

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

Chairman Thomas stated for the record that both the Press and Banner and the Index Journal were notified of the meeting and that the meeting was posted on County Buildings as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) An ordinance (05-04) to amend the official zoning map for Abbeville County, South Carolina on a 135 ± acres of land off Highway 28 By Pass known as the Abbeville Industrial Park as shown on tax map 121, Lots 195, 184, 009, 010, 011, 196 and 008 from LI, Light Industrial to BI, Basic Industrial. There were no comments, so Chairman Thomas closed the public hearing.

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2005
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas, Vice-Chairman Forrester, Councilman Davis, Councilman Gunnells, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Norris.

ABSENT: Councilman Simpson

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The audience led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Mr. Steve McDade – Emergency Management Director - gave the invocation.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Thomas welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2005 county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman Thomas turned the meeting over to the County Attorney Lee Roper, who stated the same procedure would be used as on January 10, 2005. Councilman Davis nominated Councilman Gunnells. Councilman Norris nominated Chairman Thomas. The vote was deadlocked with three (3) votes for each candidate. Mr. Roper stated that since a tie was still in place, Chairman Thomas would remain Chairman until the tie could be broken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. John Fleming of 401 Pecan Drive, Calhoun Falls, spoke in support of the Lake Russell Project.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Third reading of an ordinance (05-02) to amend the FY 04-05 budget for Abbeville County by incorporating a prior year revenue and the expenditure thereof (\$135,000). Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve third reading. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

- b) Second reading of an ordinance (05-03) to amend Section 708, Nonconforming Buildings or Uses, of the Abbeville County Zoning Ordinance. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to remove from table. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0. Councilman Gunnells then made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

- c) Second reading of an ordinance (05-04) to amend the official zoning map for Abbeville County, South Carolina on a 135 ± acres of land off Highway 28 By Pass known as the Abbeville Industrial Park as shown on tax map 121, lots 195, 184, 010, 011, 196 and 008 from LI, Light Industrial to BI, Basic Industrial. Councilman Norris made a motion to

approve second reading. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

- d) A resolution (3-05) establishing and adopting a policy for the use of county owned buildings and facilities by the residents of Abbeville County and establishing a fee schedule and deposit for said use. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to leave this resolution on the table. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) A resolution (6-05) for Emerald Center Multi-County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs to provide transportation to the elderly or persons with disabilities. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- b) A resolution (7-05) appropriating FY 04-05 accommodation tax monies. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- c) First reading of an ordinance (05-05) to amend the official zoning map for Abbeville County, South Carolina on an 8.66 acre tract of land at the corner of Sharon Church Road and Highway 72 West, as shown on a portion of tax map parcel 145-00-00-046 from FA, Forest Agriculture to GE, General Residential. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve first reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1-0 with Councilman Norris opposing the ordinance.
- d) First reading of an ordinance (05-06) to amend the official zoning map for Abbeville County, South Carolina on tax map 054, parcels 552, 551, 550, 547, 542 and 538 located on Camel Road from FA, Forest Agriculture to GR, General Residential. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve first reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- e) A resolution (9-05) to authorize the Magistrate to enter into a contract with the Town of Calhoun Falls to allow a County Magistrate to serve as the temporary town judge due to the retirement of the existing Municipal Judge. Councilman Calhoun made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- f) A resolution (10-05) authorizing the County Director to enter into a right-of-way agreement with South Carolina Electric and Gas Company along the west boundary of the entrance road to the Calhoun Falls Industrial

Park to the West Carolina Communications, LLC Substation. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

- g) A resolution (8-05) authorizing the County Director to begin negotiations with the Abbeville County Rescue Squad regarding assuming of services. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a) Update on courtroom and relocation. Director Burns stated that the courtroom was back in operation, except for doors and internet.
- b) Personnel policy. Director Burns stated that there was new state legislation passed and the counties personnel policy would need to be redone.
- c) Discuss procedure for public hearing advertising of ordinances. Director Burns requested first reading of ordinances be approved by consent. This will allow public hearings to be advertised in time to be held at second reading. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- d) A resolution (8-05) authorizing the County Director to begin negotiations with the Abbeville County Rescue Squad regarding a merger. Mr. Steve McDade, Emergency Services Director, answered questions from the council in regards to assuming control of the Abbeville Rescue Squad by no later than July 1, 2005. Councilman Norris made a motion to add this to new business. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- e) Budget packages were sent out and due back by the end of February.
- f) A public hearing would be held on February 24, 2005 at Long Cane AMEC at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on extension of water services down Secession Avenue Extension.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Finance Committee--Claude Thomas and Billy Norris. No report was given.
- b) Personnel and Administration--Ray Gunnells and Claude Thomas. No report was given.

- c) Public Works--Ray Gunnells and David Forrester. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Billy Norris, Claude Thomas and John Calhoun. The committee recommends Mr. Larry Joe Walker of District 6 to the EMS Commission. Since this is a committee recommendation there is no need for a second. The motion carried 6-0-0. The committee recommends Ms. Julia Elizabeth Higdon of District 1 to the EMS Commission. Since this is a committee recommendation there is no need for a second. The motion carried 6-0-0. The committee recommends Mr. Larry Albert Young of District 1 to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Since this is a committee recommendation, there is no need for a second. The motion carried 6-0-0. The committee recommends Ms. Jane Hannah, Ms. Dawn Brown and Ms. Mary Elizabeth Land to the Grievance Committee. This being a committee recommendation, there is no need for a second. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- e) Planning and Industrial Development—John Calhoun. No report was given.
- f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—John Calhoun, Ray Gunnells and David Forrester. No report was given.
- g) Public Safety—David Forrester and Billy Norris. No report was given.

A motion was made by Councilman Gunnells to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Contractual or legal matters. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Thomas reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that the following resolutions were to be added to the agenda:

- a) A resolution (11-05) supporting the “Lakeside at Russell” Development and pledging full moral support of and financial support for the project. Councilman Norris made a motion to add the resolution to the agenda. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.
- b) A resolution (15-05) authorizing the County Director to compensate Ms. Carolyn Powell for all compensatory hours worked for the Clerk of Court and to transfer funds within the Clerk of Court’s budget to cover said compensation. Councilman Norris made a motion to add this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-0.

