

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA



DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 25, 2017
5:00 PM
County Council Chambers

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Session: March 28, 2016 – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to approve the minutes as distributed. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to adopt the agenda as published.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Council Motion: Richland County lost millions of dollars by not collecting taxes on (SOB) for the past five years. I move that the Legal Department along with Administration explore recovering the funds from Sexual Oriented Businesses directly – Mr. Brandon stated this item was deferred at the March D&S Committee meeting due to some concerns regarding the language in the agenda packet. Staff reviewed the minutes of the meeting where the motion was made and updated the agenda packet accordingly.

Ms. Kennedy moved, seconded by Ms. Myers, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation to approve this item.

Mr. Rose made a substitute motion, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to forward to the Legal Department and have them bring back a recommendation to the next committee meeting.

Mr. Smith stated the collection of delinquent taxes would be the responsibility of the Business Service Center and therefore, not necessarily a legal matter.

Mr. Rose suggested the Legal Department work with the Business Service Center and report back to the committee.

Council Members Present

Seth Rose, Chair
District Five

Yvonne McBride
District Three

Gwendolyn Davis-Kennedy
District Seven

Dalhi Myers
District Ten

Others Present:

Joyce Dickerson
Norman Jackson
Paul Livingston
Jim Manning
Brandon Madden
Michelle Onley
Kimberly Williams-Roberts
Larry Smith
Ismail Ozbek
Brad Farrar
Tracy Hegler

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Mr. Rose restated his motion to have the Legal Department, as well as, the Business Service Center to bring back a recommendation to the next committee meeting.

Mr. N. Jackson stated it was brought to his attention that one business sector was not paying taxes, while other businesses are paying their fair share. If the taxes cannot be collected from the business, then to explore what legal recourse the County has to recoup the taxes.

Mr. Malinowski stated certainly there is something already in place to collect delinquent taxes and could, and should, have been provided by the Business Service Center.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Award of the Summit Sidewalk 2017 Project – Mr. Madden stated this is a request to award the Summit Sidewalk project to Armstrong Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$486,128.29.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Rose, to forward this item to Council with a recommendation to approve the request to award the Summit Sidewalk 2017 Project in the amount of \$486,128.29 to Armstrong Contractors, LLC. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Council Motion: Adjust mandated funding for programs and agencies by the percentage reduced by the Local Government Fund – Mr. N. Jackson stated over the years the legislators have cut the Local Government Fund and the County is struggling to makeup what the legislators have cut. The recommendation is if the legislators are going to cut the Local Government Fund by 10%, 15%...to cut the programs mandated by the State by the same percentage. At the end of the legislative session they have money to do "pork projects".

Mr. Rose stated he agrees in principal with Mr. N. Jackson's motion. The State Legislature continually cut the Local Government Fund and the County is left trying to find a way to fund essential services. However, he does not feel the legislators are going to get the message and the intent of this motion; therefore, he cannot support cutting funding to these agencies, especially those that ensure the safety of the County's constituents.

Ms. Myers stated philosophically she agrees with Mr. N. Jackson, but her concern is that we educate the constituents on the connection between the Local Government Fund and the legislature's failure to fund it fully, keeping the millage at the cap and the strain on services. There is not going to be enough pressure coming from County Council to move them, but pressure coming from the public might. Perhaps educating the constituents on what the Local Government Fund actually is. Explain to them why it matters and encourage them to encourage their representatives to vote to fully fund it, we might get better traction.

Mr. Malinowski stated in previous years the public has been advised of this through public information articles. In the end the only thing they're being advised of is your taxes keep going up because your State representatives are not doing what they should.

Mr. N. Jackson stated either Council takes a stand and make a statement or just continue to fund the agencies without complaining. Because of their failure with the retirement system, now the County has to come up with additional funding.

Mr. Livingston suggested putting on the tax bills a statement of what the taxes would have been had the LGF been fully funded.

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Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to forward to Council a recommendation to leave the funding of the mandated programs and agencies up to Council's discretion and to consider placing a statement on next year's tax bill stating what the tax bill would have been had the LGF been fully funded.

Ms. Dickerson stated she fully supports any efforts to bring this matter to the attention of the State legislators.

Mr. Rose stated the problem is compounded every year. There are agencies like the Department of Mental Health that are being cut at the State level. Then there are mentally ill inmates at the Detention Center, who should be in the Department of Mental Health, but there is not bed space so they are in a local detention center, which is now being used to serve as a mental health facility.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:23 PM.

The Minutes were transcribed by Michelle M. Onley, Deputy Clerk of Council