

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 24, 2015  
5:00 PM  
Council Chambers

*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*

#### CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dixon called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**February 24, 2015** – Mr. Malinowski requested the recording be reviewed to ascertain the vote was properly reflected in the minutes.

Mr. McDonald stated the item was forwarded to Council with a recommendation of denial.

Mr. Malinowski requested the first paragraph under “Intergovernmental Service Agreement with the City of Forest Acres” be reworded to reflect the inquiry was regarding the magistrate’s retirement.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to approve the minutes as amended. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### **Ordinance Amendments Regarding the Removal of the Requirements Placing a Lien on Property**

Mr. McDonald stated there were two parts to the motion. One pertains to overgrown lots and the other part is in reference to sewer billing. The portion related to the overgrown lots has been resolved. Staff’s recommendation is to approve the ordinance amendment to remove the requirements placing a lien on property if owners do not pay their sewer bill.



#### Committee Members Present

Julie-Ann Dixon, Chair  
District Nine

Norman Jackson  
District Eleven

Damon Jeter  
District Three

Bill Malinowski  
District One

Seth Rose  
District Five

#### Others Present:

Torrey Rush  
Greg Pearce  
Jim Manning  
Tony McDonald  
Spartan Hammett  
Warren Harley  
Brandon Madden  
Larry Smith  
Monique Walters  
Michelle Onley  
Monique McDaniels  
Amelia Linder  
Tracy Hegler  
Ismail Ozbek  
Rudy Curtis

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Mr. Washington inquired if there were any instances of the County taking property due to a lien.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the ordinance amendment to remove the requirements placing a lien on property if owners do not pay their sewer bill and in lieu to pursue collections through GEAR/Set-Off Debit. The vote was in favor.

**Dog Park Program** - Mr. Manning requested this item be tabled.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to table this item in committee. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **2014 Dust Suppression Contract Increase**

Mr. McDonald stated this is an amendment to a current contract Public Works Department has for dust suppression on dirt roads.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the request for a contract increase from the Public Works Roads & Drainage Budget in the amount of \$13,431.93 for the 2014 Dust Suppression Project. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **Solid Waste Service Charge for Vacant Dwelling Units**

Mr. McDonald stated this item was initiated by Councilman Jackson's motion at the February 14, 2015 Council meeting.

Mr. Curtis stated under the current ordinance if it is a dwelling unit a service fee must be paid even if the service is not utilized.

Mr. Washington inquired if the solid waste fee was included in the tax bill.

Mr. Curtis stated the Solid Waste millage of 3.1 mills is included in the tax bill, but the service fee of \$249.00 is a separate service charge.

Mr. McDonald stated there are some concerns as to how this would be administered: (1) How would the determination be made as to which houses are vacant? (2) If citizens are allowed to opt out, where would they dispose of their garbage and debris?

Mr. Washington inquired as to how much revenue is collected from the service fee.

Mr. Curtis stated it is approximately \$22 Million per year.

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Mr. Curtis stated one of the concerns of the Solid Waste Department is the policing of vacant dwellings.

Mr. Malinowski inquired as to how the policing of vacant dwellings can be achieved or is it possible to control?

Mr. Curtis stated if the electricity has been turned off to the dwelling then the Solid Waste Department could deem the house not habitable and the service would be terminated at that time.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to defer this item until the April Committee meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

### **Intergovernmental Agreement between Richland County and the City of Columbia for the proposed Olympia Neighborhood Master Plan**

Mr. McDonald stated appropriating \$75,000 for the Olympia Master Plan was approved by County Council approximately a year ago. The City of Columbia and the County are now ready to retain a consultant. The City of Columbia will be responsible for soliciting the consultant. In order to account for who is responsible for what portion of the Master Plan, an IGA with the City of Columbia is being recommended for approval.

Mr. Malinowski inquired about the funding source.

Mr. McDonald stated the funding is coming from the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if each entity could sign contracts related to their respective areas. This would insure that each entity was liable only for their respective area.

Ms. Hegler stated instead of having two paths of procurement, it was decided after consultation with the Procurement Director, to defer the process of retaining a consultant to the City of Columbia.

Mr. Smith stated the City Attorney had not had an opportunity to review the proposed IGA and there was an opportunity to amend the IGA to address Mr. Malinowski's concerns.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if each entity would be responsible for financing their respective areas.

Ms. Hegler stated the intent was for each entity to be responsible for their implementation of the Master Plan.

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Mr. Rose moved, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Columbia for the preparation of the proposed Olympia Neighborhood Master Plan. Once approved, preparation of the master plan and selection of a consultant can move forward. The contract will be brought back to Council for approval.

### **Interstate Interchange Lighting Project**

Mr. McDonald stated the committee requested staff to research alternative funding sources or the interchange lighting project. Staff researched grant funding and other alternative funding sources and concluded there are no funding sources available at this time. Staff will continue to pursue any funding sources that may become available.

Mr. Jeter stated Clemson Road has been widened and a brick wall been put up in the last three years, which would have been an ideal time for the County to approach SCDOT regarding the proposed lighting projects.

Mr. Jeter stated the County should identify funding for at least one of the lighting projects.

Mr. Malinowski recommended Mr. Jackson research any SCDOT funding and to speak with other counties/cities that have undertaken interchange enhancement projects to discuss their funding sources.

Mr. Washington suggested reviewing the ranking criteria for the gateways to the County and forming a subcommittee to work with staff to pursue funding sources.

Mr. Jackson stated to qualify for the "Beautification Grants" organizations must demonstrate they are able to maintain the project they are applying for.

Mr. Rose moved, seconded by Mr. Jeter, to forward to Council with a recommendation to direct staff to proceed with Interstate Interchange Lighting project and provide direction as to which interchanges receive priority, as well as, a funding source.

Mr. McDonald stated the County has pursued "Beautification Grants" in the past and have discussed with SCDOT the possibility of assistance with the interchange lighting projects, but SCDOT stated they do not have funding for the lighting at this time.

Mr. Jeter inquired if it had been determined if Hospitality and/or Accommodations Tax can be utilized for the lighting project.

Mr. McDonald stated Hospitality Tax had been considered as a funding source for the projects.

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The vote in favor was unanimous to forward to Council for approval.

### ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS

**Noise Ordinance** – This item is presently be taken up by the Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee.

**Comprehensive Youth Program** – Held in committee.

**Fund and/or seek a partnership with SCE&G to plant indigenous flowers and plants along transmission line corridors in Richland County** – Held in committee.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.