

MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025  
SPECIAL MEETING  
6:00 P.M.

Special Meeting  
Council Chambers, Old Jail Building  
109 Benson Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488

Present: Chairman Scott Biering called the meeting to order with Council Members Steve Murdaugh, Phillip M. Taylor, Sr., Bubba Trippe, and Johnny Frank.

Others Included: Meagan Utsey, Sean Thorton

Councilman Phillip Taylor gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2025 Annual CDBG County Need Assessment Ranking-Discussion**

Councilman Taylor opened the discussion.

Councilman Taylor spoke on what he would like the top three priorities to be, and they were recreation, public safety and economic development. Advising that the County already has quite a bit of going on with public facilities and housing is not being completed right now. He advised that roads can often be tied into economic development.

Councilman Trippe advised that public safety is also an interest of his as well. Neighborhood drainage is also another issue that needs to be addressed. Recreation when it comes to working on the parks in Colleton.

Councilman Murdaugh questioned, looking at public safety as one of our primary, under that includes fire substation, fire training facility, sheriff substations and coronavirus preparedness, and listed along with those is response to recovery. Councilman Murdaugh wanted to know if those are the primary concerns or are there more specific items that are being looked at under public safety?

Councilman Taylor answered by explaining that the County may need to expand definitions of public safety. Councilman Taylor explained that there has been a lot of discussion on substations for the sheriff's office. Whether Colleton can man them or even have the funding for them, would be whole new subject.

Ideas were discussed by all Councilmen on this subject. One idea, if possible, could be to use some of the fire stations as a substation, if there was an office space available for use then that could be utilized for the deputy. Using the resources that the County already has would make it a more reachable goal.

Councilman Taylor explained that the Community Development Block Grants are designed to address needs of the low to moderate-income communities. There's been some very large projects like demolition of properties, putting up streetlights, refurbishing homes, and putting ramps on people's homes.

Councilman Taylor also explained that the first three that Council chooses are the ones that are looked at more prominent in the grant process. The other listed items that are not included as the County's top three would still be available to Colleton County should the requirements be met.

Councilman Murdaugh commented on ranking items on what the County could achieve opposed to what is desired, and Councilman Taylor agreed.

After Further discussion, Council made their final decision on what their top three priorities would be for the 2025 CDBG Grant Needs Assessment.

**Executive Session**

Councilman Taylor moved to enter Executive Session to discuss the following: Personnel. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Taylor moved to exit Executive Session. Councilman Trippe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

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

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
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Danielle Murdaugh, Clerk to Council

  
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Scott Biering, Chairman