

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Sumter County Council
February 25, 1997 -- 6:00 P.M.
SUMTER COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
County Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT:, James A. Campbell, Chairman; Frank E. Williams, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Charles E. Fienning, Louis Fleming, and Naomi Sanders.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Burr

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: William T. Noonan, County Administrator; Mary W. Lewis, Clerk to Council; Kathy Cuttino, County Attorney; John Duffie, Planning Coordinator; Hembie Smith, Correctional Officer; Simon Major, Correctional Center Major, Don Johnson, RMC Director; Ed Owens; Interim Assessor; Vic Jones, Safety Director; Elizabeth Hair, Treasurer; Verna Moore, Coroner.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item and WIBZ

PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell, and the Reverend Dr. Ed McLeod, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Sumter, SC gave the invocation.

ACTION ON MINUTES: MOTION was made by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Fienning, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of February 11, 1997, as presented by the Clerk.

MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Williams, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of February 19, 1997, as presented by the Clerk.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

- (1) RZ-97-02 -- **Second Reading** -- H. H. Senter -- A request to rezone a portion of an approximate 13.25-acre tract of land located at the intersection of S. C. Highway 441 and U. S. Highway 76/378 (Tax Map 131-00-2-024) from Heavy Industrial to General Commercial, in conjunction with a request for a retail/commercial Planned Unit Development for the entire tract of land.

Mr. John Duffie, Planning Coordinator, presented this matter before Council. He stated that this particular parcel is currently undeveloped and wooded. The site is within the DNL Zone and Accident Potential Zone I. Coordination with Shaw AFB is required under the Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, Local Requirement for Noise Attenuation,

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houses of operation, and number of persons at the site should be adequately addressed. This property is not within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The Planning staff has reviewed the plans, visited the site, and recommends approval of this rezoning request. Additionally the Planning Commission recommends approval. The request has also been brought to the attention of Shaw Air Force Base through the Memorandum of Understanding. The Chairman then convened the public hearing.

ACTION: After public hearing, MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading to the rezoning request.

Street Name Change -- None

Grant -- None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- (1) RZ-97-02 -- **Second Reading** -- H. H. Senter -- A request to rezone a portion of an approximate 13.25-acre tract of land located at the intersection of S. C. Highway 441 and U. S. Highway 76/378 (Tax Map 131-00-2-024) from Heavy Industrial to General Commercial, in conjunction with a request for a retail/commercial Planned Unit Development for the entire tract of land.

The Chairman convened the public hearing and inquired if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the rezoning request. Mr. Harvey Senter, the applicant spoke in favor of the rezoning request. No one else spoke to this issue; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Youth Representatives -- Amie Anderson (Crestwood High School) and Bevin Hutcheson (Wilson Hall School).

Ms. Amie Anderson spoke to Council about her involvement in school and with Clemson Extension Services. After graduation next year, she hopes to attend the Air Force Academy and become an officer in the United States Air Force. Additionally, Amie asked the Chairman to spend sometime with her after the meeting to discuss some issues of concern with her. He agreed to do so.

Ms. Bevin Hutcheson, a freshman student at Wilson Hall School, added that she is a member of Sumter Leadership for Youth. Through this program she is volunteering in the community. Bevin is also a member of another teen group that is trying to develop and seek out a place where teens can go to enjoy themselves after school and on the week-ends.

(2) **First Reading -- 97-317 -- An Ordinance Providing for the Withdrawal From Participation in the Santee-Lynches Regional Jail System Commission, as Created by Ordinance Number 94-262.**

The County Attorney, Ms. Kathy Cuttino, presented the following ordinance for first reading consideration by County Council:

WHEREAS, Sumter County heretofore adopted an ordinance creating a Regional Jail System Commission, (hereinafter, "the Regional Jail System Ordinance"), said Ordinance having been adopted jointly with Clarendon, Kershaw, and Lee Counties (hereinafter, "the other Counties;" and

WHEREAS, the Regional Jail System Ordinance provides, in Section 17 thereof, for the withdrawal of any Participating County, as defined therein; and

WHEREAS, two of the other Counties have previously withdrawn from participation in the Regional Jail System Commission, leaving Sumter County and Lee County as the only two remaining Participating Counties; and

WHEREAS, Sumter County finds that it is no longer in the best interests of Sumter County to participate in the Regional Jail System Commission;

NO, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that Sumter county does hereby withdraw from participation in the Regional Jail System as created by Ordinance No. 94-262, the effect of which withdrawal is dissolution of the Regional Jail System Commission pursuant to Section 24 of said ordinance.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 17 and Section 24, as well as all other applicable provisions of Ordinance No. 94-262, the Sumter County Commission members shall continue to serve as necessary to participate in the disposition of the assets of the Commission and to wind up the affairs of the Commission.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Ms. Cuttino further stated that two other counties other than Sumter County, have already withdrawn from the four-county Regional Jail System; leaving only Sumter and Lee Counties within the System at present. However, once Sumter County withdraws from the Regional Jail System, the System will be dissolved as stated in the original ordinance (Section 24). After discussion, Council took action on this ordinance.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Williams, and unanimously carried by Council to grant first reading to the proposed ordinance as presented.

(3) Reclassification of Fire Code Rates for Sumter County Fire Districts.

The Administrator provided each Council member with a copy of a letter from the Insurance Service Office, INC. (ISO) which rates the fire districts of the County. Ms. Linda C. Huffman, of Insurance Services Office, Inc., indicated that a complete evaluation of the public protection classification for Sumter County's fire district was completed and she advised that the protection class has improved to a Class 6. The new classification will take effect on April 1, 1997.

The letter further stated that Insurance policyholders should contact their insurance carriers or insurance agents to determine the effect this change in classification might have on their policies.

The Administrator introduced the fire department officers: Chief Eli Parnell, Captain Dunlap, Assistant Chief Doug Mathis, Captain Ron Yanker, Captain Bud Ivey, and Captain Darrell Graham.

ACTION: This was received as information and a copy of the letter was shared with the Item.

(4) Suggested to Hold Executive Session To Discuss Contractual and/or Personnel Matters. (The Executive Session, if approved by Council, will be held after all business matters have been completed.)

Executive session was held after all business; see information after Administrator's Report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORT:

(1) Public Safety Committee Meeting **Wednesday, February 19, 1997, at 11:30 a.m. in Council's Conference Room.** (Committee Members: Burr, Fleming, and Williams).

This report was given by Councilman Fleming:

EMS: The County Administrator, Bill Noonan, gave the following report with input from the Director of Public Safety, Vic Jones:

- **Relocation:** The EMS operations must be moved from the Tuomey Regional Medical Center by July 1, 1997.
- **Organizational Set-up:** It is suggested that the EMS section be organizationally listed under the Public Safety Department of the County with the head of EMS answering directly to the Public Safety Director. There are presently 27 staff members in EMS.
- **Operations Housing:** The EMS operations will be housed in the existing City of Sumter operated Fire Stations. There will be no rent charged by the City for this

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operation to be housed in the Fire Station. The City will work jointly with the County on this project. Additionally, as housing needs arise for EMS services in rural areas, volunteer fire stations could be used to house EMS.

- **Fire Captain:** The Fire Captain at each station (not the volunteer fire stations) will route all concerns through the Public Safety Director.
- **Revenue Concerns:**
 - Review the differences between contracting out the billing process for EMS services versus hiring in-house staff to provide billing.
 - The County needs to review the rate fees at the time of making the change over. Fees need to be increased.
 - Emphasis should be placed on improved collection of fees.
- **Indebtedness:** The County will still owe Tuomey Regional Medical Center \$300,000 at the time of the change over for last year's reimbursement of non-collectible fees.
- **Budget Line Item:** The EMS operation will be added as a line item in the County's budget.

EMS Personnel Information

It was suggested by one of the Committee members that the following information be provided to them regarding the present staff of the EMS Service.

- Certification/Training
- Length of Service/Seniority
- Organizational Chart
- Performance
- Qualifications

Tuomey Regional Medical Center -- Chairman Burr stated that additional research will be conducted regarding the collection of property taxes as it relates to Tuomey Regional Medical Center.

- (1) **Public Works Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at 4:30 p.m. in Council's Conference Room. (Committee Members: Sanders, Williams, and Baker).**

Councilwoman Sanders, Chairperson of this Committee, gave the following report:

- **Mulberry Baptist Church:** The pastor and members of the Mulberry Baptist Church requested that the County re-construct a road in the church's cemetery. If the request is granted, the church will supply all the materials needed and would ask that the County provide the in-kind-services for this project. The Committee recommended approval of the project.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation as presented by the Committee to provide in-kind services to this church and the Church will provide the material.

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- **Request from J. Julian Abbot -- 249 Desmond Drive:** Dr. Abbott requested that Sumter County correct an erosion problem located at 249 Desmond Drive. In a letter received from him, he stated that the run off from the County road in front of his house drains into a culvert and then onto his property causing an erosion. The committee recommended approval of the project.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the recommendation as presented by the Committee to provide in-kind services to this property owner and the property owner will provide the material for this project.

(1) Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at 5:00 p.m. in Council's Conference Room. (Committee Members: Campbell, Fienning, and Fleming).

The Chairman of the Committee, Chairman Campbell, presented the following Report:

- **Santee Lynches Regional Council on Governments Memorandum of Understanding between Local Governments to Acquire and Improve New Office Space:** The COG is requesting that Sumter County, along with the other counties within the COG, reaffirm their previously agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding to acquire and improve new office space for the COG. The Committee recommended approval.
- **Angel Oaks Property on Corporate Way and Highway 15, South:** The Administrator has been requested to seek grant funds for a passive park on the proposed property.
- **The Public Utilities Commission Request for Direction Concerning St. John Shiloh Community:** The St. John Shiloh community has requested assistance with water and eventually sewage in their community. The Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee recommended that the City/County Water Company provide water service to the St. John Shiloh community.
- **County Library:** It was requested that the Sumter County Library provide County Council with a projection of cost for connecting the various information centers within the County so that the County can have a high degree of accessibility to the County's various information centers. The Committee recommended that this projection be provided to them; the Administrator is to follow-up on this matter.
- **Recreational Project in the Cherryvale Area:** The County has an opportunity to locate a recreational park of some type in the Cherryvale area. The Recreational Director will follow-up on this matter and bring it back before the committee at a later date.
- **Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse:** The County's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission has requested some additional space in the present facility it is located in once other agencies move from the existing facility. The Administrator will follow-up on this request and bring it back before the Committee at the appropriate time.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Fienning, and unanimously carried by Council to approve all the recommendations as presented by the Committee to full Council.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

The following monthly reports were given to Council for review:

- Sumter County Landfill
- Convenience Centers
- Clemson University -- Keep America Beautiful

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The Administrator provided the following information to Council:

- Sumter School District #17's Superintendent, Dr. Andrena E. Ray, sent a letter of thanks to Sumter County for providing manpower and trucks to reconstruct the Wilder Elementary School playground area. The playground is now environmentally safe for children's use.
- Lake Marion Regional Water System Steering Committee will meet again on March 13, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Santee, SC.
- David M. Griffith and Associates, Ltd. has begun a "Work Plan Evaluation" at the County. The project will involve the following
 - Project Initiation
 - Review and Evaluate the Organization Structure
 - Conduct On-Site Operations Review
 - Measure Required Workload
 - Analyze the Results of the Operations Review
 - Develop Staffing Requirements
 - Discuss Findings of Study with the County Administrator
 - Provide DRAFT Report
 - Provide Final Report
 - Exist Conferences
- An Order from the S. C. Department of Revenue has been received; the order states that by the year 2000, Sumter County will be on-going for implementation of another complete reassessment program in year 2001.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Chairman stated that he would entertain a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Williams, and unanimously carried by Council to enter executive session to discuss a

personnel matter. At the conclusion of executive session, Council re-entered open session.

OPEN SESSION:

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fienning, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders, and unanimously carried by Council to re-enter open session.

The Chairman stated that no action was taken and there is no report from Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. George Singleton who lives on Old Pocalla Road he stated that he would like to have Old Pocalla Road paved and re-opened to allow access to his house.

The County Administrator briefed Council on the history of the County abandoning the road and was directed to follow-up on this matter and report back to Council as needed.

There were no additional comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT: After all business and all comments by the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman or Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Clerk to County Council

Approved: _____

I certify that public and media notification of the above mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda posted on bulletin board outside of the County Administrator's office and on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: February 20, 1996

Media Notified: Yes

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Manner Notified:

Agenda sent to all radio stations in the Sumter area, to WBTW TV and WRJA TV, to the Item newspaper, Shaw AFB Community Planner, the Stateburg Gazette, and to the State newspaper.

Date Notified:

February 20, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Lewis