richland County Public Library  
Mr. Keir Ingram-Stone – Richland County Public Library  
Ms. Elana Heinonen – Richland County District One  
Ms. Tarita Dunbar – Richland County Public Library  
Ms. Kay McClanahan – Town & Country Plan Budget  
Ms. Sharon Coefield – Richland County District One

**REPORT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Two Employee Grievances**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to uphold the administrator's recommendation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**THIRD READING ITEMS**

**Budget Amendment for the Atlas Road Sewer Project – PROJECT HEARING**

Ms. Smith stated no one signed up to speak to the public hearing.

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to give Third Reading approval to a budget amendment in the amount of \$48,900.00 to provide match funding of the project. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**SECOND READING ITEMS**

Mr. Morris stated there were items left off of the agenda that needed Second Reading.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to reconsider the adoption of the agenda and add Second Reading items mistakenly left off.

Ms. Michelle Cannon-Finch, Clerk of Council, stated the items were as follows:

- 00-030MA, Lee Rogers, From D-1 to C-3, TMS 05004-01-01 and 03, Broad River and Kennerly Roads
- 00-32MA, Joe Clark, From PDD to PDD, TMS 20300-02-05, From RU to PDD, TMS 20300-02-07, 08, 09, Hardscrabble Road
- 00-33MA, R. Laine Ligon, From C-1 to C-3, TMS 16415-07-08, 1546, 1548, and 1550 Leesburg Road

The vote in favor of Mr. Morris's motion was unanimous.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Brill, to add these items to the agenda for Second Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Brill, to approve those items left off of the agenda for Second Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**FY 2000/2001 Richland County Budget and Millage Ordinances –**

Ms. Smith stated Council needed to decide if they wanted to divide the question and take up each item separately and consider the Budget Ordinance adopted or whether Council preferred to vote on the total budget ordinance at the end of consideration.

Ms. Smith stated, as there was not a motion made, each item would be taken up separately and the budget ordinance would be considered as a whole when completed.

**School District One**

Ms. Smith stated there was an amendment for this item, which reduces the millage to 7.8 as the reduction of \$389,062.00.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott/Tillis/Pearce, to support an increase of 7.8 mills, totaling \$103,358, 865.00.

Mr. Morris made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve at the EIA minimum of 160.9 mills.

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The vote was as follows for the substitute motion:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Morris	Livingston
Meetze	Mizzell
Tuten	Pearce
	Smith
	McEachern
	Brill
	Scott
	Tillis

The motion failed.

The vote for the main motion was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Mizzell	Meetze
Pearce	Tuten
Smith	
McEachern	
Brill	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passes.

**School District Two**

Ms. Smith stated there were no amendments prepared for this item.

Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to approve a 7.8-mill increase, totaling \$44,000,549.00.

The vote was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Morris	Meetze
Livingston	Tuten
Mizzell	
Pearce	
Smith	
McEachern	
Brill	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passes.

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**Recreation**

Ms. Smith stated there are some amendments drafted for this item. She stated the first budget amendment is a reduction of .1 mills over last year.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve Option 2 reducing the Recreation Commission's budget by \$497,600.00.

A discussion took place.

Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Connelly for cooperating and obtaining a reduced budget request.

Ms. Brill made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Scott, to delete \$48,000.00 with a budget totaling \$5,183,221.00.

Mr. Morris made a second substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Brill, to reduce the budget by \$273,665.00 with a total of budget of \$4,957,556.00 (.57 mill increase). The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Fire Service**

Ms. Smith stated there were amendments to this item. She stated one was a reduction of \$302,500.00, the second one was to generate a general obligation bond for \$2,650,000.00 to fund the fire service expansion.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve item-1 with a reduction of \$302,500.00, with a total budget of \$5,988,380.00 (10 mill).

A discussion took place.

The vote for the motion was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Morris	Livingston
Pearce	Mizzell
	Meetze
	Smith
	McEachern
	Brill
	Tuten
	Scott
	Tillis

The motion fails.

Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to accept a .5 mill increase, with a total budget of \$6,290,800.00 and directed staff to clarify the \$90,000.00 carryover adjustment by Third Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston stated the carryover adjustment would be deducted.

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**GO Bond for building Forest Acres, Spring Valley and Ballentine Fire Stations**

Mr. Byrd updated Council on these proposed fire stations.

No motion was made concerning the general obligation bond.

**Midlands Technical College**  
**Midlands Tec Capital**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to accept Midlands Technical Budget in the amount of \$3,022,143.00 and the Capital in the amount of \$915,000.00. The vote was in favor. (Mr. Livingston abstained).

**GENERAL FUND**

**Elected Official**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve the General Fund in the amount of \$33,319,035.00.

Mr. Livingston offered an amendment, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, that elected officials be given an increase annually at the CPI level with no more than a 4% increase and a 5% increase upon re-election.

A discussion took place. Mr. Tuten noted this amendment did not include Council members.

Mr. Morris offered an amendment to the motion to do the following items:

- 1) a ceiling of 4% CPI
- 2) Labor market study every three years as a recommendation to Council
- 3) If the salary is 10% or over the market study, no raise.

Mr. Morris's amendment was not seconded.

Mr. Livingston amended his amendment to adjust the general fund budget by \$13,860.00 and develop a draft ordinance along the lines as outlined. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**ABC Funds**

Mr. Mizzell moved, seconded by Ms. Brill to approve a proviso in the FY 00/01 Budget to carry forward the ABC Funds to fund the Richland County Conservation Commission at \$25,000.00 and the Beautification at \$25,000.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Dentsville Ambulance Crew Options**

No one made a motion regarding this item.

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**Budget amendment to increase Public Defender's Office**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to increase the budget by \$75,000.00, totaling \$875,000.00. The vote in favor was unanimous. (Mr. Morris was away during the vote).

**Columbia Museum**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to increase the Columbia Museum by \$25,000.00, totaling \$400,000.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Columbia Urban League**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve an amendment to move the Columbia Urban League from the non-discretionary agencies to the Discretionary Grant Program with a total budget decrease of \$24,375.00.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to approve at the same amount (\$24,375.00) and leave in non-discretionary.

A discussion took place.

Mr. Morris instructed staff to find out before Third Reading if the Urban League runs a Daycare Center and what the money is used for. Mr. McSwain stated the daycare no longer exists and the money would be used for summer youth programs. Mr. Morris also wanted to know how much is being spent on the youth program.

After discussion, Ms. Scott called for the question. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The vote on the substitute motion was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Mizzell	
Meetze	
Pearce	
Smith	
McEachern	
Brill	
Tuten	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passed.

**Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce**

Mr. Meetze moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to approve as a non-discretionary agency with an increase of \$5,000.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**Discretionary Grant budget**

There were no motions made.

**Proviso to change the name of non-discretionary agency budget line to contractual and statutory agencies.**

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mizzell/McEachern, to approve this item which would require a state mandate or a contractual agreement with the County in order to qualify for funding. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Recommend staff proceed with general obligation bond to fund jail expansion and animal shelter**

Ms. Smith stated the bond issue would not be taken up at this time, but this could have impact on debt service if it is over \$5 million.

Mr. McSwain stated the projected cost for the women's dorm facilitation is \$2.9 million with another \$125,000.00 for insurance, utilities, construction, etc. He stated this could be done in Phase I this year without any increase in debt service millage and Phase II could begin after July 1 of 2001 to address the male dorm overcrowding. He requested direction from Council on Phase I.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Brill, to direct staff to proceed with Phase I of the jail expansion which would take care of the women's unit and the animal shelter.

Mr. Livingston requested a letter before Third Reading from Mr. Blake Taylor informing Council of his plans with the jail. Mr. McSwain stated a letter will be submitted to Mr. Taylor and ask for a written response for his evaluation of the issue.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to take this issue up at the September meeting so Council can study the issue.

After discussion, Mr. Meetze called for the question. There were no objections.

The vote for substitute motion failed.

The vote for the main motion was in favor. Mr. Morris opposed.

**Budget amendment to fund two Arson Investigators for the Sheriff's Department**

Mr. Mizzell moved, seconded by Scott/Meetze, to approve the budget amendment to fund two Arson Investigators for the Sheriff's Department with a total budget increase of \$90,060.00.

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The vote was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Mizzell	
Meetze	
Pearce	
Smith	
McEachern	
Brill	
Tuten	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passed.

**Salvation Army**

Ms. Smith stated this amendments is to do half of what the City of Columbia does, not exceeding \$500,000.00 payable over five years; place \$50,000.00 in the budget this year contingent upon what the City does.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to do half of what the City of Columbia does, not to exceed \$500,000.00 payable over five years with a budget increase to this year's budget of the General Fund of \$100,000.00 contingent upon the what the City does.

Mr. Livingston questioned the status of the General Fund and wanted to know if the millage was over. Ms. Tonya Dunham, Finance Director, stated the increase thus far was \$208,920.00 with only \$178,000.00 to play with.

Mr. Meetze requested a friendly amendment and change to \$50,000.00, and if there is any surplus, then add another \$50,000.00 to hold the budget down.

Ms. Smith read a letter she received from Mayor Bob Coble, which stated the City, would give a substantial amount.

Mr. Morris amended his motion to \$50,000.00 out of this year's budget. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Landfill**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve this item at 2.0 mills, which would be a decrease of \$89,000.00.

After discussion, Mr. Morris withdrew his motion because the mill is currently at 0.

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve this item as published at \$1,852,129.00.

Mr. McEachern requested to insert the \$100,000.00 carryover.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**Capital Replacement**

Mr. McSwain stated the amendment is to appropriate \$973,500.00 from the Fund Balance and fund this item at \$2,810,954.00 and there would be a 0 mill increase.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. McEachern, to adopt the administrator's recommendation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Mental Health**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to fund this item at \$1,048,000.00 and send a thank-you letter for requesting the same amount as last year. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Library**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Meetze, to approve a budget amendment to reduce the budget by \$113,689.00 and thank the library for their cooperation.

Ms. Brill made a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to open the Blythewood branch at night, partial insurance for dependents, and delete \$62,187.00 of administrator for planning and strategy.

A discussion took place.

Ms. Scott made a second substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to take out personnel hours for the Blythewood branch and partial insurance.

Mr. McSwain stated that with the amount Council approves, the Library Board could use the money however they choose.

After discussion, Ms. Scott withdrew her motion.

Mr. Pearce made a second substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Scott, to fund the Library at the original request of \$11,690,875.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Riverbanks Zoo**

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve this item in the amount of \$11,690,875.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Stormwater drainage**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to approve \$531,370.00. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Debt Service**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Tuten, to approve the debt service. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**BUDGET ORDINANCE**

Ms. Smith stated the Budget Ordinance would reflect the individual motions.

Mr. McEachern moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adopt the ordinance for Second Reading in total reflecting the work done on each operation including debt service.

Mr. Morris questioned the tax increase overall excluding debt service and the schools. Mr. McSwain stated there is a 1.7 mill increase.

The vote was in favor of the motion. Mr. Morris and Mr. Tuten opposed.

Mr. Livingston moved to reconsider the budget.

Mr. Morris questioned Mr. McSwain of a check issued to the County from the State in the amount of \$559,615.00. Mr. McSwain stated this was reimbursement of a purchase on voting machines. Mr. Morris questioned if that money could be used to balance the budget out. Mr. McSwain stated if Council wanted to use Fund Balance on the Operating Budget because that is the Capital one-time expense reimbursement. Ms. Dunham stated half of the money was used to pay the remaining lease purchase to eliminate the interest.

Mr. Livingston questioned staff on the amount needed to cut out of the budget.

It was moved and seconded to recess the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**Council recessed at approximately 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at approximately 9:22 p.m.**  
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Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to reopen all sections of the budget. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to reduce the following items:

1. Library - reduce \$410,231 with a total budget of \$11,280,644.00.
2. Fire service – reduce \$302,500.00 with a total budget of \$5,988,380.00.
3. Capital Replacement – reduce \$178,000.00 with a total budget of \$2,632,954.00.
4. Recreation – reduce \$549,335.00 with a total budget of \$4,681,886.00.
5. Salvation Army – reduce \$50,000.00.

After discussion, Ms. Smith stated the Proviso would have to be repealed as well if \$50,000.00 is reduced from the Salvation Army and the money required to be paid this year.

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Mr. Livingston amended his motion to reflect this, seconded by Ms. Scott.

The vote was in favor. Mr. Mizzell opposed.

**BUDGET ORDINANCE**

Mr. McSwain stated the budget is out of balance in the amount of \$120,819.00.

Mr. Morris moved to pass Second Reading of the budget with an additional \$170,819.00 taken out of Fund Balance to balance it exactly, if needed, after Mr. Huntley revises the figures which would restore \$50,000.00 to the Salvation Army.

Mr. Morris amended his motion to reflect an additional \$120,819.00 and leaving the budget proviso in the commitment if the City matches it. After discussion, Mr. Morris withdrew his motion.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to encumber \$120,819.00 to the Fund Balance for a 0-millage increase offset if necessary.

The vote was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Mizzell	Pearce
Meetze	Smith
McEachern	
Brill	
Tuten	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passes.

The vote on the Budget Ordinance as amended was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Meetze	Mizzell
Smith	Pearce
McEachern	
Brill	
Tuten	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passed. The budget was adopted for Second Reading.

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**MILLAGE ORDINANCE**

Mr. McSwain stated Council needed to take a vote on the millage sheet itself as adjusted and amended from the votes for First Reading.

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to approve the Millage Ordinance as amended and reflected on the schedule for First Reading.

A discussion took place. Mr. Pearce expressed his regrets in the way the budget was adopted.

The vote was as follows:

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Livingston	Morris
Smith	Mizzell
McEachern	Pearce
Brill	
Tuten	
Meetze	
Scott	
Tillis	

The motion passed.

**Extension of Billboard Moratorium**

Ms. Scott moved, seconded by Ms. Tillis, to approve an ordinance amending the Richland County code by establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for the erections of outdoor advertising signs in Richland County. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**FIRST READING ITEMS**

**Ordinance authorizing Lease Agreement with Blue Cross and Blue Shield**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to approve this ordinance for First Reading. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**RESOLUTION**

**Authorizing Inducement and Millage Rate Agreement between Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Richland County, S.C.**

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to approve this resolution. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adopt the Committee's recommendation as follows:

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**Gills Creek Restoration Project**

**Budget Amendment for the Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

**Award of Contract for Phase II of the Atlas Road Sanitary Sewer Project**

**Change order in the Nazery Circle Construction Contract**

**Purchase of Equipment for the County Road Maintenance Division**

**Resolution to participate in the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority**

**Award of contracts for data analysis for GIS and Public Works**

The vote in favor was unanimous.

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Richland County Coroner: Autopsy Contract Renewal**

**Consolidated Services: Records Storage Contract Renewal**

**Emergency Services: Purchase Orders Contract Renewal**

**Emergency Services: Ambulance Chassis Purchase**

**Sheriff's Department: Purchase of Dive Equipment**

**Sheriff's Department: Purchase of Robot System**

**Columbia Cellular Telephone Lease**

Mr. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to adopt the above D&S Committee Report. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Funding strategies for the Township Auditorium**

Mr. Pearce moved, seconded by Ms. Scott, to contact the City and Lexington County and the Conference Center and request for staff and the board be kept intact until the opening of the convention center and the Township board wants to place names in consideration for seats on the new conference center. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**CITIZEN'S INPUT**

Ms. Smith stated no one signed up to speak at this time.

**MOTION PERIOD**

Mr. Livingston stated that he would recommend at the next Economic Development Meeting to include a representative from each of the school

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districts as ex-officio on the committee so they can be included in on the discussion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Contractual Legal Services**

Mr. Livingston moved, seconded by Mr. Mizzell, to go into Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

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**Council went into Executive Session at approximately 9:53 p.m. and  
came out at approximately 10:10 p.m.**  
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Ms. Brill moved, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to come out of Executive Session. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Smith stated no action was recommended in Executive Session.

Ms. Smith reminded Councilmembers of the Third Reading of the Budget on June 15 at 6:00 p.m. with an Executive Session to be scheduled to receive a briefing on the magistrate's situation.

Ms. Cannon-Finch stated Council needed to consider the July schedule, as there is a NACO Conference and a holiday in July. Ms. Smith stated a recommendation would be brought forward at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:13 p.m.

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Kit Smith, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Brill

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Livingston

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph McEachern

\_\_\_\_\_  
J.D. "Buddy" Meetze

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Mizzell

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen F. Morris

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernice G. Scott

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Thelma M. Tillis

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James Tuten

The minutes were transcribed by Marsheika G. Martin