



MINUTES
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – Held at 6:00 p.m.
Sumter County Administration Building
Third Floor, County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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Social Distancing Is Required At All of County Council's Meetings And Seating Is On A First Come First Serve Basis.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAHjiqzPaonQ9LFS2kO37tA>

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene R. Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Carlton B. Washington.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Helen Roodman, Eddie Newman, Karen Hyatt, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, David Shadoan, Les Vandevander, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Allen Daily, Valerie Brunson, Lt. Hawkins, Randy Wright, and two Sheriff Deputies.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Approximately 22 members of the public attended the meeting.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelby Goulding.

CALL TO ORDER: Councilman James T. McCain, called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Veteran Jeffery Jackson, who currently lives in Council District #7. He is a lifelong resident of Sumter County. He is a 1983 graduate of Sumter High School and a 1987 Graduate of Morris College. Jeffery Jackson was also the first graduate to be commissioned through the Morris College Army ROTC program as a 2nd Lt in the US Army. Jeffery Jackson utilized his training from the Army to forge a civilian career in law enforcement. Jeffery Jackson currently serves as The Assistant Chief for the Sumter Police Department. Assistant Chief Jackson is also currently a member of the US Army Individual Ready Reserve program. Councilman Baten introduced Assistant Chief Jackson and presented him with a certificate from Sumter County Council for his participation in this event.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Chairman McCain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. The Clerk stated that there was one needed change to the agenda. She asked Council to consider adding the Public Safety Committee Meeting of June 29, 2021, at 12:00 noon to the agenda under Committee Reports. Then the Chairman asked for a motion on approval of the agenda.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as recommended by the Clerk to Council to add the Public Safety Committee Meeting Report of June 29, 2021, at 12:00 noon to the agenda under “Committee Reports”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Chairman of County Council, James T. McCain, asked for a motion concerning the approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting of Sumter County Council held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. The following motion and action were taken.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Vivian McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the minutes of June 22, 2021, as presented by the Clerk to Council.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests - None

NOTE RZ = *Rezoning Of Property As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

AC = *Agricultural Conservation As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

NC = *Neighborhood Commercial As Applicable In Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

LI-W = *Light Industrial-Warehouse As Applicable in Sumter County Zoning and Development Standards.*

- (1) **RZ-21-10 -- 915 N. Wise Drive -- (County) - Third Reading -- A Request To Rezone +/- 77.14-Acres Of Land From Heavy Industrial (HI) To Limited Commercial (LC). The Property Is Located At 915 N. Wise Drive And Is Represented By Tax Map # 230-00-01-015 (Part).**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, Planning Director, stated that this is third reading for RZ-21-10, which is requested by S. C. Mental Health. She said that no changes have been made to the rezoning request since first reading. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the request as previously presented. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading to this rezoning request.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the rezoning request as presented by the Planning Director.

- (2) **RZ-21-12 -- 911 Oswego Highway -- (County) -- Third Reading -- Request To Rezone +/- 0.29-Acres Of Land From Light Industrial-Warehouse (LI-W) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Located At 911 Oswego Highway And Is Represented By Tax Map #'S 248-00-02-040 & 248-00-02-041.**

Mrs. Helen Roodman, Planning Director, stated that this is third reading for RZ-21-12, which is requested by Mr. Michael Heriot. She said that no changes have been made to the rezoning request since first reading. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the request as previously presented. After all comments, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading to this rezoning request.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the rezoning request as presented by the Planning Director.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) **Ordinance #21-954 – An Ordinance To Abandon And Convey Martino Avenue On Property Of Fred Lee Hatfield, III And Misty F. Hatfield On West Foxworth Mill Road. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mr. Johnathan Bryan presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading consideration and public hearing. He stated that Martino Avenue is a paper street and the owners of the property want to construct a house on some of the property; however, with the property being registered as a street, it is necessary for the property to be abandoned by the County and conveyed to Fred Lee Hatfield, III and Misty F. Hatfield. After presenting this ordinance to Council, the Chairman convened a public hearing on this ordinance. He asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed ordinance. No one spoke to this issue; therefore, Chairman McCain closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading listed under Old Business.

- (2) **Ordinance #21-955 – An Ordinance To Approve A Water And Sewer Utility Easement On Property Adjacent To Race Track Road. (Council Will Take Action On Second Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)**

Mr. Bryan also presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading approval. He stated that this ordinance, if approved, will allow for the City of Sumter to place water and sewer lines on property adjacent To Race Track Road. After Mr. Bryan presented this ordinance, the Chairman convened a public hearing on ordinance #21-955. Chairman McCain asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to the ordinance. No one spoke during the public hearing; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and acted on second reading listed under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) **Informational Presentation By Representative From South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy. (Mr. Winfred L. Reese)**

Mr. Winfred L. Reese thanked Council for allowing him to come before them to talk about the S. C. Youth ChalleNGe Academy (SCYCA). He stated that the purpose of SCYCA is to empower and prepare youth to develop persona, academic, and career success through education, mentoring, and training. Mr. Reese also mentioned the SCYCA provides the opportunity for learning through military-based training, discipline, and structure that is focused on job readiness and alternative education approaches. SCYCA provides an application of a caring and disciplined environment and the eight core components (see below) develops character, strengthens personal skills, and guides each cadet toward long-term productive citizenship. He also stated that the program provides GED preparation and testing, personal skills such as impulse control, self-discipline, and self-regulation, teamwork, follow-through, and persistence. The program is 22 weeks and provided through a residential setting at the facility near Fort Jackson. There are two cycles per year one beginning in January and the other in July.

In order for a person to be eligible for the SCYCA, they must be:

- A citizen or legal resident of the United States.
- 16-18 years of age; males and females.
- A high school dropout, potential dropout, or has been expelled.
- Unemployed or underemployed.
- Drug free (students are tested and retested).
- Not a convicted felon, nor under felony.
- Physically and mentally capable of completing the program.

ACTION: Received as information.

(2) Ordinance #21-957 – First Reading -- An Ordinance To Authorize The Sale Of .24 Acres On South Guignard Parkway To St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Johnathan Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this proposed ordinance to Council for first reading consideration. He stated that the Trustees of the St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church own the adjoining property on the north side of the property that is owned by Sumter County. They have asked to purchase the .24 acre of property from Sumter County to combine it with property they already own and will. After review of the ordinance and the Attorney’s presentation, Council acted on first reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council to approve second reading to this ordinance as presented by the County Attorney.

WHEREAS, *Sumter County owns the triangle of land located at on the north side of South Guignard Parkway which is shown on the 2021 tax maps for Sumter County as part of tax parcel number 225-00-03-025; and*

WHEREAS, *the Trustees of the St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church own the adjoining property on the north side of the triangular parcel that Sumter County owns and desire to purchase the 0.24 acre of the property to combine it with their adjoining property; and*

WHEREAS, *the Trustees of the St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church have offered to purchase the 0.24 acre of land for \$2,400.00; and*

WHEREAS, *Sumter County does not currently need the property for any public purpose.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

That Sumter County sell the 0.24 acre of land on the north side of South Guignard Parkway more particularly described in the draft deed, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, for Two Thousand, Four Hundred (\$2,400.00) Dollars.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon Third Reading.

Proceeds of the sale shall be distributed to the Sumter County Infrastructure Fund.

That the County Administrator is authorized to sign the draft deed, when finalized, and any other documents necessary to convey the property to the Trustees of the St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church.

(3) To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Employment Matter, An Economic Development Matter, A Legal Briefing, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) **Ordinance #21-954 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Abandon And Convey Martino Avenue On Property Of Fred Lee Hatfield, III And Misty F. Hatfield On West Foxworth Mill Road.**

The County Attorney presented this proposed ordinance to Council for second reading approval. A public hearing was held; however, no one spoke during public hearing. Therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council acted on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this ordinance as presented.

- (2) **Ordinance #21-955 – Second Reading -- An Ordinance To Approve A Water And Sewer Utility Easement On Property Adjacent To Race Track Road.**

Mr. Bryan, the County Attorney, presented this ordinance to Council for second reading approval. A public hearing was held on this ordinance to allow for an easement on property adjacent to Race Track Road. No one spoke during public hearing. Chairman McCain called for a motion on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this ordinance as presented.

- (3) **Ordinance #21-956 – Second Reading – An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of Ordinances, Sumter County, South Carolina Relating To Standing Committees To Add Litter Removal And Disposal To The Public Works/Solid Waste Committee. (This Ordinance Does Not Require A Public Hearing.)**

Mr. Johnathan Bryan also presented this ordinance to Council to allow for the County’s Code of Ordinances to be amended by allowing the Standing Committees to add the language “Litter Removal and Disposal” to the Public Works/Solid Waste Committee. After presenting the ordinance to Council; there were no questions from Council members about this ordinance, the Chairman called for action on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman McGhaney, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval to this ordinance as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Personnel/Technology Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McGhaney, Byrd, and Washington)**

Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney stated that all members of the Committee were present at the meeting and she gave the following report and recommendation from the Technology Committee Meeting.

Request To Add Positions To Sumter County Position Control Roster: The Committee received a presentation from Carley Spivey, the Administrative staff person for the Public Defender’s Office, stating that the State Of South Carolina is providing reoccurring funding for three positions in this office. Therefore, the Committee recommended approval adding one Assistant Public Defender and two Investigators in the Office of the Public Defender.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee, and unanimously carried by County Council to approve the recommendation to add three new positions to the County’s Employee Roster: One Assistant Public Defender and Two Investigators with funds being received from the State of South Carolina for these positions on a reoccurring basis in the Office of the Sumter County Public Defender.

- (2) Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)

Chairman James T. McCain, Jr., stated that the County Attorney provided a briefing to the Committee and other Council members concerning a S. C. Supreme Court Ruling concerning Greenville and Beaufort Counties. No action was taken.

- (2) Public Safety Committee Meeting Held On Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. In County Administration Conference Room, 13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC. (Washington, Baten, and Byrd)

Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Washington stated that he, along with Councilman Baten were present at the meeting. However, Committee Member Byrd, was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. The Committee received a report from the Sheriff’s Office concerning the needs of the Sheriff’s Office which could be funded through the American Recovery Funds. See attached Committee Report. Also, the Committee had two visitors, Ms. Gwendolyn D. Floyd and Mr. Richard Brown, and they were allowed to present their concerns about Council receiving information from other citizens during Council’s meetings in a public hearing. Both citizens were concerned about the validity of comments being made and Council members acting on that information that may not be true. The County Attorney was asked to provide some direction on what could be done to help alleviate this problem. Committee Chairman Washington stated that the Committee will reconvene to review the information that he received on today, July 13, 2021, concerning handling matters being discussed during public hearings and the Committee will continue to reconvene and discuss the needs of the Sheriff’s Office as appropriate. Council will be kept informed of the recommendations of the Committee.

- (3) Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences.

Councilman Baten gave the following report:

1. Veterans Deaths -- 136 Deaths, in the last 213 days.
2. 40 Percent of Adults, 12 and Older have been vaccinated. The Delta Variance is 10 times more contagious than COVID 19.

Councilman Vivian McGhaney stated that she attended the **Town Hall Meeting** held by Majority Whip James Clyburn, in Manning, SC on Saturday, July, 10, 2021. He provided information concerning services and funds available to families with children 17 years of age and younger.

Councilman McGhaney also thanked Council for allowing her to be a member of the Santee Lynches COG and that she recently completed her service as the Chairman of the COG's Board. Chairman McCain and Councilman Baten both stated that Councilwoman McGhaney did a great job in that capacity.

Councilman Washington asked Chairman McCain if he Could make a statement and Chairman McCain granted Councilman Washington's request.

Councilman Washington asked for a point of personal privilege. He said, Mr. Chairman, during our last session, you made a point to call to the attention of members of this assembly the guiding principles of Robert's Rules of Order, specifically those related to decorum in debate. I want to thank the Chairman for his abbreviated overview of this subject matter, which I have since reviewed and respect accordingly. In doing so, I have also studied in some detail, additional sections of Robert's Rule of Order, which I feel should also be noted and respected.

Specifically, Article 10, Section 58, which spells out the duties and role of the Chairman. In this section, the author, Henry Martyn Robert, admonishes that, "parliamentary law was made for deliberative assemblies, and not the assemblies for parliamentary law."

- 1. In this section, there is additional clarity that the Chairman, "should of all members, have the least to say upon the merits of pending questions." Moreover, "It is a general rule in all deliberative assemblies that the presiding officer shall not participate in debate or other proceedings, in any other capacity than as such officer."*
- 2. During debate, Robert's Rules of Order specifically lays out that the Chairman, "should be seated and pay attention to the speaker" and that "when a member has the floor, the chairman cannot interrupt him...so long as he does not transgress any of the rules of the assembly."*
- 3. Moreover, "The Chairman cannot close debate unless by order of the assembly; nor can he prevent the making of legitimate motions by hurrying through the proceedings." In fact, "If he has hurriedly taken the announced vote while a member is rising to address the Chair, the vote is null and void, and the member must be recognized."*
- 4. If the Chairman is compelled to participate in debate, which Robert's Rules of Order admonishes should only be "rarely done, as nothing can justify it in a case where much feeling is shown," as there is a "liability to preserving order."*
- 5. According to Robert's Rule of Order, "There is nothing to justify the unfortunate habit some Chairman have of constantly speaking on questions before the assembly, even interrupting members who have the floor."*
- 6. According to Robert's Rule of Order, "One who expects to take an active part in debate should never accept the Chair."*
- 7. The Chairman should set an example of courtesy, and should never forget that to control others it is necessary to control one's self...A nervous, excited Chairman can scarcely fail to cause trouble in a meeting...No rules will take the place of tact and common sense on the part of the Chairman."*

Councilman Washington stated; Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to share this information publicly and with my colleagues. I think this knowledge base is equally important to ensuring the deliberative nature of this body so that we that we may effectively conduct the business at hand and meet the needs of our community.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- 1) COVID19 Report 7-9-21
- 2) SCAC Request For Information
- 3) Zoning Board Of Adjustments And Appeal
- 4) SCAC Annual Conference

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Litter Advisory Board Meeting: This meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

New Public Director: Karen Hyatt was introduced as the new Public Works Director for Sumter County.

PUBLIC COMMENT -- Citizens Desiring To Speak Are Limited To No More Than Three (3) Minutes; Comments Are To Be Made Through The Chairman Of Sumter County Council.

Elizabeth R. Kilgore, President of the Sumter Branch of the NAACP, spoke to Council concerning Council’s voting on the Sumter School District’s Budget. She thanked Council Members Baten, Washington, and McGhaney on their support to provide additional funds for the School District. However, she was concerned that the other four Council members did not vote to give the School District the 15% funding that it could have received by law. She also voiced her concerns that the Animal Shelter received a 75% increase, while the School District staff members who can only receive a step increase, only received a 1% increase. Ms. Kilgore also stated the concerns of the NAACP about funds being diverted to the Liberty Charter School. She asked Council members to be transparent in their deliberations.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of Sumter County Council and comments, motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.
Chairman or Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: July 27, 2021

I certify that public and media notification of the above-mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows required by Freedom of Information:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas posted on Television first floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: Thursday, July 7, 2021

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda Information is listed on Sumter County’s Home Page, and E-mailed to The Item, The Chamber, WIS-TV, WBTW, and Time Warner Cable.

Date Notified: Thursday, July 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Committee Meeting: Public Safety
Tuesday, June 29, 2021 -- 12:00 P.M.
County Administration Building, Third Floor
County Council Conference Room Or Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Chairman Carlton B. Washington, Committee Member Eugene Baten, and Council Chairman James T. McCain, Jr.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: James R. Byrd

STAFF PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Uvette Rogers, Johnathan Bryan, Joe Perry, Sheriff Anthony Dennis, Lt. Chanae Lumpkins, and Lt. Greg Hawkins.

MEDIA PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Two members of the public were present.

CALL TO ORDER - Committee Chairman, The Honorable Carlton B. Washington

INVOCATION - The Clerk to Council, Mary W. Blanding, gave the invocation.

ACTION ON AGENDA - Tuesday, June 29, 2021

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion And Possible Action Concerning The Needs Of The Sheriff's Office As It Relates To Funds To Be Appropriated Through The American Recovery Funding (Also Known As COVID Recovery Funds).

Committee Chairman Washington introduced this matter, stating that he is a big fan of the Sheriffs in Sumter County and Richland County. He thanked Sheriff Dennis and his staff for being at the meeting. Also, Councilman Washington informed everyone that Vice Chairman James R. Byrd, Jr., is also a member of this Committee; however, because he is on vacation, he was unable to attend the meeting. Councilman Washington also stated that he has informed Vice Chairman Byrd the essence of the meeting. Councilman Washington stated that information is coming done from the Federal and State authorities concerning the COVID Recovery Funds. Some of the funds can be used for needs in Law Enforcement including the Detention Center. After all introductions and the purpose of the meeting, Committee Chairman Washington asked Sheriff Dennis to make his presentation concerning needs of the Sheriff's Office in hopes that the COVID funding can fund the Sheriff's needs.

ONE TIME PANDEMIC BONUS \$585,000.00

Essential Employees Pay

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office is seeking a one-time pandemic bonus in the amount of \$3,000 for its essential employees who work at the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. Many County agencies

closed or worked modified schedules during this time and were compensated. Our officers worked every day through the pandemic and should be compensated for their dedication to the citizens of Sumter County. Working through the pandemic presented many hurdles and obstacles which caused many challenges to our employees as they continued to perform their duties. We had a total of 195 active employees who worked through the pandemic. The total amount requested for this one-time pandemic bonus of **\$3,000.00 per employee is \$585,000.00.**

SECURITY UPGRADES

\$302,686.00

Metal Detector -- Our agency is asking for funding to enhance the overall security at both of our facilities. Currently our office has no way of scanning persons' bodies that enter our facility. With the overall assaults on law enforcement on the rise, adding a metal detector in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office would add a layer of protection for both employees and citizens. Total estimated cost for metal detector is **\$4,461.00**

Security Camera System Sheriff's Office -- We are also requesting funding to enhance our camera system which is over eight years old. The camera system is experiencing many issues. As we continue to provide quality law enforcement during times of protest and social unrest, it has become even more important to ensure a quality surveillance system for our Office. Total estimated cost for replacement of the camera system and cameras is **\$44,475.00.**

Security Camera Detention Center -- We are also asking for funding to continue to upgrade the camera system at the Detention Center. The last two years we were awarded grant funding for this project. However, we have learned there are many other costs we didn't anticipate. With the new cameras, we had to purchase extra servers to support the retention period of footage. We had enough funding to replace all existing cameras and servers to support the new style of cameras installed. However, no new cameras were added. We still need to add new cameras throughout the facility to provide full coverage in areas where blind spots have been identified. This would improve visual in all PODS that currently are lacking proper visual aid, eliminating blind spots and allow proper servers and control panels to support these additions. The total amount estimated for this upgrade is **\$135,000.00.**

Full Body Security Scanning System Detention Center -- Sheriff Dennis asked Deputy Major Lumpkin to make the presentation concerning this request. She stated that the Sheriff's Office and the Detention Center. We are asking for funding to purchase the Soter RS Full Body Security Scanning System. This is a device utilized to scan a person for contraband. The scan is non-invasive and an alternative to time consuming and invasive strip searches. If there is anything hidden in the human cavities or inside of the human body, it will be revealed with this equipment. This device is user friendly and there will be no need for extensive training. Currently approximately 90% of incoming detainees are strip searched. This device will allow for a decrease in officers' time spent during the booking process and at the same time assure an accurate search for contraband. This will ensure a higher level of security and safety for both employees and inmates. This equipment will also make officers aware that a detainee has swallowed packaged drugs and immediately alert them that the inmate needs outside medical attention. This will decrease the chance that the detainee will die while in custody and reduce unnecessary civil litigation. The total estimated cost for this equipment is **\$118,750.00.**

NOTE: Deputy Major Lumpkin also had pictures of what the scanning equipment would look like. Additionally, she informed the Committee that the County already has one staff person certified to use the equipment and to teach others how to use the equipment. It was also noted by Deputy Major Lumpkin that Aiken, Anderson, and Kershaw County are also purchasing this equipment. Darlington County is using this equipment and is very pleased with the equipment.

BUILDING RENOVATIONS/LANDSCAPPING \$101,366.00

We have been in our facility over eight years. We are requesting funding to renovate the facilities which includes: interior painting, flooring, new landscaping and funds to resurface our parking lot. The total estimated cost for these projects is **\$126,366.00**.

NOTE: Deputy Lt. Hawkins stated that as any home, a family must repair things that may deteriorate or need repairs. The Sheriff’s Office Building needs painting in certain areas, the flooring needs repairing – recommended to get carpet squares and remove the old carpet; landscaping including irrigation equipment, and repair of the parking lot.

SHOOTING RANGE \$200,000.00

The Sumter County Sheriff’s Office needs its own firearms range to adequately and appropriately train their personnel. The Sumter County Sheriff’s Office currently uses the Sumter Police Firearm Range. Securing the use of the Sumter Police Range has become an issue for our Office since the last renovation of the City’s range. There are many times the range has been unavailable because of the fact that the Police Department is conducting training or they are not able to provide a Range Master to supervise the range. We currently have over 128 sworn Deputies and over 79 sworn detention officers, all of which must train and qualify with various firearms. We are currently unable to properly train our personnel in a timely matter due to the extensive scheduling for the City’s range which is also used by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and other agencies. To efficiently train and certify our personnel, it is imperative for us to secure our own firearms range.

NOTE: The Sheriff stated that at one time the Sheriff’s Office could use the Firing Range at any time. Now that the Firing Range is used by the City Police Department, State Highway Patrol, Wild Life, and others, it is difficult for the Sheriff’s Office to schedule time for the deputies, detention officers, constables, retirees, and those wanting to receive a Certified Concealed Weapon Permit. Currently volunteers have been working on clearing the property for the Firing Range. Sheriff Dennis also stated that he is currently working at developing the Firing Range for those areas mentioned earlier and the potential of being the go-to agency for the public to receive the Certified Concealed Weapon Permit.

TRAINING FACILITY \$500,000.00

The Sheriff also mentioned that it is a possibility that he may be able to receive funding from the State for renovations to the Training Facility which needs much repair. However, if the money is not received from the State; there is still a need for this facility to be renovated. It was mentioned that because Sumter is in the middle of the State, it is a prime area to host State Training Classes for Sheriff Deputies and Detention Officers. Sheriff Dennis mentioned that if he hosts classes at the facility, then several of the deputies would be able to take the classes free and it is also a possibility that some revenue can be generated from hosting statewide classes at the hopefully renovated facility.

TOTAL REQUEST

Our total request to complete the new projects and provide a onetime only pandemic bonus for employees is **\$1,214,052.00**; with the **\$500,000** is a total of **\$1,714,052.00**.

Committee Chairman Washington asked if there were any questions. Councilman Baten asked if all the items that the Sheriff presented met the COVID Funding request. He also asked will the County along with the Sheriff prioritize the items that the Sheriff wants funded, in case the entire \$1,214,052 and the additional \$500,000 are not granted. Councilman Baten and Committee Chairman Washington stated that they are both in support of the entire list of items.

The Administrator, Mr. Mixon, commended the Sheriff on his presentation and stated that what was presented is exactly what is needed to move forward with how to use the funds. He mentioned that he is not sure if the renovation to the training facility would meet the criteria; but where the Training Center is located and its intended use may meet the qualification. Mr. Mixon said that he and staff will continue attending the information sessions on the COVID funding allocation and usage to insure that they stay abreast of what is going on with these projected funds and any new information from the Federal Department of Revenue.

Chairman McCain stated that he is in total agreement of the projects; however, he will defer to the County Administrator as to what will pass the test on being funded.

The Administrator stated that the County has already received \$10,000,000. It has been stated that the County would be receiving \$21,000,000 in total; however, Congress is looking at making some changes in the allocations. There are other stipulations to the funding and the accountability and responsibility of spending the funds.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Committee Chairman Washington, and unanimously carried by the Committee to accept the report from the Sheriff as information and to allow for this information to be discussed at any other future meetings as appropriate, as well as to allow the Committee Chairman to call any future Public Safety Meetings that may pertain to this information.

2. Conversation And Discussion With Members Of The Public Concerning Council Developing A Policy To Ensure That Comments Made In Public Hearings Are Accurate Prior To Council Taking Action On The Agenda Item.

Committee Chairman Washington stated that this item relates to discussion with the public concerning Council developing a policy to ensure that individuals providing information to Council about the support or non-support of an issue on Council's agenda is correct.

Councilman Washington stated that several of his constituents felt that the information that was given to Council during a recent matter on Council's agenda was not correct and those Constituents contacted him to make sure that the issue would be discussed by Council.

One individual, Mrs. Gwendolyn C. Floyd, retired school teacher, landowner, and homeowner, was present at the meeting and spoke to this matter.

- Ms. Floyd said that the issue that concerned her is that in the community where she resides there is a lot of development going on. One individual stated that she spoke to people in the community about an issue; however, Ms. Floyd said that individual did not speak to her, nor anyone. She further stated that she reviews the videos and cannot tell who makes the motion or seconds the motion. Mrs. Floyd stated that she wants to be sure that no one on Council is profiting by making a motion on these ideas.

Ms. Floyd said that parliamentary procedures requires that the person making the motion should address the Chairman, as well as the person seconding the motion should address the Chairman, and the Chairman should address each of those persons as he carries the motion.

Ms. Floyd stated that people's lives are being impacted by these decisions as it relates to developments. Some developments will allow for people's homes to have the value to go up whereas other developments right across the street can cause a house to go down in value. Everything needs to be fair and above board. She wants the governing body treating everything in a fair manner. Whoever is making the motion should be known.

Councilman Washington stated that if an individual comes before Council making a statement that a group, an agency, another person, etc. is in support of an issue; how Council verifies that the person speaking is telling the truth that he/she has the support of the aforementioned. He further stated that a lot of times, Council members make a decision to support or not support an issue based on what the person is stating during the public hearing.

Therefore it is important that a person provides a petition, a signed letter, or some documentation to validate that what he/she is saying is true.

Then Mr. Richard Brown spoke before the Committee and said that he lives near Mrs. Floyd and is in District #1, Councilman Washington's area. Mr. Brown said that he and his son purchased a house on Highway 261. During a recent rezoning a person told Council that all of the residents were contacted; however, that was not true. Mr. Brown said he wished that he had spoken during Council's meeting, but he missed his chance. He lives next door to the property that is being developed for Neighborhood Commercial.

The following suggestions were made by the Committee and staff members on how to handle this problem.

- The Chairman may need to ask more questions like: What do you mean everybody; How many people are you speaking for or on their behalf, etc.
- A petition could be provided.
- A signed affidavit could be presented.
- The list of names or landowners (letters that were sent out by the Planning Department) could be a part of the validation tool.

Mr. Mixon stated that Council members must weigh out what is being said. However, at the end of the day, Council has to make a decision with the information they have and what is being said during the meetings.

Committee Chairman Washington asked County Attorney Bryan for comments on this matter. Mr. Bryan stated that he would prefer getting back to the Committee on this issue after he had done some research.

Chairman McCain stated that he was in support of what has been said and especially the statements by Mr. Mixon's.

Councilman Washington stated that when someone comes into Council and says that "everyone" has been contacted, it raises a flag of greater validation. However, Council must be sure that the person has the information to back up the statement(s).

Committee Chairman Washington stated that this matter will be discussed at a later date and at that time the County Attorney should be able to provide some information to the Committee on what can be done to satisfy this concern.

3. **Executive Session: It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session For Matters Relating To Executive Session As Appropriate. If Necessary, Actions Will Be Taken On These Matters At The Conclusion Of Executive Session.**

No executive session was held.

4. **Additional Information:**

There was no additional information.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. None

ADJOURNMENT: After a motion by Councilman Baten, seconded by Committee Chairman Washington, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;

Mary W. Blanding