

MINUTES
Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Friday, September 24, 1999 - 2:00 p.m.
Sumter County Council Chambers
County Administration Building

Council Present: James A. Campbell, Chairman, Louis Fleming, Vice Chairman, Carol Burr, Charles T. Edens, Naomi Sanders, Rudy Singleton, and Frank E. Williams, Jr.

Staff Present: Lorraine Washington Dennis, Mary W. Lewis, Kathy Cuttino, Lath Harris, Jeanette Mixon, Ed Owens, and Jo Marie Crocker.

Media Present: The Item

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell and the invocation was given by Vice Chairman Fleming.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Discussion on Whether Or Not To Appoint An Interim County Administrator During The Absence Of The County Administrator.

The Chairman stated that he has had conversation with the County Administrator prior to his surgery. Chairman Campbell stated that normally this type surgery, heart by-pass, would require four to six weeks of recuperation. The Administrator indicated to the Chairman during their discussion that the Clerk to Council would handle the Legislative side of the county operations, Mrs. Lorraine Dennis would handle the day-to-day operations, and all Department Heads would continue to maintain their respective areas. However, since both staff and Council members have expressed concerns about not having an appointed Interim County Administrator, this meeting was called to settle any concerns.

Each Councilperson then made comments about this issue.

Vice Chairman Fleming stated that he felt there was a need to have someone to take care of the day-to-day affairs of Council and the County because of the amount of things this County is involved in at this time.

Councilman Singleton stated that he was concerned about the letter received from the County Administrator, which stated that he "*would be out of the office for an unspecified period of time.*" He added that he thinks that an Interim Administrator should be appointed.

Councilwoman Sanders stated that she does not feel that it is necessary to appoint an Interim County Administrator because there are competent people aboard that can handle the job until the Administrator returns. She added that if an Interim Administrator is hired, that person would have to ask for help and direction from the very same people who are already doing the job.

Councilman Williams stated that he is neither pro nor con on this matter and would like to see this Council lay out exactly where Council and the County is pertaining to this matter and get a fix on the time that the Administrator probably would be out. He added that he would like to hear from Department Heads as to what is the degree of difficulty in

completing their jobs without the Administrator at this point. He ended his comments by saying that if the County is going to hire an Interim Administrator, is there a person in mind and what would be expected of this Interim Administrator?

Councilman Edens stated that if any staff member has questions about the Administrator not being available due to illness, then those concerns should be brought before Council. He added that he felt that Council was moving too fast about trying to hire an Interim Administrator at this point.

Councilman Burr apologized to Department Heads and all other employees for Council holding this meeting because he feels that those left in charge will be able to professionally carry out the duties outlined by the Administrator. Councilman Burr stated that he is not in support of hiring an Interim County Administrator. He added that at this point, there is no crisis, and he feels that if there is a crisis, the appropriate person would contact the Chairman.

The Chairman then stated that he would entertain a motion concerning this matter.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Singleton, seconded by Vice Chairman Fleming to authorize the Chairman to locate an Interim Administrator to replace the present administrator until the administrator can return to work and that Chairman Campbell present this administrator to Council for approval at its September 28, 1999, meeting.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Burr, seconded by Councilwoman Sanders, and carried by Council to appoint Mrs. Lorraine Washington Dennis as the Interim County Administrator until such time as Council determines the physical capabilities of the County Administrator, William T. Noonan. Councilwoman Sanders and Councilmen Burr, Williams, and Edens voted in the affirmative. Councilmen Fleming, Singleton, and Campbell voted in opposition. The substitute motion carried. Therefore the motion by Councilman Singleton was voided.

NOTE: The salary and other benefits for the Interim County Administrator will remain the same as it is for her current position of Human Resource Director.

- If Necessary, Council May Suggest To Hold An Executive Session To Receive a Legal Briefing, And/Or To Discuss Contractual/Personnel Matters. (The Executive Session, If Approved By Council, Will Be Held After All Business Matters Have Been Completed.)

None was held.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Lewis

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