

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 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:

Chairman McClain gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman McClain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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:

Vice Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2012, regular county council meeting. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. Councilman Thomas requested on page 4 under Capital Projects Report paragraph 3 read Committee Chairman Thomas requested not Chairman McClain. The motion carried 7-0-0 with amendment.

PRESENTATION:

Assessor Bobby Gladden presented a map showing what has been done and is still left to be on reassessment of the county. Property is not only being reassessed, but also keyed into the computer system. The weak point is mobile homes; they depreciate by 20% per year and we have lost the Mohawk Plant.

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 (2012-08) to provide for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding one hundred eighty five thousand dollar (\$185,000) general obligation bond of Abbeville County, South Carolina; to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of said bond shall be expended, to provide for the payment of said bond and other matters relating thereto.
- 2) Ordinance (2012-09) to prohibit activities which interfere with Emergency Management Services or Public Safety of Abbeville County.
- 3) Ordinance (2012-10) authorizing certain economic development incentives for Project Print, including entering into a fee in lieu of property tax arrangement for the project and other related matters, between Abbeville County, South Carolina and Project Print pursuant to Title 12, Chapter 44, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 as amended.

b) Resolutions:

- 1) Resolution (2012-15) formally adopting a Freedom of Information Act Procedure and to establish a retention schedule for Freedom of Information Act records. Vice Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve this resolution. Councilman Klugh seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

County Director Bruce Cooley informed Council that DHEC has not yet issued the water permit for occupancy on the Antreville EMS Station. As soon as this permit is secured the station will be occupied.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Finance Committee—Bryan McClain, Claude Thomas and Billy Norris. No report was given.
- b) Personnel and Administration—Don Campbell, Charlie Stone and Claude Thomas. No report was given; however Councilman Thomas requested along with the flag and logo a motto be done. He suggested a contest be initiated for this purpose. Council instructed the County Director to implement this idea and the Chairman requested some information to be presented to Council by next meeting.
- c) Public Works—John Calhoun, Billy Norris and Oscar Klugh. No report was given.
- d) Intergovernmental Relations—Charlie Stone, Oscar Klugh and Don Campbell. Committee Chairman Stone made the following committee recommendations: Mr. Lee Garrett to be appointed to the GLEAMNS Board of Commissioners representing the private sector. Mr. Richard Wilson reappointed to the Development Board representing the at large. Ms. Remle' Johnson reappointed to the Development Board representing the at large. Ms. Betty Jo Hall reappointed to the Library Board representing District #6. Mr. Simon Allen be appointed to the Planning Commission representing District #3. All recommendations carried 7-0-0.

- e) Planning and Industrial Development—Claude Thomas, Don Campbell and Charlie Stone. Committee Chairman Thomas informed Council that the committee would be meeting with the City of Abbeville on August 24 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss mutual collaboration.
- f) Education, Recreation, Health and Welfare—Oscar Klugh, Bryan McClain and John Calhoun. No report was given.
- g) Public Safety—Billy Norris, John Calhoun and Bryan McClain. Committee Chairman Norris informed Council on the results of their tour for prospective Medic 3 locations. Councilman Thomas interjected that this process was begun in order to have better access to Lowndesville and Lake Secession areas. Councilman Norris replied; after visiting all sites the one off 72 in Calhoun Falls is the best suited for this station. It is within the 10 mile radius of Lowndesville, Lake Secession and Calhoun Falls; plus close enough to back up the City of Abbeville. This property is owned by the county and has access to water and sewer. County Director Cooley stated the call volume in the last six (6) months has been City of Abbeville 803, Calhoun Falls 294 and Lowndesville 48. Councilman Thomas stated it is important to sustain life; call volume has no relevance it changes every year. Councilman Calhoun stated we spent four (4) hours looking at locations and were unable to make any others conform to our needs. Council voted to make the Calhoun Falls site the location of the Medic 3 station. This carried 6-1-0 with Councilman Thomas opposed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT/COMMENTS:

District 3 - Councilman Thomas observed a training session at Cold Springs Fire Dept. These Volunteer Firemen showed great energy, professionalism and expertise in putting out a building fire and should be commended.

District 5 – Councilman Klugh requested information on the water damage to the Library. County Director Cooley informed all that pictures have been submitted and we are waiting on the adjustor.

PUBLIC COMMENT (sign in sheet only):

Mr. James Grant of 202 Hillcrest Drive, Abbeville requested two things; that his FOIA request be placed on hold until he received a letter from the County Attorney on why the accident report on the Sheriff could not be released. Chairman McClain requested the County Attorney reply to Mr. Grant in writing.

Mr. Jim Irwin of 625 Highway 20, Abbeville has concerns for the county. Increased cost for G.O. Bond by changing attorneys. Discuss issues in open session not executive session. Do not hide behind your attorney. Employees need training and computers that are backed up; yet you purchased three (3) new ipads and three of you went to Hilton Head. This expense could have helped to purchase needed equipment. The County is broke and you do not know how to fix it.

Ms. Mary Hedden of 2832 Cedar Springs, Abbeville stated she had not received an answer to her questions from the last meeting. Chairman McClain explained her reply has been sent. Ms. Hedden asked is SLED doing anything about the catering being done out of the detention center

and why the female deputy is still getting promotions. County Attorney Lee Roper reiterated that the Sheriff is an elected official and has such County Council has no jurisdiction over him or his department. Vice Chairman Campbell interjected we are getting away from the guidelines of public comment.

Ms. Dede Grant of 202 Hillcrest Drive, Abbeville asked why her FOIA request was going to cost her over 30 dollars. She suggested Council implement a public forum with dedicated time to answer the public's questions, 15 days is not right; you were elected to run the county.

Ms. Mary Lou Edens of 105 Prince Street, Abbeville informed Council she is the Chairman of the Registrations and Elections Board. This is a busy time for us and we need another full time employee to assist our Registration and Elections Director through November 15th, 2012. Chairman McClain said we will discuss this in executive session under personnel matter.

Ms. Terri Stone of 952 Winona Church Road, Donalds stated the motor cross track is making her neighborhood a hostile environment. Is the track under zoning or not? Chairman McClain replied we will talk with our zoning director and get back to you with something in writing. She also requested to know why a report was not filed at the Sheriff's Office for when the deputy came out to the property last Sunday.

Fire Marshall Dan Evatt of 17 Old Calhoun Falls Road, Abbeville requested three (3) things:

1. Council's permission to swap an acre of land they owned for an acre of land owned by a new company.
2. A committee be created to look at Ordinance 2012-09 managing of photographs.
3. Permission to attend McCormick County Council meetings for information on the Bethea Fire Station.

CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Public Works Director Buddy Agan informed all that the Administration Building first floor restroom fixtures are set and the lighting has been installed. West Carolina Telephone has pulled their lines. The second floor ceiling grids and walls are complete with one coat of paint. Bathroom tile work and fire suppression system is in progress.

The Library façade should be complete this week. Inside starting carpeting this week and paving will be done in the last week of August. Furniture will not be arriving until September 17th.

Councilman Stone asked the County Attorney how we should give the public feed back in a more timely fashion. County Attorney Roper answered various issues have been raised tonight and have been responded too. I can't help it if the answers are not what they want to hear. Councilman Stone reiterated I understand, but I would like to see the answers made in a more timely fashion.

Councilman Norris asked the question shouldn't we have answered Ms. Heddens questions and was informed by Chairman McClain that the answers were mailed to her. Councilman Norris; she states she did not receive them. Chairman McClain requested the Clerk to Council issue her a copy of the response this evening. Councilman Norris also asked how we came to the amount to be charged for the FOIA request and was informed the established ordinance pertaining to fee schedule was followed by the Clerk to Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Klugh to go into Executive Session for an Economic Development issue on Project Print, contractual issue with USDA and personnel issues pertaining to the Assessor, committee nomination and Elections Office. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman McClain reconvened the meeting following executive session and announced there was one item that needed to be addressed.

Vice Chairman Campbell made a motion for the County Director to hire a part time person for the Registration and Elections Department. Councilman Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman McClain stated this is a part time position for only three (3) months. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairman McClain requested the Planning and Industrial Development Committee come back to Council recommendations on what to do with the buildings that will become vacant this fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Done this 10th day of September, 2012

Abbeville County Council

By: Robert B. McClain
Robert B. McClain, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: Lynn Sopolosky
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council