



Richland County Council
Special Called
MINUTES
February 13, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Aric Jensen, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Susan O’Cain, Dale Welch, Ashiya Myers, Kyle Holsclaw, Angela Weathersby, Andrew Haworth, Tamar Black, Patrick Wright, Michael Maloney, Ashley Fullerton, Jeff Ruble, Thomas Gilbert, Judy Carter, Sarah Harris, Sandra Haynes, John Thompson, Maddison Wilkerson, Geo Price, and Michael Byrd

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by Dr. Jennifer Bishop, Grace Christian Church.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Jesica Mackey.
4. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

Mr. Pugh moved to make Items 4(a), 4(b), and 4(c) from proclamations to resolutions, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Walker moved to adopt the resolutions recognizing and honoring the Benedict College Football Team, Coach Chennis, Berry, Jr., and Loobert Denelus, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- a. A Proclamation Recognizing Benedict College’s Back-to-Back Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Championships – Ms. Susan O’Cain, Public Information/Communications Director, read the resolution into the record.
- b. A Proclamation Honoring Coach Chennis Berry, Jr. – Ms. Susan O’Cain, Public Information/Communications Director, read the resolution into the record.
- c. A Proclamation Recognizing Loobert Denelus, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Defensive Player of the Year, 2022 and 2023 – Ms. Susan O’Cain, Public Information/Communications Director, read the resolution into the record.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Pugh thanked the Benedict College Football Team’s former Coach, Chennis Berry, Jr., and Dr. Roslyn Artis, Benedict’s President, for their leadership.

Ms. Barron thanked the Benedict College Football Program for their academic and athletic excellence and for representing Richland County well.

Dr. Artis presented County Council with a signed Championship Ball.

- d. A Proclamation Declaring February as American Heart Month – Ms. Susan O’Cain, Public Information/Communications Director, read the resolution into the record.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Barron recognized February as Black History Month. She honored local trailblazers, such as Celia Saxon, Modjeska Simpkins, Ovetta Glover, Aubrey Jenkins, and the Honorable Jessica Mackey.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Regular Session: February 6, 2024 – Ms. Newton 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.

6. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Patrick Wright, County Attorney, requested to add “FOIA Legal Advice” to the Report of the Attorney for Executive Session Items, pursuant to the SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2).

Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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 items qualify for Executive Session under South Carolina Code section 30-4-70: (a)(2)

- a. Legal Update: Transportation Road Map [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]
b. 1430 W. Colonial Life Boulevard Property Update [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]
c. Property Acquisition – 3650 Bluff Road [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]
d. Personnel Matter: Grievance Reviews and Recommendations [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1)]
e. Legal Advice: Freedom of Information Act [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]

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

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 6:30 PM
and came out at approximately 7:14 PM***

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

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey indicated no action was taken in Executive Session.

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.)

Maurice Pearl, 3613 Lucius Road, Columbia, SC 29201 – Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority

10. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- a. Updates for Consideration

1. *1430 W. Colonial Life Boulevard Property Update* – This item was taken up in Executive Session.
2. *Personnel Matter: Grievance Reviews and Recommendations* – This item was taken up in Executive Session.
3. *Transportation Update* – This item was taken up in Executive Session.
4. *Land Development Code Update* – Mr. Aric Jensen, Assistant County Administrator, noted they are working internally on updating all of the processes so that when they go live on March 1st, the website and internal forms will line up. In addition, they will be taking the information to the various communities by piggybacking on established community meetings.

Ms. Barron inquired if it would be helpful to staff to have Councilmembers provide information regarding established community meetings in their districts.

Mr. Jensen responded that would be appreciated. He noted they are developing a brochure to be handed out at these meetings. The brochure should be finalized in the next few weeks.

Mr. Branham inquired if there is an interactive GIS map on the County's website where citizens can see their new zoning classification.

Mr. Jensen replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Branham asked if notices would be mailed to property owners identifying their new zoning classification.

Mr. Jensen indicated they would not be mailing notices since there were no special changes that were not contemplated in the adopted text. If they find out during the process they need to communicate the information, we will do so.

5. *Comprehensive Plan Update and Draft RFQ/RFP Timeline* – Mr. Jensen indicated there will be a lot of difficult decisions as a part of this process. Staff intends to give Council as much information as possible to make the best decision(s). When we go out into the communities and start talking about what they want their community to look like in the future, there will be a wide variety of responses. The draft RFP was included in the agenda packet. If there are any revisions or additions, you may provide your thoughts to the Clerk of Council or himself. The process is anticipated to begin at the beginning of FY25 and conclude in the fall of 2025.

Ms. Mackey noted it is important that the consultant can envision where the County is going.

- 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. *County Administrator – Property Acquisition – 3650 Bluff Road* – This item was taken up in Executive Session.
2. *Grants & Community Outreach – Community Development Division – Contract Approval for CDBG Public Facility Projects*

The County Administrator, Leonardo Brown, stated during the Council approval process \$104,008 was set aside from available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for contingency needs for projects should unexpected costs arise. Serve & Connect's initial CDBG award was approved for \$300,000, but County staff seeks to increase the amount by \$30,600 to assist with asbestos mitigation and the addition of an ADA bathroom necessary for the rehabilitation of the Peterson Church property to become a HUD-qualified Public Facility. The request is to approve additional funding that was available in contingency funding.

Ms. Barron moved to approve staff's recommendation to Serve & Connect's award by \$30,600 Connect to assist with asbestos mitigation and the inclusion of an ADA bathroom, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Mr. Weaver inquired about the acquisition of the Peterson Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Brown indicated it is one of the projects that was submitted under the CDBG Program that is eligible to receive funds.

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 Ms. Barron.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

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

- a. Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day & Institute of Government – The Clerk of Council, Anette Kirylo, reminded Council about the upcoming Institute of Government classes and Legislative Action Day on February 21-22, 2024.
- b. Deputy Clerk of Council Michelle Onley's Work Anniversary – Ms. Kirylo recognized Ms. Onley on her 18th year Anniversary with the County.

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

13. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 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; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Earlewood Apartment Rental Properties, LLC; and other related matters – No one signed up to speak.

14. **THIRD 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; the execution and delivery of a public infrastructure credit agreement to provide for public infrastructure credits to Earlewood Apartment Rental Properties, LLC; and other related matters – Mr. Livingston moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Livingston 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.

- b. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Buildings and Building Regulations; so as to codify the 2021 Editions of the International Residential Code, the International Building Code, the International Fire Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Fuel Gas Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, the International Property Maintenance Code and the 2009 South Carolina Energy Conservation Code, and the 2020 National Electric Code (NDPA 70) – Ms. English 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.

Mr. Walker 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.

15. **REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Initiatives – Ms. Mackey stated the initiatives were presented to Council during the Strategic Planning Forum and included in the agenda packet. The committee recommended approval of the consolidated initiatives and providing new language for the dashboard.

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

Opposed: Branham and McBride

The vote was in favor.

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

In Favor: Branham and McBride

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. County Website Update – Ms. Mackey indicated the RFP is anticipated to be issued by the end of February.
- c. Governmental Affairs – Ms. Mackey noted the committee received information about partnering with other government entities. In addition, we are working with the Clerk of Council and staff to schedule a Legislative Reception.

16. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY24 – District 7 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Wiley Kennedy Foundation - \$2,000) – Ms. Terracio 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.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

17. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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 7:43 PM
and came out at approximately 8:07 PM***

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

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey indicated no action was taken in Executive Session.

- a. 1430 W. Colonial Life Boulevard Property Update [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)] – Ms. Terracio moved to authorize the County Administrator to move forward with the sale of 1430 W. Colonial Life Boulevard, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Property Acquisition – 3650 Bluff Road [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)] – Ms. English moved to direct the County Administrator to move forward with negotiations for the acquisition of property located at 3650 Bluff Road for the construction of the Olympia Magistrate Facility, as aligned in the County Magistrate’s Office Improvement Property List, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. Personnel Matter: Grievance Reviews and Recommendations [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(a)(1)] – Mr. Weaver moved to uphold the recommendations of the Grievance Committee, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 17(a), 17(b), and 17(c), seconded by Ms. Newton.

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

Not Present: McBride

The motion for reconsideration failed.

18. **MOTION PERIOD**

- a. I move that Elmont Drive, located in unincorporated Richland County, be renamed J. T. McLawhorn Drive, in honor of Mr. J. T. McLawhorn who has served for years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League, a non-profit, non-partisan, interracial organization serving African-Americans and economically disadvantaged individuals and families, under whose visionary leadership the organization implemented new programs that have had a tremendous impact throughout South Carolina [BARRON]

Ms. Barron amended her motion to read as follows: “I move that Elmont Drive, located in unincorporated Richland County, be given the honorary name J. T. McLawhorn Way, in honor of Mr. J. T. McLawhorn, who has served for years as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia Urban League, a non-profit, non-partisan, interracial organization serving African Americans and economically disadvantaged individuals and families, under whose visionary leadership the organization implemented new programs that have had a tremendous impact throughout South Carolina.”

Ms. Barron moved for unanimous consent to take up the motion at tonight's meeting, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to approve the above-referenced motion, seconded by Ms. English.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

19. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Livingston moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Newton.

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

Not Present: McBride

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.