



## Richland County Council

### DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 23, 2019 – 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gwen Kennedy, Chair, Allison Terracio, Jim Manning, Calvin Jackson and Chakisse Newton

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Joyce Dickerson, Dalhi Myers and Paul Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Larry Smith, Stacey Hamm, Clayton Voignier, John Thompson, Tommy DeLage, Quinton Epps, Ismail Ozbek, Sandra Yudice, Tim Nielsen and Cheryl Johnson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Kennedy called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. April 23, 2019 – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to approve the minutes as distributed

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Kennedy and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Kennedy and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

a. Determine if there is any state/federal law that prohibits a county from creating an ordinance that will address the use of plastic bags by commercial entities. If not, create an ordinance that would prohibit the use of plastic bags for use in putting product purchases, with certain exceptions if deemed necessary. Example: many products already come prepackaged in plastic and could not come under these restrictions [MALINOWSKI and N. JACKSON] – Ms. Terracio moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to adopt the ordinance, as presented.

Ms. Newton stated she has significant questions about this ordinance. Particularly, as it relates to the outreach piece, to make sure that it is understood by the business community, and to make sure that we have fully thought through how we are going to communicate to the public

on whom this will have an impact. She also has some specific questions, in the weeds, about the ordinance. She does not want to shortchange the conversation, but also understands that we are trying to be expeditious, as we continue the budget process. Therefore, she would like to hold this item in committee, so we can continue the discussion about the outreach required as a part of this.

Mr. Manning moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to defer this item until the June committee meeting.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton and Manning

Present but Not Voting: Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. I move to direct the County Administrator to solicit proposals for a survey to residents of Richland County. The purpose of the survey will be to help the County strategically plan for the future as they continue to grow and meet new challenges. The survey will also assist elected officials, as well as County administrators, in making critical decisions about prioritizing resources and helping set the direction for the future of the County. The survey will gather and analyze input and data from residents on service quality, priorities and overall performance and satisfaction with County services [WALKER] – Ms. Newton moved, seconded by Ms. Terracio, to forward to Council with a recommendation to direct the Acting County Administrator to procure a specialized firm to administer a survey to residents of Richland County for the purpose of strategic planning, goal and priority setting.

Mr. Malinowski requested to be provided the year the telephone survey was conducted.

Ms. Newton stated the staff member that was acquiring that information is not present due to illness, but it will be provided at the Council meeting.

Mr. Jackson stated, for clarification, we are voting to solicit proposals.

Ms. Kennedy responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson inquired as to why we have a proposal in the packet from Mecklenburg County, if we are going to be soliciting...

Mr. Manning stated he does not believe that is the proposal for us. That is the proposal that Mecklenburg County put out for the one they did.

Mr. Jackson stated, if we are going to be putting out a bid for proposals, for potential products to be developed, that we will use, why would we have one now, in advance of the solicitation process going through its full cycle and ending.

Mr. Manning stated this is just a model showing the proposals they did.

Mr. Jackson stated it seems prejudicial because now he has a model from Mecklenburg, so when the model from Beaufort comes in, he already looked at this detailed model from Mecklenburg, and may now be bias before Beaufort gets a shot. We should get all the models in at the same time, and not be prejudicing our minds with a model, when we have not even decided to do it.

Ms. Newton stated she and Councilman Walker have discussed this. The idea was not that this is a proposal from Mecklenburg County. In our last meeting, there were some questions about the types of information that could be provided in a survey, and that is why this is provided. The motion would be to prepare a solicitation, so that we could review it. Her recommendation would be, if you have some concerns that this is prejudicial, that perhaps we move forward with the motion to let them put together a solicitation for a survey, and we come back and read the solicitation. It would not be creating a survey, like Mecklenburg County. It would be a survey to get this type of data, which we could use however we wanted.

Mr. Jackson stated, he thinks, in the process of soliciting proposals for any project, to get one from a project that has already been completed, does become prejudicial because if he falls in love with this one, then all others will be seen as secondary.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for clarification, the motion is to request a solicitation be conducted. The information, in the agenda, says to direct the Administrator to procure someone. So, we are saying we go either for a RFP or RFQ.

Ms. Newton stated, Mr. Malinowski is correct, the recommendation is to procure. In subsequent conversations with staff, the discussion was to begin the solicitation process. She stated, if Mr. Malinowski has concerns about the solicitation, she would be happy to offer a friendly amendment that a solicitation is developed, that is then reviewed, to make sure that it is free and fair from bias.

Mr. Malinowski stated, to him, if you say procure, that means the Administrator goes out and says he wants to hire you to do this vs. everyone telling us what they can do and what they will charge us.

Ms. Newton stated she would offer a friendly amendment to authorize the Administrator to solicit proposals, for a survey, according to the objectives outlined in the agenda.

In Favor: Terracio, Jackson, Newton, Kennedy and Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED:**

- a. I move that Richland County Council secure the services of a public relations firm to, among other things, assist Council as a whole and its individual members in informing the media and general public of the body's collective work and activities and community engagements of individual members. A public relations contractor will complement the work of the Clerk's Office, as well as the Public Information Office, which promotes activities of the entire County organization; while a public relations firm will focus solely on Council and its members. The assistance of a contractor will ensure Council abides by state law in its interactions with staff, as the nature of public relations assistance can involve individual requests or directives to staff, which falls outside the authority of individual members [DICKERSON] – Mr. Manning requested an update on this item. He thinks, on things like this, we should have when the motion was made. He stated this has been sitting at the bottom of the agenda for a long time, and, if this is something that we are going to do, it would not take that long to do.

Ms. Roberts stated, toward the end of the last committee meeting, when this subject came up, Mr. Malinowski made the statement, perhaps we should not move much further, since full Council had not vetted the matter, and may not be what full Council wanted. After that, she had a conversation with the Chair regarding Mr. Malinowski's comments. Per that conversation, he

was going to speak with the maker of the motion to determine how she wanted to go forward. Nothing has been done regarding the motion since that time.

Ms. Dickerson stated, if anyone makes a motion, and it is sent to a committee, it should be acted on and forwarded to full Council. That is when full Council would decide whether they want to.

Mr. Livingston stated he had wanted to get more clarity on it. The motion talked about the media, public relations, public information, how to promote the County, staff interaction, etc.

Mr. Jackson stated, he agrees with Ms. Dickerson, and he is not sure that the committee should have to wait until the Chair of Council gets with the maker of the motion, who is not on the committee, before the committee can deliberate and discuss the issue. It was sent to the D&S Committee. The D&S Committee needs to make a decision, one way or the other. He stated, for example, he knows there is a vacancy with the Assistant Clerk of Council, and he was going to ask in the committee meeting whether or not that might be an alternative to bringing in a consultant to do this job. Having the FTE slot available filled with a person whose qualifications are slanted towards the need that Ms. Dickerson has expressed.

Mr. Manning requested this item be placed on the agenda next month for action. It seems like discussion and information was not including the Clerk, but started out by somebody, that is not a member of this committee, saying something at the end of committee that put it into nowhere. Then someone, that is not on either committee, was going to talk to somebody about something, and that did not happen.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:23 PM.