

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2010  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman McClain, Councilman Campbell, Councilman Klugh, Councilman Gunnells, Councilman Calhoun and Councilman Norris.

**ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Councilman Klugh gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:**

Chairman Thomas 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:**

Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Libby Meadows an outdoor recreation planner for the USDA Forest Service, Long Cane Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest informed Council that she was here for public comments in regards to a grant from SCPRT. This grant will help in the maintenance of 2 trails, Parsons Mountain and Cedar Springs, both are 11 miles long. Council whole heartedly supported this proposal.

Chairman Thomas asked for a motion to add Resolution 2010-05 to the agenda under new business item #2. Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to add said resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0. Chairman Thomas asked for a motion to add an agreement with the Upper Abbeville County Recreational Association to new business

item #3. Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to add said agreement. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a) Third reading of Ordinance (09-16) to accept the Deed of Right-of-Way from the property owner of Clearview Drive in Clearview Shores Subdivision in Abbeville County. Councilman Campbell made a motion to approve third reading. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Resolutions:

- 1) Resolution (2010-04) 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 Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 2) Resolution (2010-05) to authorize the transfer of \$250,682.23 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Councilman Campbell made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 3) Agreement with Upper Abbeville County Recreation Association and Abbeville County. Councilman Norris made a motion to accept this agreement. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. Councilman Campbell asked the figure per year for the electricity and where would it be paid from. County Director Moulder informed him the amount would be a minimum of \$250.00 per month and would be paid from the General Fund. We would also carry the property under our insurance since the property is owned by the County. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

County Director Moulder asked Council to cancel the budget workshop for February 22, 2010 since they would be meeting on February 20, 2010 in Saluda; Council agreed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Finance Committee—Claude Thomas, Billy Norris and Bryan McClain. Chairman Thomas informed Council on the committee's findings for EMS Non-Emergency Transport. \$400,000.00 was budgeted from projected revenues and \$39,500.00 from Public Safety Fees for a total of \$439,500.00. Expenses were projected to come in at \$299,000.00 which equates to a \$140,000.00 shortfall. Some of this shortfall due in part

to late start up in August, Medicare reimbursement reduced and new competition. With expenses running lower than expected the system should yield \$35,000.00 in the black. Councilman Campbell asked about advertising costs and was informed by the County Director they were \$2,500.00. Chairman Thomas said the committee recommends; continuing the service until the end of the year and revisiting this issue in budget workshops. Vice Chairman McClain cited rumors that transport and volunteer firemen were answering EMS calls. County Director requested more information and was handed a letter to read. Councilman Campbell said too much time was being spent on transport and more needed to be spent on EMS. County Director Moulder informed Council that the letter was correct in that a transport answered a call, but this was self dispatched and that person was a paramedic. He went because the ambulance from Abbeville was already on an emergency call, so Calhoun Falls ambulance was dispatched and it would take them longer to respond. This shows the caliber of people we have working for our county. In regards to the firemen we have several that work part time for EMS and they also help with the moving of obese patients. The committee recommendation passed 7-0-0. Chairman Thomas proceeded to thank County Director Moulder and EMS Director McDade for their efforts in securing a grant for a siren warning system.

- b) Personnel and Administration—Bryan McClain, Ray Gunnells and Don Campbell. No report was given; but Vice Chairman McClain requested a committee meeting to update the cell phone policy. Chairman Thomas asked this committee to create a job description and performance evaluation for the County Director.
- c) Public Works—Billy Norris, Claude Thomas and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Oscar Klugh, Ray Gunnells and Bryan McClain. Councilman Klugh made a committee recommendation for Ms. Doris Starks to be reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The recommendation passed 7-0-0. Councilman Klugh made a committee recommendation for Ms. Janie Aiken to be reappointed to the Planning Commission. The recommendation passed 7-0-0. Councilman Klugh made a committee recommendation for Mr. Mark Meyers to be considered by the Legislative Delegation for a position on the Abbeville County Voter Registration and Elections Commission. The recommendation passed 7-0-0.
- e) Planning and Industrial Development—John Calhoun, Oscar Klugh and Claude Thomas. No report was given.
- f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—Ray Gunnells, Don Campbell and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- g) Public Safety—Don Campbell, Oscar Klugh and Billy Norris. Councilman Campbell requested his report held until after Executive Session, due to a legal issue to be discussed. Request was granted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (sign in sheet only):**

Mr. George Guy of 104 Sunset Drive, Abbeville stated he is a member of the tax payers association, but is not here speaking for all its members. Too much time is spent on EMS at Council meetings and in the newspaper. We have one of the finest systems in the state. Time taken on this issue removes it from others that need consideration. Look into non-EMS with an open mind, not an open pocketbook, be thankful and move on.

Chairman Thomas informed all about the \$88,150.00 Public Facilities Grant Abbeville County received to extend public water service to the Old Hodges Road area.

Chairman Thomas asked for district goings on: District One (1) Councilman Gunnells stated too much rain. District Two (2) Councilman Calhoun stated nothing new. District Three (3) Chairman Thomas stated water line not moving fast enough, but hope to be able to hold onto water buffalos a little longer. District Four (4) Councilman Norris stated nothing new. District Five (5) Councilman Klugh stated nothing new. District Six (6) Councilman Campbell stated Mr. McCallister was there to speak with Council in regards to Lake Secession. District Seven (7) Vice Chairman McClain stated nothing new.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman McClain to go into Executive Session for two personnel issues in regards to boards and part time employees, legal advice on Public Safety concerns and Economic Development tax payments for a business property and contractual with the City of Abbeville.. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Thomas reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that several items needed to be addressed:

Councilman Campbell Chairman of the Public Safety Committee informed Council that legally we are under no obligation to provide a vehicle for the Coroner. However over 20 counties polled do provide one for their coroners. This vehicle would be classified exclusive assignment restricted; which means may only be used to perform duties, nothing personnel. The committee recommends a vehicle be provided to the Coroner. Councilman Gunnells vehemently opposed this issue stating there was no way to control the use and Council would hear from the public about its misuse. Councilman Campbell stated this is the right thing to do. Chairman Thomas informed all the vehicle would be marked. Vice Chairman McClain stated if misuse was proven the car would be removed. The committee recommendation passed 6-0-1 with Councilman Gunnells opposed.

Councilman Klugh made a Nomination to appoint Mr. Joseph Reynolds to the GLEAMNS Board of Commissioners. Councilman Norris seconded the nomination. The nomination passed 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to reinstate the part time employees back to full time. Councilman Klugh seconded the motion. Vice Chairman McClain and Councilman Campbell stated there was no revenue to cover this expense. Councilman Norris stated the budget has them at full salary now. The motion failed 3-4-0 with Councilmen Norris, Klugh and Gunnells for and Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman McClain, Councilmen Campbell and Calhoun opposed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further items of discussion Councilman Campbell made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Done this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

**Abbeville County Council**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Claude Thomas, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council