



Richland County Council
Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
December 8, 2020 –2:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Manning, Chair, Bill Malinowski, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, and Dalhi Myers

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Steele, Michelle Onley, Tamar Black, John Thompson, Leonardo Brown, Jennifer Wladischkin, Kathy Coleman, Jeffery McNesby, Angela Weathersby, Brad Farrar, Kyle Holsclaw, Ali Eliandorani, Rasheed Muwwakkil, Michael Niermeier, Mohammed Al-Tofon, James Hayes, Ashley Powell, Alexander Burton, Ashiya Myers, Nathaniel Miller, Michael Maloney, Kim Toney, Elizabeth McLean and Alicia Pearson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –
 - a. **November 19, 2020** –Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Myers

Not Present: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Myers

Not present: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - a. **Dirt Road Package K-Contract Award** – Mr. Niermeier stated staff is requesting the committee to approve Dirt Road Package “K” to McClam & Associates in the amount of \$834,743.10, as well as a 10% construction contingency of \$83,474.31 and 10% utility contingency in the amount of \$83,474.31. For a total of \$1,001,691.72.

Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
December 8, 2020

Mr. Malinowski stated, since this is a contractual matter, he has a question that he is not sure should be asked in open session. He requested to go into Executive Session, if Legal is present.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Myers

Not present: Manning

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***The committee went into Executive Session at approximately 2:06 PM
and came out at approximately 2:21 PM.***

Mr. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to come out of Executive Session.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Manning, Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to defer this item until the December 15th Transportation Ad Hoc Committee meeting, in order to allow staff time to determine the answers posed during Executive Session.

In favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Manning, Myers

The motion in favor was unanimous.

- b. **Transportation Program Advisory Committee (TPAC) Discussion** – Mr. Manning stated there has been discussion over the years about this committee. We recently saw in the newspaper there were some discussions about the Transportation Advisory Committee. He felt we might want to talk about the history of it, or the future. They are still meeting weekly, whether there are items being brought to them by Council or staff for advice. Many times they do not have a quorum, so they do not take any official action. We have got five new members coming on board, so he is not looking for anything in depth. He just felt like it would be good to put this before the committee to see if the committee thinks there should be any considerations looking at what the current and appropriate role should be for this advisory committee.

Mr. Malinowski stated he recently read an article in which a lot of comments were made about the TPAC Committee, by current and former members of the TPAC Committee. He believes that some, if not a lot of that information was incorrect. He does not know if staff or Councilmembers had the opportunity to weigh in on that. He thinks that is something the Transportation Department, in conjunction with the Public Information Office, needs to set the record straight and correct the misstatements that were given during that article. The biggest one is the TPAC Committee they thought that they were going to be the gurus running all of the transportation funding and projects. It was never set up that way or stated that way. He noted you may recall, when we were meeting on the TPAC committee and deciding what to do and what their authority would be, it was pretty much laid out on how to take items that came before them, related to transportation, and have their recommendations presented back to Council. They certainly were not the sole decider of what would take place. We have new people in the Transportation Department, to include Director

**Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
December 8, 2020**

Niermeier and Assistant Director Steele. They may not be aware of what some of these discussions where back then either. He believes that is where we need to start, and when the discussion is completed, provide all the new councilmembers the information as to what the role of the TPAC Committee is.

Mr. Livingston stated he agreed with Mr. Malinowski. He had the same concerns, to the point where he actually requested the Clerk to pull copies of all of the minutes of the TPAC meetings over time. He realized what was being said was inaccurate. He has begun working on trying to get that information corrected too. He noted they do have the minutes of those meetings to reflect what happened in those meetings.

Ms. Myers stated she is all for correcting whatever is on the record, but Council, the Public Information Office and Administration is not regularly in the business of correcting errors in the newspaper. She would rather, since our practice is not to correct things that are wrong, and most articles about Richland County are wrong and come generally from somebody who is feeding those articles for a political purpose, she would rather start with the TPAC group. She noted that Mr. Livingston was correct in stating there was a history of what TPAC was created for. To go back to them, and explain that to them, then if there is some training that can be provided that would be helpful. If Mr. Manning's suggestion is the group needs to be reconstituted, let the new councilmembers make that decision, and move forward.

Ms. McBride stated she agreed with the committee members. She believes both can be done. One of the problems is us not correcting misinformation. She believes it is important that we correct the misinformation that was put out there, and we need to inform the citizens of the protocol and the appropriateness of the committee and their responsibilities. At the same time, she believes we should look at the lack of interest/quorum. We need to look at revitalizing the task force and make it to do what is needed to help us have an excellent program with input coming from citizens.

Mr. Farrar stated, if the committee would like, he can forward the 51-slide PowerPoint presentation he gave to Council in 2016, which discussed all of the issues the committee just spoke about (i.e. the strategic vision of the body, whether Council wants to change it from an advisory to an oversight committee).

Mr. Manning responded he would like for the document to be forwarded to full Council.

Mr. Farrar stated, unrelated to the matter, there are no current cases involving what was discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Malinowski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Livingston, to place Mr. Farrar's PowerPoint presentation on the next committee agenda for review and discussion, so we can make a decision and provide a recommendation to the full Council as to what we would like to do regarding the TPAC Committee.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, Livingston, Myers

Oppose: Manning

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Manning inquired if anyone wanted to take action on item 4(a) or let the deferral stand.

Mr. Malinowski responded he would like for the deferral to stand.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:36 PM.