



Richland County Council
Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
MINUTES
March 19, 2024 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Derrek Pugh, Overture Walker (arrived at 4:10 PM), and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Allison Terracio, Don Weaver, Anette Kirylo, Patrick Wright, Tamar Black, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Michelle Onley, Lori Thomas, Susan O’Cain, Jackie Hancock, Jennifer Wladischkin, Stacey Hamm, Chelsea Bennett, and Thomas Gilbert

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Derrek Pugh called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. October 24, 2023 – Ms. English moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. English moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** – Ms. English nominated Mr. Pugh for the position of Chair, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - a. Detention Center Update – Mr. Leonardo Brown, Count Administrator, stated the County recently responded to a request we received from the Department of Corrections about the work we were undertaking at the facility. We were able to provide input about the continued renovations going on at the facility.
 - Five of the housing units have had their locks upgraded, which represents 252 out of 448 locks or over 56%;
 - Renovations to another unit is nearing completion;
 - Multiple contractors are working to maximize renovations;

- The county responded to all of the questions related to the State Fire Marshal's inspection.

Mr. Brown noted the county has received a few requests from media outlets to see the response to the Department of Corrections. He indicated that he notified the Department of Corrections on Friday, March 15th, that he intends to release the information. We want to ensure there are no policies that would jeopardize the security of the facility and that SCDC and the county are on the same page.

Mr. Weaver inquired about the progress on filling the vacancies at the Detention Center.

Mr. Brown indicated staffing is a nationwide issue. We still have augmented staffing at the Detention Center. He would say we are at a 20% vacancy rate, meaning we have enough individuals for multiple shifts and potentially allow some people to take off without it being a concern. However, there are still a significant number of positions available. He noted the projected rate, with overtime, for a detention center officer is \$77,000/year. In addition, a level of exempt employees has been moved to non-exempt, so they can now be paid for their overtime hours.

Ms. English moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh, Walker, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***The committee went into Executive Session at approximately 4:11 PM
and came out at approximately 4:17 PM***

Ms. English moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Walker.

In Favor: Pugh, Walker, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Councilman Pugh stated that no actions were taken under Executive Session.

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

In Favor: Pugh, Walker, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:18 PM.