

C. DAVID CHINNIS
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE H. BAILEY
VICE CHAIRMAN

JASON L. WARD
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SALLY K. HEBERT
CLERK TO COUNCIL



JAY BYARS

WILLIE R. DAVIS

CARROLL S. DUNCAN

LARRY S. HARGETT

WILLIAM R. HEARN, JR.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

500 N. MAIN STREET, SUITE 2
SUMMERVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29483
(843) 832-0196 or (843) 563-0196

**MINUTES
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
DORCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SUMMERVILLE
JANUARY 19, 2016
7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting, and the following media outlets were notified: The Eagle-Record, The Summerville Journal Scene, The Post and Courier, WCBD Channel 2, WCIV Channel 4 and WCSC Channel 5.

PRESENT: Mr. C. David Chinnis, Chairman
Mr. George H. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jay Byars
Mr. Willie R. Davis
Mrs. Carroll S. Duncan
Mr. Larry S. Hargett
Mr. William R. Hearn, Jr.
Mr. Jason L. Ward, County Administrator
Mr. Charlie Potts, Deputy Administrator
Mr. John Frampton, County Attorney
Ms. Sally K. Hebert, Clerk to Council

Chairman Chinnis called to order the meeting of Dorchester County Council. He invited all to stand for the invocation, given by Councilman Hearn, and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN'S TIME

REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

- Mr. Mark Ledger, 1166 Out of Bounds, Legend Oaks Subdivision, Summerville, asked Council not to facilitate a change in zoning when residents are opposed to Rezoning Request #716.
- Mr. Wayne Barfield, 139 Destin Street, Brookwood Subdivision, Summerville, asked questions about the transition from coverage by Old Fort Fire to countywide fire.

- Mr. Howard Hunter, 100 Sun Valley Court, Brookwood Subdivision, Summerville, stated concerns about the transition of coverage from Old Fort Fire to countywide fire. He said he is a captain with the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department and a captain with Old Fort Fire Department, as a volunteer, and is a retired Air Force assistant fire chief.
- Mr. Mac Baughman, 225 Oakwood Drive, Sweetbriar Subdivision, Summerville, stated support for the proposed traffic circle at Old Orangeburg Road and Butternut Road. He thanked Councilman Hearn and Mr. Jason Carraher, Dorchester County Public Works Director, for attending the recent homeowners association meeting to discuss the traffic circle. Mr. Baughman said a traffic circle will improve safety and traffic flow.
- Ms. Linda Haynes Whetsell, 108 Atlantic Street, spoke about the dust, debris, chemicals and maggots from nearby industry. She asked for Council assistance, and said she would run for a council seat in the next election.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to adopt the minutes from the January 4, 2015, County Council Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Ward said he received a letter from ISO stating Dorchester County Fire-Rescue has been re-rated an ISO 4. Chairman Chinnis thanked Mr. Ward. Then he thanked Chief Tres Atkinson, Dorchester County Fire-Rescue, and asked that he please relay thanks to staff, both paid and volunteer, who made this happen in a short amount of time.

GUEST: MRS. TAMMIE SULLIVAN, DORCHESTER COUNTY CONTROLLER

Mrs. Sullivan presented the December 2015 budget report to County Council.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S TIME – MR. LARRY HARGETT

Councilman Hargett said he is very supportive of having School Resource Officers (SROs) in the schools. But according to an opinion issued by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office (AG) in November 2015, County Council and the three school districts in Dorchester County have taken actions to fund SROs that are probably illegal, said Councilman Hargett. The AG opinion specifically states that Dorchester County's taxing property owners for SROs violates ACT 388's prohibition against taxing owner-occupied homes for the purpose of school operating expenses and also constitutes possible illegal double taxation, said Councilman Hargett.

2. On the motion of Councilman Hargett, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted one in favor, with six opposed, to deny appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Dorchester County Government operating budget for SROs for School District Two, School District Four, and the Career School with the intent that SROs be funded, if at all, as a part of the school budgets, which County Council currently approves, for these entities.

There was much discussion on this issue. Several council members indicated agreement that SRO funding should be part of the school districts' budgets, but said they wanted this to be part of the budget discussion and the budget process rather than a vote at this time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME – MR. JASON WARD

REZONING REQUESTS #712 AND #713

3. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to give 3rd Reading and final approval of Rezoning Request #712 for Jessie Spell to rezone 1.46 acres at 164 Pine Land Lane from Multi-Family Residential District (R4) to Residential Manufactured Housing District (R1-M) and 3rd Reading of Rezoning Request #713 for Jessie Spell to rezone 1 acre at 165 Pine Land Lane from Multi-Family Residential District (R4) to Residential Manufactured Housing District (R1-M).

REZONING REQUEST #714

4. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to give 3rd Reading and final approval to Rezoning Request #714 for Linda K. Stone to rezone 3.6 acres adjacent to 106 Monarch Drive from Multi-Family Residential (R-4) to Transitional Residential District (TRM), TMS #143-08-04-016.

1ST READING: AUTHORIZING WATER & SEWER TO APPROVE SOME NEW REQUESTS

5. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to approve 1st Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances, Dorchester County, South Carolina, to Amend Chapter 2, Article I, Sec. 2-104 (a) (6) to Add a New Subsection (d)., to Amend Chapter 44, Article 1, Sec. 44-76 (1) (d) to Add a New Subsection 2., and to Amend Chapter 44, Article 1, Sec. 44-186 (1)(b) to Add an Additional Sentence so as to Authorize the Water and Sewer Department to Approve New Water and Sewer Service in Certain Situations. These amendments would allow staff approval for water and sewer requests of 10 Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) or less.

REPLACEMENT OF PUMPER TRUCK

6. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Byars, Council voted unanimously to approve replacement of a 2002 two-door international pumper with a refurbished four-door custom pumper for Sandhill Fire Station, as recommended by the Dorchester County Fire-Rescue Chief.

HAZARDOUS-DUTY PAY

7. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Bailey, Council voted unanimously to approve rewarding hazardous-duty pay for service in life-threatening conditions to select employees not included in the original list approved by County Council related to the October 2015 storm.

Public Works employees in the Transportation Division were inadvertently omitted from the list of hourly employees to receive hazardous-duty pay related to the October 2015 storm, which was voted on by County Council at the previous meeting, said Mr. Ward. The cost is \$4,503.82.

MERIT PAY

8. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilman Duncan, Council voted unanimously to approve a 2.5 percent merit pay increase for the Dorchester County Delinquent Tax Collector, Elections and Registrations Director, and Veterans Affairs Director, beginning the next pay period as recommended by the Human Resources Director.

RECLASSIFICATIONS: WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT

9. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to approve reclassifications of the Deputy Director of Administration and Utility Services, Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance, and Principal Engineer in the Water and Sewer Department as recommended by the Compensation Committee.

These changes bring positions in the Water and Sewer Department in line with similar positions in other utilities and similar positions in the Public Works Department. Funding is available in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund because of savings from vacancies.

Mr. Ward introduced Mr. Larry Harper, P.E., as the new Dorchester County Water and Sewer Director, effective Monday, January 19.

COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIRWOMAN DUNCAN – PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chairwoman Duncan reported that the Committee met at 6 p.m. to hold a public hearing and consider a recommendation for 2nd Reading of Rezoning Request #716 for Anchor Consulting Engineers, LLC, to

rezone 74.99 acres at 1005 Beech Hill Road from Mixed-Use Commercial (MUC) to Single Family Residential District (R-2), TMS #159-00-00-007, #159-00-00-017, #159-00-00-018, #159-00-00-019.

Chairwoman Duncan said there was quite a bit of discussion during the public hearing. Members of the public stated concerns about the impact of additional homes on roads, potential flooding and wetlands. Because this public hearing was simply to determine zoning, she said the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council approval.

10. Council voted unanimously to give 2nd Reading of Rezoning Request #716 for Anchor Consulting Engineers, LLC, to rezone 74.99 acres at 1005 Beech Hill Road from Mixed-Use Commercial (MUC) to Single Family Residential District (R-2), TMS #159-00-00-007, #159-00-00-017, #159-00-00-018, and #159-00-00-019.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

11. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Pete Weathers to the Dorchester County Conservation Commission.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND

12. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to send a letter of support and thanks to Governor Nikki Haley for including full funding of the Local Government Fund in the Executive Budget.

Chairwoman Duncan said she wanted to remind everyone that the state has \$1.3 billion more in revenue this year for the budget.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S TIME – MR. JOHN FRAMPTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The County Attorney requested Council's consideration to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Contractual Matter
 - HG Reynolds Detention Center Contract

13. On the motion of Councilman Hearn, seconded by Councilman Bailey, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at approximately 7:58 p.m. to discuss the previously stated matter.

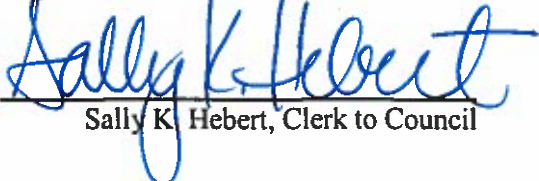
RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 8:18 p.m., Mr. Frampton reported that Council discussed the previously announced item, but no action was taken.

14. On the motion of Councilman Hearn, seconded by Councilman Bailey, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to authorize the County Administrator to make a transfer of \$135,000 from personnel to capital to supplement a transfer from operating capital in the Sheriff and Detention departments. Councilman Hargett was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

15. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Bailey, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to adjourn at approximately 8:19 p.m. Councilman Hargett was absent.


Sally K. Hebert, Clerk to Council