



Richland County Council
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES

May 2, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Overture Walker, Chair; Jesica Mackey, Vice-Chair; Derrek Pugh, Jason Branham, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio, Don Weaver, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kyle Holsclaw, Angela Weathersby, Dale Welch, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Susan O’Cain, Jeff Ruble, Ashiya Myers, Chelsea Bennett, Sarah Harris, Lori Thomas, Michael Maloney, Jennifer Wladischkin, Andrew Haworth, Dante Roberts, Bryant Davis, Crayman Harvey, Shirani Fuller, Tamar Black, Erica Wade, Pamela Green, Margaret Jones, and Bill Peters

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.

2. **INVOCATION** – The Honorable Yvonne McBride led the Invocation.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Yvonne McBride.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Walker acknowledged that former Chief Justice Jean Toal, Probate Judge Amy McCulloch, Associate Probate Judge Matthew Brock, and Clerk of Court Jeanette McBride were in the audience.

4. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

a. A Proclamation recognizing Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands SC [PUGH] – Mr. Pugh presented a proclamation recognizing Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands SC. He thanked Goodwill for all their outstanding work in the community. He noted they have wonderful job connection programs.

5. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

a. A Resolution recognizing Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. and declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month – Ms. Barron moved to adopt a resolution recognizing Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. and declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English presented a resolution recognizing Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. and declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month. She stated it was her honor to be a part of this. It makes a difference in the lives of the people you serve when you take the time to understand what is going on. She noted people are not just crazy; they are responding to something, and understanding why they are responding is a huge thing.

b. A Resolution recognizing “Small Business Week” – May 1-5, 2023 – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt a resolution recognizing May 1-5, 2023 as “Small Business Week.”

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton presented a resolution recognizing May 1-5, 2023, as “Small Business Week.”

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Mackey recognized that tomorrow, May 3rd, is Assistant Director of Community & Government Services Bryant Davis’ last day with the County. She publicly thanked him for all he had done for the County, his colleagues, County Council, the citizens of Richland County, and the role he has played in Richland County. Mr. Davis has been involved with many organizations and has been awarded for his service and commitment to the community. Most recently, he was awarded the highest honor from the United Way of the Midlands for all his volunteer and community service.

Mr. Pugh stated Mr. Davis has gone above and beyond. He has given Councilmembers constructive criticism, which is brave. Not only has he been an asset to the County, but he is also a mover in the community and a graduate of Leadership Columbia Class of 2020.

Ms. Barron indicated it did her heart well when she could sit at the dais or go to town hall meetings and know that her #1 constituent would ensure things ran smoothly. She noted that when she wanted to have town hall meetings, people looked at her strangely, but Mr. Davis was willing to talk about it. In every town hall, she saw improvement, and they did not look like the first one she did because of him.

Ms. Newton observed that it has been wonderful to watch Mr. Davis' professionalism and representation of the whole person as a father to his three daughters. She pointed out that working with him has been a delight and pleasure and that the door is always open should he want to return to Richland County.

Mr. Bryant thanked Council for their accolades. He noted his parents and extended family had instilled much wisdom in him. He stated he was thankful to his colleagues for allowing him the opportunity to engage and see the impact right where he was. He indicated Council and staff are a part of what he will be taking with him.

Mr. Livingston moved to take up the "Richland County Judicial Center Security" item next so the individuals in attendance for that item will not have to wait until the end of the meeting, seconded by Ms. McBride.

Mr. Walker indicated he would anticipate a motion from someone in the body to suspend the rules so we can go into Executive Session during the "Report of the Attorney for Executive Session." He does not believe moving the item up on the agenda is necessary.

Mr. Livingston withdrew his motion.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Session: April 18, 2023 – Ms. English moved to reconsider Item 16(c), formerly Project Charlie Echo, now FN America, LLC, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Ms. McBride inquired as to what this was about.

Mr. Walker responded that the reconsideration motion relates to an Economic Development item, which was voted on at the April 18th Regular Session meeting. FN America is a local gun manufacturer that requested tax incentives. The vote was 5-5, and, therefore, failed.

Mr. Livingston stated he did not speak to this item at the last meeting because he felt there was no reason to due to the substantial votes on the 1st and 2nd Reading. He prefaced his comments by saying he has strong concerns about gun violence and the need for gun control and regulations. He is committed to doing what he can statutorily and legally as a Council member to impact gun violence in the community. From a personal and moral perspective, he thinks there are too many guns and too few regulations. However, what is before us is an economic development matter. He believes making economic development decisions solely on one's moral perspective can be problematic and dangerous and lead us down a slippery slope. Where do we draw the line? For example, he can recall when we talked about recruiting and getting Mark Anthony Brewing, someone said to him, you should not recruit that company because I do not drink alcohol and beer beverages, so why should we do that? He recently read that Ritedose Pharmaceutical is producing a drug because of a national supply shortage. Do we say, no, you cannot do that? A big issue right now is abortion. What if a company came to our community and said there is a short supply of abortion pills, so we want to expand our company? Do we say no to that because of our moral principles? Someone said Scout Motors was trying to force us to buy and engage in electric vehicles. His focus and challenge in his role as a Councilmember is how he can directly impact gun violence. Many of his constituents are victims of the symptoms of gun violence. What he can do as a Councilmember to tackle these symptoms and root causes is provide resources for mental health, livable wage jobs, education, law enforcement, recreation, etc. The real solution, as it relates to authority for gun control and regulations, rests primarily with our State and elected officials. He is committed to joining you to encourage our State and Federal officials to do whatever possible to regulate and reduce gun violence and take responsibility for doing that. What we are talking about tonight is a company that has spent 40 years in the County and has been a good corporate citizen with the military, training events, and fundraising, as well as with our SC Development Alliance and the World Affairs Council. We are talking about 600 jobs for our community. For those reasons, that is the reason he supported this initiative the last time, and he intends to do so again.

Ms. English asserted this manufacturing mainly supports our military. She would hate to send our military men and women overseas with nothing to defend our country with. They also supply service weapons to our Sheriff's Department. She did not have a change of heart, but after speaking with different people and doing her homework on this, she truly understands the need and the economic impact on all of Columbia, especially Fort Jackson. If the costs were to go up and they move out, the economic impact would be catastrophic to Columbia.

Ms. McBride indicated, as she sat here and listened to the conversations that have taken place, her vote was never about gun control. Her vote was based on economic development, and has been in Richland County for over 40 years. Richland County has been good to them. We have supported them for 40 years by receiving a tax incentive. The purpose of incentives is to encourage businesses to come in but not take care of them the entire time. More than that, she is concerned about using our incentives. We are 100% behind selling guns to the military and law enforcement. The question is, do you want tax incentives to be used to sell guns commercially? If FN, or any company, wants to sell guns, do not come to us for tax incentives to sell guns commercially. She has issues with incentives for selling guns

commercially. FN can sell guns or do whatever they want to in Richland County; that is not the issue. The issue is the use of tax incentives. You hear people talk about helping those unable to care for themselves financially, so we give public assistance. Our goal is to provide public assistance so that, eventually, they can get off public assistance and take care of themselves. What we are establishing is corporate welfare on the backs of taxpayers. She noted she would not let people gaslight this issue by saying it is about gun control and will not be able to sell them to the military and law enforcement. We have not lost anything because FN was planning on expanding in other counties, and of course, they come to South Carolina, where we incentivize selling guns commercially. She inquired if anyone could tell her how many Richland County citizens would benefit from employment at FN. Even more so than that, we need to stop continuously incentivizing one company and give other companies an opportunity to come. She thinks Richland County has an excellent representation, and the larger companies are coming here because they know of our concern and support.

Ms. Terracio emphasized since we took this vote, it was heavily covered in the media. One of the pictures in the paper was a retail store, so that is not about our troops or law enforcement; it is about retail sales. Since the vote, she has had to monitor the bots and trolls and start blocking and deleting comments because those folks come out in force as soon as anything like this is picked up. It is no wonder folks have felt certain things. From a constituent standpoint, she has overwhelmingly positive feedback on the vote. Mr. Livingston called them a good corporate citizen, and we have heard that from others. She also would say we have people at the State House, and she does not believe she has heard anything about this corporation trying to be a good corporate citizen when it comes to common sense gun laws or legislation. Being a good corporate citizen would be participating in some of the regulations that would benefit the manufacturer's reputation and those carrying their weapons.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

Opposed: McBride and Terracio

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company.)

The vote was in favor of reconsideration.

Ms. English moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

Mr. Walker acknowledged he shares his colleagues' desire to curb gun violence in America. He also shares their desire to do something and understands there is a sense of helplessness when considering a perpetual cycle of gun violence when there is inaction at the Federal and state levels. He staunchly supports sensible gun legislation, universal background checks, a ban on AR-15s and bump stocks, etc. He thinks firearms should be treated no differently than motor vehicles. If you buy one, you should have it insured and registered. When you transfer or sell it to someone else, there should be a transfer of title. He noted he has a CWP and carries, but he also understands the best and most appropriate venue for dealing with the proliferation of guns is at the Federal and state level. There are things we can do at the local level to deal with the root causes of gun violence. When you look at the communities where gun violence is rampant, they are frequently historically disadvantaged areas, whether educationally or economically. There has been disinvestment in those communities, which is where County Council plays a role. When you start talking about the accessibility of firearms, the Federal and state authorities have to take the lead. For him, 2020 Hampton Street, in Council Chambers, is not the proper venue to litigate this issue. When you think about tax cuts versus tax incentives, it is essential to highlight that this is not a tax cut for FN Manufacturing but a tax incentive. There is a distinct difference between the two. Since he has been on Council, we have not engaged in corporate welfare, where you dole out a tax cut or reduce the taxes a company pays without expecting a return to the taxpayer. A tax incentive is when we try to encourage companies not in Richland County to locate here so we can put them on the tax roll. In addition, for companies currently here, we are trying to incentivize them to expand their operations. If you do not have the expansion, there is nothing to tax. He thinks it is a slippery slope, and we set a dangerous precedent when we allow cultural wedge issues to seep into economic development decisions. Today it is FN Manufacturing because they manufacture guns, but what happens tomorrow when a pharmaceutical company wants to locate here and just so happen to manufacture abortion-inducing pill? He can only imagine how many people we will have standing inside Chambers. Those individuals will say Council allowed cultural war wedge issues to seep into economic development decisions in the past. We will not have the luxury of saying we made economic development decisions solely on merit. You also have to be concerned with the line of thinking that if a company manufactures a product if abused or misused, it could harm someone or have fatal consequences. If you go down that line of thinking, we would not have Mark Anthony Brewing and Scout Motor. He noted there are more automobile and alcohol-related deaths than those attributed to gun violence. The point is, once you go down this road and take the position that because a company manufactures a product has the potential to be abused or misused and could have fatal consequences, you run the risk of turning Richland County, which has been an oasis for economic development, into a graveyard or desert. He affirmed no trickery took place or bending of the rules. This was one of three economic development items on the April 18th Council agenda. Two of the three items passed, and Councilmembers moved for reconsideration, which meant those items could not come back before the body. This particular item, Council did not reconsider. In other words, we left "a live ball on the field." He indicated FN Manufacturing has hired 600 people. Of those 600 people, nearly half of those positions, with an average hourly wage of \$25, are held by Richland County citizens. It is an incentive the County is considering to incentivize a company that has been here for 40 years, not to seek a handout but to grow their business, put people to work, and expand the tax base. He thinks it is important for people to know this Council does not, or should not, make economic development decisions driven by cultural wedge issues.

Ms. McBride stated there were several statements made that she could go back and rationalize why they are wrong, but we are all entitled to our opinions. If incentives did not help reduce prices, businesses would not be coming. She noted she disagreed with most of what Mr. Walker said. In terms of jobs, she cannot say how many jobs because she was told

we did not have that information when she requested it. She indicated she is a highway safety professional, and she knows that automobile crashes kill many people, but she also knows that automobile crashes are accidents, not intentional. When you use the guns we have seen killing people all over the United States, those were not accidents; they were intentional. Her issue has never been about gun control but tax incentives for commercial weapons. Let the company sell their guns, but do not use tax incentives.

Ms. Barron indicated she had previously expressed her feelings with an article in the *Post and Courier*. She declared that she was heavy-hearted because, over the weekend, eleven young people were shot at a "flash party." On one side, she listened to how guns are dangerous when they are in the wrong hands. Then tonight, we took an opportunity and celebrated "Small Business Week." As a small business owner, any time she is able to get an incentive that will make her business better, help her to expand, provide more jobs, and allow her employees to do more with their families, she appreciates it. She acknowledged this is a heavy topic because it deals with guns. From her standpoint, if there are concerns about incentives, how long we give them, and who gets them for what, she would like to challenge the body to dig deeper into this. For many years, Richland County has been the county people glossed over and drove through. They did not put a Scout Motor but now is a great time because we are on the cutting edge of economic development. If we are on the cutting edge, we must change with the times. As we are changing with times, if there is something this body has challenges with, then this is the time for us to start looking and attending the Economic Development Committee meetings. At the end of the day, this makes good business sense. She removed her feelings she was still having after spending time with the victim's families over the weekend. This was a conversation she had to have with those families. She noted she stood by her previous votes and will stand by her vote again because this is about business. This is about doing right, expanding services, businesses, and opportunities, and employing individuals here. She suggested if we have challenges with how we do business, let's make some motions and do the work to make some changes.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, and English

Opposed: McBride, Terracio, and Newton

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company.)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: McBride and Terracio

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

Recuse: Mackey (due to her parent company representing the company.)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

Mr. Pugh moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

b. Special Called Meeting: April 25, 2023

c. Zoning Public Hearing: April 25, 2023

Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes for the April 25th Special Called and Zoning Public Hearing meetings as distributed, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. Newton requested to annotate the Zoning Public Hearing minutes (Case #22-037MA) to indicate that RS-E is denser than RU instead of less dense, as stated at the meeting.

Ms. Barron accepted Ms. Newton's annotation request.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

7. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Weaver moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

8. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70)** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated the following items qualify for Executive Session.

a. Richland County Judicial Center Security

Mr. Livingston moved to suspend the rules to allow the Report of the Executive Session to be taken up now instead of at the end of the meeting, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Pugh moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: McBride

The vote was in favor.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 7:04 PM
and came out at approximately 8:30 PM***

Ms. Barron moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker indicated no action was taken in Executive Session.

Ms. Mackey moved to direct the County Administrator to work with the Sheriff to fill the eight (8) deputy positions at the Richland County Judicial Center, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Branham stated Council received a letter from the Sheriff that set forth some of the Sheriff's Department's struggles in filling positions. He noted there are many competing agencies in the Midlands when it comes to law enforcement compensation, which is something on his mind, particularly as we are in the midst of the budget cycle. In conjunction with the letter, we heard from the Clerk of Court and some of the Richland County judges during Executive Session. The Judicial Center personnel expressed their concerns related to security. Part of the crux is the rapid decrease in Sheriff's deputies and their presence at the Judicial Center. Naturally, the courthouse is a place that needs security, and we can understand the difficulties the Sheriff has had in filling positions. He mentioned this is something he is considering as we work through the budget cycle, but what we heard today makes him feel this is an urgent situation. We do not want to leave the Clerk of Court feeling pitted against the Sheriff or having those coming through the courthouse thinking they are less secure. Ms. Mackey's motion is meant to be an emergency measure that will assist us with getting through the budget processing, where we will be able to more comprehensively address the compensation issues the Sheriff's Department is facing. It is his understanding this motion authorizes the County Administrator to work with the Sheriff in unique ways to potentially provide the level of compensation needed to fill these positions quickly.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

9. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – No one signed up to speak.

10. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. Must Pertain to Richland County Matters Not on the Agenda (Items for which a public hearing is required or a public hearing has been scheduled cannot be addressed at this time.)

1. Tracy Robins, 221 Alexander Circle, Circle, Columbia, SC 29206 – SC Safe Elections Group
2. Brooklyn Mack, 27 Coral Court, Columbia, SC 29229 – Columbia Classical Ballet
3. Lisa Smarr, 720 Kawana Road, Columbia, SC 29205 – Columbia Classical Ballet

11. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- a. Items for Consideration:

1. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – Information was provided in the agenda packet.

2. Land Development Code Community Meetings – Mr. Christopher Yonke, Planning Commission Chair, will be present at the May 23rd Development & Services Committee to communicate the recommendations from the Planning Commission. If there are any questions, please forward those to Assistant County Administrator Aric Jensen.

Mr. Branham noted he spoke with ACA Jensen, and another community meeting will be conducted in the Ballentine community after the Development & Services Committee meeting.

3. South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Grant Awards – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, stated there were staff members that submitted applications and ultimately received funding that will help support Richland County in the area of water and sewer.

Ms. Mackey affirmed the award of these grants is a big deal, and we should take a moment to acknowledge it.

4. Professional Development: NACo High-Performance Leadership Academy – Information was provided in the agenda packet.

12. REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

- a. Budget Work Session – Ms. Anette Kirylo, Clerk to Council, reminded Councilmembers of the upcoming budget work session on Thursday, May 4th, at 3:00 PM.

13. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – The Chair Overture Walker recognized that Mr. Livingston was awarded the “Cornhole Trophy” at the Cornbread Festival.

Ms. Barron noted the County may want to purchase a trophy case to display Councilmembers’ trophies.

14. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Case # 22-019MA, Bill Theus, PUD to PUD (55.2 Acres), Wilson Blvd., TMS # R14900-04-01, R14800-02-22, R14800-02-32, R14800-02-27, R14800-02-35, and R14800-02-29 [SECOND READING]
- b. Department of Public Works – Engineering Division – Traffic Calming Policy Update
- c. Utilities – Purchase of Roll-Off Truck
- d. Operational Services – 2020 Hampton St. Roof Replacement Project – Solicitation RC-565-B-23 – Mr. Weaver stated we spoke about previous Councils not setting aside funds to replace the roof. He inquired if we are reserving funds to replace the roof in the future.

Mr. Brown replied there is a Capital Improvement Fund whereby we set aside for County maintenance needs.

- e. Procurement & Contracting – Approval to Award Contract for Emergency Generator at the Coroner’s Office

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 14(a)-14(e), seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 14(b)-14(e), seconded by Ms. Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- f. Any agency receiving funds from Richland County must provide an accounting for those funds prior to a request for funds in the next fiscal year budget. REASON: Accountability is a must for taxpayer dollars. [MALINOWSKI] – This item was removed from the Consent Items.

Ms. Mackey acknowledged this item was discussed in the Administration and Finance Committee. She assumed it was placed under Consent Items because the committee agreed unanimously to move forward with a recommendation to have the motion referred to the Community Impact Grant Committee. She inquired if action needs to be taken on this item to send it to another committee.

Mr. Wright responded the body either needs to vote to send it to another committee or the Council Chair can refer it to another committee.

Mr. Walker referred this item to the Community Impact Grants.

15. **SECOND READING ITEM**

- a. Authorizing the expansion of the boundaries of the I-77 Corridor Regional Industrial Park jointly developed with Fairfield County to include certain property located in Richland County, South Carolina; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Project Urban Renewal; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

16. **FIRST READING ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which, together with the prior year's carryover and other State levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2023, will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. So as to raise revenue, make appropriations, and amend the General Fund, Millage Agencies, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Debt Service Funds Budget for Richland County, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 [BY TITLE ONLY] – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. An Ordinance authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which, together with the prior year's carryover and other State Levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2023, will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 [BY TITLE ONLY] – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

17. **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- a. Direct the County Administrator to create a new IGA regarding the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center Inmate Per Diem rate. Richland County is operating on fees that were implemented effective July 1, 2018 and did not go into effect until July 1, 2019 due to the 90 day notice requirement pursuant to the agreement. The agreement in effect at that time was to have the fee only increase \$10 per year until it reached 95% of the actual cost to the County. We are currently losing thousands of dollars per year the way this is being handled.

Richland County should not have taxpayers pay for outside entities who placed individuals in the County Detention Center, as that is the responsibility of the placing entity. Every entity who places an individual in the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center should have an IGA with Richland County that reflects the current rate they will be paying as well as the fact rates are subject to change upward or downward on an annual basis. Those IGA's should also be worded as an annual agreement with up to so many extension years and the 90 day notice needs to be either reduced or more closely followed by staff. [MALINOWSKI] – Ms. Mackey acknowledged the Administration & Finance Committee recommended referring this motion to the Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee.

The Chair referred this motion to the Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee.

18. **REPORT OF THE RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

a. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

1. Midlands Workforce Development Board Terms of Service – Ms. Barron stated the Rules and Appointments Committee recommended approving the terms of service, as detailed in the agenda packet.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Pugh moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

19. **REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Office of Small Business Opportunity Ordinance – Mr. Pugh stated the committee recommended working with the County Attorney's Office to draft a new ordinance. The new ordinance will allow the Office of Small Business

Opportunity to be a standalone department. Council members are to provide recommendations regarding this ordinance by May 14th.

Mr. Livingston requested that each Council member receive a copy of the ordinance.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

20. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY23 – District 3 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Columbia Classical Ballet - \$5,000; Kingville Historical Foundation - \$1,500; Wiley Kennedy Foundation - \$15,000
- b. FY23 – District 4 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Kingville Historical Foundation - \$5,000; Historic Columbia - \$5,000; Columbia Classical Ballet - \$5,000; and Beta Chi Sigma Chapter - \$5,000
- c. FY23 – District 8 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Columbia Classical Ballet - \$5,000
- d. FY23 – District 9 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Black Pages International - \$5,000; Kingville Historical Foundation - \$5,000
- e. FY23 – District 10 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Town of Eastover - \$10,000
- f. FY23 – District 11 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Black Pages International - \$5,000

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 20(a)-20(f), seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

21. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – There were no additional items for Executive Session.

22. **MOTION PERIOD** – No motions were received.

23. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.



Richland County Council

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B) [provides in part that no public official, public member or public employee may make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their official office, membership or employment to influence a governmental decision in which they, a member of their immediate family, an individual with whom they are associated, or a business with which they are associated has an economic interest.], I hereby recuse myself from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

(Please add agenda Item number and description):

- Recusal of reconsideration of item 16a c
- Recusal of approval of item 16c of the minutes of April 18, 2023

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

My parent company represents the company seeking incentive (economic development)

Jessica Mackey/Jessica Mackey 5/2/23
Print and sign your name Date

5/2/23
Print and sign your name Date received by Clerk Dept.