



**RICHLAND COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT**  
Office of the County Administrator

**Council Actions Report  
Regular Session Council Meeting  
April 7, 2015  
6:00PM**

**Call to Order:** Rush

**Invocation:** Manning

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Manning

**Presentation of Resolutions**

- a. **Fair Housing Proclamation:** Mr. Rush presented a Proclamation to the Columbia, SC field office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission and the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council, honoring them for their commitment to furthering fair housing choices in Richland County.
- b. **Resolution Honoring Anne Kelly, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court:** Ms. Dixon and Mr. Jeter presented a Resolution to the family of Anne Kelly, Chief Deputy Clerk of Court, honoring her for her years of service to the citizens of Richland County.
- c. **Proclamation Honoring Kenny Mullis on being named South Carolina's Commissioner of the Year by the SC Association of Conservation Districts:** Council deferred this item to the April 21, 2015 Council Meeting. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**Approval of Minutes**

- a. **Regular Session: March 17, 2015:** Approved as published.
- b. **Zoning Public Hearing: March 24, 2015:** Approved as published.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Adopted as amended. Items 4a and 4f were removed from the agenda.

**Report of Attorney for Executive Sessions Items**

- a. **Contractual Matter: Conservation Commission**



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- b. Pending Litigation: Hopkins and Lower Richland Citizens United, Inc., and Wendy Brawley vs. Richland County**
- c. Pending Litigation: SC Property Partners**
- d. Library Lease Update**
- e. Pending Litigation: Greene vs. Richland County and CCS**
- f. Project LM**
- g. Personnel Matter**

**Citizen's Input:** Seven people spoke.

#### **Report of County Administrator:**

- a. Richland 101 Graduation:** Mr. McDonald informed Council of the graduation of the 2015 Class of Richland 101. Beverly Harris, Director of the County's Public Information Office, and two graduates of Richland 101 provided brief remarks to Council regarding Richland 101.
- b. State Infrastructure Bank Update:** Mr. McDonald updated Council on the status of the County's joint (Lexington County, Columbia Metropolitan Airport, & City of Columbia) application to the South Carolina State Infrastructure Bank Board for the United Midlands Multimodal Corridor Improvement Project.
- c. Scope for Disparity Study:** Mr. McDonald provided Council with information pertaining to the scope of work and the RFP for the disparity study. Mr. Washington suggested that the scope of work and the RFP for the disparity study be reviewed by the consultant (Franklin Lee).
- d. Cook's Mountain Update:** Mr. McDonald opened up the floor to Quinton Epps, Director of the County's Conservation Department, who provided an update to Council on the status of Cook's Mountain.
- e. OSBO/SLBE Update:** Mr. McDonald introduced Gloria Tanner to Council. As a consultant, Ms. Tanner will be assisting the County in further developing the County's



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Office of Small Business Opportunity and Small and Local Business Enterprises program.

## Report of the Clerk of Council:

- a. **"Walk A Mile In A Child's Shoes", April 10th, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, 3220 Two Notch Road:** Ms. McDaniels reminded Council of the "Walk A Mile In A Child's Shoes" event which will be held on April 10, 2015 (9:00AM – 2:00PM) at 3220 Two Notch Road.

## Report of the Chairman:

- a. **Personnel Matter:** Executive Session item.

## Open/Close Public Hearings

- a. **An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Road Maintenance Annual Budget to appropriate Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) to supplement the low volume paving program:** No one spoke.

## 1. Approval of Consent Items

- a. **2014 Dust Suppression Contract Increase:** Council approved the contract increase for the 2014 Dust Suppression Project (Project) in the amount of \$13,431.93 to pay the final invoice for the Project. The funding for the contract increase will come from the Roads & Drainage budget. **ACTION: LEGAL, FINANCE, PUBLIC WORKS, PROCUREMENT**
- b. **Intergovernmental Agreement between Richland County and the City of Columbia for the proposed Olympia Neighborhood Master Plan:** Council approved the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Columbia for the preparation of the proposed Olympia Neighborhood Master Plan. Approval is subject to any minor (non-material) modifications to the document as a result of the review of the intergovernmental agreement by the County's Legal Department and the City of Columbia's legal counsel. **ACTION: LEGAL, PLANNING, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT**
- c. **Interstate Interchange Lighting Project:** Council directed staff to proceed with the Interstate Interchange Lighting Project (Project), and to identify a funding source for the Project. **ACTION: PUBLIC WORKS, ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE**
- d. **Extension of EMS Billing Contract:** Council approved the request to extend the Emergency Medical Services billing contract with EMS Management & Consultants, Inc.



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through June 30, 2019. The contract will be effective July 1, 2015. **ACTION: LEGAL, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT, EMERGENCY SERVICES, BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER**

- e. **Distribution of Mulch and Compost:** Council approved the proposed rate structure as presented in the agenda packet for the distribution of excess mulch and compost generated by the Solid Waste & Recycling Department's Wood Grinding / Compost Facility. **ACTION: SOLID WASTE, FINANCE**
  
- f. **Neighborhood Improvement Program Property Purchase – Candlewood:** Council approved staff negotiating with the property owner, up to the appraised value of \$73,000.00, for the purchase of the subject property through the County's Neighborhood Improvement Program for the implementation of the Candlewood Master Plan Project – Catalyst 3, Neighborhood Park. The purchase price and agreement for the property would come before Council as a separate item for review and action. The Committee instructed staff to have a formal park maintenance agreement with the Richland County Recreation Commission in place prior to purchasing the property. **ACTION: LEGAL, FINANCE, PLANNING, SUPPORT SERVICES**
  
- g. [Removed from Consent] **Alcohol on County Property: Palmetto Tasty Tomato Festival; Development of Process Moving Forward:** Council referred this item to the A&F Committee for review and action. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION**
  
- h. **Motion to amend certain Council Districts to At-Large Districts instead of Single Member Districts:** Council denied this request.
  
- i. **Renewal of Operating Agreement between Richland County and Columbia Rowing Club:** Council approved the request to extend the Operating Agreement for five (5) years with the Columbia Rowing Club, allowing them to continue to operate as they have for the last 15 years. **ACTION: LEGAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, ADMINISTRATION**
  
- j. **15-03MA  
John Cooper  
RU to RS-MD (7.03 Acres)  
Riding Grove Rd.  
28900-01-30:** Council gave second reading approval to the rezoning amendment. **ACTION: LEGAL, CLERK OF COUNCIL, PLANNING**

## 2. Third Reading Items



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- a. **An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Road Maintenance Annual Budget to appropriate Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) to supplement the low volume paving program:** Council gave third reading approval to the budget amendment from the Public Works Road Maintenance Fund Balance in the amount of \$900,000.00 to supplement the Low Volume Paving Program. **ACTION: LEGAL, CLERK OF COUNCIL, FINANCE, PUBLIC WORKS, ADMINISTRATION**

### 3. Report of Development and Services Committee

- a. **An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances; Chapter 24, Utilities; Article II, Water and Sewer Service Generally; Sections 24-7 and 24-8; and Amending Chapter 24.5, Special Sewer Assessment District; Article III, Financing Improvements; Rates and Charges; Sections 24.5-42, 24.5-43 and 24.5-44; so as to delete the references to liens as a collection method for unpaid bills:** Council gave first reading approval to the ordinance amendment. Staff will pursue utilizing the GEAR/Debt SetOff program to collect delinquent payments from the property owners that do not pay their sewer bill as opposed to placing a lien on the property. **ACTION: LEGAL, CLERK OF COUNCIL, UTILITIES, FINANCE**

### 4. Report of Administration and Finance Committee

- a. **PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) Compliance: Part Time and Temporary Employees, Determination Periods, and Development of a Second Health Plan with Lower Benefits:** Council approved the County policy revisions related to the work hours of part-time county employees and the length of temporary / seasonal county jobs, and staff recommendations regarding compliance with the PPACA. Council approval supports the following directives: limit the work hours of part-time employees to no more than an average of 25 hours per week; limit the length of temporary and seasonal county jobs to no more than 3 months or 90 consecutive days; provide the County Administrator with the authority to designate determination periods for the PPACA; and grant staff permission to develop a second health plan with lower benefits that would be used primarily for part time and temporary / seasonal employees, if needed, for Council review and action. **ACTION: HUMAN RESOURCES, ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE**
- b. **Financial Contribution to SC Slave Dwelling Survey:** Council approved the request by the Richland County Conservation Commission to expend \$5,000 in FY15 funds to the Slave Dwelling Project to assist with the 1:1 grant match needed for the \$25,000 grant they received from the SC Department of Archives and History for the SC Slave Dwelling Survey. **ACTION: FINANCE, CONSERVATION**



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- c. **Budget Amendment - Paved Road Repair:** Council gave first reading approval to the budget amendment from the Roads and Drainage Fund Balance in the amount of \$800,000 to fund the repair of 27 paved roads that are in the process of being added to the county's road maintenance system and to include the roads in the Sunny Acres subdivision. **ACTION: LEGAL, CLERK OF COUNCIL, FINANCE, PUBLIC WORKS**
  
- d. **Audit of Intergovernmental Fire Agreement (IGA) with the City of Columbia:** Council deferred this item to the Fire Ad Hoc Committee for review and action. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION**
  
- e. **Emergency Services Department – Fire Truck Purchase:** Council approved the purchase of sixteen (16) fire trucks in the amount of \$7,414,912. The purchase includes one (1) Aerial fire truck from Peirce in the amount \$904,018, eleven (11) Pumper fire trucks from Rosenbauer in the amount of \$4,662,526 and four (4) Rescue fire trucks from KME in the amount of \$1,848,368. Funding for the purchase will come from the Emergency Services Department's Budget and Fire Bond account in the amount of \$6,991,046, and the County's Community Development Block Grant program in the amount of \$423,866. **ACTION: EMERGENCY SERVICES, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT, GRANTS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**5. Report of Rules and Appointments Committee**

**a. Discussion From Rules and Appointments Committee**

**i. COUNCIL RULES:**

**After discussion between the Rules Committee Chair and Clerk to Council it has been determined that the rules of Richland County Council are efficient and outline the duties and responsibilities of each council member.**

**Therefore, it is recommended that the committee review the current policies/procedures for any additional input/changes.**

- 1. Allow members to electronically participate in standing committee meetings**
  
- 2. Allow members to electronically participate during executive session**

This item was held in Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**



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- ii. **Re-activate the Richland County Youth Commission. The youth commission has been inactive since 1998 and there are currently no existing or active members. This commission identifies youth-related problems or potential problems; implement programs to increase the awareness of the general population and elect officials of the needs and problems facing youth and their families; and they seek and administer federal, state and private funding for commission operations and for projects proposed by the commission pursuant to the powers enumerated herein [ROSE]: This item was held in Committee. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
  
- iii. **Richland County Government also reviews the election of the Chair's rule which states that the chair should be elected yearly with two-thirds of its members. In conjunction with Councilman Jackson and Manning previous motions to have meaningful representation that the citizens have the opportunity to elect the chair like the citizens in Horry County. This will remove the responsibility of council members. If the Legislative Delegation would support the election of the chair by the citizens. Our current process is apparently flawed and personal; therefore, the people of Richland County deserve to have an adequate transparent representation [DICKERSON]: Council denied this request.**
  
- iv. **In the event that a Standing Committee of Council (Administration & Finance, Development & Services, Economic Development, Rules & Appointments) should fail to have a quorum of its members present either at the beginning of the meeting or after the meeting has begun, any item or items that are reported on Committee Agenda deemed "time sensitive" by a committee member or County staff will be referred to the Chair of the Committee, the Chair of Council and the County Administrator. A determination will be then made by this group as to whether the "time sensitive" designation is valid. This determination may require consultation with a Department Head, Procurement, Legal, et al. If a determination of time sensitivity is made in the affirmative, the Chair of Council may add the item to the next regularly scheduled Council meeting for review, debate and action [PEARCE AND MANNING]: This item was held in Committee. ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
  
- v. **Review the terms of days missed per annum to continue to serve on the Planning Commission. Reason: With a nine member Commission and the importance of the body, as applications are time sensitive, there should not be any reason the Planning Commission cannot meet a quorum [JACKSON**



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**AND MALINOWSKI]:** This item was held in Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**6. Citizen's Input:** Two people spoke.

**7. Executive Session**

- a. Contractual Matter: Conservation Commission:** This item was not discussed as it was removed from the agenda and deferred to a future Council meeting.
- b. Pending Litigation: Hopkins and Lower Richland Citizens United, Inc., and Wendy Brawley vs. Richland County:** Received as information. No action taken.
- c. Pending Litigation: SC Property Partners:** Council directed the County Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. **ACTION: LEGAL, ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC WORKS**
- d. Library Lease Update:** Received as information. No action taken.
- e. Pending Litigation: Greene vs. Richland County and CCS:** Council directed staff to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. **ACTION: LEGAL, ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE**
- f. Project LM:** This item was not discussed as it was removed from the agenda and deferred to a future Council meeting.
- g. Personnel Matter:** Received as information. No action taken.

**8. Motion Period**

- a. Move for a resolution to honor State Highway Patrolman Thomas M. White for receiving the 2014 Richland County Trooper of the Year award [JACKSON, ROSE]:** Council unanimously approved the Resolution. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
- b. A Resolution supporting State efforts to find solutions to the funding needs for State maintained and operated roads and bridges without transferring the burden to Local Governments and opposing any actions taken by the General Assembly that through lack of State funding will lead to increased taxes on the citizens of Richland County [PEARCE]:** Council unanimously approved the Resolution. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**



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- c. **To have Richland County remove the lien off of the property located at 2045 Smith St., (Parcel # R13516-03-21) contingent on the property owner donating the land to the Atlas Road Community Organization [WASHINGTON]:** This item was sent to the D&S Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION**
  - d. **Prescribed Fire Council Resolution [PEARCE]:** Council unanimously approved the Resolution. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL**
  - e. **Pawmetto Lifeline has requested that Council consider a revision to their existing contract that would significantly move Richland and Lexington Counties toward becoming "No Kill" communities and reduce the cost of managing the counties stray dog and cat population. The plan is contingent upon the City of Columbia and Lexington County permitting Pawmetto Lifeline management authority of their respective animal shelters. In addition, several policy changes in the Richland County contract with Pawmetto Lifeline would be required. This Motion requests that the D&S Committee evaluate the details of Pawmetto Lifeline's request and make a recommendation to Council [PEARCE]:** This item was sent to the D&S Committee. **ACTION: CLERK OF COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATION, ANIMAL CONTROL**
9. **Adjournment:** Council adjourned at 10:00PM.