



Richland County Council
Development and Services Committee Meeting
MINUTES
May 24, 2022 – 5:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Gretchen Barron, Cheryl English and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Tamar Black, Anette Kirylo, Elizabeth McLean, Leonardo Brown, Justin Landy, Angela Weathersby, Stephen Staley, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Ashiya Myers, Michael Maloney, Randy Pruitt, Steven Gaither, Abhijit Deshpande, Shirani Fuller, Dwight Hanna, Aric Jensen and John Thompson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilwoman Allison Terracio called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. April 26, 2022 – Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes as distributed, second by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Terracio, Barron, English and Newton

Not Present: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. English moved to adopt the agenda as published, second by Ms. Barron,

In Favor: Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

Not Present: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - a. Department of Public Works - Engineering Division –Traffic Calming - Approval for Speed Hump Installation – Ms. Barron moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the Department of Public Works Engineering staff's recommendation to install two

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speed bumps as a traffic calming measure on Atlantic Drive (District 4) in the absence of a completed petition, seconded by Ms. English.

Ms. Newton inquired about the number of requests Public Works has for evaluation for speed humps.

Ms. Fuller responded the backlog is into January 2023.

Ms. Newton indicated we budget for 15 speed humps annually, and speed humps cost approximately \$1,000 each.

Ms. Fuller responded in the affirmative. She noted it is based on the anticipated number, which has historically been approximately 15.

Ms. Newton inquired if that is the same number we are budgeting for in the next fiscal year. She noted she knows of four (4) people in her district alone who have requests.

Ms. Fuller stated this fiscal year we conducted 40 studies and 8 passed. So far, three (3) have fully completed the package. She responded they anticipate budgeting for the same amount in the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Newton inquired if the backlog is because of the policy that studies can only be conducted when school is in session.

Ms. Fuller responded that is part of the problem. The backlog started with COVID-19, when they stopped doing traffic studies for about a year and a half.

Ms. Newton inquired if there was anything that could be done to address the backlog.

Ms. Fuller responded they purchased two (2) new sensors. They were conducting two (2) studies a week, but are now doing four (4). They can start back when school starts. She noted there were some other conversations about how to handle this but funding is an issue.

Ms. Newton inquired if the funding was related the \$15, 000 budgeted for the speed humps or for the evaluation.

Ms. Fuller responded it was related to the evaluation and getting them completed sooner.

Ms. Newton noted she would like to hear about the budgetary constraints later.

Ms. English requested a brief summary on what "passed" means.

Ms. Fuller responded there is certain criteria that has to be met. After the traffic study, they look at the traffic volume and the actual speed people are traveling.

Ms. Barron inquired if they could be provided a list of the street that passed.

Ms. Fuller responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski noted, "When speeding is documented and community support cannot be demonstrated with a petition signed by 75% of the occupied households, SCDOT does allow for approval from County Council to supersede this requirement", he inquired what

percentage they did get to sign the petition.

Ms. Fuller responded they did not turn in a petition. She noted the Homeowner's Association stated their neighborhood is about 90% rentals and they could only get about 10% to sign the petition.

In Favor: Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

Not Present: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Amending "Fireworks" Ordinance – Ms. Terracio noted Mr. Pugh requested this item be deferred.

Ms. Newton inquired what the ordinance meant by “After three separate violations in a single location, the location is declared to be a public nuisance and further unlawful activities may be abated by the county sheriff or a lawful officer serving under him.”

Ms. McLean responded, after three (3) fireworks violations, you are a nuisance and any unlawful activities may be abated. She noted she did not know the intent for “abated by the county sheriff” and would have to ask the drafter of the ordinance for information.

Ms. Newton moved to defer this item until the next committee meeting, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

Not Present: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED

- a. I move to have staff amend section 26-186 (Development with Open Space Design Standards) of the Land Development Code by amending the formula used in determining the total number of units allowed in the utilization of density-based and density bonus design standards by subtracting the constrained open space area acreage from the total site acreage prior to calculating. In addition, all lots must conform to the DHEC minimum required sizes so no bonus allows that lot size to be less than the DHEC requirement. – Ms. Terracio noted staff is researching this request. A recommendation will be made to the Planning Commission regarding the request. She inquired when the committee would get information.

Mr. Brown responded he would get with the Planning Commission to get information. He expects to bring this back to committee and not wait until the Planning Commission is done.

Mr. Malinowski stated he made a similar motion on November 14, 2017 and it was on the D&S committee agenda in January and February 2018. He noted by now staff should have the answers.

- b. Move to direct staff to evaluate current zoning laws that permit zoning designations for large residential developments to remain in perpetuity and present options to re-evaluate and or

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rezone those properties if they are not developed within 7 years. Recommendations should include processes to ensure that zoning and the comprehensive plan remain consistent with the lived character of the community – Mr. Brown stated there were some conversations related to this motion.

Ms. Newton stated staff was recommending some procedures to change or edit the way we do the Comprehensive Plan. She noted she asked for additional documentation or guidelines of how we are going to instantiate those recommendations. Her understanding is that is being worked on by staff.

Ms. English inquired about the legality of the motion for landowners, especially those that bought property that was zoned a particular way and they have held on to it for 30 years.

Ms. McLean stated she previously addressed this issue and she would provide the information to Ms. English.

Ms. Newton noted there were concerns about the motion as it was written. Staff was going to make some different recommendation, as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan, so we can make the zoning compatible with where the area is at all times.

- c. I move to direct the County Attorney to work with the County Administrator to research and draft an absentee landlord ordinance. The ordinance should provide potential remedies for individuals who violate county ordinances and provide, via supplemental documentation, a comprehensive review of the legal impacts [potentially] associated with the adoption of such an ordinance – Mr. Jensen stated he submitted a briefing document with a synopsis of where they are in the process, their recommendations, and a request to come before the committee with a proposal.

Ms. Terracio noted her constituents would like to see something in place before the school year starts in the Fall.

Ms. Newton stated they had a schedule, and according to the schedule, we are approximately 4 weeks behind.

Ms. Jensen responded the intent is to bring it to the next committee meeting.

Ms. Newton requested an updated schedule at the next meeting.

Mr. Jensen responded in the affirmative.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

Not Present: Pugh

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:21 PM.