



Richland County  
Administration & Finance  
September 28, 2021 –6:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Chair, Yvonne McBride, Overture Walker and Jesica Mackey

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio, Derrek Pugh, Gretchen Barron, Cheryl English, Michelle Onley, Angela Weathersby, Tamar Black, Leonard Brown, Elizabeth McLean, Kyle Holsclaw, Dale Welch, Jennifer Wladischkin, Randy Pruitt, Sierra Flynn, Michael Byrd, Mike Maloney, Lori Thomas, John Thompson, Stacey Hamm, Ashiya Myers, Bill Davis, Ronaldo Myers, Dwight Hanna, James Hayes and Brian Crooks

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Malinowski called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Regular Session: July 27, 2021** – Mr. O Walker moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

a. **Treasurer's Office – Federal Forestry Funds** – Mr. Brown noted there were no specific requirements. The recommended action is approve allocating 50% of the funding to public schools and the remaining for the construction and improvement of public roads.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to forward to Council with a recommendation to allocate 100% of the funds for roads, with priority given to roads near schools and school communities.

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Mr. O. Walker noted the Supreme Court decision pertaining to Greenville County's road user fee program, and the County currently being in litigation, if the funds could be placed in the road user fee fund.

Mr. McLean responded there is no problem using additional funds to supplement the road user fee funds, but they would need to have a breakdown of the funds until there is an answer from the courts.

Mr. Brown noted they could delineate the funding source was the forestry funds.

Mr. Malinowski noted many schools have been virtual; therefore, they have realized savings since they did not have to use their budgets for maintenance, upkeep and utilities.

Ms. Mackey offered a friendly amendment to improve roads that may be a priority, and not limit it to only roads near schools.

Ms. McBride responded her intent was not just for roads near schools, but also for those roads that are a priority.

Mr. Malinowski restated the motion, to designate 100% of the funding to road maintenance, to look at roads near schools and schools communities first, and if there are roads with greater needs than elsewhere to utilize the funds there.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Coroner's Office – Professional Pathology Services** – Mr. Brown noted this item is a continuation of using services for autopsies. The Coroner is requesting to continue using Professional Pathology Services for autopsy services.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve Professional Pathology Services (PPS) to perform autopsy services in the amount of \$700,000 for FY21-22.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the draft of the contract could be included in the agenda packet when it comes to full Council.

Ms. McLean responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if they are currently working without a contract.

Ms. Rutherford responded she was not able to find a formal contract, but Professional Pathology Services has been used for over 10 years. She requested if a contract is put into place the Coroner's Office is able to review it.

Mr. Malinowski responded in the affirmative. He noted if the documents are not ready by the Council meeting to hold it instead of deferring the item.

Ms. Mackey inquired if the documents would be ready by tomorrow.

Ms. McLean responded she would try, but it would have to be reviewed by the Coroner.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- c. **Waverly Magistrate Lease Extension** – Mr. Brown stated this is a request to continue the lease of the property.

Ms. Mackey moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve renewing the lease for three (3) years for the property located at 2712 Middleburg Road, Columbia 29204 for use by the Waverly Magistrate.

Ms. McBride noted they have leased the property for 21 years. She inquired if there were any updates to the facility in that time.

Judge Scott responded it is an older building, but it was well maintained. He noted there were some upstairs tenants that had a leak, but it did not do any major damage in the Magistrate's Office. About 3 weeks ago, there was a fire in the bathroom, and got a full remodel paid for by the landlord.

Mr. Malinowski noted the document references a former Administrator.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- d. **Public Defender Lease Agreement** – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the request to extend the 2018 lease agreement for an additional three (3) years under the negotiated terms and conditions for the office space the Public Defender's Office occupies at 1420 Henderson Street.

Mr. Malinowski noted there was a month and commencing date missing from the document.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- e. **Public Defender Positions** – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the creation of three (3) new positions.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the State or the County is providing the funding.

Mr. Hayes responded the State is providing the funding.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- f. **General Obligation Bond Ordinance – Public Safety Complex** – Mr. Brown stated staff is requesting approval of a General Obligation Bond Ordinance in the amount not to exceed \$40M.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve an ordinance for the issuance of tax exempt General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$40,000,000 for the construction of the Public Safety Complex at 7201 Two Notch Road, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. Malinowski noted the document references “equipping”. He inquired if we are going to replace everyone’s equipment.

Mr. Brown responded it is not talking about providing capital resources for other agencies.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- g. **Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center – Award of Fire and Security Control Maintenance Contract** – Mr. Brown stated staff recommends awarding the Fire and Security Control Maintenance Contract to Honeywell in the amount of \$362,947. The scope includes all services and equipment to be covered in the maintenance contract. This is a one-year contract, with up to four one-year renewals, based on satisfactory services to Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if Legal has reviewed the contract.

Ms. McLean responded she has not reviewed the contract. Her approval was for the concept of awarding the contract. Typically, it would go through Procurement and then to Legal.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the renewals would be for the same price.

Mr. Brown responded it would be contingent upon the satisfaction.

Ms. McBride inquired if this is a sole source contract.

Mr. Brown responded only one vendor responded to the RFP, but it is not a sole source contract.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve awarding the Fire and Security Control Maintenance Contract to Honeywell in the amount of \$362,947.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- h. **Business License Ordinance Amendment to comply with SC Act 176** – Mr. Brown noted this is a compliance issue regarding business license standardization requirements. Staff recommends the County be in compliance with the requirements.

Mr. O. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Mackey, to forward to Council with a recommendation for approval of the business license ordinance amendments.

Mr. Malinowski referenced the line that states, “The County, may upon a finding of a rational basis as explained in its ordinance and by a positive majority vote of the Council, provide for additional reasonable subclassifications...” He inquired if there is anything we may be doing there, at this point.

Mr. Cavanaugh responded, essentially, rate class nine is to place businesses that put an undue burden on County resources, in order to recoup some of the money the County has to provide for them to operate legally. He noted this would be up to the committee and Council discretion.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if they would be monitoring this.

Mr. Cavanaugh responded in the affirmative, and noted he did not have any business types that fall into that category.

Ms. Mackey inquired if there would be any additional training for staff to comply with this act.

Mr. Cavanaugh responded in the affirmative. He stated the business licenses would expire on April 30<sup>th</sup> and would extend the renewal season. There will be a financial impact on the businesses themselves, and they would have to recalculate some rate schedules to comply with the new State mandated rate classes.

Ms. Mackey inquired if they internally developed a rollout plan so that businesses would be fully aware of the changes.

Mr. Cavanaugh responded he was going to send out a mass email to all the business owners as soon as the ordinance is passed. He wants to send some press releases out, and include information on the renewal applications.

Ms. Mackey requested an update, when this goes live, so they can address any potential problems internally.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- i. **Neighborhood Matching Grant Guidelines** – Mr. Brown noted staff is recommending the changes. The new name of the grant will be the Neighborhood Enrichment Grant, and will remove mass components associated with the funds, increase the number of eligible projects associated with the funding, and add a new funding level for low-income communities.

Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the proposed changes to the Neighborhood Matching Grant guidelines.

Ms. McBride stated she liked the removal of the required match component and increased eligible projects. She noted she would like to see communities that never applied and do not know how to write grants be engaged in every district.

Mr. Crooks responded they host 4 – 8 grant trainings every year, and provide opportunities for one-on-one meetings.

Ms. Terracio inquired if there was an increase in attendees with virtual trainings over the last year.

Mr. Crooks responded it decreased since it was on ZOOM. He noted anecdotally they had fewer submissions this year.

Ms. Terracio inquired if they had newer and different applicants this past year.

Mr. Crooks responded they had some new people participate in the ZOOM and one-on-one.

Mr. Malinowski stated, he believed, if they kept the match that consists of actual volunteer time you would have community members come in and help that would increase participation.

Ms. McBride stated it worked the opposite because writing the grant is very time consuming and Federal Grants have removed the volunteer match because it was a means of extra work.

Mr. Malinowski stated, for clarification, he was not talking about writing grants. He was referring to the part stating if you want \$1,500 dollars you need to complete 15 hours of community service.

Ms. McBride responded this is time consuming and they are not going to get a lot of volunteers by adding extra work. You may get less people applying.

Mr. Crooks stated they are still going to ask people to volunteer, but it is not going to be required. He noted the match was often the biggest barrier. If there was a grant request for \$1,500 there would need to be 150 hours volunteered. Community involvement would still be required in different ways.

In Favor: Malinowski, McBride, O. Walker and Mackey

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous

- j. **Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 2, Administration, Purchase Negotiations** – Mr. Brown noted staff is requesting the ordinance change in order to remove the cap from two (2) contracts being allowed in a collection area to three (3) contracts for high performing service providers.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. O. Walker, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Administration, of the Richland County Code of Ordinances as it pertains to a cap on the number of Solid Waste Collection Area contracts that can be awarded to a single, High Performing Collections Contractor.

Ms. Mackey inquired why the recommendation is three versus four.

Mr. Brown responded the idea behind it was, if you are already limiting it to two (2), to ask for anything more than that might cause less competition and could cause issues with diversity of service providers.

Ms. McBride stated she was not sure what was being requested.

Mr. Brown stated, for clarification, if there were a provider that was doing a good job, they do not want to limit them to just two (2) contracts.

Ms. McBride stated, in general, it would decrease the diversity in the program. She inquired why it was limited to two (2) originally.

Mr. Livingston noted, in the past, they only had two (2) providers. One had financial trouble and went out of business. To alleviate the problem, the County limited contractors to two (2) areas to give more flexibility if something happened with one collector. He noted moving to three (3) did not guarantee contractors three (3) contracts, but it would give staff more flexibility.

Mr. Brown noted the contract timeframes are set. In addition, it is a way to award providers that are doing a great job.

Mr. McBride inquired if there would be periodic checks for bulk items.

Mr. Malinowski suggested including language that states, if the provider observes bulk items, to report it to the County.

Mr. Brown responded they would see if the contractors would be willing to do so.

Ms. Terracio noted, in her district, tenants leave and abandon bulk items. It is an issue she is trying to address in another committee with a landlord ordinance. She would like to see communication between Public Works, when bulk items are noticed that have not been called in, and the County's Business License Department.

Mr. Malinowski suggested the landlord ordinance include language that landlords are required to call if they see a lot of trash thrown out by someone that left an apartment building. The landlords could potentially be fined for not calling it in.

Ms. Mackey inquired if we are advertising for curbside collection services in two (2) or three (3) service areas.

Mr. Maloney responded they will be advertising in three (3) service areas.

In Favor: Malinowski, O. Walker and Mackey

Opposed: McBride

Not Present: J. Walker

The vote was in favor.

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5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- a. **I move that Richland County Council direct the County Administrator and his staff to conduct an equity and inclusive assessment of Richland County Administrative policies and services; and provide recommendations for a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for people of color, women and others who have been historically under- served, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent inequality. By advancing equity across Richland County Government, we can create opportunities for the improvement of businesses, communities and individuals that have been historically under-served, which will benefit all of Richland County. Appropriate assessments will better equip Richland County to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all. [McBride]** – No action was taken.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.