

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 11, 2010  
MINUTES**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Councilman Klugh gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 September 13, 2010, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Joe Mann of 104 Cedar Lake Springs Court, Greenwood, South Carolina, 29649; showed pictures of dead animals he believed to have been abused at the Carolina Springs Academy. He stated this was being investigated by SLED and charges should be filed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Chairman Thomas requested a motion to add revised Resolution 2010-32 to the agenda under unfinished business. Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to approve the addition. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0. Resolution has follows:

- a) Revised Resolution 2010-32 establishing the millage rates and fees for FY 10-11. Councilman Campbell made a motion to approve this revised resolution. Vice Chairman McClain seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

## **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) Ordinance (2010-18) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map on a 0.94 acre tract of land located at 66 Turtle Point, Lake Secession area and identified by tax map number 054-00-00-374 from a zoning district of General Residential (GR) to Rural Development District (RDD).
- 2) Ordinance (2010-19) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map on two tracts of land located at 86 Highway 28 South (remaining portion) and 123 Highway 28 South (Eastern Portion) and identified by tax map number 134-00-00-107 and 134-00-00-108 from a zoning district of Forest Agricultural (FA) to General Commercial (GC).

b) Resolutions:

- 1) Resolution (2010-33) to authorize the transfer of \$14,260.71 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 2) Resolution (2010-34) authorizing the County Director to enter into a contractual relationship with Satterfield Construction of Greenwood, South Carolina in the amount of \$59,095.00 for road improvements to Kershaw Street, Fairview Street, Edgefield Street and Bamberg Street in Calhoun Falls, South Carolina. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- 3) Resolution (2010-35) to approve the lease purchase agreement with First Citizens Bank and Trust Company Inc. for the financing of an emergency 911 radio dispatch system not to exceed \$214,900.00. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Interim County Director Barry Devore informed Council that he had met with Ms. Rhonda Matthews of Clemson Extension in regards to the Farmers Market Board. Her suggestion was 2 members appointed by the City of Abbeville, two by Abbeville County Council and one by Clemson Extension. This board will handle any problems which may arise with the Farmers Market and would have a separate banking account. Chairman Thomas requested the Director to find out who would carry the liability. Councilman Gunnells asked how these members would be chosen and the consensus was the same as other Boards and Commissions members were selected.

The Director then informed Council of a new Federal Mandate stating all counties would have to warehouse their own criminal evidence. To conform to this mandate the Coroner had to purchase a refrigerator for \$3,500.00, a freezer for \$3,100.00 and evidence software for \$1,950.00. Councilman Campbell asked that a letter be sent to our congressman requesting further clarification on this mandate and to express our displeasure.

The Fire Marshall has received permission from his Board to pursue purchasing a fire truck from GovDeals for \$5,000.00.

Since completion of the Census the County must do redistricting of voters. The Director suggested sharing the cost with the school district.

December 27, 2010 has been named the discretionary Christmas holiday.

### **CHARIMAN'S COMMENTS:**

Chairman Thomas addressed Council on the following:

Economic Development Ordinances were in Councils packets; these needed to be revised to include specific duties relating to the board and the Economic Director.

FEMA regulations in regards to flood plains need to be reexamined maybe by holding a public hearing to get the citizens input. Councilman Campbell asked; how many other counties have joined this program.

Councilman Campbell stated he had a very upsetting issue to bring to light. Back in the early part of May 2010 his father needed to be transported from the Abbeville Nursing Home to the doctor's office and back. The bill they received from Abbeville County Non-emergency Transport was for \$1,160.10. This is not covered by insurance. He called Ashley Transport to see what they would have charged and was told \$372.00. This is outrageous that the County supports the Non-emergency Transport. Where is the money going? I want the County Director to look into this situation. Chairman Thomas requested the Director and the Public Safety Committee look into this issue.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Finance Committee—Claude Thomas, Billy Norris and Bryan McClain. No report was given.
- b) Personnel and Administration—Bryan McClain, Ray Gunnells and Don Campbell. Committee Chairman McClain stated an updated County Directors job description has been included in Council's packet. Does anyone have any additional changes before passing this revision? Chairman Thomas had a few changes and Council requested passing of the new job description to wait until the November meeting.

- c) Public Works—Billy Norris, Claude Thomas and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Oscar Klugh, Ray Gunnells and Bryan McClain. Committee Chairman Klugh stated the committee would like to recommend Mr. Donny Ray to the open At-Large position on the Development Board. 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. Committee Chairman Calhoun stated the committee is working with Planning Director Lanny McKay to bring a report to Council on changes suggested to the Zoning Ordinance.
- g) Public Safety—Don Campbell, Oscar Klugh and Billy Norris. No report was given.

**DISTRICT REPORTS:**

- District #1 Fire station has received a new tanker and grass truck
- District #2 Very successful BBQ cook-off
- District #3 Still battling water line problems
- District #4 Fire station receiving new apparatus and a good turnout for the Blues & Hash Festival
- District #5 All well
- District #6 All well and wanting to know when the EMS Phase II is happening
- District #7 Bones in my area anxious to hear from the sheriff

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

Mr. Jim Irwin of 625 Highway 20, Abbeville stated that unneeded changes in zoning are being made. This constant change is costing the County money. Leave the FA zones at two acres. If you want to live in the City live in City. If you want to live in the County live in County. Represent the people in your district and no back door planning.

Ms. Sara Snell of 508 Suttles Landing Road, Iva read a letter (exhibit A) in regards to an ambulance needed in the Lake Secession area.

Sheriff Charles Goodwin of Abbeville informed Council that his office has received no complaints in regards to the animals at Carolina Springs Academy. They did not know of any problems until the story was broadcast on the news. They did receive a report of some animals missing from the Carolina Springs Academy. Upon investigation they found that this was done with the owner's permission. This was the first incident reported from Carolina Springs Academy. There are animal carcasses on the property but neither I nor my animal control officer can tell you whether they died from abuse or natural causes. During the course of the investigation in regards to the missing animals I can tell you there was water and grass on the

property for the animals. Several people were making sure the animals were fed. Mr. Mann did not show any pictures of the live animals, which he removed without the owner's permission and has denied my office access to these animals. Vice Chairman McClain asked if a search warrant could be obtained so the Sheriff could go onto Mr. Mann's property to view the animals. The Sheriff stated they were working with the Solicitors office to obtain such a warrant. We are doing all in our power to see that this is being investigated properly.

A motion was made by Councilman Gunnells to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue pertaining to EMS, legal issues in regards to industrial taxation, old hospital and special permits. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Thomas reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced that no items needed to be addressed.

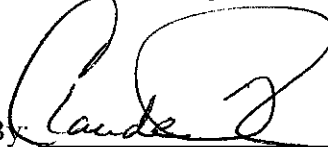
**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

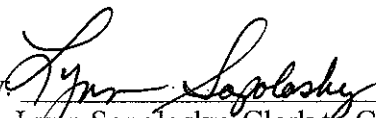
The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Done this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2010

**Abbeville County Council**

By:   
Claude Thomas, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:   
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council

October 11, 2010

Gentlemen of Abbeville County Council

Residents of the northern Lake Secession area attended Abbeville County Council meetings in 2007 to request an ambulance. Our request was granted with an ambulance being placed next to the Diamond Hill convenience center. We are again attending County Council meetings to request an ambulance. We are the second largest community in Abbeville County. Our taxes are more because we are rated as "recreational."

According to articles printed in the Press and Banner, McGill Station was "the first joint fire rescue building to be constructed in Abbeville County." It was to be the first "joint venture between fire and rescue" according to then Rural Fire Commission chairman Charles Magaha.

The Press and Banner stated, "The Abbeville County EMS is expected to house a vehicle there, which they will use to answer first response calls in the Lake Secession area." The "mutual aid plan" with Iva EMS/Fire "did not work out." Anderson County will not come into Abbeville County according to a letter written to Abbeville County Council some time ago. Since 911 was established all our 911 calls go to Abbeville.

Land owners/residents of Lake Secession donated the funds to build McGill Station. We were expecting an ambulance to be stationed there. This has never happened.

I commend the Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force for the Palmetto Shield 2010 exercises recently completed. The Press and Banner stated, "The Task Force has brought into the counties it represents over the years between \$8 million and \$10 million dollars in grants." Did the other counties in the Task Force get all the funds? Are grant monies and tax dollars being squandered?

We are glad to have such quick response teams in our area. However, this did not put an ambulance within 15 to 20 minutes of my home on Lake Secession. From what I understand, the closest ambulance to me is in Due West or Calhoun Falls. Response time from Calhoun Falls to my home is 55 minutes. I know this from experience! I spoke about this when I last addressed this solemn body!

This is unacceptable. Residents on the northern side of Lake Secession pay taxes, too! What are we getting for our tax dollars? We have no street lights, no county water system, no county sewage system, no sidewalks, and no ambulance service (as was promised before McGill Station was built. Sometimes we do get the grass cut on the side of the roads! Some of the above mentioned amenities we do not need nor want. Can't you use our tax dollars to provide an ambulance?

And save County dollars by placing it at the McGill Station as was previously promised?

Respectfully submitted, Sarah H. Snell  
508 Suttles Landing Road  
Iva, South Carolina 29655  
864-348-2711