



Richland County Council

DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 26, 2017 – 5:00 PM

4th Floor Conference Room

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Seth Rose, Chair; Yvonne McBride, Gwen Kennedy, Chip Jackson, and Dalhi Myers

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Malinowski, Brandon Madden, Michelle Onley, Sandra Yudice, Jamelle Ellis, Jennifer Wladischkin, Larry Smith, and Quinton Epps

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. July 25, 2017 – Mr. C. Jackson moved, seconded by Ms. Kennedy, to approve the minutes as submitted. The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. C. Jackson, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - a. Quit-Claim Deed: 1209 Whitney Street – Mr. Madden stated the property owner, David Hodge, is requesting to quitclaim a portion of vacant property that abuts their lot. Historically, the Olympia neighborhood has vacant lots between properties that that were once used for deliveries, trash pickup, etc.

Mr. C. Jackson inquired if the “red line” on the map in the agenda packet notated the property being quit claimed.

Mr. Madden stated ½ of the property would be deeded over to Mr. Hodge.

Mr. C. Jackson inquired if there would be a problem with the owner restricting access once the property is quit claimed.

Mr. Madden stated he does not believe so. The alleyway is not currently being used.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the County is giving the property owner ½ or the whole the thing.

Mr. Madden stated the County will be giving them ½ and contacting the other property owner(s) to inquire if they want the additional property. If they do not want the additional property, it will be given to Mr. Hodge.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Rose, to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the request to approve the quit claim deed. The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS**

- a. Council Motion: Require that all municipal utility service providers must request consent and approval from Richland County Council prior to extending or accepting water and sewer infrastructure within the unincorporated boundaries of Richland County [MALINOWSKI] – Mr. Rose suggested scheduling a work session on this item. The committee members are to contact the Clerk’s Office with their availability.

Ms. Myers apologized on the record to Mr. McLeod for not attending the meeting referenced in his letter. She stated she did not receive a calendar invite for the meeting. She further stated the concerns are important and the committee is not ignoring the matter.

Mr. C. Jackson stated to not be able to be at the meeting was also a disappointment for him as well.

Mr. Rose requested the Clerk’s Office to publicly advertise the meeting to ensure those that wish to have input are able to do so.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if there is a State law and Council does not want to abide by the law what does Council have to do? Is Council allowed to not abide by it?

Mr. Smith stated the law provides certain rights for Council to exercise and Council can decide to exercise those rights or not. He stated he believes Mr. Malinowski is referencing the statute that relates to consent for municipalities and the question is whether Council wants to exercise the right.

Mr. Malinowski stated, as with any ordinance the County wishes to change, you continue with the existing ordinance until the change takes place. This is the matter currently before the committee, there is an ordinance and a State law that says the County is to receive a request from the City of Columbia and be granted permission before water lines are run in the unincorporated area.

Ms. Myers requested when the information is provided to Council that the remedies under the law are also provided.

- b. Council Motion: Develop an emergency plan with SCDOT to immediately repair Rabbit Run Road and Bitternut Road. Developers’ constant neglect to repair the storm drainage system causes dangerous flooding. A school bus almost overturned in the flood this morning (April 24, 2017) on Rabbit Run Road. We cannot afford to endanger the lives of citizens, especially school children because of neglect [N. JACKSON and MALINOWSKI] – No action was taken.
- c. Council Motion: Direct staff to research changing the ordinance relating to water runoff so in the future it will require environmental studies and not allow any runoff that exceeds the current runoff from the undeveloped property. This motion should be reviewed/completed and provided to the Planning Commission no later than their June meeting [MALINOWSKI] – Mr. Madden stated the Transportation and Public Works Departments are working on.
- d. Council Motion: If Developers, Builders, etc. cause any hardship on any community due to poor workmanship or unapproved or unpermitted work of any kind that fails, all of their building permits should be pulled and the builder not allowed to build until they fix the problem(s). The homeowners, nor the citizens should have to pay to fix poor workmanship. [N. JACKSON] – Mr. Madden stated Ms. Hegler is working on this item with the Stormwater Division.

- e. Council Motion: HOA's operated by developers or management firms should be fined if due to their poor management, and not that of the home owners, it causes a hardship on the homeowners or community. NOTE: There are improperly maintained detention ponds that have trees growing in them which causes flooding during a bad storm [N. JACKSON] – Mr. Madden stated Ms. Hegler is currently working on this item.
- f. Council Motion: Direct Legal to research what is required to enact a parking ordinance in communities/subdivisions [McBRIDE] – Mr. Madden stated the Legal Department is currently working on this item.

Ms. Hegler stated Mr. N. Jackson requested the weeds and rank vegetation ordinance be included as a part of this motion.

Ms. Myers inquired if the committee, at any point, is going to go back and discuss these motions. She does not necessarily agree with and she is unclear what is meant when Mr. Madden states staff is “working on” them.

Mr. Madden stated that many of these motions touch more than one department and can become complicated; therefore, we want to make sure we have a comprehensive briefing document to augment the deliberations.

Ms. Kennedy inquired if the County can legally instruct subdivisions to change their covenants.

Mr. Smith stated some subdivisions that have covenants/restrictions, which may cover the issues being presented to the committee, but the County cannot change their covenants/restrictions. Legal has been working with Ms. McBride to understand what the needs of her districts are.

Ms. McBride stated Ms. Hegler was looking at the different areas of the County to see if an ordinance can be developed to address concerns in the various zoning designations.

Mr. C. Jackson stated the bigger issue is a code enforcement issue because the current codes do not allow the Sheriff's Department to cite the residents or allow the HOA to address the issue(s) with residents.

- g. Council Motion: If an employee is in need of sick leave, any employee can donate that leave to specific person and not just a sharing pool [MALINOWSKI] – Mr. Madden stated this item was before the committee last month. There was a request for specific data that staff is in the process of gathering.
- h. Council Motion: Move to examine the EMS Department and receive a report on its current status [ROSE] – Mr. Rose requested a written report because sometimes Council members are contacted by EMS works regarding particular concerns. He further stated he has specific questions he would like to have answered by Mr. Byrd and would encourage other Committee/Council members to submit their questions to Mr. Madden.
 1. How many positions do we have unfilled?
 2. Why do we have unfilled positions?
 3. How many ambulances are currently running vs. what DHEC suggests?
 4. How do we maintain inventory of supplies?
 5. Do we have the latest technology?
 6. What avenues do EMS workers have to voice a complaint?

7. What is the communication between the EMS employees and superiors handled?
 8. What are the department's current needs?
 - i. To simplify the emergency preparedness process in the future, I move that Richland County coordinate with the City of Columbia and other municipalities to identify types of emergency shelters/facilities to certify them, meaning what is required and the readiness of the facility factoring in accessibility due to potential obstructions i.e. impassible bridge, roads, etc. Working with recreation centers, school districts, churches and other civic centers to qualify and certify these facilities to accommodate citizens in need during certain crisis. In this process each certified facility would be updated annually. Working with Councilmembers willing to participate from each district would also improve the process. Note: Shelters to include overnight stay, storage and accommodate Red Cross and other agencies. Facilities to include storage for distribution to designated areas [N. JACKSON] – Mr. Madden stated staff is in the process of identifying specific shelters in the County.
6. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:22 PM.