



Minutes
Special Meeting
Sumter County Council
Tuesday, January 25, 2022 - Held at 5:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- Third Floor
County Administration Conference Room
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Artie Baker

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Johnathan Bryan, Mary W. Blanding, Joe Perry, Karen Hyatt, and Major Randy Stewart.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item, Shelbie Goulding

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Of County Council, The Honorable James T. McCain, Jr., called the special meeting to order.

INVOCATION - An invocation was given during the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee meeting. Therefore, the Chairman stated that this meeting would use that invocation for this meeting too.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Tuesday, January 25, 2022

The Chairman of Council called for a motion concerning action on the Agenda. Prior to taking action, the County Administrator asked Council to consider moving Item #5 -- County Council Penny Projects Discussion, in Executive Session because some of these items may involve potential land purchases and or development matters. Also, Mr. Mixon reminded Council that the other matter that needed to be held in executive session was a pending legal matter. Then Council took action on approving the Special Meeting agenda.

ACTION: MOTION by Councilman McGhaney, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to approve the agenda as requested by the County Administrator.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) **Penny Rural Meetings Update:** Mr. Mixon, the County Administrator, also provided to Council members a compilation of information from the Rural Community meetings that were held in December and January. There were seven meetings with 114 people participating in those meetings over a two-month period of time. Mr. Mixon stated that the conversations were very good. However, some of the conversations were not related to the

proposed Capital Penny Sales Tax proposed referendum. Mr. Mixon thanked Council members that were present during the community meetings and Chairman McCain for participating in areas that were not in his Council District. A list of each project that was suggested by the community members was given to each Council member. It was noted that some of the projects fall under the Capital Sales Tax, however, some of the projects that were requested will not be allowed through the Capital Sales Tax. Council was made aware of which ones could be included and which ones are not permitted.

Lastly, Mr. Mixon gave each Council member a copy of the Road Requests from the Community meetings. Many of the roads that were requested to be repaired were either State Roads or Private Roads. Karen Hyatt, the Public Works Director, was asked to identify whether or not the road was a State Road, County Road, or a Private Road. The information given to Council about the roads were per community meeting and which category they were in such as State, County, or Private. Additionally, Council received information about whether or not the road was paved, rocked, or needed resurfacing.

Councilman Washington asked Council members how committed is Council to paving roads during the next Penny Sales Tax and how much money is Council willing to commit to the road issue. He stated that the City is also having issues with roads; therefore, Councilman Washington asked how much of the proposed \$85,000,000 is Council willing to fight for to commit for roads in the rural communities.

The Administrator asked Councilman Washington to allow for Council to discuss some of these matters in executive session; Councilman Washington concurred to the request.

- (2) **Penny Time-line Review:** Mr. Mixon recapped for Council members the timeline for the upcoming Capital Penny Sales Tax Referendum and the requirements to add a referendum question on the election ballot. See dates below.
 - a. January 25, 2022 – Council
 - b. February 22, 2022 – Penny Commission Named
 - c. May 24, 2022 – First Reading from Penny Commission
 - d. July 1, 2022 – Ballot Question
 - e. November 2022 – Referendum

- (3) **Penny Stakeholder Project Update:** Mr. Mixon informed Council that the following Stakeholders will provide projects to the County for inclusion in the group of projects that the Commission will need to consider. The City of Sumter and Town of Pinewood are currently compiling their list. The Town of Mayesville has not responded as of yet as to when they will be meeting with their Council and/or citizens to compile its list. Economic Development and Central Carolina Technical College are also eligible to have projects funded through the Capital Projects Sales Tax funds.
 - a. Local Governments
 1. City of Sumter
 2. Town of Pinewood
 3. Town of Mayesville
 - b. Economic Development
 - c. Central Carolina Technical College

- (4) 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. County Council – Penny Projects Discussion.

Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion to enter executive session to receive a legal briefing and to discuss matters relating to the Capital Projects Sales Tax projects that may pertain to land purchases, improvements, and/or development matters.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Washington, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to enter executive session to discuss a legal matter and other matters relating to land purchases, improvements, and/or development matters.

After executive session, motion was made by Vice Chairman Byrd seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to re-enter open session.

Chairman McCain called for a motion concerning the legal matter discussed in executive session pertaining to the opioid litigation and settlement matters.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to authorize the County Attorney, Johnathan Bryan, to contact the attorney's in Spartanburg that are representing the County that Sumter County is agreeing to participate in the proposed opioid settlement agreements (the three distributors, the manufacture(s), and the S. C. Attorney General's agreement regarding the distribution of funds) relating to the Opioid Case.

- (5) Discussion and Review Of Draft Redistricting Plan Options For Sumter County Council And To Take Appropriate Actions As Necessary.

The Administrator stated that although Council members have not reached a total agreement on the proposed redistricting plan; the ordinance is on the agenda by Title Only for first reading. Additionally, it was stated that second reading will be on the agenda for February 8, 2022, and third reading for February 22, 2022, with a public hearing being held at that meeting. It was noted that the ordinance must be adopted before March 1, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) None

ADJOURNMENT

After all comments, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Edens, and unanimously carried by Council at 5:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Blanding, Clerk to County Council

County Council Special Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2022
Page 4

Approved: February 8, 2022