



Richland County Council
Regular Session
MINUTES
September 19, 2023 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Chelsea Bennett, Lori Thomas, Stacey Hamm, Thomas Gilbert, Sarah Harris, Geo Price, Dan Cole, Susan O’Cain, Judy Carter, Dale Welch, Sandra Haynes, Dante Roberts, Abhijit Deshpande, Ashiya Myers, Cheryl Johnson, Erica Wade, Tina Davis-Gooden

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Overture Walker called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by Dr. Marcia Bailey of Right Direction Church Internal on behalf of the Honorable Gretchen Barron.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Gretchen Barron.
4. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Walker noted Items 5(a), (b), and (d) had become resolutions since the agenda was published.

Ms. Mackey moved to move Items 5(a), (b), and (d) on the agenda and make them Items 4(b), (c), and (d), seconded by Ms. English.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- a. **Resolution Recognizing the Richland County Ombudsman’s Office** – Mr. Walker presented a resolution recognizing the Richland County Ombudsman’s Office on receiving their 1,000,000 service call in September 2023.
- b. **Resolution Honoring Councilman Jim Manning** – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt a resolution honoring former Councilman Jim Manning, seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Councilmembers expressed their gratitude to formal Councilman Manning for his continued service to the county.

Mr. Walker presented a resolution honoring former Councilman Jim Manning.

- c. **Community Planning Month Resolution** – Mr. Livingston moved to adopt a resolution recognizing September as Community Planning Month, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey presented a resolution recognizing September as Community Planning Month.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE: Ms. Mackey, Ms. Barron, Mr. Pugh, and Ms. Newton thanked and recognized the Planning Department staff for their work.

- d. A Resolution declaring September 15th to October 15th Hispanic Heritage Month – Mr. Livingston moved to adopt a resolution declaring September 15th to October 15th as Hispanic Heritage Month, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English presented a resolution declaring September 15th to October 15th as Historic Heritage Month.

5. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

- a. National Diaper Need Awareness Week [MACKEY] – Ms. Mackey presented a proclamation recognizing September 18-24, 2023, as National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Mr. Walker recognized that former Councilmember Damon Jeter and Chief Magistrate Valerie Stroman were in the audience.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Special Called Meeting: September 12, 2023 – Ms. Mackey 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.

7. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the agenda as updated, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

8. **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. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS # R11406-16-17
- b. Legal options regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2) and (5)]
- c. County Administrator, County Attorney, and Clerk of Council Performance Evaluation
- d. The Honorable Joseph M. Strickland v. Richland County Legislative Delegation, Richland County, et al. [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2)]
- e. Libel and the Media [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]

Ms. Barron moved to go into Executive Session, 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 6:52 PM
and came out at approximately 7:07 PM***

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

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Legal options regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects – Ms. Mackey moved to authorize the County Attorney to draft resolutions regarding funding for capital projects and transportation projects, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.

9. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing

1. Craig Currey, 506 Fetterbush Road, Elgin, SC 29045 – Transitions

10. **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.) – No one signed up to speak.

11. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

a. Updates for Consideration:

1. *Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS #R11406-16-17* – This item was taken up in Executive Session.
2. *SCAC Fall Advocacy, November 19th* – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, noted Frank Rainwater, SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, will provide an Economic Forecast at this meeting. In addition, the policy steering committees meet to address the Legislative Priorities SCAC may be looking at going forward.
3. *Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program (TAP)* – The program will accept applications for potential funding for non-motorized pathways (i.e., sidewalks).

Ms. McBride inquired if the TAP funds were solely for the county's unincorporated areas.

Mr. Brown responded he would have to review the details and provide a response.

4. *Land Development Code Schedule* – Mr. Aric Jensen, Assistant County Administrator, indicated to allow 30 days between 1st Reading and 2nd Reading of the text amendments. The schedule will need to be modified as follows:
 - 2nd Reading and Public Hearing – November 7th
 - 3rd Reading – November 14th

Ms. Newton requested to have the updated schedule emailed to Council members.

Ms. Barron also requested to have a press release sent out to inform the residents.

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. *Resolution Approving the 2023 Assessment Roll for the Village at Sandhill Improvement District* – Mr. Brown stated this is an annual item whereby an assessment is made on the current parcels within the Village at Sandhill Improvement District. The resolution is necessary to collect the funding.

Ms. McBride moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

Mr. Weaver inquired if this was a tax credit or tax incentive.

Mr. Brown responded it is an improvement district whereby the Auditor assesses the parcels. The assessment is provided to the parcels, and ultimately, the funds have to be collected. They are paying down a bond for the infrastructure.

Mr. Weaver inquired if there was an end date on the bond.

Administration will provide a definitive response to Mr. Weaver's inquiry.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English 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.

12. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL** – No report was given.

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

14. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Libraries, by amending Section 15-2 so as to authorize the County Library Board to recommend one employee of the library system to the County Council to

serve as a member of the County's First Steps Partnership, and Chapter 2, Administration, by amending Section 2-332 so as to recognize the Richland County First Steps Partnership Board – No one signed up to speak.

15. **THIRD READING ITEM**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, Libraries, by amending Section 15-2 so as to authorize the County Library Board to recommend one employee of the library system to the County Council to serve as a member of the County's First Steps Partnership, and Chapter 2, Administration, by amending Section 2-332 so as to recognize the Richland County First Steps Partnership Board – Ms. Mackey moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English 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.

16. **SECOND READING ITEMS**

- a. 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. Walker moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, Weaver, and Barron

The vote was in favor.

- b. An Ordinance affirming the provisions of Ordinance No. 58-16HR, related to the Office of Small Business Opportunity – Mr. Pugh 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.

17. **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT COMMITTEE**

- a. General Community Impact Grant Recommendations – Ms. Mackey stated the committee made the following funding recommendations:

- Alston Wilkes Society -\$15,000
- Able South Carolina – 49,665
- Brookland Center for Community Economic Change (d/b/a Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center) - \$20,166
- Career Development Center at St. John (a division of Community Development Center) - \$50,000
- Christian Assistance Bridge - \$25,000
- Communities in Schools of South Carolina - \$50,000

- Epworth Children’s Home - \$25,000
- Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands - \$16,000
- Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South - \$25,000
- Harvest Hope Food Bank - \$10,000
- Healthy Learners - \$15,000
- Home Works of America - \$50,000
- Homeless No More - \$50,000
- Indian Waters Council, Boy Scouts of America - \$16,000
- Midlands Area Food Bank - \$50,000
- Midlands Education and Business Alliance - \$10,000
- Midlands Technical College Foundation - \$50,000
- Northeast Columbia Empowerment Coalition - \$50,000
- Olympia Community Educational Foundation - \$25,000
- Our Place of Hope - \$25,000
- Palmetto Place Children & Youth Services - \$50,000
- Sistercare, Inc. - \$25,000
- Southeastern Chapter National Safety Council - \$8,500
- The Cooperative Ministry - \$25,814
- The Ram Foundation - \$20,000
- Turn90 -- \$50,000
- WJK Cluster STEAM Booster Club/NoMa STEAM - \$14,855

Ms. Terracio and Mr. Walker thanked the committee for their hard work.

Ms. McBride commended the staff and the committee for their efforts to improve the process. As stated before, she does not feel the process provided equity among districts; therefore, she will be voting no.

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

Oppose: McBride

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Mackey noted the committee has completed this year’s allocation of funds, and staff will begin the notification process for the grantees. In addition, the committee is committed to approving the application process for next year.

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

In Favor: McBride

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

18. REPORT OF THE RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

a. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS

- I. Midlands Workforce Development Board – One (1) Vacancy (Applicant must be from the Private Sector) – Ms. Barron noted while conducting the interviews for the Midlands Workforce Development Board, it was discovered that we only needed to make one (1) appointment, and not two (2), given that the board is structured to have twelve (12) members. Some additional information was presented to the committee; however, in consultation with our attorney, the committee decided to stay with the current twelve (12) member board. Additional information from the Midlands Workforce is forthcoming, and the committee may revisit the additional appointment.

Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended appointing Mr. Kevin McNerney to fill the private sector vacancy.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- II. Richland Library Board of Trustees – Four (4) Vacancies – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended appointing Ms. Valerie Byrd Fort, Mr. David Campbell, and Mr. Tyson Brown and reappointing Ms. Brenda Branic.

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 Items 18(a)(I) and (a)(II), seconded by Ms. English.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

b. NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES

1. Accommodations Tax Committee – Four (4) Vacancies (ONE applicant must have a background in the lodging industry, TWO applicants must have a background in the hospitality industry, and ONE applicant must have a cultural background
2. Airport Commission – One (1) Vacancy
3. Board of Zoning Appeals – One (1) Vacancy
4. Building Codes Board of Appeals – Eight (8) Vacancies (ONE applicant must be from the Architecture Industry, ONE applicant must be from the Gas Industry, ONE applicant must be from the Building Industry, ONE applicant must be from the Contracting Industry, ONE applicant must be from the Plumbing Industry, ONE applicant must be from the Electrical Industry, and TWO applicants must be from the Fire Industry as alternates)
5. Business Service Center Appeals Board—Three (3) Vacancies (ONE applicant must be from the Business Industry and TWO applicants must be CPAs)
6. Central Midlands Council of Governments – Two (2) Vacancies
7. Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority – One (1) Vacancy
8. East Richland Public Service District – One (1) Vacancy
9. Hospitality Tax Committee – Three (3) Vacancies (TWO applicants must be from the Restaurant Industry)
10. Planning Commission – Two (2) Vacancies
11. Richland Memorial Hospital Board – Five (5) Vacancies
12. Transportation Penny Advisory Committee (TPAC) – Four (4) Vacancies

Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended advertising the vacancies for the listed Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Kirylo noted applications will be accepted until October 20th.

Ms. Newton inquired if the vacancies would be updated on the County's website.

Ms. Kirylo responded in the affirmative.

Ms. McBride, thanked the Rules and Appointments Committee for doing an outstanding job.

19. OTHER ITEMS

- a. FY23 – District 8 Hospitality Tax Allocations: (Richland County Recreation Foundation - \$10,000)

Ms. Newton moved to approve this item, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton moved to reconsider Item 19(a), seconded by Ms. Barron.

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

The motion for reconsideration failed.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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 7:41 PM
and came out at approximately 8:12 PM***

- a. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS # R11406-16-17
- b. County Administrator, County Attorney, and Clerk of Council Performance Evaluation
- c. The Honorable Joseph M. Strickland v. Richland County Legislative Delegation, Richland County, et al. [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sect. 30-4-70(a)(2)]
- d. Libel and the Media [Pursuant to S. C. Code Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2)]

Ms. Mackey moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Weaver.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- a. Property Inquiry – 1221 Gregg Street, Columbia, SC 29201, TMS # R11406-16-16 and TMS # R11406-16-17 – Mr. Livingston moved to forward this item to the next Administration and Finance Committee meeting.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

22. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

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

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 PM.