



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 27, 2018 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Three Sheriff Deputies, Gary Mixon, Mary Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Lorraine Dennis, Keysa Rogers, and Joe Perry.

MEDIA PRESENT: The Item Newspaper; Adrienne Sarvis

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Approximately twelve members of the public were in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman James T. McCain called the February 27, 2018, meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Councilman Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Chairman McCain called for a motion concerning the approval of the Tuesday, February 27, 2018, meeting of Sumter County Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Chairman McCain called for a motion concerning the approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, February 13, 2018, meeting of Sumter County Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the minutes by the Clerk.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:

Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

1. **OA-17-03 -- Real Estate/Subdivision Signs (County) - 18-883 - Third Reading -- A Request To Amend Article 8, Section 8.i.7. Miscellaneous And Temporary Signs To Better Define Real Estate Signs, Contractor Signs, Subdivision Project Signs, And Commercial Project Signs In The Sumter County -- Zoning And Development Standards Ordinance.**

Mr. George McGregor presented this proposed ordinance for third reading approval. There were no changes to the ordinance; therefore, Council took action on third reading.

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

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Economic Development Matter Or A Personnel Matter, Receive A Legal Briefing, Discuss A Contractual Matter, Or Other Matter Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) **18-884 - Second Reading** -- An Ordinance To Establish And Create A Special Tax District Within Sumter County, South Carolina, To Be Known As The "Boyles Pond Special Tax District"; To Define The Nature And Level Of Services To Be Rendered Therein; To Authorize The Imposition Of *Ad Valorem* Taxes And User Service Charges Therein, Which Shall Be Imposed Solely Within The Special Tax District; To Establish A Commission For The Tax District And Provide The Terms Therefor; And All Other Matters Related Thereto. (Public Hearing Will Be Held At Third Reading On March 13, 2018.)

The Chairman introduced this ordinance to Council for second reading. Mr. Bryan stated that there have been no changes to this ordinance since first reading. The ordinance will allow for those property owners who live or own property in the Boyles Pond subdivision to establish a Special Tax District within Sumter County, South Carolina. The funds for this Special Tax District will allow for the Boles Pond-Dam to be reconstructed due to the flood of 2015 which destroyed the dam and the pond.

After all comments, Council took action on second reading.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) Public Safety Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. In County Council's Conference Room (Sumpter, Baten, and Byrd)

The Chairman of the Committee, Councilman Chris Sumpter, stated that the Committee received a report from the Sheriff's Department and the Detention Center under the directions of the Sheriff. The Sheriff and his staff are working together greatly in moving the Detention Center along under the leadership of the Sheriff.

- (2) Fiscal, Tax, And Property Committee Meeting To Be Held On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. In County Council's Conference Room (McCain, Edens, and McGhaney)

Chairman McCain, who is also the Chairman of the Fiscal, Tax, and Property Committee, gave the following report and recommendation.

Propose New Speculative Building - The Committee received a report from Jay Schwedler, the Economic Development Director for Sumter County, concerning the need to construct a new Speculative Building which would be located in the Black River Industrial Park. A portion of the financing for the new Speculative Building can be obtained through an interest-free bearing loan from Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Committee recommended approval of this recommendation.

ACTION: MOTION and second were received from the Committee and unanimously carried by Council to accept an interest-free bearing loan from Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$1,000,000 to assist in the construction of a new Speculative Building.

Sumter County Financial Report -- The Committee also received a financial report from Mr. James Michaelson, the County's Finance Director.

(3) **Report From Council Members** On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences; And Any Other Council Comments.

The Chairman asked if any Council member wanted to give a report on anything. The following reports were given:

- **Councilman Eugene Baten** - The Local Government Fund was discussed during Council's meeting on February 13, 2018. In that report, Councilman Baten stated that the Council members throughout the State should talk with the Senators and the Representative about bringing the Local Government Fund (LGF) back to its original level of funding. There was some erroneous information provided to the Item Newspaper in a recent article stating that the funding levels were old; however, Councilman Baten stated that Representative Smith said in the article that he is willing to negotiate the funding for the Local Government Fund. Councilman Baten said that he is glad that there may be opportunity for negotiation. Thereby, Councilman Baten asked the Administrator to please provide information about what Florence County is doing to show the needed funding from the Local Government Fund to assist in operating the State Offices in Sumter County. This information will be provided to Council to during the budgetary process by the Finance Director.

Councilman Baten also talked about an article in the Times Magazine as it relates to the Opioid epidemic; *"It is the worse drug problem in the history of the United States."* Councilman Baten asked that the Sumter Behavioral Health Services Director, Mr. Glen Peagler, be invited to update Council on what this department is seeing in Sumter County as it relates to the Opioid Epidemic and how the Behavioral Health Services are dealing with these issues.

- **Comments from County Administrator Gary Mixon.** Mr. Mixon stated that the General Assembly is disputing what is considered the mandated agencies. South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) is working on developing a consolidated list of mandated agencies per county throughout the State. Although the General Assembly is disputing the mandated agencies, it is now being requested by SCAC that the General Assembly provide the Counties, through SCAC, a list of the Agencies they believe are mandated agencies then the counties and SCAC can calculate the figures. Mr. Mixon further restated that it is currently back and forth discussions between what agencies are mandated and which are not.

- **Councilwoman Vivian Fleming McGhaney** – stated that she along with other Council members and the Administrator attended the SCAC Mid-Winter Conference and the Opioid Epidemic was discussed as well as the Local Government Fund. Councilwoman McGhaney added that there is supposed to be a law suit that will happen against those responsible for this epidemic; however, it is her understanding that each county will have to file an individual suit for its County. More information can be received from the County Administrator.
- **James T. McCain** – Stated that his passion is to fight against Blight and Dilapidated Houses in Sumter County. – Two Bills Senate and House.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Untapped Food Truck Festival 2018
2. Farm to Table – March 22, 2018
3. Grand Opening Celebration - The Link – March 15, 2018

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. **Memorial Day Groundbreaking** – Mr. Mixon reported that in conjunction with the Memorial Day Events a groundbreaking will be held at the New Veterans Memorial Park on Highway 76/378 – More information will be available later.
2. **Opioid** – Mr. Mixon stated that there are several Attorneys that have contacted the County about these potential law firms. The County Administrator will keep Council information about this matter.
3. **LGF** – SCAC has contacted the Counties informing them that the General Assembly is currently supporting the LGF at the same level as 2017. As the budget process

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman asked if anyone from the public would like to speak to Council during public comment. Each person was granted three minutes.

- **Freddie Bennett** – stated that he is a citizen that lives in the 414 Silver Street Community. He said that his community has a severe rat, not mouse, problem. Mr. Bennett brought a mouse trap and a rat trap with him to show Council the difference between a rat trap and a mouse trap. Those in his community must use a large rat trap to kill the rats. Approximately 25 to 30 people in the community that have rat infestation. The rats are smart enough at times to be able to take the bait out of the trap without getting caught in the trap. Mr. Bennett stated that he has personally killed 22 rats that were in his home. The problem has occurred from Mr. Hodge's "recycling business" in this community. Additionally, Mr. Bennett stated that he appreciates the Chairman of Council and others who came out to see the problem; however, there are still problems in this area.

Chairman McCain stated that this is a real problem in the Community and something must be done about the issues going on with Mr. Hodge's business. He further stated that the community must also do a community clean up as well.

Councilman McGhaney stated that it would be good to contact the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to assist in this problem.

- **Janie McLaurin** - stated that she came to Council approximately a year or more ago about this problem after Mr. Hodge started moving his trucking company in the area. The rats are coming from this area. The community members can see the rats walking on top of the fence between their property and the property of Mr. Hodge. Ms. McLaurin further stated that she has call Gamecock Extermination Company three times to try to get the rats out of her home; each time it has cost her \$75.00. She asked Council to please help the community to get rid of this health problem.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Sumter County Council, and no additional comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. after a motion by Vice Chairman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Baker, and unanimously carried by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary W. Blanding
 Clerk to County Council
 Sumter County Council

Approved: March 13, 2018

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 bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.
- Date Posted: March 12, 2018
- 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: March 9, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
 Clerk to County Council

ADA Information: In compliance with ADA/Section 504, Sumter County Is Prepared To Make Accommodations For Individuals Needing Assistance To Participate In Our Programs, Services, Or Activities.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda was posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 13 East Canal Street, Sumter, SC, and the Sumter County website -- [www.sumtercountysc.org] under Our Council *Agendas/Minutes*. In addition, the agenda was electronically sent to newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and concerned citizens.