



Richland County Council
DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 26, 2024 – 5:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Chakisse Newton, Chair; Jason Branham, Allison Terracio, Gretchen Barron, and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Patrick Wright, Stacey Hamm, Anette Kyrlo, Michael Maloney, Shirani Fuller, Ashley Fullerton, Kyle Holsclaw, Dale Welch, Leonardo Brown, John Thompson, Jackie Hancock, Aric Jensen, Thomas Gilbert, Dante Roberts, Geo Price, Michael Byrd, Andrew Haworth, and Bill Davis

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilwoman Chakisse Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 5:09 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. February 27, 2024 – Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. English.
In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Terracio.
In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
 - a. County Attorney’s Office – Road Closure Request – Cottontown Way – County Attorney, Patrick Wright, noted several departments were asked about this request. The Emergency Management Department expressed their concern about the closure of this particular road due to the potential delay of fire response, and the closure may also impact the roll-up door on the side. Ultimately, the court will decide but request a recommendation from the local governing body.

Ms. Newton inquired if there was a level of concern expressed by EMS.

Mr. Michael Byrd, Emergency Services Department Director, stated he visited the site, and it appeared the owner of the building had not been contacted or had given any input on the road’s closure. He noted they would be the ones most impacted by the closure. He indicated this is a furniture business, which would have a high fire load.

Ms. Terracio inquired about what function the road serves now.

County Administrator, Leonardo Brown, indicated this action comes before you because someone has petitioned the court system. Once that happens, the County has to provide input for the court to consider.

Mr. Byrd stated if you go out North Main Street, away from Elmwood Road, Franklin Street turns off to the right. The furniture store is at the corner, and the road itself goes down about 200 yards. The road ends into the backside of the old Jim Moore Cadillac property.

Ms. Barron inquired if there is a recommendation from staff on this item. She asserted if it is not impeding on someone's safety or causing any challenges, she asked why we would engage at this level.

Mr. Wright maintained that the concern is that if the road is closed, it could delay a fire response to the property, which is a furniture store and is a potential fire risk. In addition, apparently, the property owner was not aware there was a request to close the road. He noted there is time before this item gets to Council to obtain additional information.

Mr. Branham inquired if the request was for the first 350 feet off of Franklin Street and the justification for the closure. He additionally asked if we could report we looked at the request, and our EMS Department reported this and not take a position on supporting the closure.

Mr. Wright replied that we could report our concerns and that we could not recommend the closure.

Ms. Terracio moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to submit a response that we are not making a recommendation to close the road based on the information provided to us, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Newton requested that someone with legal experience draft the statement.

Mr. Wright indicated his office would draft the appropriate language.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Department of Public Works – Engineering Division – 1364 Northpoint Blvd. Easement Request – Mr. Brown stated that Dominion Energy requests access to the county's property to provide power for commercial development. Staff recommends approval of this item.

Ms. Barron moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve Dominion Energy's request to access easement through the property owned by Richland County at 1364 Northpoint Blvd. to provide power to a new commercial business, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

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

- a. Direct the Administrator to research and present to Council current laws and benefits of enacting impact fees in Richland County. The purpose is to help reduce the tax burden on residents by not having to pay the complete cost of development in Richland County. [PUGH, BARRON, and NEWTON - January 3, 2023] – An update was provided in the agenda packet. No action was taken.
- b. I move that the administrator look at the illegal dumping ordinance and state law and investigate the incorporation of a community service element in the penalty for illegal dumping, as well as look into the possibility of levying a higher penalty for businesses that engage in illegal dumping, including the potential revocation or suspension of their business license also incorporating an escalation schedule based on the weight of the material illegally dumped and whether the individual or business is a repeat offender within a twelve-month period [BRANHAM – February 26, 2024] – Mr. Brown stated a timeline for this item will be included in the next agenda packet.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 PM.