



Richland County Council
Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
MINUTES
May 21, 2024 – 3:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Derrek Pugh and Cheryl English

NOT PRESENT: Overture Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Allison Terracio, Chakisse Newton (via Zoom), Jason Branham, Anette Kyrlo, Patrick Wright, Tamar Black, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Michelle Onley, Lori Thomas, Susan O’Cain, Jackie Hancock, Chelsea Bennett, Crayman Harvey, and John Thompson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Derrek Pugh called the meeting to order at approximately 4:02 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. April 16, 2024 – 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. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

a. **Detention Center Update**

1. *April 23rd Letter from SCDC Division Director of Jails Inspections – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, read the letter dated April 23, 2023, from Mr. Scott Bolman, Jail and Prison Inspection Division – Division Director, into the record:*

“The amount of change and progress toward improvements for the inmates and staff were apparent. The renovations in living conditions, health and hygiene along with security upgrades being conducted and already completed were impressive. There is a definite difference being made and the facility is certainly on the right track. The improvements already completed, along with the plan we saw in action will have a great impact on the public service that Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center provides the community going forward.

In closing, let me thank you and all those involved for the effort to allow us to come see the progress and for the hard work being put into security and safety of the Richland County Detention Center.”

Ms. English thanked staff for their continued endeavors to make improvements at the Detention Center and their staff.

Mr. Pugh inquired about the meaning of the letter.

Mr. Brown indicated this is the same agency and division that performs inspections and audits of jails and prisons in South Carolina. For that same division to provide this correspondence reflects that they identified the work we said was happening is happening. The progress and plan implemented is real and is not just information provided by the County as a response but rather a true plan of action. They see it taking place and are confident we will continue to move in the right direction and ultimately have the type of facility we want.

2. ***Request to Consider Closure of the ASGDC Juvenile Detention Center*** – Mr. Brown indicated this is a request for the committee to consider closure of the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center Juvenile Detention Center. This comes as a result of us looking at the operations the county is responsible for and trying to determine where our best focus should be. If you notice, in all of our inspection reports, the focus is mainly on the adult side because that is what the county is responsible for. At some point, the county decided to voluntarily set up a juvenile center. This is not something Richland County is responsible for. When you look at the challenges with staffing and where we can best utilize the services we are required to do, it makes sense for us to consider anything we are doing that we are not responsible for and whether it makes sense for us to continue. He noted Greenville County had the same issue. They said they had to be responsible for the adults. They had individuals on the juvenile side for whom they were not responsible. They decided they could take that staff and help positively affect the staffing issue at the facility so they could meet the standard they were responsible for meeting on the adult side. He indicated we are picking up ancillary duties that are not our charge, leading to additional stress on the system for which we are responsible.

Ms. English stated that this would allow us to utilize space, have better staffing, and eliminate the ancillary duties not assigned to us.

Mr. Branham stated for clarification, if we close the Juvenile Detention Center, the State DJJ would hold the juvenile detainees in custody.

Mr. Brown replied that the Department of Juvenile Justice is statutorily charged with housing juveniles in the State. His understanding is that, as with other counties, there would be an agreement, and the county would be charged a per diem for DJJ to house the juveniles on behalf of Richland County.

Mr. Branham asked what the percentage of detainees is and how many staff members could potentially be freed up if the juvenile center were closed.

The Detention Center Director, Mr. Crayman Harvey, responded there are currently 27 juveniles in their custody, with 14 staff members providing care, custody, and control for them. Those 14 staff members would be shifted to the adult side for coverage in the transportation and intake units, which are areas they are not at the standard they would like to be.

Ms. Mackey inquired if the request would have to be made annually or if it would cover the county indefinitely.

Mr. Brown responded that, technically, it is not a request because the responsibility lies with the Department of Juvenile Justice. We are being courteous and considerate and discussing whether it makes sense for our body. We are also publicly communicating this discussion, so if members of the Department of Juvenile Justice want to talk more about what the agreement would like, then we could start having those conversations.

Ms. Mackey indicated that based on all the work we have put in, what we have been doing at the Detention Center, what we want to continue to do, and our staffing issues, it makes sense to have

the juveniles where they should be. We let the Department of Juvenile Justice handle them, and the county focuses on our Detention Center responsibilities, staffing, and updating the facility, as needed.

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

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The Committee went into Executive Session at approximately 3:18 PM and came out at approximately 3:30 PM

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

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Councilman Pugh stated that the committee entered into executive session to receive legal advise regarding the Request to Consider Closure of the ASGDC Juvenile Detention Center. No actions were taken under executive session.

Ms. English moved to accept staff's recommendation to close the Juvenile Detention Center at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and English

Not Present: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **Annual Invitation to Visit Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center (ASGDC)** – Mr. Brown stated one of the compliance standards listed in the Minimum Jail Standards is an annual invitation for Council to visit the Detention Center. A formal invitation from the County Administrator is forthcoming.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Pugh and English

NotPresent: Walker

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:33 PM.