



Minutes
Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Thursday, January 11, 2022 - Held at 5:30 p.m.
County Administration Building -- Third Floor
County Administration Conference Room
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: James R. Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan W. Bryan, Bruce Haskins, Major Randy Steward

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper, Shelbie Goulding

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Of County Council – The Honorable James T. McCain, Jr.
The Chairman of Council, the Honorable James T. McCain, Jr., called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

INVOCATION –Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave an invocation at the Public Safety Committee meeting which was held at 5:00 p.m. and it was stated by the Chairman that the invocation given earlier would suffice for this meeting also.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Thursday, January 11, 2022
Chairman McCain call for a motion on the approval of the agenda.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Discussion and Review Of Draft Redistricting Plan Option For Sumter County Council And To Take Appropriate Actions If Necessary.

Gary Mixon, the County Administrator, presented to Council members a proposed draft of the impending Redistricting Plan for Sumter County Council. Mr. Mixon said that Mr. Bruce Haskins, Mapping Director, for Sumter County along with other staff members, and the Chairman of Sumter County Council were involved in the proposed first draft of developing a draft for Council's redistricting lines. This first draft copy is very similar to what the State of South Carolina would have provided to Council should the lines had been drawn by the State. This is ONLY a WORKING DOCUMENT so that Council will have a start at how the numbers look if lines are moved in one district to the other district.

Staff will make themselves available to County Council should Council members need for Districting Lines to move from location to another. Mr. Mixon gave Council members several scenarios as to how the lines where moved by Mr. Haskins to develop the map that Council

reviewed during this meeting. Each Council member was given a copy of the draft redistricting map and the eighth copy was given to the Clerk to Council for her records.

Council members were shown a copy of the map in hard copy and a copy on the television screen. It was also suggested by the Administrator that if Councilman Baker must give up an area so that Councilman Washington's numbers can increase; then the two of them could sit down together to work on making Councilman Washington's numbers better. The scheduling for these meetings would be handled by the Clerk to Council with input from Bruce Haskins so that he can be available to Council members.

The draft that the staff prepared for Council's review was a working document that has the population numbers within the 5% variation; however, as Council members work on the draft to get it where they want it to be, the document then becomes a Redistricting Plan that Council can vote on prior to March 1, 2022.

Thirteen changes were made from what the state provided in order to make changes to the map. It was noted that c

Mr. Haskins informed Council members that Census blocks cannot be divided per federal law; however, precincts can be divided as cited by the federal laws.

Councilman Washington voiced his concern that Wateree Correctional Center was moved out of his district; approximately 657 people; however, he was informed that this was action by the State of South Carolina from the Benchmark Information.

The Clerk to Council will schedule a meeting between Councilman Baker, Vice Chairman Byrd, and Councilman Washington. (Note, Councilman Byrd was out on medical leave. Therefore, Councilman Baker and Councilman Washington will meet concerning their districts until such a time that Vice Chairman Byrd can meet with Councilman Washington.)

Council members thanked the Administrator, Mr. Haskins, and the Chairman for the work that has been completed at this point on the Redistricting Lines for County Council to get started with reviewing the information for each district.

- (2) Executive Session: It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss Matters Appropriate For Executive Session And Take Appropriate Actions After The Executive Session As Necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) None

ADJOURNMENT

After all comments, MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding
Mary W. Blanding, Clerk to Council

Approved: January 25, 2022