



Richland County Council
Regular Session
MINUTES
October 3, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Overture Walker, Chair; Jessica Mackey, Vice-Chair; Jason Branham, Derrek Pugh, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, Don Weaver, Gretchen Barron, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton.

NOT PRESENT: Allison Terracio

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Chelsea Bennett, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Thomas Gilbert, Sarah Harris, Geo Price, Susan O’Cain, Judy Carter, Dale Welch, Sandra Haynes, Ashiya Myers, Erica Wade, Kyle Holsclaw, Angela Weathersby, Wayne Thornley, Andrew Haworth, Quinton Epps, Chanda Cooper, Michael Byrd, Michael Maloney, Brittney Hoyle-Terry, and Venyke Harley

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
Mr. Walker indicated Ms. Terracio would not be attending tonight’s meeting in person due to a personal matter. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence in honor of fallen Richland County Deputy Jacob Eric Salrin.
2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by the Honorable Derrek Pugh.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Derrek Pugh.
4. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**
 - a. A Proclamation recognizing Reconciliation Ministries and declaring October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month – Mr. Weaver presented a proclamation to the Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries recognizing October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Regular Session: September 19, 2023 – Ms. Mackey 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. Zoning Public Hearing: September 26, 2023 – Ms. Mackey 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.
6. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – The County Attorney, Patrick Wright, noted Item 7(b): County Attorney’s Contract should be pursuant to S.C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(1) instead of S.C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5).
Ms. Barron moved to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Mackey.
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. Legal options regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]
 - b. County Attorney’s Contract [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(1)]
 - c. Scout Motors Legal Update [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]
 - d. Property Inquiry – 1430 Colonial Life Blvd., also known as the old Haverty’s property [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]
 - e. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS # R11406-16-17 [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]

Mr. Pugh moved to go into Executive Session with respect to Items 7(a) and 7(c), 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 6:19 PM
and came out at approximately 7:34 PM***

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

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

8. **CITIZENS’ INPUT**

- a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – Ms. Mackey noted no one signed up on the sign-in sheet, but some individuals who would like to speak arrived after the sign-in sheet was taken up.

Ms. Onley indicated the individuals would like to speak regarding concerns in the Olympia Community.

Assistant County Administrator Aric Jensen further clarified what the individuals wish to speak on.

POINT OF ORDER – Ms. Newton inquired if it will require a vote by Council to allow the individuals to speak.

Mr. Wright indicated the Chair could allow an individual to sign up to speak without taking action to suspend the rules.

Erring on the side of caution, Ms. McBride moved to suspend the rules to allow the individuals to individuals to speak, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

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

Opposed: Branham and Walker

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

1. Sherry Jaco, 1166 Olympia Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201
2. Theresa Hodge, 1209 Whitney Street, Columbia, SC 29201
3. Jason Jaco, 931 Texas Street, Columbia, SC 29201
4. Joby Chasteen, 1027 Hamrick Street, Columbia, SC 29201
5. Joe Wider, 224 Williams Street, Columbia, SC 29201
6. Vi Hendley, 106 Alabama Street, Columbia, SC 29201

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. Eileen DuBose, 7262 Sunview Drive, Columbia, 29209 – Pinewood Lake Park

10. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

a. Updates for Consideration:

1. *Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report* – Mr. Kenneth Mullis, Soil & Water Conservation District Chairperson, presented the annual report to Council.

b. Administrator's Nomination: Items in this section require action that may prejudice the County's interest in a discernable way (i.e. time-sensitive, exigent, or of immediate importance)

1. *Community Planning & Development – Conservation Division – Blossom Street Bridge Replacement Mitigation Credit Sales* – County Administrator Leonardo Brown stated staff recommended approval of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) request to purchase one (1) wetland credit at the rate of \$20,000 for the Blossom Street Bridge replacement.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

2. *Office of the County Administrator – Ordinance authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds* – Mr. Brown stated staff recommends the approval of an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund the acquisition, construction, equipping, rehabilitation, and improvement of certain capital project and to refund all or a portion of certain of the County's outstanding general obligation bonds. The purpose of this ordinance is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for new funds to provide funding for capital projects as outlined on p. 50 of the agenda and approved by Council on September 12, 2023. The ordinance is structured such that any modifications or changes in projects will allow for funds to be redirected to other capital projects with Council's approval.

Mr. Weaver requested a breakdown of the \$25M set aside for the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

Ms. Lori Thomas, Assistant County Administrator, indicated the largest components are broken down on p. 75 of the agenda.

Mr. Weaver stated for clarification, the debt capacity grows at a rate of \$8M-\$10M per year.

Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative. She noted only \$71M of the \$93M would be new funding. The \$22M has the capacity to be refunded, which would further increase our capacity to bond. We will wait closer to the time the bonds are sold to assess the market's volatility.

Mr. Livingston indicated he thought we had the funds for the Department of Social Services.

Ms. Thomas stated there is \$17,480,389 in ARPA funding allocated toward the total cost of \$49,173,881 for the Family Services Center. We will be bonding the difference.

Ms. Newton inquired if additional ARPA funds become available for the Family Services Center, would that free up bond funds?

Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Mackey moved to approve 1st Reading of the ordinance, seconded by Ms. Newton.

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

Opposed: Weaver

Not Present:

The vote was in favor.

11. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL** – Ms. Onley reminded Council regarding the following events:
- a. 2023 Annual Planning Conference, Saturday, October 7, 2023, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM, Medallion Conference Center, 7309 Garners Ferry Road
 - b. 2023 SCAC Institute of Government and Fall Advocacy Meeting, October 18-19, 2023, Embassy Suites, 200 Stoneridge Drive
 - c. Open Enrollment, October 1-31, 2023
12. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – No report was given.
13. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**
- a. An Ordinance affirming the provisions of Ordinance No. 058-16HR, related to the Office of Small Business Opportunity – No one signed up to speak.
14. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**
- a. Case #23-023MA, Kevin Steelman, M-1 to RS-LD (21.98 Acres), 111 Pine Wedge Drive, TMS # R17700-01-94 & R17700-0114 [SECOND READING]
 - b. Department of Public Works – Solid Waste & Recycling – Landfill Capital Expansion

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 14(a) and 14(b), seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.
 - c. County Administration: Convention Center – Tourism Development Fee – Ms. Barron moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Mr. Branham noted it was his understanding the City of Columbia, Lexington County, and Richland County contributed over a 20-year period to pay off the construction bond on the Convention Center.

Ms. Thomas responded that was correct.

Mr. Branham inquired if the bond was paid in full in the last 12 months.

Ms. Thomas responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Branham inquired if the tourism development fee had been funding the debt service and operational and marketing expenses.

Ms. Thomas replied that was her understanding.

For clarification, Mr. Branham stated the request before Council is for an additional allocation to go toward operations and marketing.

Ms. Thomas stated the portion the County paid was more in line with what would have been considered debt service. We paid the funds to the City of Columbia, and they remitted them to the Convention Center. What is being requested now is for operations.

Mr. Branham inquired as to the dollar amount being requested.

Ms. Thomas indicated the request was for 50% of the tourism development fee (i.e., accommodations tax). Currently, that equates to approximately \$700,000, but, of course, that amount varies.

Mr. Branham requested to affirm whether the motion was for the County to fund at that level for one year or in perpetuity.

Mr. Wright stated his concern with funding the Convention Center in perpetuity is that Council is not supposed to bind future Councils. Generally, we renew funding annually, but no more than every four years.

Mr. Livingston acknowledged our Convention Center operates at a lesser rate than the Greenville and Charleston convention centers.

Ms. Barron inquired what happens to the funds if we do not approve the Convention Center’s request.

Ms. Thomas replied the funds would be held in the Accommodations Tax account. She noted we know the amount of funds available this fiscal year, but moving forward, a binding of 50% may be significantly more money.

Ms. Barron stated if we provide the Convention Center the 50%, the remaining 50% would stay in the Accommodations Tax account. At some point, Council would have to determine what they wish to do with the remaining 50%.

Ms. Thomas noted the other question is how long we would want to provide the 50% to the Convention Center.

Ms. Barron expressed that when these funds were set aside, it was specifically for the Convention Center. Noting that the Convention Center has some major needs for expansion, she would like us to keep in mind that this may be a good way for us to set aside some additional funding to support the Convention Center for its future needs.

Mr. Branham inquired if the recommendation by the committee was to provide funding for one year.

Ms. Mackey responded the motion was not specifically for one year.

Ms. Mackey made a substitute motion to approve the Convention Center's request and review the request on an annual basis moving forward, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Opposed: Livingston

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 14(b) and 14(c), seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

15. **THIRD READING ITEM**

- 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 operation of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024 – Mr. Pugh moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Mr. Weaver stated, for clarification, that if this item is approved, there will not be a tax increase.

Mr. Paul Brawley, the Auditor, responded there would not be a tax increase.

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

Opposed: Branham

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

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

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. An Ordinance of the County Council of Richland County, South Carolina, revising the zoning map of unincorporated Richland County, South Carolina, to change the zoning designation for all real property located in the unincorporated areas of Richland County, as described herein; and providing for severability and an effective date – Mr. Branham moved to approve this item with an effective date of February 14, 2024, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Newton expressed that once there is an effective date, any resident who was previously zoned "Rural" would have up to a year where the County would waive their fee to have their zoning reconsidered.

Mr. Jensen indicated that would be a part of the proposed text amendments that Council is being requested to adopt. Once the proposed text amendments have received 1st Reading, he will distribute the draft language to Council for review.

Mr. Livingston inquired if February 14, 2024, is a reasonable effective date.

Mr. Jensen responded in the affirmative. He indicated that 90 days is a reasonable time to mount a media/public education campaign.

Ms. Mackey inquired if a moratorium on zoning requests would occur during this 90-day period.

Mr. Wright declared during the 90 days; applications would have to be under the new Land Development Code.

Ms. Barron reiterated that the public education campaign is indeed an educational campaign. She noted there are citizens and residents who are fully engaged in the process and probably know it better than Council and staff. However, there is still a large number of people who do not have a clear understanding of the Land Development Code.

Mr. Walker inquired if staff is certain the 90-day period is sufficient.

Mr. Jensen responded staff will ensure they meet the 90-day timeframe. If Council granted an additional two weeks, staff would also accept it.

Mr. Walker inquired if staff would like the additional two weeks.

Mr. Jensen stated that staff would accept the additional two weeks.

Mr. Branham amended his motion to make the effective date March 1, 2024.

Ms. Newton requested an updated timeline be forwarded to Councilmembers.

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

Opposed: Barron

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

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

In Favor: Barron

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- c. An Ordinance affirming the provisions of Ordinance No. 058-16HR, related to the Office of Small Business Opportunity – Mr. Pugh moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Ms. McBride inquired if there would be an elevation in salaries and/or staffing for this department.

Mr. Brown expressed there will be adjustments in the current fiscal year to accommodate the changes. Next fiscal year, it will appear as a "new" position, but it will be based on this ordinance change.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

16. FIRST READING ITEMS

- a. An Ordinance to adopt the text amendment recommendations of the Richland County Planning Commission to the 2021 Land Development Code, which will regulate development in the unincorporated areas of Richland County [BY TITLE ONLY] – Mr. Branham moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Ms. Barron stated she would be voting “no” on this item because some things were previously stated regarding revisions/modifications. When she sees those revisions/modifications, she will then be able to support this item.

Mr. Branham amended the effective date on this item to March 1, 2024, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Branham declared this process has been an example of government responding to the public. The process started with Council deciding approximately two years ago to send this back to the Planning Commission for further review and incorporation of public input.

Mr. Weaver stated he could not vote in favor of this. He views this as a government taking of property without compensation.

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

Opposed: Weaver and Barron

Not Present: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

17. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Approval of EdVenture Children’s Museum Hospitality Tax request for facility improvements and enhancements to improve safety and attract new visitors [Motion by MACKEY – August 29, 2023] – Ms. Mackey stated the committee forwarded this item to Council without a recommendation.

Ms. Mackey pointed out that a full request and renderings of the proposed exhibit and safety features are included in the agenda packet. She noted EdVenture has a new Executive Director who came on within the last year and has worked hard to revitalize EdVenture. It is a great attraction for the area, especially for families with small children.

Ms. Mackey moved to approve the use of \$1.75M in Hospitality Tax funds, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. English thanked EdVenture for their inclusion of children with developmental disabilities and their families.

Ms. Newton expressed her desire to have a more fulsome discussion about what we do with the remainder of the Hospitality Tax fund so we can look at making a significant investment that will move the County forward.

Ms. McBride noted she has been an avid supporter of EdVenture. She stated her concern is there is a funding process for initiatives, and this request comes outside of the established procedure. She expressed that she is torn about what is fair and transparent. She hopes the County will find a better process or procedure to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to apply for funding.

Ms. Mackey maintained she is also concerned about process, which is why she created the Community Impact Grants Committee. We have shown transparency in our process and how we fund non-profits. As much as she is committed to the process, she is committed to the facts. The fact is there is no process in place that states to request Hospitality Tax funds; you have to do it in the budget process. She noted that many of our attractions lie within downtown Columbia, which attracts visitors to the County. Our job is to support those attractions to bring revenue to the County. She acknowledged that \$1.75M is a lot of money, but she believes that EdVenture is coming with a reasonable request to improve safety features and bring in a new exhibit to attract visitors. She is open to developing a process if that is what the body desires, but we cannot hold EdVenture to a standard that does not exist.

Ms. Newton wanted to ensure that the constituents understand there are State statutes we must follow regarding what is eligible for Hospitality Tax funds. Council vets projects to ensure they compile.

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

Recuse: Pugh (due to the group he is doing business with is in talks with EdVenture)

Not Present: Terracio

Ms. Mackey moved to reconsider, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Recuse: Pugh (due to the group he is doing business with is in talks with EdVenture)

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. Approval of Paid Parental Leave Policy [Motion by MACKEY – April 18, 2023] – Ms. Mackey stated the committee recommended approval of the paid parental leave policy. The committee proposed to amend the policy to include additional language that addresses paid leave for an employee experiencing a stillbirth and to amend the language regarding placement of a foster child as follows: “Eligible employees will receive a maximum of six weeks of paid parental leave for the placement of a foster child twelve months or younger.” The policy will go into effect on January 1, 2024, for all Richland County employees.

Ms. Venyke Harley, Human Resources Director, stated this policy aligns with operational excellence. It will be a great recruiting tool for the County. One of the policy's benefits is giving the employees financial protection when they welcome a child. The policy also includes the co-parent with the same leave opportunity as the birthing parent.

Mr. Livingston inquired about how our policy is consistent with the State policy.

Ms. Harley responded that the County's policy is consistent with the State's. One benefit we have included that the State does not is that the State only allows two weeks for the co-parent. The State also does not address stillbirth. She noted we will be doing additional research with Legal regarding the language for the stillbirth.

Ms. Mackey stated there are 46 counties within the State, and by approving this policy, Richland County will become the 2nd county to provide employees paid parental leave.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- c. Property Inquiry – 1430 Colonial Life Blvd., also known as the old Haverty's property
d. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Ms. Mackey requested that the County Administrator or Attorney speak to Items 17(c) and 17(d). These items were discussed in Executive Session at the committee meeting, and she does not know if they need to be addressed in Executive Session at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Wright declared there is some private information the general public would not be privy to.

Mr. Brown stated Council should have received information regarding the acquisition of properties, how much the County purchased them for, and the private parties' request to purchase the properties. This particular action would follow a pattern where the Administrator would be authorized to enter into negotiations and bring back information to Council before any agreements are entered into to dispose of the property.

Mr. Walker inquired if any action was needed on these items.

Mr. Brown responded action would be needed if Council wanted the County Administrator to move forward with negotiations.

Mr. Livingston moved to authorize the Administrator to enter into negotiations in reference to Items 17(c) and 17(d), seconded by Mr. Weaver.

Ms. Barron inquired how these items came to the committee for consideration.

Mr. Brown indicated he received a request of interest on both properties. He informed Council of the request under the Report of the County Administrator. A motion was made by the respective

Councilmember representing the area where the property is located to forward the request to the Administration and Finance Committee. The recommendation from the committee is before Council tonight.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Weaver, and Mackey

Opposed: McBride, Terracio, Barron, Walker, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

Ms. Newton stated for clarification because the items were voted down, we cannot discuss them.

Mr. Wright responded the items can be discussed in Executive Session.

Ms. Newton made a motion to reconsider Items 17(c) and 17(d), seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote for reconsideration was unanimous.

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

- a. Authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes and incentive agreement by and between Richland County, South Carolina and Project Truck to provide for payment of a fee-in-lieu of taxes; authorizing certain infrastructure credits; and other related matters [FIRST READING] – Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended approval of this item.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Committing to negotiate a fee-in-lieu of ad valorem taxes agreement between Richland County and Project Truck; identifying the project; and other matters related thereto – Mr. Livingston stated the committee recommended approval of this item.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

a. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS

- I. Board of Zoning Appeals – One (1) Vacancy – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended appointing Mr. DeAnta Reese.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- II. Planning Commission – Two (2) Vacancies – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended re-appointing Mr. Christopher Yonke and appointing Mr. Mark Duffy.

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. Branham recognized that the Planning Commission Chair, Christopher Yonke, was in the audience and thanked him for his continued service.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 19(a)(I) and 19(a)(II), seconded by Ms. Newton.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

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

- a. Small Business Category Recommendations – Ms. Barron reminded this body and the general public this category is a part of the \$16M Council set aside in ARPA funds to award local non-profits and businesses. With that, staff and the third-party vendor spent a lot of time in this category. There was an overwhelming response; however, when the third party reviewed the applications, most did not qualify. We requested staff take a second look and match up documentation through the Business Service Center. To qualify for this category, the small business had to show a loss due to COVID-19.

Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended awarding up to \$25,000 to Caughman and Co., LLC and Thrift Store of Greenville, Inc. (dba Sunshine Thrift Store) following their desk review.

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

Opposed: McBride and Mackey

The vote was in favor.

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

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

Not Present: Branham

The motion for reconsideration failed.

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

- a. Excess Mitigation Bank Credit Sales Process – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommends changing the process whereby excess mitigation sales can be presented for approval to Council through the Administrator’s Nomination process rather than through the Transportation Ad Hoc Committee. Staff informed us the current two-step process puts us at a competitive disadvantage.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Transportation Facilities Plan – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommended awarding the professional services contract to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. based on the qualifications of the team and proposal received in the amount of \$110,000, to include a contingency of 20% for a total approved amount of \$132,000.

Mr. Walker noted that hiring a consultant will allow Council to assess and identify our transportation needs countywide.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Award of Construction – Alpine Road Resurfacing and Sidewalk – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommended awarding the contract to Palmetto Corp of Conway based on the bid received in the amount of \$3,322,553.52, to include a 10% construction contingency, for a total approved amount of \$3,654,808.87.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker moved to reconsider Items 21(a)-21(c), seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

22. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY24 – District 4 Hospitality Tax Allocations: (Columbia Music Fest Association - \$5,000; Communities in Schools of SC - \$5,000)
- b. FY24 – District 6 Hospitality Tax Allocations: (Communities in Schools of SC - \$5,000)

- c. FY24 – District 2 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Blythewood Historical Society - \$20,000; Big Red Barn Retreat – Fall Jam - \$8,000; Range Fore Hope Foundation - \$10,000)

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 22(a)-22(c), 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. Pugh moved to reconsider Items 22(a)-22(c), seconded by Ms. Newton.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- d. Authorizing County staff to prepare for a Capital Project Sales Tax Referendum expected to be held at the 2024 General Election pursuant to South Carolina Code Annotated Section 4-10-300, et seq.; to provide for the appointment, composition, powers and obligations of the commission; and to provide for other related matters – Mr. Weaver moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Weaver

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

Not Present: Terracio

The motion for approval failed.

- e. Authorizing County staff to prepare for a Transportation Sales Tax Referendum expected to be held at the 2024 General Election pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 37 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended; to provide for the establishment of an ad hoc committee; and to provide for other related matters – Ms. Barron moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. English.

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

Opposed: Branham and Terracio

The vote was in favor.

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

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

23. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

*Council went into Executive Session at approximately 9:42 PM
and came out at approximately 10:32 PM*

AUDIO PROBLEMS

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

- a. County Attorney Contract
- b. Property Inquiry – 1430 Colonial Life Blvd., also known as the old Haverty’s property
- c. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMs # R11406-16-16, TMS # R11406-16-17

Ms. Mackey moved, as it relates to Items 17(c) and 17(d), to authorize the County Administrator to move forward with negotiations, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

24. **MOTION PERIOD** – No motions were submitted.

25. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Newton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mackey

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

Not Present: Terracio

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 PM.