



Richland County Council
REGULAR SESSION
MINUTES

June 6, 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 (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Kyle Holsclaw, Dale Welch, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Jeff Ruble, Ashiya Myers, Chelsea Bennett, Lori Thomas, Michael Maloney, Crayman Harvey, John Thompson, Abhijit Deshpande, Michael Byrd, Todd Money, Sandra Haynes, Stacey Hamm, Cheryl Johnson, Brittney Hoyle-Terry, Matthew Drawdy, Christa Sheehan, Crayman Harvey, Zachary Cavanaugh, Judy Carter, Ojetta O'Bryant, Jennifer Wladischkin, Quinton Epps, Chanda Cooper, John Ansell, Darlene Gathers, Dale Welch, Dante Roberts, and Shirani Fuller

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

Mr. Walker noted that Ms. Newton was out of town on business and would be joining the meeting via Zoom.

2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by the Honorable Cheryl English.

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

Mr. Pugh moved to amend the agenda to add a proclamation recognizing the Blythewood High School Girls' Track Team, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

- a. A Proclamation recognizing June as National Safety Month – Ms. Mackey presented a proclamation recognizing June as National Safety Month.
- b. A Proclamation recognizing Harvest Hope Food Bank and Declaring June as National Hunger Awareness Month – Ms. Mackey presented a proclamation recognizing Harvest Hope Food Bank and declaring June as National Hunger Awareness Month.
- c. A Proclamation recognizing County Environmental Education Analyst Chanda Cooper – Mr. Aric Jensen, Assistant County Attorney, presented a proclamation recognizing County Environmental Education Analyst Chanda Cooper.
- d. A Proclamation recognizing Westwood High School Girls' and Field Team – Ms. Chelsea Bennett, Communications/Public Information Deputy Director, read the proclamation recognizing Westwood High School's Girls' and Field Team into the record.
- e. A Proclamation recognizing Blythewood High School Girls' Track Team – Ms. Bennett read the proclamation recognizing Blythewood High School Girls' Track Team into the record.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. FY23-24 Budget Public Hearing: May 11, 2023 – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the minutes as distributed, 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. Regular Session: May 16, 2023 – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Pugh.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.
- c. Zoning Public Hearing: May 23, 2023 – Ms. McBride moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Barron.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.
- d. Special Called Meeting – FY23-24 Budget – 2nd Reading: May 25, 2023 – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Terracio.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Walker recognized that Richland One School District Board Commissioners Cheryl Harris, Angela, and Richland One School District Superintendent Craig Witherspoon were in the audience.

- 6. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Terracio.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.
- 7. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70)** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated the following item qualifies for Executive Session under South Carolina Code section 30-4-70:
 - a. Allen University Property Purchase – 1741 Cushman Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
 - b. Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Ballentine Property Purchase

Ms. Terracio moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:34 PM
and came out at approximately 6:49 PM***

Ms. Terracio moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Walker recognized that the Auditor, Pau Brawley, was in the audience.

- 8. **CITIZENS' INPUT**
 - a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – No one signed up to speak.
- 9. **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. Ms. Charlene Meetze, 132 Charlie Griner Road, Irmo, SC 29063 – Renaming of Road

10. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- a. Harvest Hope Food Drive – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, mentioned the County is working with Harvest Hope Food Bank on a food drive. Between June 1-28, 2023, individuals can drop off non-perishable items at the following locations:

1. 2500 Decker Boulevard
2. 2020 Hampton Street
3. 400 Powell Road
4. 7525 Broad River Road
5. 1700 Main Street

At the end of the food drive, Harvest Hope will host their mobile food market to distribute fresh produce to the community on June 28th at the Columbia Place Mall – Sears Parking Lot from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. The County will be partnering with Harvest Hope on this endeavor.

- b. Elections and Voter Registration Office – Mr. Brown indicated the County has been working with the Elections and Voter Registration Office for a couple of years to address their concerns regarding their services, warehouse, and equipment. The new director has reached out and would like to continue addressing the concerns. He noted individuals sometimes believe County Council has jurisdiction over the office and are unaware that you do not. The Richland County Delegation appoints members to the board, and the board employs a director that oversees the local office.

Mr. Walker inquired where we are with assisting Elections and Voter Registration concerning the storage of the voting machines.

Mr. Brown replied one of the things we committed to was providing a long-term solution. We consistently communicated the Columbia Place Mall could offer a solution and are addressing the facility for that purpose. In the meantime, there was a communication and request for the office to let us know what they needed and provide us with a budgetary consideration, which would be presented to Council during the budget process.

Mr. Walker inquired if the staff had received a budget request.

Mr. Brown responded they did not receive anything through the budget process. They did receive a follow-up indicating they would like to move forward.

Mr. Walker inquired if we take action on the budget tonight, and we do not have an official ask for dollars to store these machines; where does that leave us on July 1, 2023?

Mr. Brown stated this means we have to find ways to be flexible. There was some information proposed recently that may be doable. He noted they have a meeting scheduled for later this week. He acknowledged it might not affect a budgetary decision for FY23-24.

Ms. Mackey moved to direct the County Administrator to work with the Elections and Voter Registration Office to resolve this issue as soon as possible, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

11. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL**

- a. June 13, 2023: Special Called Meeting – Ms. Anette Kirylo, Clerk to Council, reminded Council and the public that the next Council meeting would be June 13, 2023.

12. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – No report was given.

13. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Department of Public Work – Engineering Division – Carolina Crossroads – Center Point Rd. Right-of-Way
- b. Department of Public Works – Engineering Division – Lake Dogwood Circle S. Right-of-Way
- c. Office of Procurement & Contracting – County-wide Contract Award for RC-568-P-23; Printing, Mailing and Post Services
- d. Utilities – Transfer of Deeds – Arthurtown/Little Camden/Taylors Sanitary Sewer [FIRST READING]
- e. Utilities – Exceeding Purchase Order Limits
- f. Department of Public Works – Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Collection Area 5B Contract Renewal

g. Department of Public Works – Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Collection Area 7 Contract Renewal

Ms. Mackey moved to approve the Consent Items, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider the Consent Items, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

14. **THIRD READING ITEM**

- a. An Ordinance to raise revenue, make appropriations, and adopt an Annual Budget (FY2024) for Richland County, South Carolina for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending 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 – Mr. Weaver moved to approve this item, Ms. Terracio.

Mr. Livingston inquired if a Councilmember wished to address a specific item on the motions list and if this would be the time to do so.

Mr. Walker inquired how we address items on the motions list without them coming across as disjointed.

Mr. Wright responded a Councilmember would have to make a specific motion regarding the issue they would like to address on the motions list.

Ms. Lori Thomas, Assistant County Administrator, suggested approving groups of items on the motions list. If there is one, in particular, a Councilmember would like to discuss; they could pull that item out.

Mr. Weaver withdrew his motion.

MILLAGE AGENCIES

1. ***Richland County Recreation Commission (Recommended: \$16,455,543)***
2. ***Columbia Area Mental Health (Recommended: \$2,714,000)***
3. ***Public Library (Recommended: \$32,311,229)***
4. ***Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens (Recommended: \$2,706,000)***
5. ***Midlands Technical College – Operating (Recommended: \$7,228,763)***

Mr. Livingston moved to approve Midlands Technical College – Operating at the requested amount of \$7,503,630, seconded by Ms. McBride.

Mr. Paul Brawley, County Auditor, stated the anticipated tax increase would be \$0.80 on a \$100,000 owner-occupied home, \$1.20 on a non-owner-occupied home, and \$0.24 on a \$20,000 vehicle.

Ms. Barron stated for the record she fully supports Midlands Technical College, but she does not support raising taxes. She inquired about the total impact on a household with regard to the budget.

Mr. Brawley responded, based on what was approved at 2nd Reading, there would be a \$4.40 tax increase on a \$100,000 owner-occupied home, a \$6.60 tax increase on a \$100,000 non-owner-occupied home, and a \$1.32 increase on a \$20,000 vehicle.

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

Opposed: Branham and Barron

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote was in favor.

***Ms. Newton became disconnected at 7:07 PM.*

6. ***Midlands Technical College – Capital (Recommended: \$3,926,731)***
7. ***School District One (Recommended: \$254,990,675)***

Ms. McBride noted that School District One is \$6.6M short if not funded at the cap.

Mr. Brawley stated if Council were to fund School District One at the cap, the impact would be as follows: \$0.00 for an owner-occupied, \$129.60 for a non-owner-occupied home, and \$25.92 for a \$20,000 vehicle.

Ms. Barron requested Administration to look at the budget process differently so we can get the funds into the hands who need it without negatively impacting people's homes financially.

Mr. Weaver requested the millage agency staff to communicate better with Council on these requests. We are obtaining information at the last minute. He noted the millage agency would improve their odds of having their needs and wants met if there was more communication.

Mr. Livingston inquired about the midpoint between the no mill and the requested amount.

Mr. Abhijit Deshpande, Budget Director, stated it would be \$258,342,000.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion to fund School District One at \$258,342,000, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Mr. Brawley stated the impact of the substitute motion would be a tax increase of \$30 for a \$100,000 owner-occupied home and \$6 for a \$20,000 vehicle.

Mr. Walker expressed that he shares Ms. McBride's sentiments about millage agencies, especially when it comes to public education and School District One. He noted he has had candid conversations with School Board Commissioners, and he does not doubt the sincerity of the request. It is his understanding the reason the request has been made is because there have been some mandates from the State. He stated his "no" vote on this item is not a "no" vote against the School District. He challenged the General Assembly to make up the difference created by the unfunded mandates.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, and English

Opposed: Branham, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, and Mackey

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The substitute motion failed.

8. ***School District Two (Recommended: \$181,576,392)***

GRANTS

9. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax revenue projections; \$600,000)***
10. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax use of fund balance; \$166,667)***
11. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax transfer out; \$25,000)***
12. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax committee recommendations; \$741,667)***
13. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax revenue projects; \$8,400,000)***
14. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax use of fund balance; \$1,098,713)***
15. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax transfer out; \$4,988,713)***
16. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax committee recommendations; \$500,000)***
17. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax reserve for contingency; \$150,000)***
18. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax Council discretionary; \$82,425 for each Council District; \$906,675)***
19. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Columbia Museum of Art at requested amount; Requested: \$850,000; Recommended: \$850,000)***
20. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Historic Columbia Foundation at the requested amount; Requested: \$622,500; Committee awarded: \$8,900; Recommended: \$613,000)***
21. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for EdVenture at the requested amount; Requested: \$575,000; Committee awarded: \$11,000; Recommended: \$564,000)***
22. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Township Auditorium Foundation; \$415,000)***
23. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding to Richland County Facilities and Ground Maintenance Division to provide Township Auditorium's ground maintenance; \$700,000)***
24. ***Hospitality Tax - Special Promotions (Approve funding for Capital City Lake Murray Country; Requested: \$150,000; Committee awarded: \$25,400; Recommended: \$124,600)***
25. ***Hospitality Tax - Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; Requested: \$275,000; Committee awarded: \$33,000; Recommended: \$242,000)***
26. ***Hospitality Tax - Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia International Festival; Requested: \$235,000; Committee awarded: \$17,200; Recommended: \$217,800)***
27. ***Hospitality Tax - Tier 3 (Approve funding for South East Rural Community Outreach [SERCO]; Requested: \$90,000; Committee awarded: \$11,333; Recommended: \$78,667)***

28. *Hospitality Tax - Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Gateway Pocket Park/Blight Removal Project to FY 2024 budget)*
29. *Hospitality Tax - Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Historical Corridor to FY 2024 budget)*
30. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding to the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival for their annual festival in FY 2024; Committee Awarded: \$15,800; Recommended: \$44,200)*
31. *Hospitality Tax (Approve carrying over any unexpended hospitality funds from each Councilmember District to FY 2024 budget)*
32. *Hospitality Tax (Adjust and approve H-Tax use of fund balance as necessary; this will override motion #14; 2nd Reading Amount: \$1,365,255)*
33. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve Neighborhood Improvement Grant Recommendations: \$79,140)*
34. *Conservation Commission (Approve Conservation Commission Grant Recommendations: \$178,490)*
35. *Various Grant Funded Depts. (Approve department requests that are applying for external grants in FY 2024, required matching of County funds, and grant-funded positions; \$61,550,774)*

GENERAL FUND

36. *County-wide Departments (Approve Projected General Fund Revenue as presented in the FY2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$202,132,831)*
37. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Transfers in from H-Tax and A-Tax Funds as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$3,525,000)*
38. *County-wide Departments (Approve Projected Use of General Fund Balance to support overall General Fund expenditure as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$5,474,226)*
39. *County-wide Departments (Approve Use of ARPA funds to support General Fund expenditure; \$7,000,000)*
40. *Business Service Center (Approve refining and redesigning the Business License Fee schedule as presented by Richland County's Business License Center)*
41. *Building Inspections Department (Approve review and renewal of Building Permit fees as presented by Richland County's Building Inspections Department)*
42. *County-wide Departments (Approve 4% pay raise for Richland County's full-time employees to be implemented in August 2023 [General Funded Positions]; \$4,405,808)*
43. *County-wide Departments (Approve 4% pay raise for Richland County's full-time employees to be implemented in August 2023 [Other Funded Positions]; \$1,152,155)*
44. *Countywide Departments (Approve funding for implementation of wage adjustment plan to be approved by the Council at a later date. This is the partial funding for FY24; \$5,594,192)*
45. *Administration (Approve and direct County Administrator to undertake a study to determine a cost overhead model to allocate certain shared general governmental functions costs to Enterprise Funds)*
46. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Overall Personnel, Operating and Capital Expenditures as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$194,203,021)*
47. *Transfer Out (Approve General Fund Operating Transfers Out as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; 9,465,912)*
48. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding for affordable housing initiatives; \$4,000,000)*
49. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund New Positions as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$463,124)*
50. *County-wide Departments (Approve Other Fund New Positions as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$636,163)*
51. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding the Central Midlands COG for FY 2024; \$219,917)*
52. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding the City Center Partnership for FY 2024; \$50,000)*
53. *Non-Departmental (Approve funding LRADAC for FY 2024; \$600,000)*
54. *Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for the Community Impact Grant Committee recommendations; \$1,780,000)*
- 61-A. *Approve \$464,000 to raise pay for Sheriff's Deputy, Master Deputy, Corporal, and Sergeant towards the direction of having a minimum starting salary of \$50,000*

Ms. Mackey noted we are at the maximum percentage for our fund balance. If we go over by using additional funds, our credit rating will be at risk, potentially affecting our borrowing power.

Ms. Mackey moved to set aside the \$464,000 for the Administrator to utilize to assist Elections and Voter Registration, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. English stated she had a conversation with Sheriff Lott regarding how this could potentially affect our credit rating. Sheriff Lott clearly understood Council would be working to find additional revenue and that deputies and 911 employees are invaluable.

Mr. Branham asked, for clarification purposes, is the intention of the motion to take every penny passed on 2nd Reading for the Sheriff's Department deputies' entry-level starting pay and put it in a fund just in case it is requested by Voter's Registration to store voting machines?.

Ms. Mackey responded that she understood that, it was the motion's intent, but she does not think we ever got any specifics or the amount. She noted funding would be set aside so the Administrator has access to funds in order to work with Voter Registration to do something the County is mandated to do.

Ms. McBride inquired about where we are regarding the fund balance.

Mr. Deshpande responded we are around 22.4%, which is still in the fiscally acceptable range.

Ms. Mackey stated that we have preserved our AAA Credit Rating by maintaining the 22%. We could go below that, but that impacts the rating. She noted she would like to keep the AAA Credit Rating for the upcoming capital improvement projects.

Ms. McBride noted that the fund balance needs to stay within the 21%-24% range to maintain the AAA Credit Rating.

Ms. Thomas replied the policy is 20%-35%. She noted that we are near the threshold. If there were to be an emergency, we would have no cushion. We have always tried to stay above 22.5%.

Mr. Weaver suggested staying with the motion made on 2nd Reading for the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Wright indicated the breakdown of the \$464,000 would be a \$767/year increase for each deputy.

Mr. Walker affirmed that the 4% cost of living increase would be effective in August. The findings from the compensation study will be implemented in January 2024.

Ms. English inquired if Council will have to ensure the \$464,000 is in the Sheriff's budget each year.

Mr. Brown replied any increase to the payroll would be a recurring expense.

Ms. Mackey stated she supports the Sheriff and his deputies. Through the budget process, we have worked to ensure we invest in County employees. This is looking at our budget, being responsible, and evaluating all our responsibilities. Whether we like it or not, the Voter Registration Office is our responsibility. She is trying to proactively plan for another need we know is coming. She noted we have attempted to maintain a responsible budget and align how we are spending to get to where we are right now. Suddenly, going beyond the 22% in fund balance differs from the direction this Council has been going. She stated to please consider the responsibilities we have at hand and think about those things now.

In Favor: Terracio, Mackey, Walker, and English

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Weaver, and Barron

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The motion failed.

63. *Adjust and approve Projected Use of General Fund Balance to Support overall General Fund expenditure as necessary (\$5,938,226)*

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

64. *Economic Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Economic Development; \$9,846,000)*
65. *Emergency Telephone System (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Emergency Telephone System; \$7,446,442)*
66. *Fire Services (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Fire Services; \$35,639,775)*
67. *Hospitality Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Hospitality Tax; \$9,498,713)*
68. *Accommodations Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Accommodations Tax; \$766,667)*
69. *Transportation Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Transportation Tax; \$88,000,000)*
70. *Mass Transit (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Mass Transit; \$24,754,400)*
71. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Neighborhood Redevelopment; \$946,000)*
72. *Public Defender (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Public Defender; \$6,411,756)*
73. *Title IVD- Sheriff's Fund (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IVD-Sheriff's Fund; \$62,671)*
74. *School Resource Officers (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of School Resource Officers; \$7,229,710)*
75. *Victim's Assistance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Victim's Assistance; \$1,334,426)*
76. *Tourism Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Tourism Development; \$1,280,500)*
77. *Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Temporary Alcohol Permits; \$167,817)*
78. *Stormwater Management (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Stormwater Management; \$3,894,800)*
79. *Conservation Commission (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Conservation Commission; \$3,908,930)*
80. *Road Maintenance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Road Maintenance ; \$11,345,478)*
81. *Child Fatality Review (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Child Fatality Review; \$70,000)*
82. *Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve funding the River Alliance for FY 2024; \$55,000)*

DEBT SERVICE

83. *General Obligation Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$20,124,222)*
84. *Fire Bond Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$550,150)*
85. *Hospitality Refund 2013A B/S [Special Assessment] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,488,713)*
86. *RC-IP Revenue Bond 2019 (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,602,917)*
87. *School District I Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$66,841,168)*
88. *School District II Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$66,194,904)*
89. *Recreation Commission (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$3,164,689)*
90. *Riverbanks Zoo & Garden (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$2,591,510)*
91. *East Richland Public Service Dist. [Sewer] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$1,438,561)*
92. *Transportation Bonds (Appropriate funding to fund debt service: \$14,434,750)*

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

93. *County-wide Departments (Approve multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book [FY 2024 - FY 2027]; \$240,547,724]*
94. *County-wide Departments (Approve funding to conduct an updated feasibility study in FY 2024 to construct a new Richland County Judicial Center; \$100,000)*

ENTERPRISE

95. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 5% increase in the Landfill's rate schedule for FY 2024 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$1,461,054)*
96. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve Mill Cap budget for Landfill: \$7,444,770)*
97. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 5% increase in the Curbside Collection's rate schedule for FY 2024 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$35,301,354)*
98. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Solid Waste's total budget; \$44,207,178)*
99. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Keep Midlands Beautiful; \$42,900)*
100. *Richland County Utilities (Approve proposed water rate increase and fee schedule presented by Richland County Utilities in the Council Budget Work Session on April 20, 2023; \$73,597)*
101. *Richland County Utilities (Approve funding for Richland County Utilities total budget; \$14,661,266)*
102. *Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve funding for Richland County Airport Budget; \$608,554)*

Ms. Barron moved to provide up to \$400,000 in ARPA funds to the Community Impact Committee to be set aside for non-profits in the Community Impact Grants process. Those non-profits listed on the FY23-24 Budget Motion List will be invited to apply and participate in the process, seconded by Mr. Branham.

Mr. Walker inquired if this motion was properly before the body.

Mr. Wright responded that if the ARPA funds affect the overall budget, it will need to be taken up now.

Mr. Livingston stated he did not think it would be appropriate to have this item included in the budget ordinance because the budget has already had two readings.

Ms. Barron indicated Legal and Administration recommended bringing this item forward during this portion of the agenda. The \$400,000 is going to the Community Impact Grants Committee to participate in the upcoming grant cycle in July 2023.

Ms. Mackey stated there was a motion made that we would use ARPA. As a body, we sent it back to the committee to meet and bring it back to Council. Therefore, she feels it is properly before us.

Mr. Wright expressed that because the ARPA funds will potentially impact the Community Impact Grants Committee's budget, it must be dealt with during the budget process.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron declared that she has been very passionate about not increasing taxes. However, she does not want that decision to impact the entire budget. Therefore, she will be supporting the ordinance in theory.

Ms. McBride deemed there are some good and not-so-good parts to the budget. She believes there are some transparency issues in certain areas, but overall she thinks Council did what they felt was best. Therefore, she will not be supporting the ordinance.

Mr. Walker found Ms. McBride's suggestion that parts of the budget are not transparent disconcerting and stated that He does not want the residents of Richland County or anyone in the audience or watching to think Council is operating in the dark. He requested that Ms. McBride outline what parts of the budget are not transparent in her opinion.

Ms. McBride stated she had concerns about the grant process, equity, and who was making budget recommendations.

Mr. Walker declared he believes this Council and Administration operate aboveboard. He does not always agree with every vote or recommendation. Still, he has never impugned or questioned the integrity of those who govern or are responsible for the administration of this governance.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve the budget ordinance, as amended, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

Opposed: Branham and McBride

The vote was in favor.

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

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

15. SECOND READING ITEMS

- a. Authorizing the joint development and creation of a multicounty park with Fairfield County for the Scout Motors Project; authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement governing the multicounty park; authorizing the inclusion of certain property located in Richland County in the multicounty park; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Authorizing the execution and delivery of an amendment to fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and special source revenue credit agreement by and between Richland County, South Carolina, and Mark Anthony Brewing Inc. and an amendment to the additional project land purchase agreement by and between Richland County and Mark Anthony Brewing Inc.; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. English.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

16. FIRST READING ITEM

- a. An Ordinance Authorizing a deed to Allen University for 1741 Cushman Drive, Columbia, South Carolina, Richland County TMS #14103-02-20A – Ms. McBride moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Recuse: Pugh (due to being a member of Allen University's faculty)

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

17. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Department of Public Works – Solid Waste & Recycling Division – Ballentine Property Purchase – Ms. Mackey stated the committee recommended directing the Administrator to move forward with the purchase of the Ballentine property purchase, as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The motion for reconsideration failed.

18. **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

- 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; to include certain property located in Richland County; the execution and delivery of public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Project Main View; and other related matters [FIRST READING] – Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended approval of this item. He indicated that the 250-apartment complex be located at the old Jim Moore Cadillac dealership on North Main Street. The development represents an investment of \$50M+ and includes \$12M in landscaping, utilities, lighting, sidewalks, and 360 parking spaces.

Ms. Terracio inquired as to how much of the public improvements are those that would not have had to happen in the course of developing the apartments. In essence, what is going above and beyond?

Mr. Livingston responded the investments are in the landscaping, lighting, and sidewalks.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

Opposed: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

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

a. **NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

1. Board of Zoning Appeals – Four (4) Vacancies – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended appointing Ms. S. Blakely Copeland Cahoon and Ms. Mandy Lautzenheiser.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

2. Midlands Workforce Development Board – Three (3) Vacancies (Applicants must be from the Private Sector) – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended re-appointing Mr. Harry Plexico and appointing Ms. Eileen Kershaw and Ms. Danielle Diaz.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

20. **REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Innovista Phase 3 – Project Funding – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommended the City of Columbia's request to receive the remaining balance of funds from the \$50M Innovista Project. Upon completion of Phase II, the remaining balance is \$4.5M, which will be used to supplement other funding provided by the City for Phase III. The City will draw on the fund via a reimbursement process.

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

Absent: Newton (technical issues)

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Proposed Chapter 21 (Dirt Road Paving) Ordinance Amendment: "An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 21, Roads, Highways, and Bridges; Section 21-20, Road Paving Program; Subsection (i); so as to

remove specific language” [FIRST READING] – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommended removing the requirement in Chapter 21 that allows 25% of property owners to decline a road paving project. The recommendation aims to allow the Public Works Department to move forward expeditiously with the paving of dirt roads in Richland County. Under the current ordinance, 25% of homeowners on a roadway can refuse the paving of a road.

Mr. Branham inquired if 50% would help us get more in the realm of the majority.

Mr. Michael Maloney, Public Works Director, stated staff’s recommendation is to pave the roads. He noted they have funds committed in the design and land acquisition processes that are sitting because we have some roads being blocked by consent/denial or buying right-of-way after receiving consent. If they ran into an instance where the majority of the residents did not want the road paved, they would begin it to the ad committee.

Mr. Livingston indicated he was hesitant to go to the 50% without knowing the implications.

Mr. Maloney stated they could provide a number they would be able to proceed with utilizing the 50% requirement.

Mr. Brown stated the feedback they have received is staff’s failure to address roads. Some citizens complain to Council that their work was promised and did not get done when the team did what they could within the confines of the ordinance.

**Ms. Newton reconnected at 8:54 PM.

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

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

21. **REPORT OF THE EMPLOYEE EVALUATION AND OVERSIGHT AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Internal Auditor Position – Ms. Newton stated the committee recommended the Administrator develop a job description, which would then come back to Council.

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

Opposed: McBride

The vote was in favor.

22. **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS COMMITTEE**

- a. Proposed 2024 Community Impact Grant Application
- b. Community Impact Grant Guidelines

Ms. Mackey stated the committee recommended approval of the Community Impact Grants application and guidelines. Ms. McBride inquired who would be reviewing the applications. She noted that in the past, Councilmembers and community members were reviewing the applications.

Ms. Mackey responded that it would be the committee members.

Ms. Barron expressed she believes there are gray areas in the review process.

Ms. Newton inquired if the committee had discussed having an “other” category for Question #5. She noted she would appreciate knowing where organizations have successfully implemented similar projects in the past.

Ms. Mackey replied that the committee considered the “other” option and that it was decided not to include that category. She requested clarification on who served on the previous Discretionary Grant Committee.

Mr. Brown replied he would have to research this matter.

Ms. Newton inquired if there was an opportunity for the 60/40 split to be “up to.”

Ms. Mackey indicated that was discussed in committee.

Mr. Walker stated the Community Impact Grants Committee was created so that we could streamline a process that was once known as “Lump Sum” agencies.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker indicated Ms. McBride had to leave the meeting early due to a family commitment.

23. **REPORT OF THE CORONAVIRUS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Unallocated Funds – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended setting aside \$1,000,000 ARPA allocations for Youth and Recreation Services to specifically fund recreation activities for youth using a process to be determined by Council. Any funds not in this category not committed by June 30, 2024, and expended by October 31, 2024, would be used to fund the construction of the Family Services Center.

Ms. Mackey stated for clarification; the committee will not be awarding any funds to the non-profits that applied in this category.

Ms. Barron responded in the affirmative.

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

Opposed: Walker

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended that any unawarded funds for the \$16M ARPA grants to be used to fund the construction of the Family Services Center. This would include unanswered funds from the following categories: Non-Profit Assistance, Workforce Training, Education Assistance, Senior Assistance, Food Insecurity, Broadband Services, and Unhoused persons. It would not include funding from the Youth and Recreation Services or Affordable Housing allocation categories.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, English, and Newton.

Opposed: Pugh, Walker, and Mackey.

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Walker and Mackey

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

24. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY23 – District 6 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Carolina Therapeutic Riding - \$6,150
- b. FY23 – District 11 Hospitality Tax Allocations: Kingville Historical Foundation - \$1,000; Town of Eastover - \$13,000; SC Philharmonic - \$5,000; and Columbia Classical Ballet - \$5,000

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items 24(a) and 24(b), seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, 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. Walker.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

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

26. **MOTION PERIOD**

- a. I move to direct the Administrator to review and update the illegal dumping ordinance, including raising fines up to \$5,000.00, jail time, and community service (picking up debris on roadways) [ENGLISH] – Chairman Walker referred this motion to the Development & Services Committee.

27. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.