

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing to solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities and economic development. Ms. Ruth LaForge of the Upper Savannah Council of Government informed Council that this public hearing was a requirement of the grant process. She informed Council on the CDBG program, including amount of CDBG funds available, state funding guidelines and the range of activities that may be undertaken relating to community needs. Mr. Jim Irwin of 625 Highway 20, Abbeville told Council this was a great idea. How much would this cost the County? There is a freeze on department spending, no money is available and the County is strapped for cash. Council's responsibility is to cut excessive spending and not to mislead the people. Wake up and run this County like a business. Mr. Wallace McClinton of 206 Long Cane Road, Abbeville informed Council they were in a crisis. You don't miss water till your well runs dry. Wells have run dry and we need to look at the needs of the community. Consider bringing water in our community. Mr. Eddie Moore of Abbeville said we tried for this grant several years ago and did not get enough participation. We have enough participants this time and ask your support for this project. Rev. Julius Johnson of the Long Cane Church asked Council to support this project; it is an absolute necessity for the community. Ms. Pauline Rayford of Secession Street, Abbeville said she is tired of towing water house to house. She is praying for water and speaking from the heart for water and help. Ms. Jean Gray of 518 Grey Rock Estates, Abbeville said God showed her that Council would help. Ms. Aida Ellis of 1823 Secession Extension, Abbeville informed Council that she is hurting and desperate. Her well has run dry and asks for Council to support the project. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Norris closed the public hearing.

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 2008
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Norris, Vice Chairman McClain, Councilman Simpson, Councilman Davis, Councilman Thomas, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Gunnells.

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Norris called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Norris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

Mr. Wallace McClinton gave the invocation.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

Chairman Norris stated for the record that the agenda has been posted and notice has been provided to the local news media as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2008, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Councilman Thomas abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items):

Mr. Jim Irwin of 605 Highway 20, Abbeville requested to know who was doing the grading in regards to resolution 08-10. County Director Moulder informed him that this was to be advertised for bids.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Hal Johnson, President/CEO of the Upstate Alliance informed Council on how they were marketing the region. An improvement of their web site made possible by a grant from Advance SC and a new regional campaign called "I was blown away". Put all together and we are the most powerful region in South Carolina.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) First Readings: New Policy – All first readings are read into the record by the Chairman, and a vote is not necessary per Ordinance 05-11.
 - 1) An ordinance (08-01) authorizing the amendment of the agreement for development of the Joint County Industrial and Business Park within Abbeville County, South Carolina (Enviro Project) executed on January 8, 2008 by and among Abbeville County, South Carolina, providing for the development of a Joint County Industrial and Business Park so as to include additional property in Abbeville County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park and other matters relating thereto.

The following two (2) items were removed from the agenda due to procedure problems by Planning.

- 2) An ordinance (08-02) to amend the Abbeville County Land Development Ordinance (04-34), so as to amend Article 10, Section 1, entitled Maintenance and Maintenance Bond.
- 3) An ordinance (08-03) to accept the deed of Right-of-Way from the property owner of Bobcat Lane in Abbeville County.

b) Resolutions:

- 1) A resolution (08-05) designating Burton Center for Disabilities and Special Needs as an entity in Abbeville County to provide transportation to the elderly or persons with disabilities. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 2) A resolution (08-06) to authorize the transfer of \$477,091.33 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Davis seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 3) A resolution (08-07) authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with GST Consulting for the purchase of GPS equipment for CAD System. Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 4) A resolution (08-08) authorizing the County Director to enter into a purchase agreement with Communication Service Center, Inc. for the purchase of three (3) Repeaters with Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 5) A resolution (08-09) providing for the expenditure of Title III Funds for FY 07-08. Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 6) A resolution (08-10) authorizing the County Director to grade 23.81 acres on property purchased by Abbeville County to develop an athletic complex for youth sports in the upper portion of Abbeville County. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Finance Committee—Ray Gunnells, Claude Thomas and Billy Norris. No report was given.
- b) Personnel and Administration— Jeff Simpson, Bryan McClain and Claude Thomas. No report was given.
- c) Public Works—Mike Davis, Billy Norris and Bryan McClain. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Bryan McClain, Mike Davis and John Calhoun. Vice Chairman McClain nominated Mr. Robert Hipsher to the Planning Commission. Councilman Davis seconded the nomination. The nomination carried 7-0-0. Vice Chairman McClain nominated Mr. Richard Wilson to serve again on the Development Board. Councilman Gunnells seconded the nomination. The nomination carried 7-0-0. Vice Chairman McClain nominated Ms. Ouida Brownett to serve again on the Development Board. Councilman Simpson seconded the nomination. The nomination carried 7-0-0.
- e) Planning and Industrial Development—Claude Thomas, Ray Gunnells and John Calhoun. No report was given, but Councilman Thomas asked the County Director the status on the alarm system and was informed that it was still being looked into.
- f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—John Calhoun, Ray Gunnells and Jeff Simpson. No report was given.
- g) Public Safety—Billy Norris, Jeff Simpson and Mike Davis. No report was given.

A motion was made by Councilman Simpson to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue, property purchase, economic issue and legal advice on lawsuits. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Norris reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that one issue needed to be addressed following executive session.

Councilman Gunnells made a motion to reopen the nomination of County Director Scott Moulder to the Upper Savannah Council of Government. Vice Chairman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2-0 with Chairman Norris and Councilman Simpson opposed.

Councilman Gunnells made a motion to appoint County Director Scott Moulder to the Upper Savannah Council of Government. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2-0 with Chairman Norris and Councilman Simpson opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items): None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion Councilman Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Done this _____ day of _____, 2008

Abbeville County Council

By: _____
William C. Norris, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: _____
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council