

MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M.

Colleton County Council
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building
109 Benson Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Steven Murdaugh called the meeting to order with Council Members Dr. Joseph Flowers, Phillip Taylor, Bubba Trippe, and Scott Biering in attendance.

Others Included: Kevin Griffin, Meagan Utsey, Sean Thornton, Kaela Brinson, Jon Carpenter, Barry McRoy, Felicia Johnson, Stewart McAdoo, Nikeyia Hammonds, Jessica McNulty, Kara Dopson, James Rutledge, Ginny Bishop, and Jessie Goudur.

Councilman Bubba Trippe gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting September 5, 2023— Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

- A. Proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Recovery Month in Colleton County— Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record. Dr. Flowers moved to adopt Proclaiming the month of September 2023 as Recovery Month in Colleton County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, families need to be on alert, because drugs are getting more creative. For Example, many of you remember getting the tabs that freshen your breath. Drugs are looking more and more like everyday products. They are in your face daily. We must be aware of chemical imbalances. There have been several suicides within this county, and I am glad you are raising more awareness to these issues and helping families know how to take care of their loved ones, thank you.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I would like to thank you all for what you do.

***Council presented the proclamation at this time.

Mrs. Nikeyia Hammonds: Stated, I would like to thank Colleton County, and not just Colleton County, but especially Colleton County staff for all their support. We are always out at Pillars4Hope working with families trying to get people into recovery. It takes the whole

community, so we are grateful for the things that the County does for us. I also want to bring attention to the opioid crisis nationally. It is not just in Colleton County or in the Upstate. We are experiencing a lot of overdoses in Colleton County. We have services available; we have an opiate recovery program, we offer funding to those who do not have the money to get into recovery, and Dr. Blubaugh is partnering with us to write the prescriptions for the opiate use reduction. I wanted to let you all know that we are attentive, and we are out in the community. We are giving Narcan out on a daily basis. Narcan is a harm reduction mechanism, it saves lives. I know that people are torn about giving out Narcan and promoting use. We are not promoting use; we are saving lives. I want you all to know that there are funds out there for opioid use. We are working with your county to access those funds. We are working on things, so that there are more funding and more people out there working. We appreciate all that you do. Come by and see us for our open house. I will let Jessica tell you more about that. We want you all to see what we do. We offer treatment services, we offer referrals, we work with mental health, we work with vocational rehab, and we work with every county organization to try and get these people back into recovery. These are our families and the people we love in our lives. Everybody has been affected by the disease or the addiction in some way.

Mrs. Jessica McNulty: Stated, I am the Enhancement Outreach Prevention Specialist for Pillars4Hope. My main job is to go out to the community to provide education on ways to prevent substance abuse, tobacco and alcohol abuse. I work a lot with children by going to the schools and working with them. Vaping is a huge issue that we have right now within the schools. We are going to have an open house on September 21st at 5 PM. We will have different sections; the treatment facility table with plenty of information, a peer support table with information on how recovery is possible and maintainable, and our prevention table where you can find ways that you can integrate your own abilities within our facility to help educate the community.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, this has been a problem in our community, and we are seeing overdose deaths. All these drugs that are on the street now, they don't know what they are taking. A lot of it is laced with Fentanyl, and that is a dangerous drug. It only takes a small amount to kill you. So, it is very important that we educate our community and our young people especially. Some of these kids are handed these drugs and take it and don't think anymore about it. I am glad that we have this program to help, but we as a community need to be aware of the dangers of these drugs especially where Fentanyl is concerned.

No further comments.

Appearances & Public Presentations

A. Colleton County Chamber of Commerce – Stewart McAdoo, President

***Please see the attached Presentation.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I see where you are updating some of your online resources. Will that include your membership application online?

Mr. McAdoo: Stated, it should be online, but we will double check that and get that rectified if not.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I appreciate you being here and giving us an update.

Councilman Biering: Stated, thank you for coming out tonight. I was on the chamber for about a year and a half, and happy to be a part of it. The work you do is important. Keep up the good work and positivity. Thank you for what you do.

Councilman Trippe: Asked, are you all tied in with the Press?

Mr. McAdoo: Stated, thank you for bringing that up. We are working with the Press and Standard. That is one of the efforts we want to make for our members to provide an additional outlet to talk about businesses in our community. This is great for job opportunities, expansion opportunities, and things of that nature. Thank you.

No further comments.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I wanted to start by reiterating that we had Pillars4Hope here earlier. I know we had a false start late last year with the opioid recovery funds. They opened it up for applications and got inundated. The state board got overwhelmed and they stepped back and changed the process a little bit. They offered a \$25,000 grant to every community to help develop a strategic plan. In coordination with Pillars4Hope, we have applied for this grant. They will reopen applications in September for the opioid money that is coming down now. Hopefully, that will be a great reinforcement for what we need to happen in the community. There are some more resources that are going to be available to help with that as well. Next, item "a" under "New Business", that is property across from the landfill. We had an Ordinance on this already, but when they went and did the survey, it didn't match the existing surveys. So, we had to go back and rework it. We have come to an agreement now. There was property there that was in "no mans land" so to speak. That is what that Ordinance is about. The two items for the Comprehensive Plan; We are creating a heavy industrial district. Our current, light industrial district has some heavy height restrictions among other things. This is primarily because most of our industrial area is around the airport, and we had to have those height restrictions. This one will be more directed at our Mega Site property and the Stokes tract property down the line. We don't have anything that is being rezoned to that right now, but we are going ahead and creating the district. Also, item "h", with all the heavy rain we have had here this month, this roof here at this building has been compromised, and we have had leaking issues in a number of different areas. So, we have an emergency procurement to get this roof fixed while we are working on the Harrelson Building. I will be glad to explain more to that if you have any questions. I would like to recognize Mr. Tony Helton that is here tonight. Mr. Tony is with Libertas, who is working on a charter school project. I believe he is going to speak with you in Executive Session on some real estate items.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, with these zoning issues and plan, are we just creating a district, or will we be given maps to where these districts are?

Mr. Griffin: Stated, correct, we are just creating a district, but nothing will be zoned to that at this time. Primarily, we have a project that we are working on, and we haven't directly determined what the boundaries of that project are going to be yet. We had one theory, but there were some wetlands issues, so we are having to move that around a bit to get that finalized. We won't be able to set the zoning in plan until we are able to finalize that.

No questions.

Old Business

A. 2nd Reading Ordinance 23-O-13, To Ratify FY23 Grant and Budget Resolutions and Related Appropriations for All Funds; To Ratify Transfer and Other Resolutions Previously Authorized by Council; And Other Matters Related Thereto

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 23-O-13, To Ratify FY23 Grant and Budget Resolutions and Related Appropriations for All Funds; To Ratify Transfer and Other Resolutions Previously Authorized by Council; And Other Matters Related Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-15, By Title Only, To Approve a Corrected Plat Related to the Sale of a Portion of Real Property Owned by Colleton County, South Carolina to Mr. Jason McMillan for the property identified by TMS No. 195-00-00-181.000 on Cooks Hill Road; and Other Matters Relating Thereto

Councilman Biering moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-15, By Title Only, To Approve a Corrected Plat Related to the Sale of a Portion of Real Property Owned by Colleton County, South Carolina to Mr. Jason McMillan for the property identified by TMS No. 195-00-00-181.000 on Cooks Hill Road; and Other Matters Relating Thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-16, By Title Only, To Amend Colleton County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Create a Heavy Industrial District

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-16, By Title Only, To Amend Colleton County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Create a Heavy Industrial District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-17, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, 14.08 – Zoning, to Coincide with the Amendment of the 2023 Colleton County Comprehensive Plan

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 1st Reading Ordinance 23-O-17, By Title Only, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, 14.08 – Zoning, to Coincide with the Amendment of the 2023 Colleton County Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 23-R-53, To Approve the Purchase of a Generac Generator for the Colleton County Detention Center

Councilman Trippe moved to approve Resolution 23-R-53, To Approve the Purchase of a Generac Generator for the Colleton County Detention Center. The motion was seconded by Dr. Flowers. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Resolution 23-R-54, To Amend the Colleton County Record of Roads to Include Conductor Court and Locomotive Lane of the Cottageville Estates Subdivision

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 23-R-54, To Amend the Colleton County Record of Roads to Include Conductor Court and Locomotive Lane of the Cottageville Estates Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Resolution 23-R-55, To Terminate the Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and Sarlaflex, Inc.

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-55, To Terminate the Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Colleton County, South Carolina and Sarlaflex, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Resolution 23-R-56, To Officially Name the Picnic Shelter, Located at Green Pond Hwy and Folly Creek Lane in Green Pond, “Maggie Magwood Picnic Shelter”

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-56, To Officially Name the Picnic Shelter, Located at Green Pond Hwy and Folly Creek Lane in Green Pond, “Maggie Magwood Picnic Shelter”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Resolution 23-R-57, To Authorize Emergency Procurement Procedures for Replacement of the Roof at the Old Jail Building

Dr. Flowers moved to approve Resolution 23-R-57, To Authorize Emergency Procurement Procedures for Replacement of the Roof at the Old Jail Building. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Resolution 23-R-58, To Award Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Engineering Services

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-58, To Award Indefinite Delivery Contracts for Engineering Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I was made aware at the last meeting that someone had made a comment and she is trying to get in now to make a comment.

Felicia Johnson: Stated, I would like to start by thanking all of you for getting that club closed down by me, we can all rest now. Last Wednesday night we were all doing some praying, because like I said, all the water that comes from Wilkey Street comes to my house. I was praying please do not let this ditch overflow tonight. The people who did the work on the ditches said all that did was dig the ditch deeper. Everything stops right there at my house, and my insurance doesn't cover flooding. Several houses around me have been flooded due to this issue. Scott came out and we talked about the streetlights. It is pitch black where we live at. This is a serious issue. Like I said, I got hit back in the day walking that street at night. There was a young man that was killed in broad day light. We need something at that four-way stop, because it is dangerous. I don't care if it's just a caution light, but we need something by us. After you pass the church, it is pitch black until you get to the other end on Green Pond Hwy. Both sides of Rivers Street are pitch black. They just put up two lights on Birch Street and they are blessed. My road is traveled on foot and bicycle. I ride a bicycle and walk. I don't know what is going on with you all, but this is something I talked to Dominion Energy about also. They said it was up to you all because they can only do but so much. Please, whatever you all can do soon. This is critical, especially when it comes to flooding. I can't afford to keep buying new stuff. I am just asking you all to think very hard, thank you very much.

Sabrina Johnson Online Comment (Read aloud by Council Clerk): On May 10, 2023, Colleton County observed Confederate Memorial Day. This is a request that you reconsider the county officially observing Confederate Memorial Day. The Associated Press, in 2019, reported that The State newspaper surveyed all 46 counties in South Carolina and Colleton County was 1 of 8 counties that closed in observance of the holiday and provided workers paid leave for the day each year. Not all counties officially observe this holiday as it is not mandated by the state and each county has control of their own holiday calendar. Honoring Confederate Memorial Day remembers those who died during the Civil War as part of the Confederacy, where slavery played an important role. Confederate Memorial Day supporters say it preserves history memorializing the dead, it's a way to sustain their southern identity as a Confederate even though there is no longer a Confederate army or government. Opponents of the Confederate Memorial Day finds the idea of a day dedicated to Confederate dead quaint or strange and argue the celebration promotes racism by honoring those who fought to uphold slavery.

I also submit that the time has come for the removal of the Confederate monument at the Colleton County Courthouse. The monument undermines our core principles of liberty and justice for all. It is unconscionable that anyone going into the courthouse, a place promising equal justice for all, should be forced to do so under a shadow of injustice and suppression. Removing this Confederate

monument is necessary to maintain public confidence in the judiciary system and to achieve the greater good of ensuring racial justice and equality.

The Confederate monument displayed in a place of honor on the south front lawn of Colleton County's Courthouse provides a governmental embrace of racists and white nationalist views. The Confederate monument introduces the risk that impermissible factors such as unconscious or implicit biases, conscious prejudice, and sympathy for white nationalist views that violates the rights of non-Caucasians to a fair trial, an impartial jury, due process of the law, and equal protection of the law that's provided under provisions of the South Carolina Constitution. This may also impact decisions and actions inside the courthouse where fairness and justice for all is supposed to reign.

I appeal that you outline and commit to a process for a timely and definitive removal of the Confederate monument from the grounds of the courthouse. Request and seek relief from the South Carolina General Assembly. If you are unsure of the process, seek guidance from the Attorney General and request an official legal opinion on the above-referenced concerns to start the process of removing the monument.

On June 16, 2020, at the Colleton County Council Special Virtual Meeting, Colleton County Councilmen discussed the Confederate monument located in front of the courthouse. Opinions were given but no action was taken or reported regarding the community concerns and requests to remove the Confederate monument.

Colleton County's decision to observe Confederate Memorial Day and prominently display a Confederate monument is choosing to perpetuate a Confederate identity for Colleton County. This doesn't commemorate all the lives that were lost during the Civil War. Confederate Memorial Day does not reflect Colletonians' diverse heritage and the broader range of viewpoints in relation to the Civil War as Colletonians fought on both sides of the Civil War.

Thanks for your consideration as I submit these public comments to ensure that my concerns be addressed as Councilman Taylor was the only councilman who acknowledged my May 10, 2023, email sent to all county councilmen about these matters, and no further council response or action was provided.

No further comments.

Council Time

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I wanted to take this opportunity to let the community know that I have just been appointed as the Colleton County workforce Solutions manager for the Technical College of the Lowcountry. We have many classes that are under scholarship that will be provided to community members at no cost if they qualify for those scholarships. There are additional classes also. We will be offering these classes at the Colleton Adult Learning Center located at 500 Forest Circle. If anyone is interested in those classes you can call me on my phone at (843) 599-1711, and my name is Phillip Taylor.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to say that I am glad to see that we have named the Shelter in Green Pond after Mrs. Magwood. That is a big thing after the horrible event that happened earlier in the year, and it is the least we can do. I think it is fitting for that community

and for the county as a whole. I would also like to say that I was able to sit in and listen to the Emergency Operation Center this past week, and I submit the community should have a level of confidence in our EOC. They operated very smoothly and all the members who participate from SCDOT, the Sheriff's Department, County Administration, and Colleton County Fire Rescue. The organizational level, if you haven't witnessed that, is amazing. Through bad times it is nice to know that we have something solid like that behind us and the resources available. You all do a good job. I know I left people out because there are so many to list, but thank you for what you do.

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I forgot to mention in my comment that there is an agreement between the Technical College of the Lowcountry, the Colleton County School District, and the Adult Learning Center.

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I did not know Mrs. Magwood but everything I heard about her, we need more people like her. Councilman Biering and I were able to take part in her ceremony and how honoring it was to be about of that. Also, Barry and his team did a great job. I enjoyed going up to the EOC and seeing how you all prepare for a storm.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I did not know Mrs. Magwood well, but I have met her before. Just in case you had any doubt on her being busy, I wanted to read this item 7 on this Resolution, "Maggie was proud of her large family, she was blessed with twenty-seven grandchildren, sixty-four great-grandchildren, and fourteen great-great-grandchildren." She was obviously a very blessed person. Also, as a follow up to the emergency preparedness, I cannot tell you how things have changed over the years and how much information we get now during a hurricane. I sent Dr. Greene an email thanking him. It is amazing the information we get as Council members and the things they are doing to prepare for the storms. A lot of times we prepare, and we don't have an impact, but we do have a lot of information. Usually, we have a lot of concern for the people at Edisto, because they are normally the most vulnerable to hurricanes. Again, the residents of this county have no idea how good of hands they are in when it comes to that.

Executive Session

Dr. Flowers moved to go into executive session to discuss the following: Legal – Neyles Fire Station, Economic Development – Project Leward, Real Estate – Project Libertas, and Contractual – Dogwood Hills. Councilman Biering seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor moved to exit executive session. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Biering seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

This 3rd day of October 2023.



Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:



Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council