

**Minutes
Regular Meeting
Sumter County Council
November 11, 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, Carol Burr, Charles E. Fienning, Louis Fleming, and Naomi Sanders.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: William T. Noonan, County Administrator; Mary W. Lewis, Clerk to Council; Kathy Cuttino, County Attorney; John Duffie, County Engineer; Anthony J. Criscitiello, Planning Director; Verna Moore, Coroner; and Ed Owens, Deputy Assessor;.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item

PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 76 members of the public were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell, and the Reverend Frank Kelly, Pastor of Walker Avenue Church of God, gave the invocation.

ACTION ON MINUTES: MOTION was made by Councilman Fienning, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of October 28, 1997, as presented by the Clerk.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

- (1) RZ-97-26 -- Second Reading -- Tony Milam -- A request to rezone 4.87 acres located at the intersection of 76/378 and the Myrtle Beach Highway (Tax Map 268-00-03-027) from Heavy Industrial to General Commercial in order to allow a mobile home sales and towing service.

Mr. Criscitiello, the Planning Director, presented this matter before Council. He informed Council that since the last meeting, the Planning staff sent out a total of 108 letters to surrounding property owners concerning this proposed rezoning request. The property is located on the Myrtle Beach Highway and consists of 4.87 acres of land. The present zoning of the property is Heavy Industrial and Mr. Milam wants to rezone the property to General Commercial in order to establish a mobile home sales and towing lot. The applicant provided a sketch drawing and NOT an official site plan.

The Chairman then reconvened the public hearing from the meeting held October 28, 1997. After the public hearing, Council then took action on this request.

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

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Street Name Change

- (1) SN-97-02 -- Third Reading -- Tyler B. Dunlap, Jr. -- A request to rename three streets in Autumn Place Subdivision (Tax Map 134-00-02-006 part): Governor Drive to Fall Drive, Melissa Drive to Equinox Drive, and Dunlap Drive to Solstice Drive.

Mr. Criscitiello, the Planning Director, also presented this matter. He stated that the applicant is requesting to rename three streets to better fit the characteristics of the subdivision. This subdivision is located off Highway 441 on Frierson Road, and is also bordered by Seymour Road, Sergeant Road, and Long Branch Drive. The applicant is requesting to change the following road names: Governors Drive to Fall Drive, Melissa Drive to Equinox Drive, and Dunlap Drive to Solstice Drive.

The Planning staff, County Auditor's Office, and Planning Commission have reviewed the request and recommended approval of the street name changes.

ACTION: After public hearing, MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Burr, and unanimously carried by Council to grant third reading and adoption to the street name changes as presented.

Grants

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION

- (1) RZ-97-26 -- Second Reading -- Tony Milam -- A request to rezone 4.87 acres located at the intersection of 76/378 and the Myrtle Beach Highway (Tax Map 268-00-03-027) from Heavy Industrial to General Commercial in order to allow a mobile home sales and towing service.

The public hearing was continued from the meeting and hearing held on October 28, 1997. The Chairman reconvened the public hearing and inquired if anyone wished to speak in favor of the proposed rezoning request. Mr. Terry McMillan, the attorney representing Mr. Milam, presented Council with a letter from Mr. Richard White, a property owner in the vicinity of the proposed rezoning request. Mr. White owns approximately 13 acres of property immediately to the right of the proposed rezoning. He, Mr. White, has written a letter concerning the proposed rezoning. He has seen the sketch and the proposed planning. He does not want his property to be changed to General or Commercial which is not the case but does support the rezoning request.

Mr. Mack Kolb spoke in support of this rezoning request. He stated that the property has been listed by his company for quite sometime and he hopes that this rezoning will allow for the property to be cleaned and become a viable area in the community.

The Chairman then inquired if any one wished to speak in opposition to the rezoning request. Mr. Robinson spoke in opposition but emphasized that he was not speaking necessarily in opposition, but wanted to state his concerns about the use of the property.

- Is General Commercial the best zoning for this property?
- Lighting on the property for the neighborhood might disturb the area for night rest.
- Work hours should be kept to "normal" work hours so that it will not disrupt the peace of the neighbors.
- Screening, cleaning, and buffering of the property needs to be implemented and continued.

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- Ensure that the mobile homes are not brought on to the property from frontage road, but from the 378 entrance.
- Concern for increased traffic in the area as the business grows.
- Review other sites in the area that are not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

There were no further comments; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council then took action as indicated under land use matters and rezoning request.

NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Briefing by the Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Daly Ward, Ed Byum, Grier Blackwelder, Jim Alexander, and Joe Davis represented the Chamber of Commerce's Downtown Revitalization Committee. Other members of the Merchant's Association and the Chamber of Commerce were present on behalf of the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Mr. Joe Davis presented the seven points that will aid in developing the downtown area.

- Economic Growth of the Community
- Spenders Count
- Downtown Can Be Successful
 - find the right niche
 - consider clustering businesses
 - offer highly specialized business and professional customer service
- Our Future Is In Our Control (Plan)
 - Identify what is good and unique about downtown and what must be changed
 - Build on the uniqueness and improve on the needed changes
- Business and Public Sectors Must Revitalize
 - Red tape must be reduced
 - Need A Can Do Attitude
 - Status quo is not acceptable
 - Identify the actions that must be taken by the public and business sectors.
- Benefits The Entire Area
- Tools for Vision

Mr. Joe Davis ended his presentation by pointing out that the Downtown Revitalization Committee would encourage the elected official to do the following:

- Provide and support training sessions with the community to determine what is meant by downtown revitalization.
- Conduct vision sessions with the public to define what is the current and future use for downtown.
- Engage in a Marketing Feasibility Study for the downtown area.
- Develop and Implement a Downtown Main Street Program -- working through the Planning Commission.

This report was received as information by County Council, and the Chairman informed the group that Council support's this project and will assist, along with the City, Chamber of Commerce, Development Board, and private business and industry, as necessary for the development and implement of this project.

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- (2) A Resolution Approving the Extension of the City of Sumter's Water Service Area to Cane Savannah.

Mr. William T. Noonan, the County Administrator, presented this matter before Council. He stated that there was no "written" resolution available at this time, but that the Attorney would develop a resolution which will include the information listed in a memo from Mr. John B. Duffie, Jr., the County Engineer. Mr. Duffie's letter indicated that the City of Sumter proposes to extend its water service area to include Cane Savannah. Specifically, the City would expand from Pittman Road to Cane Savannah (Spann's Market, Point Drive, and George Washington Boulevard). Mr. Noonan added that this project would eventually allow the City to complete a loop to McCray's Mill Road, enabling the elevation of a separate public water supply and providing further service.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fienning, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the extension of the City's water lines into the Cane Savannah area (from Pittman Road to Cane Savannah at Spann's Market including Point Drive and George Washington Boulevard).

- (3) 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.)

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORT:

- (1) Fiscal, Tax, And Property Committee Meeting On Tuesday, November 11, 1997, At 5:00 P.M. In Council's Conference Room. (Members: Campbell, Fienning, and Fleming)

The Chairman of the Committee, Chairman Campbell, gave the following report.

- **Rafting Creek Community Center:** A request was received from the Center for the installation of a Basketball court. The concrete material and some work to shape the ground area will be needed. One of the community members will perform part of the work for the project. These funds were requested from the County's Reserve Fund. Also, the Center wants to purchase a television to be placed in it common's room.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fienning, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the request of up to \$5,000 from the County's Reserve Fund to cover the expenses of these two projects.

- **Cherryvale Recreational Needs:** A request was received from the Cherryvale community indicating that additional properties can be purchased for a price not to exceed \$12,000 for inclusion in the Cherryvale Recreation program. It was recommended by the committee that this project be funded from the County's Contingency fund.

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ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fienning, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the request of up to \$12,000 from County Council's Contingency fund.

MONTHLY REPORT:

- Recreation Department
- Sheriff's Department

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- **Request from the Coroner:** During the budget cycle the Coroner asked Council to look into purchasing or renting space for a morgue. Since, the County has assumed the responsibilities of the Emergency Medical Services, the hospital has offered the County its old morgue which was located on the first floor of the hospital. The hospital has a new morgue located on its third floor. If the County purchases the morgue from Tuomey, it would have to pay for the removal of the morgue and transportation of the morgue to a place designated by the County at a cost of approximately \$15,000. After further discussion with the hospital and other agencies, it was discovered that a new morgue can be purchased for approximately \$10,000 or \$12,000. Further follow-up will be given to Council about this matter at a later date.
- **Askins Fire Service Report:** A copy of the plan was given to each Council member. Recommendations were listed in the report and this matter can be addressed by Council at a future meeting.
- **South Carolina Department of Corrections' Letters:** Several letters from the South Carolina Department of Corrections were placed in Council's packets concerning the last audit of the Sumter County Corrections facility.
- **Address Changes for the Florence Highway Area:** Mr. Harris, the Assessor, indicated that there are address problems on the Florence Highway just north of the by-pass. The road is officially called the Florence Highway; however, several homeowners are using East Liberty Street and East Liberty Street Extension as addresses. The problem exists from the by-pass to the left hand curve in the 1500 block. This matter will be handled through the Assessor's office.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

The Vice Chairman asked that Council consider adding to the agenda, concerns by Shiloh/St. John Community members so that if action needs to be taken, then action could be taken by County Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilwoman Sanders, seconded by Councilman Fleming, and unanimously carried by Council to add concerns by Shiloh/St. John Community Members to the November 11, 1997.

Mrs. Margaret Hogan thanked Council for the new community center that will be completed very shortly and programs should be underway immediately thereafter. She thanked Lorraine Washington for the work she has already done with the community and hope that she will work with them on a water grant.

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Then Mrs. Hogan stated that the community members have viewed two possible problems at the community center. One of the problems is that the parking lot will be made of crusher-run instead of being paved. The other problems deals with the landscaping of the front part of the property. There is a hill that slops down and during the sloping of the hill, the contractor covered up the ditches. Therefore, there is no where for the water (rain) to run except into the neighbor's yard. This was also done in the back of the community center where an embankment was erected. If there is heavy rain, it will either come back into the building, run in the neighbors yards, or both.

The Community Center members asked that the parking lot be paved to alleviate any possible damage to the community center or persons visiting the center (when little boys are throwing rocks). Also, the members asked that the landscaping be corrected so that it will not cause problems for the members of the neighborhood and the center itself.

After discussion by Council, the Administrator, members of the Shiloh/St. John community, and Ms. Lorraine Washington, Council took action on this matter.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Fleming, seconded by Councilman Williams, and unanimously carried by Council that Council (1) have the County Engineer and any other engineer (State Highway Department and the contractor's engineer) review the storm drainage problem and correct this problem and (2) fund the paving of the parking lot at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 after all storm drainage problems have been corrected. These funds should be secured from the grant, if possible, or from Council's Contingency fund.

NOTE: The Administrator, Soil and Water Conservation Representative, the County Engineer, the County Public Works Director, and member of the St. John/Shiloh community will meet to review this problem and bring a report back before County Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no additional comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 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

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

Date Posted: November 6, 1997

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas were sent to most radio stations, television stations, and newspapers in the Sumter, Columbia, Manning, and Florence communities.

Date Notified: November 6, 1997

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Lewis