



Richland County
Administration and Finance Committee Minutes
December 17, 2021
MINUTES
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29202

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Chair, Yvonne McBride, J. Walker, Overture Walker and Jessica Mackey

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Cheryl English, Gretchen Barron, Michelle Onley, Anette Kirylo, Tamar Black, Leonardo Brown, Patrick Wright, Steven Gaither, Stacey Hamm, Syndi Castelluccio, Randy Pruitt, Harry Polis, Michael Maloney, John Ansell, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Justin Landy, Aundria Holloman, Jennifer Wladischkin, Bill Davis, Michael Byrd and Dale Welch

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Regular Session: November 18, 2021** – Ms. McBride moved, seconded Mr. J. Walker to approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. O. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. J. Walker, to approve the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

a. **Richland County Sheriff's Department - School Resource Officer Grant** – Mr. Malinowski noted the item was not properly before them because the information was received after the agenda deadline; however, it needs to be addressed since it is time-sensitive.

Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the grant, if awarded, for up to ten (10) additional School Resource Officers to be assigned to the Sheriff's Department and placed in Richland School District Two.

Mr. Malinowski inquired, if approved, will the ten (10) officers come from the current complement

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of deputies.

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski stated his concern is how these deputies will be replaced.

Chief Polis responded the goal is to get the deputies hired as quickly as possible, get them trained and into the schools. They may have to reallocate resources within the department to ensure the positions are filled, based on the State's appropriation and rules of the grant.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the grant money would be provided directly to the Sherriff's Department or to the schools. He noted one of the concerns was the grant becoming a part of the Sheriff's Department's appropriation and funding.

Mr. Wright responded, after his correspondence with Chief Polis, and reviewing the grant, it appears the funds go directly to the Sheriff's Department.

Chief Polis stated, the funds would go directly to the County. The Budget Office would reimburse the Sheriff's line item, based on the appropriation from the State.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if it could be stated that the grant is being used strictly for this purpose, and if this program were to end, the County would not be obligated to provide the additional funding.

Mr. Wright responded, if the grant were to end, the School District has agreed to pay 100% of the cost for the positions.

Mr. Malinowski inquired, if the School District would take it out of their current budget, or would the future budget increase to cover the costs.

Mr. Manning stated, should it come to the district to fund, they would have to see what funds were available. They might have to go into their reserve fund, or ask for a millage increase. It would be determined by the needs of the district and the future year's budget, as it would affect the funding for teachers/classrooms. He noted the district is committed to work with the County.

Ms. Mackey inquired if there is an agreement with the School District that states they will provide funding, if the grant ends.

Chief Polis responded there is not a formal document, but they have had discussions, and they believe the School District is prepared to work closely with the County to ensure the safety of the schools that the positions are funded.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the State is committed to this being a recurring grant for "x" number of years.

Chief Polis responded, his understanding is, this is going to continue beyond this fiscal year.

Mr. Livingston inquired how long it is going to be recurring.

Chief Polis responded no end date has been provided.

Ms. McBride inquired if this is State or Federal funds.

Chief Polis responded it is State funds.

Ms. McBride noted, if there was a budgeting issue, it would not be the County's obligation. She inquired who is paying for School Resource Officers in other districts.

Chief Polis responded the school districts, in connection with the County, pays for the School Resource Officer's Program. It is percentage based, and roughly 50% is paid by School District II, and the County covers the other 50%. School District I pays approximately 75% and the County pays the remaining 25%.

Ms. McBride stated, in the future, they need to vet this more thoroughly.

Ms. Barron noted her youngest son attends one of the schools that does not have a SRO, so she wants this to happen. However, she expressed her concerns regarding the School District not presenting a concrete plan or a signed document to the committee.

Mr. James Manning, Richland County School Board District 2 Vice Chair, stated Richland Two School Board has not received a draft document to consider. They have been advised by legal counsel about binding future boards, which would need to be considered in the document.

Richland County School Board District 2 Chair, Dr. Teresa Holmes stated Richland District II wants to have an officer in every school because the safety of the students is important.

Mr. Manning stated they are applying for ten (10) officers, but that does not mean they will get ten (10). The current board is committed to ensuring there are resource officers in the remaining schools, so if they are not awarded all ten (10) they will find money in the budget to cover the remaining schools.

Ms. Barron inquired why the school district did not have a copy of the MOU.

Chief Polis responded, in the interest of getting something in front of the committee, the Sheriff's Department's attorney draft a sample document. The Sheriff's Department was awaiting feedback from the County Attorney's Office before providing the document to the School District.

Ms. Barron inquired if the Sheriff's Department needs to take additional steps before this process can be finalized.

Chief Polis responded it is ultimately up to the body on how to move forward.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if the funds are coming from the State as part of a grant.

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if the County would have to give its imprimatur and the green light for these funds.

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if the funds will be coming from the State Treasurer's Office directly to Richland County, and once "touched" the County owns it.

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if a check will be issued to the Sheriff's Department as reimbursement for the School Resource Officers, whether it was three (3), five (5), or ten (10).

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker noted it will be recurring funds, but they do not have a firm answer on how long those dollars will be recurring. In the event the appropriation is not renewed by the State, the County will be responsible for funding the SROs.

Chief Polis answered in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if there was a binding agreement signed between the Sheriff's Department and Richland County 2 in the event the appropriation was not renewed.

Chief Polis answered in the affirmative.

Mr. O. Walker inquired if there are any other districts receiving the SRO appropriation, or are they paying for them out of their budget.

Chief Polis responded, to his knowledge, there are no other school districts receiving State appropriations.

Mr. O. Walker inquired about the time line.

Chief Polis responded, around January 1st, they will be notified by the State on how many, if any, positions have been awarded. The positions have to be filled, and deputies in schools, by March 31, 2022.

Mr. O. Walker noted this is something we want to see happen, but there is a concern about adding to the Sheriff's Department's budget. He requested assurance, preferably in writing, if the appropriation is not renewed the School District would pick up the tab.

Mr. Livingston inquired who submitted the grant to the State.

Chief Polis responded the paperwork is completed by the school district and submitted by the Sheriff's Department to the State. He noted, on October 6, the Richland School District II Superintendent, Dr. Davis, made the request in writing. The School District and the Sheriff's Department worked together to identify the ten (10) schools.

Mr. Livingston inquired if the funds could be given to the County, and the County provide the funds directly to the School District.

Chief Polis responded, based on the terms of the grant, the Sheriff's Department has to implement the grant.

Ms. Mackey noted she understands Mr. Manning's point of not wanting to tie the hands of future boards, but this grant puts Council in the position to do so. She suggested working with the Budget Department to ensure we account for the funding, as we are the ones collecting it, as we move forward with the budget.

Mr. Malinowski requested the County Attorney to review the grant to see if there is a way the funds could be given directly to the School District.

Chief Polis stated the grant requires the law enforcement agency has to handle the grant.

Mr. Manning stated, depending on the language, the Board may be able to sign the document, but he does not want to overcommit without seeing the document. He noted, if Council did not apply for the grant, it would saddle the district with the entire cost of the SROs. He noted they have found weapons at some of their schools, and they need SROs to ensure the safety of their students.

Dr. Holmes stated they are committed to this because it is something needed as schools are changing, and the climate is different; therefore, there is a need for resource officers in schools. She noted they would appreciate the County's assistance with the grant.

Ms. English stated, as a former mental health counselor in the schools, she understands the importance of SROs. She thanked everyone for bringing this item to Council.

Mr. Wright stated the County has the same restraints as binding future bodies, but they enter into MOUs. He inquired as to why the School District could not sign the MOU.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward this item to Council with a recommendation to approve the grant, if awarded, for up to ten (10) additional School Resource Officers to be assigned to the Sheriff's Department and placed in Richland School District Two.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. J. Walker, to add this item to the January 4, 2022 Council meeting.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous

Mr. Malinowski requested that staff get the information to Council as soon as possible.

- b. **RCSD Crisis Intervention Team Grant** – Mr. Malinowski stated there will be one deputy assigned to the crisis intervention team. The grant will cover salary, fringe benefits and equipment. He inquired if the \$200,000 is for one deputy.

Chief Polis responded \$65,000 goes to the Department of Mental Health to fund their implementation. The other \$135,000 is being held by the foundation, pending Council action, to fund the full-time deputy and requisite equipment for the position.

Ms. Mackey moved, seconded by Mr. J. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the grant for the expansion of the Richland County Sheriff's Department Crisis Intervention Team. Funding will be provided by the SC Department of Mental Health for salary and fringe benefits for a credentialed Mental Health Counselor to be assigned to the Crisis Intervention Team.

Ms. McBride stated she supports this initiative and schools need more mental health specialists. She requested staff to look over the legislation and ordinance regarding the County being responsible

for grant positions and determine if the County is legally responsible for picking up those positions.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if this position has been ongoing for a few years.

Chief Polis responded in the affirmative. He noted, in April 2021, the Sheriff took one deputy, in partnership with the Department of Mental Health, and paired them with a clinician to learn how to interact with people who are experiencing a mental health crisis. He noted they allocated existing resources to this program because this is the future of 21st century policing. Since April, the team received over 2,000 calls for service, but were only able to respond to approximately 530. The demand there because we do not want to criminalize mental health issues.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the grant from the Department of Mental Health to expand the Crisis Intervention Team.

- c. **Department Of Public Works – Storm water Management – Street Sweeper Procurement** – Mr. O Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the purchase of an Elgin Regen X Street Sweeper in the amount of \$230,315.64 from Joe Johnson Equipment.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if they use the current street sweeper daily.

Mr. Maloney responded they do when it is in service. He noted the equipment is down approximately 20% of the time.

Mr. Malinowski inquired how the price is the same as the bid from 7 years ago, and if the price is the best since we did not request a bid.

Mr. Maloney responded they did a lot of searching, and this company is the only source for this type of equipment. If they chose another brand, they could be waiting an indefinite amount of time for the street sweeper, as there is nothing available at this time.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if there is a warranty included.

Mr. Maloney responded he would have to bring that information back.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the purchase of an Elgin Regen X Street Sweeper in the amount of \$230,315.64 from Joe Johnson Equipment.

- d. **Township Auditorium Theatrical Rigging Installation Project** – Ms. Mackey moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the contract with Production Unlimited in the amount of \$384,258.40 (plus a contingency of \$65,741.60) for a total of \$450,000.00 to install Front of House (FOH) Rigging Points.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- e. **Vehicle Leasing Negotiations** – Mr. O. Walker moved, seconded by Mr. J. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the award of the vehicle leasing contract to Enterprise Fleet Management.

Mr. Malinowski inquired as to what we are getting for \$2.5M, and if it includes servicing of the vehicles.

Ms. Thomas responded services are covered under a service contract, which is paid out of a separate pot. The \$2.5M includes the vehicles and warranty.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if they trade-in the vehicles.

Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative.

Ms. McBride inquired about the cost savings.

Ms. Thomas responded it is not a cost savings, per se, it is a way to put the fleet on a schedule for change out. We will be spending the same amount and be on a normal cycle. In addition, we will not be borrowing money for 20 years on a vehicle with a 10-year life span.

Ms. McBride stated, for clarification, we are not saving actual cash dollars.

Mr. Thomas responded we are reallocating dollars, rather than trying to maintain a fleet. There will be dollars saved on maintenance over the long-term because we will be turning the vehicle on a regular basis.

Ms. McBride inquired at which cars are included, and if it includes the Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Thomas responded there were 235 vehicles approved from the General Fund, and include the Sheriff's Department vehicles.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the award of the vehicle leasing contract to Enterprise Fleet Management.

- f. **Department of Public Works – Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Area 1 Collections Agreement Amendment** – Mr. Malinowski stated this item is before us because of the denial of the previous staff recommendation.

Mr. O. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the amendment to Area #1's Collections Agreement.

Mr. Malinowski inquired what "COR" stands for.

Mr. Maloney responded it stands for "Contracting Officer Representative".

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the amendment to Area #1's collections agreement.

g. Department of Public Works 0 Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Area 3 Collections

Agreement Amendment – Mr. Malinowski stated this item is before us because of the denial of the previous staff recommendation. He noted the request is to extend the Area #3 Collection Agreement until May 21, 2022.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to extend Area #3's Collections Agreement until May 21, 2022.

Ms. Mackey inquired if May is long enough to extend the contract.

Mr. Maloney responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if we will have to abide by the new regulations passed by Council.

Mr. Maloney responded the negotiations will include everything in the RFP.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to extend Area #3's Collections Agreement until May 21, 2022.

h. Department of Public Works 0 Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Area 6 Collections

Agreement Amendment – Mr. Malinowski noted the recommendation is to approve the contract extension to September 30, 2022. He inquired if this is to be rebid.

Mr. Maloney responded in the affirmative.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Mackey, to forward to Council with a recommendation to extend Area #6's Collections Agreement to September 30, 2022.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, J. Walker, O. Walker and Mackey

The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council with a recommendation to extend Area #6's Collections Agreement to September 30, 2022.

Ms. Mackey inquired if staff will be able to move forward with Items (f), (g) and (h) since these items will not be before Council until February.

Mr. Brown responded, in the agreement, if the County has communicated it is in the County's best interest to renegotiate, renew or rebid, we have to ability to move forward. He noted they will move forward with renegotiating the agreements.

5. ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED

- a. I move that Richland County Council direct the County Administrator and his staff to conduct an equity and inclusive assessment of Richland County Administrative policies and services; and provide recommendations for a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for people of color, women and others who have been historically under- served, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent inequality. By advancing equity across Richland County Government, we can create opportunities for the improvement of businesses, communities and individuals that have been historically under-served, which will benefit all of Richland**

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County. Appropriate assessments will better equip Richland County to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all. [McBride –March 2, 2021] – Mr.

Brown stated, in terms of moving the process forward, we are still moving forward by having diversity and equity included in the program, as well as, looking at how we operate. This is something we talked about in the strategic planning process, and are committed to doing in the upcoming year.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.