

MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, Sue Keith, Ulyseese Robinson, Jahizz Walker, Charles Bright, Clarence Wiggins, and Latsia Simmons.

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

Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting October 3, 2023— Dr. Flowers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 3, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

Awards and Recognitions

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

Councilman Taylor: Stated, I would like to make everyone aware that the Center for Fathers and Families was in town this week. They did a visit with the Clerk of Court and several other people in the community about a re-presence of a Fatherhood Initiative in the county. It used to be Father to Father, but A Mans Place from Horry County is going to pick up this whole region. Father to Father has been disbanded, but I am glad to see this program will be coming back in some form in the near future.

- B. Proclamation for Colleton County Council’s Appreciation and Support of the “Splash into Safety” Swim Program in Their Efforts to Prevent Drowning– Chairman Murdaugh read the Proclamation into the record. Councilman Taylor moved to adopt Proclaiming Colleton County Council’s Appreciation and Support of the “Splash into Safety” Swim Program in Their Efforts to Prevent Drowning. The motion was seconded by Councilman Biering and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to say to the group that I have got to go out and watch this in action, and there has never been a more committed group to the children, the swimming program, and to the safety of our youth. It was inspirational, and you all should be applauded. It was one of the most professional things I have ever seen. Thank you for what you do.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, do we have some members from the group here?

Councilman Trippe: Stated, I went out several times and the kids were just having a ball. You all did such a great job and I thank you for that. We are going to just build from that and next year will be even greater.

- C. Government Finance Officers Association – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting –Chairman Murdaugh read the award into the record.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I would like to recognize Jon Carpenter, our Finance Director. We don't make a big deal out of this like we should, because we are starting to get used to getting it every year. Before I became a lawyer, I was a CPA, and I did some governmental audits. I can tell you receiving the CAPP is a huge deal that takes a lot of work. It starts with the administrator and works all the way down, but specifically his staff. I really want the public to understand that you may pick up the newspaper and realize that other places do not have the financial disclosure that we have. I cannot say enough about Jon and his staff. When I go to other meetings it's good to hear, "You sure are lucky to have Mr. Carpenter. He does one heck of a job." That gives us reassurance and makes us feel good. Congratulations to you and your staff and to all department heads for their financial management.

Dr. Flowers: Stated, we appreciate you. Thank you so much.

Councilman Biering: Stated, I would like to echo that. Councilman Trippe and I have been learning a lot through the SCAC and LCOG. I recognize how lucky we are to have you. This isn't something to ignore or to take lightly. Thank you.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, I would just like to add that I am extremely proud. I believe this is the ninth year in a row, which is very remarkable considering the things we have gone through with COVID, losing the Canady's Plant, and some other items. It comes with coordination with not only our department heads, but our elected officials Mrs. Becky Hill, Treasurer, and Jeff Slocum, Auditor. Everyone works well together. We have an outstanding group of elected officials that helps make this happen.

Administrator's Briefing

Mr. Griffin: Stated, the agenda is straightforward tonight. However, I do have an introduction I would like to make. We have found a GIS director after looking for quite a while, Mr. Bill Addison, if you would stand up. If you would like to come up and say a few words to council to introduce yourself, we would appreciate that.

Mr. Addison: Stated, I am going to take Mr. Carpenters lead and say that your introduction is fine. I am excited to be here. GIS has been a part of my career for a long time, and I am looking forward to seeing what we can do here.

***Council welcomes Mr. Addison.

Mr. Griffin: Stated, a lot of people do not know what Geographical Information Systems are. It is one of the essential tools we have for the county, and it affects every department that we have as it is used every day. If we were to shut it off, you all would get a million phone calls from our foresters, real estate developers, and everyone else. This is what drives our tax accessors' software and provides the aerals that people get. Our former GIS director moved to Colorado, but Bill comes to us with over 20 years of experience from Orangeburg County. So far, he is a super sharp guy who seems to be fitting in well. We are glad to have him. I will take any questions at this time.

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, I do not have any questions, but I did want to point out that Ordinance 23-O-14 was removed for further discussion. We are going to schedule a work session in early winter and that will be one of our topics for discussion. It will probably be delayed until that time.

Public Hearing

Dr. Flowers made a motion to move into Public Hearing. Councilman Taylor seconded that motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- A. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-15, 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**

- B. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-16, To Amend Colleton County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Create a Heavy Industrial District**

- C. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-17, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, 14.08 – Zoning, to Coincide with the Amendment of the 2023 Colleton County Comprehensive Plan**

No comments were made. Dr. Flowers made a motion to close Public Hearing. Councilman Taylor seconded that motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- A. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-15, 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 Taylor moved to approve 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-15 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 Biering. The motion carried unanimously.

B. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-16, To Amend Colleton County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Create a Heavy Industrial District

Dr. Flowers moved to approve 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-16, To Amend Colleton County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan to Create a Heavy Industrial District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

C. 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-17, To Amend Title 14 – Land Management, 14.08 – Zoning, to Coincide with the Amendment of the 2023 Colleton County Comprehensive Plan

Councilman Taylor moved to approve 3rd Reading Ordinance 23-O-17, 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.

New Business

A. Resolution 23-R-63, To Approve a Joint Use Agreement between Colleton County and the Nettles Family Playground dba Rural Carolina Community Development Corporation for Recreation Improvements

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 23-R-63, To Approve a Joint Use Agreement between Colleton County and the Nettles Family Playground dba Rural Carolina Community Development Corporation for Recreation Improvements. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 23-R-64, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024

Councilman Taylor moved to approve Resolution 23-R-64, To Authorize Acceptance and Budgeting of Various Grants for FY 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trippe. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Resolution 23-R-65, To Authorize an Appropriation from E-911 (Fund 141) Fund Balance to Cover the Cost of 911 Dispatch Center Equipment

Councilman Biering moved to approve Resolution 23-R-65, To Authorize an Appropriation from E-911 (Fund 141) Fund Balance to Cover the Cost of 911 Dispatch Center Equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

No comments.


Council Time

Chairman Murdaugh: Stated, we had a parade on Sunday for Veterans Day, which is actually coming up. I wanted to wish all of our Veterans a Happy Veterans day and thank you for your service to our country.


Adjournment

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

This 5th day of December 2023.


Steven D. Murdaugh, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kaela Brinson, Clerk to Council