

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman McClain, Vice Chairman Campbell, Councilmen Klugh, Stone, Norris, Thomas and Calhoun.

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

Vice Chairman Campbell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman McClain turned the meeting over to the County Attorney Lee Roper, who opened the floor for nominations on Chairman. Vice Chairman Campbell nominated Chairman McClain. Councilman Norris made a motion to close nominations. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0 and the County Attorney certified Councilman McClain as Chairman. The County Attorney opened the floor for nominations on Vice Chairman. Councilman Klugh nominated Vice Chairman Campbell. Councilman Norris made a motion to close nominations. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-0 and the County Attorney certified Councilman Campbell as Vice Chairman. The County Attorney turned the floor over to Chairman McClain.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:

Chairman McClain 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 December 12, 2011, regular county council meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Vice Chairman Campbell abstaining.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jerry Clontz, Chairman for the “Save our lakes now” to explain their concerns and to outline their plans for the future. Mr. Clontz was not present to give the presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) Second reading of Ordinance (2011-11) to amend one section of the Zoning Ordinance of Abbeville County, No. 07-22, adopted February 11, 2008. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve second reading. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. During the discussion period of the motion Councilman Thomas requested the County Attorney research the correct procedure for bringing tabled motions back to the agenda. The motion carried 7-0-0.
- b) Third reading of Ordinance (2011-12) prohibiting the advertisement, possession, purchase, sale or use of “synthetic stimulants” and “synthetic cannabinoids” within the unincorporated areas of Abbeville County. Vice Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve third reading. Councilman Klugh 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 (2012-01) to authorize the County Director to enter into the agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto, for the sale of the Milliken Honea Path Plant located in Abbeville County.
- b) Resolutions:
 - 1) Resolution (2012-01) to establish the Abbeville County Search and Rescue Squad consisting of volunteer members. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

County Director Bruce Cooley informed Council on some good news in regards to Jeff Fultz of the Veterans Affairs office and Emergency services; both departments were very helpful to citizens of Abbeville County. Work is still going on obtaining maps to existing water lines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Finance Committee—Bryan McClain, Claude Thomas and Don Campbell. No report was given

- b) Personnel and Administration—Don Campbell, Charlie Stone and Claude Thomas. No report was given.
- c) Public Works—Oscar Klugh, Billy Norris and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Billy Norris, Oscar Klugh and Charlie Stone. Committee Chairman Norris made a committee recommendation for Mr. Joseph Reynolds to be reappointed to the GLEAMNS Board. This was approved 5-1-1 with Councilman Norris opposed and Councilman Stone abstaining. Chairman Norris made a committee recommendation for Ms. Adrienne Padner to be reappointed to the Library Board for District #2; Mr. James Tisdale be reappointed to the Upper Savannah Workforce Development Board and Eula Partain be reappointed to the Title III Committee for District #6. All these committee nominations were approved unanimously.
- e) Planning and Industrial Development—Charlie Stone, Don Campbell and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—John Calhoun, Bryan McClain and Oscar Klugh. No report was given.
- g) Public Safety—Claude Thomas, Billy Norris and Bryan McClain. No report was given.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT/COMMENTS:

Councilman Thomas announced a seminar on Gang Awareness will be held on January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Abbeville High School conference room.

PUBLIC COMMENT (sign in sheet only):

Dr. Ivan Randolph of 250 Noble Estates, Abbeville explained some funding issues and reflected that their loss of funding was due to the economic times not County Council or the School Board. The school district needs county council support before February 28, 2012.

Mr. Jim Irwin of 625 Highway 20, Abbeville stated he is not against education, but has issues with raising the millage. Requested County Council take a look at the business' and farmers who would be greatly affected by any millage increase. Stand up for the taxpayers of Abbeville County.

Solicitor Jerry Peace presented the county the first check from the Lending Tree lawsuit filed by the Solicitors office. County Treasurer Ray Peck received the check.

Ray Peck of 122 Woodland Way, Abbeville informed Council that many were paying their taxes under protest. Many were contesting their amount and receiving a reduction in their taxes. As a citizen of Abbeville County he was in favor of a committee being appointed to help the school board and would like to volunteer his services. This panel could be composed of nonpartisan

private citizens and business leaders. The value of a mill has dropped \$2954.00 in one year. We need to be reactive rather than proactive.

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Public Works Director Buddy Agan informed Council that the demolition has begun at the administration building. The Library would be started in February and they were working with West Carolina Telephone Company on the wiring of both buildings.

A motion was made by Councilman Norris to go into Executive Session for a legal issue on the schools, a personnel issue in regards to EMS and the Auditors Office, an Economic Development issue on property taxes and a contractual issue pertaining to the Milliken Honea Path Plant. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman McClain reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced regarding the school districts resolution that this Council will take no action until a budget is submitted and the millage has been set for this year. Council is willing to form a committee with the school board at what direction to set next; we can work together on that.

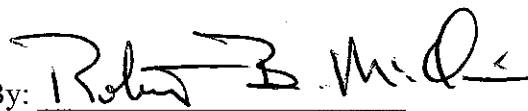
ADJOURNMENT:

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.

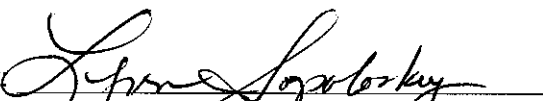
The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Done this 13th day of February, 2012

Abbeville County Council

By: 
Robert B. McClain, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: 
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council