

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1) Ordinance (2010-20) Flood Damage Prevention. Hearing no comments, Chairman Thomas closed the public hearing.

- 2) Ordinance (2010-21) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map on a 0.6 acre portion of a 3.8 acre tract of land located at 5889 Highway 20, Due West and identified by tax map number 034-00-00-017 from a zoning district of Forest Agricultural (FA) to General Commercial (GC). Mr. Jim Loughner of 27 Abbeville Street, Due West stated he was the silent partner in this business venture. He informed Council that his son was the owner and had proceeded to install a fence before receiving zoning approval. He stated there would be no more than 2 or 3 vehicles at a time in the lot. He requested careful consideration from Council on this issue. Mr. Tom Hite of Abbeville is an attorney representing the surrounding residents on this rezoning. He stated this was clearly a case of spot zoning and if passed Council should throw away the zoning ordinance. Also requested Council carefully consider this issue. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Thomas closed the public hearing.

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 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 7:40 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Councilman Campbell 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:

- a) Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2010, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- b) Councilman Klugh made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2010, special county council meeting. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Vice Chairman McClain abstaining.
- c) Councilman Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2010, special county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Councilman Gunnells abstaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) Third reading of 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). Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to accept third reading. Councilman Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- b) Second reading of Ordinance (2010-20) Flood Damage Prevention. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. Councilman Gunnells stated this is the Federal Government strong arming the little folk and this would be an added burden on the residents. We allow government to push us around to much. Councilman Klugh asked what the worst case scenario would be and was informed the residents would receive no assistance from FEMA should a flood occur. The motion carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Gunnells opposed.
- c) Second reading of Ordinance (2010-21) to amend the Abbeville County Official Zoning Map on a 0.6 acre portion of a 3.8 acre tract of land located at 5889 Highway 20, Due West and identified by tax map number 034-00-00-017 from a zoning district of Forest Agricultural (FA) to General Commercial (GC). Ordinance failed for lack of a motion.
- d) Second reading of Ordinance (2010-22) authorizing Abbeville County, South Carolina to enter into an installment purchase transaction in the principal amount of not exceeding four million two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$4,250,000.00) to finance all or a portion of the costs relating to the renovation and equipping of an existing vacant building owned by the County, for use as a County Administration Facility, which building is located on real property owned by the County, all as more fully described herein; authorizing the execution and delivery of various documents including, without limitation, the base lease agreement and the installment purchase and use agreement; delegating the authority to the use agreement; delegating the authority to the Chairman of County Council and Interim County Director to determine certain matters and other matters relating thereto. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. Vice Chairman McClain and Councilman Campbell

inquired about the additional cost, the lack of input from the Department Heads, counties high unemployment rate and not knowing what departments the building would be able to hold. Councilman Klugh asked what would be the negative effects if the county did not proceed with the project. Attorney Margaret Pope informed Council that this was the best interest rate. This program was unprecedented, but will be ending December 31, 2010 and will not come again. Budget & Control Board is meeting tomorrow and Abbeville County is on the agenda asking for this amount of money. The motion carried 5-2-0 with Vice Chairman McClain and Councilman Campbell opposed.

- e) Resolution (2010-38) to authorize the expenditure of Accommodation Tax monies as recommended by the Accommodation Tax Committee. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman McClain seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of the 2011 meeting and budget calendars. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the calendars for 2011. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

- 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 (2010-23) to rent industrial building to Project Law.

- b) Resolutions:

- 1) Resolution (2010-41) recognition for service to Abbeville County. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
 - 2) Resolution (2010-42) to authorize the transfer of \$25,843.25 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Vice Chairman McClain made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.
 - 3) Resolution (2010-44) to congratulate and recognize the achievements of Ms. Marissa Hines. Councilman Klugh made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0
 - 4) Resolution (2010-45) to authorize the transfer of \$163,745.20 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Elyse Benson, Coordinator of the Ninety Six District Resource Conservation and Development Council informed Council on what her organization does the members of her board and that they are a non-profit organization.

Dr. Ivan Randolph, Abbeville School Superintendant requested the County give the school system \$80,000.00 per year for the next two years to fund a Junior R.O.T.C. program in Abbeville High School. The money would pay for two commissioned officers. Mr. Ed Evans of the American Legion also spoke on behalf of the program. Which would you rather have education or incarceration? This program is needed and I support it. Councilman Klugh suggested the superintendant appeal to the faith community for assistance. Mr. Evan Carroll of 102 Shannon Lane, Abbeville stated he is attending the Citadel and this program cannot have a monetary value placed on it.

Ms. Jenny Mountford, 4-H representative presented various awards to those who participated in the F.A.C.E. Program.

Chairman Thomas presented a resolution to Ms. Marissa Hines congratulating her for winning the Junior Category of the South Carolina F.A.C.E. contest. Chairman Thomas then presented Councilman Gunnells with a resolution recognizing his many years of service to the county.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The audit is progressing nicely.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Thomas informed all that Abbeville County is on the list for disaster counties due to the drought in South Carolina and farmers that needed could apply for a low interest loan.

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. No report was given.
- c) Public Works—Billy Norris, Claude Thomas and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Oscar Klugh, Ray Gunnells and Bryan McClain. No report was given.
- 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. No report was given; however Councilman Campbell made a motion to replace the ambulances at the Diamond Hill and Northeast Rescue Squads. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-4-0 with Vice Chairman McClain, Councilmen Gunnells and Campbell for.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

- District #1 None
District #2 None
District #3 None
District #4 None
District #5 None
District #6 Citizens greatly concerned with the lack of ambulance service.
District #7 I concur with Councilman Campbell replace the ambulances before considering renovation of old hospital.

PUBLIC COMMENT (sign in sheet only):

Ms. Adrienne Padner of 924 Peach Orchard Road, Calhoun Falls expressed her concerns that the economy has not changed since Council declined the Library's request to move forward with the new Library building. She did not understand how they could do the old hospital and not the library.

Ms. Shirley Emden of 112 Woodland Way, Abbeville asked how you can borrow over 4 million when you could not do 2 million for the library 6 months ago. If you visited the library today you would know the conditions we operate under. It is outrageous to consider the hospital building over the library.

Mr. Jim Irwin of 625 Highway 20, Abbeville stated this project would raise the mileage 5 mils. This is a critical year and you will be held accountable.

Ms. Sara Snell of 508 Suttles Landing Road, Iva read a letter (exhibit A) stating her opinion.

Mr. Ed Evans of 27 Agan Road, Abbeville said the idea of the old hospital has merit but the county needs more jobs, the quality of life improved, ambulances and R.O.T.C. program. The lowest cost would be to do the library and the R.O.T.C.

A motion was made by Councilman Gunnells to go into Executive Session for an Economic Development issue, legal matters on the Board of Directors and county land. Vice Chairman McClain 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.

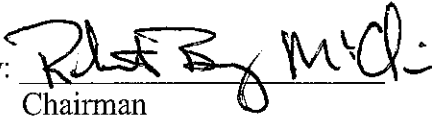
ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.

Done this 13 day of January, 2011

Abbeville County Council

By: 
Chairman

ATTEST:

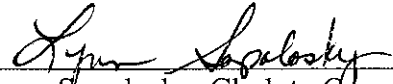
By: 
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council

Exhibit (A)

Abbeville County Council Meeting
December 13, 2010

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aide of their (area of the) County!

On December 1, I met with the interim Abbeville County Director and the Emergency Preparedness Director for Abbeville County. The meeting was to discuss the concerns I had brought to attention of Council at the October and November County Council meetings about our ambulance being moved from the Diamond Hill station. I found out that Don Campbell, our county representative would also be at the meeting. When I arrived at the county building, Claude Thomas, Chairman of County Council was also in attendance.

They said I had raised some questions they wanted to answer. I asked them, "Who chooses who lives or who dies in the County?"

They showed me how the County has lost revenue over the last seven years. The "General Fund Balance" has dwindled down since June 2003 from \$2,300,000 to \$635,000 in June 2010. The bottom line, they said, is the County doesn't have the money to support the ambulance at Diamond Hill this fiscal year.

They are continuing to work on "Phase 2." One part of Phase 2 is to move the ambulance from Calhoun Falls up Highway 81 to a more central location.

This would involve purchasing land and erecting a building. Didn't I just say the County did not have the funds to keep our ambulance at the Diamond Hill station? Then where would the funds come from to purchase land and erect a building?

Another suggestion they had is that we could ask for a referendum and ask the people in our area to vote for a tax that would support the ambulance at the Diamond Hill station. This tax would be paid by citizens of this area and could only be used for our ambulance expenses. This would cost us approximately \$10 to \$20 a year in extra taxes. We voted a while back on a referendum that said counties could not raise taxes. Taxes can only be raised by the State since that vote (or by special referendum).

My suggestion is to have two shifts for paramedics instead of three. Also they could work three days on with three days off. Two twelve hour shifts would save money. Twelve hour shifts would not be a hardship on the paramedics as they do not do hard physical labor.

The time is near to make a budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

I believe the new budget can include money for our ambulance. Cutting out some management positions, consolidating some management positions, doing away with some of the unnecessary travel to meetings that have no bearing on Abbeville County citizens, not renewing membership in organizations that do nothing for the betterment of Abbeville County are just some suggestions.

When times are hard, everyone has to tighten their belts! It's time for Abbeville County Council to wake up and realize we, the citizens of Abbeville County, are not going to stand up for more reckless spending.

Take a look at what was printed in the Press and Banner week before last! Twenty four awards went to our Abbeville County Emergency Management! It was a quarter page ad and we all know ads in the newspaper are not cheap. This is about the third time this ad has run in the paper. What was the purpose of this ad? The giving of these awards has already been given free airing by the paper. This was kind of like pouring salt on the wound after I had met with Council members and them telling me there is no money! I thought that was bad until I picked up the Press and Banner this past week!

Where else is money being ill spent when we are without an ambulance?

Abbeville County Council met on Saturday, December 4, 2010, and voted to "issue \$4,250,000 in debt service bonds" to provide money for the renovation of the old Abbeville County Hospital which the County owns. The first reading took place Tuesday, December 7th. Second reading will take place tonight. A meeting is planned for December 23 for the third and final reading. This project is being rushed through council so as to take advantage of federal stimulus money of \$1,000,000 (our tax money) that will not be available after December 31, 2010. This project is being rushed through Council before any of us have a chance to protest it! Let the federal government keep the money! They can't afford to pay out that kind of money any more than we can!

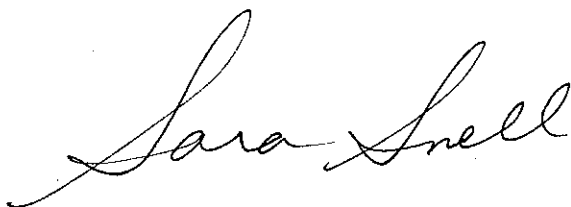
And who is going to pay for this? We, the tax paying citizens of Abbeville County!

I was told at the December 1 meeting that Abbeville County could not raise taxes because of a referendum held some years ago. Was this just something to make me feel better or what? The Council says this new office building will raise our taxes! How did they get approval to raise taxes so fast? Have they been dreaming up this project for such a long time as to now have approval from the State to raise our taxes? You all know how long it takes to get the wheels of government turning!

Have I been standing up here for these past three months wasting my time and yours trying to get our ambulance back for nothing? Is this what we get? A new office building that will not help one injured, sick and/or dieing person get to the emergency room any quicker! A new office building that can wait until people get their jobs back and have money to put food on their tables and heat in their homes! This building can wait until our economy is in better shape! Or it can be sold to bring in money to help keep the County from going bankrupt! Be patient! It will sell all in good time!

Thank you, Mr. Campbell, for voting against it. I hope you continue to do so.

We want our ambulance back where it belongs. Money can be found to fund it if some of the wasteful spending is curtailed!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Snell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page.