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JAY BYARS

WILLIE R. DAVIS

CARROLL S. DUNCAN

LARRY S. HARGETT

WILLIAM R. HEARN, JR.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DORCHESTER COUNTY

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**MINUTES
DORCHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
DORCHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SUMMERVILLE
MARCH 7, 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. 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
ABSENT: Mr. C. David Chinnis, Chairman

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

VICE CHAIRMAN'S TIME

Vice Chairman Bailey asked Council to consider amending the agenda.

1. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to amend the agenda to add a guest from the State Accreditation Council to make an award presentation to the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department.

REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Ms. Karen Radcliffe, 407 Country Club Blvd, Summerville, spoke in support of County Council funding SROs. Additionally, she said Delemar Highway is a too-narrow road with inexperienced and inattentive drivers traveling sometimes through standing water, making it a recipe for disaster. We're on borrowed time right now, she said.
- Mr. Rick Sutton, 108 Tryon Drive, Summerville, congratulated the Sheriff's department on a well-deserved award. He called for completion of Delemar Highway and asked what citizens could do to support completion. He described traveling on the road to Ashley Ridge High School as terrifying. He said since 2012, there have been 166 accidents on Delemar Highway with 78 injuries. It's time to do something, he said.
- Miss Emme Sutton, 108 Tryon Drive, Summerville, is an Ashley Ridge High School student. She too asked for improvements to Delemar Highway.
At this point in the meeting, Councilman Byars said the project budget has a \$3-\$4 million shortfall, which is stalling completion of Delemar Highway improvements. He said an online petition will be available soon, asking the state legislature to fully fund the road project using state surplus monies.
- Mr. Steven Wright, 102 Hammerbeck Road, Summerville, asked County Council to name the new detention center after fallen deputies Gary Blackwood (1988) and Mike Dease (2007).
- Mr. George Resnick, 1026 Bridlewood Farms Parkway, Ridgeville, spoke in support of Councilman Hargett's proposal regarding SROs.
- Mr. Denis Halloran, 305 Huntington Road, Summerville, stated opposition to a proposed roundabout at the entrance of Sweetbriar subdivision. He also stated concerns about flooding at the entrance.
- Ms. Mary LeMatty, 111 Timberlake Court, Summerville, spoke in support of County Council funding SROs.
- Ms. Anna Tuten, 8708 Lockery Court, N. Charleston, spoke in support of County Council funding SROs.
- Ms. Camilla Groome, 101 Holly Inn Road, Summerville, principal of Newington Elementary School, spoke in support of County Council funding SROs.
- Mr. Stephen Campbell, 545 Beverly Drive, Summerville, asked County Council to cause the building official to issue notices of violation and orders for abatement to the builder of his home on Highway 61 because of deviations from approved construction documents and code violations in construction. He also asked County Council to constitute a Board of Appeals.
- Ms. Peggy Bangle, 114 Ravenwood Court, Summerville, spoke about the County audit, the funding of SROs and the Local Government Fund.

MINUTES

1. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to adopt the minutes from the February 16, 2016, County Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION #16-02, RECOGNIZING MRS. DELORIS HARRISON

2. On the motion of Councilwoman Duncan, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to adopt Resolution #16-02, Recognizing Mrs. Deloris Harrison for 42 Years of Dedicated Service to Dorchester County.

Mrs. Mary Pearson, Dorchester County Treasurer, said Mrs. Harrison worked in the Treasurer's Office from 1973 to 2016. She called her a hard-working, dedicated and committed employee.

Mrs. Harrison thanked Mrs. Pearson and County Council for the recognition. She said she has enjoyed the many years of working with the citizens and employees of Dorchester County.

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Vice Chairman Bailey called on Mr. Ward to describe the Dorchester County Needs Assessment public hearing format. Mr. Ward said the purpose of this public hearing is to solicit citizen input concerning

Dorchester County's Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan and Community Needs Assessment. The Citizen Participation Plan is a guide developed by Dorchester County in conformance with SC Department of Commerce administrative requirements and US Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. He then read the priorities of the Dorchester County 2015 Community Needs Assessment.

Vice Chairman Bailey struck the gavel, opening the public hearing. He invited members of the public who wished to speak on this issue to come to the podium. Ms. Peggy Bangle spoke about Habitat for Humanity building houses Rambo Road in the Clemson Terrance area. She asked about water and sewer on Campbell Thicket Road. She also spoke about building a library of the future. Ms. Angie Crum spoke about the Campbell Thicket/Coburn Town area and the need for water and sewer.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Ward read a letter from Gov. Haley thanking Dorchester County for participating in the Integrated Emergency Management Course in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and representing the Palmetto State so well. He then read correspondence sent to Vice Chairman Bailey from Sen. Matthews, regarding his support of funding for signage at Winding Woods.

GUESTS: MR. CHRIS MOKEN AND MS. SYDNEY SINGHASS, LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

Ms. Singhass gave a presentation on hunger in the lowcountry, what the Lowcountry Food Bank is doing to alleviate this and how the community could work together with the Food Bank. She said 1.6 million pounds of food was distributed last year to 11,000 individuals through 26 partnering feeding agencies.

Mr. Moken delivered information about the Summer Food Program. He said children who qualify for free or reduced meals during the school year also are eligible for meals during the summer. However, only about one in five participate, primarily because there are not enough sponsors or sites in the community offering meals to children. He asked for Council's help in recruiting sites and invited the two principals present in the audience to partner with the Summer Food Program.

GUEST: MR. CHIP JOHNSON, SC LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

Mr. Johnson presented Sheriff L.C. Knight with a framed certificate of accreditation from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Council in recognition of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department meeting 243 applicable standards on the first attempt. The Accreditation Council is an initiation of the South Carolina Police Chiefs Association and the South Carolina Sheriffs Association. Accreditation is voluntary for professional improvement. Mr. Johnson recognized the team of Major John Garrison, Capt. Thomas Limehouse, Mr. Robert Mixon and Ms. Cassandra Cooner, who with Sheriff Knight and Chief Deputy Sam Richardson, spearheaded the accreditation effort. Council led a round of applause for their successful effort.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S TIME – MR. LARRY HARGETT

Councilman Hargett said Dorchester County has capital improvement programs that need money, namely libraries and public parks and recreation. With the schools' cooperation, he said he has found a little bit of money. He advocated for implementation of the Tidwell report, thereby saving \$1.755 million over five years by replacing School Resource Officers (SROs) from the Sheriff's Department with School Security Officers from a private security company.

Councilman Hargett quoted from a February 24, 2016, opinion from the South Carolina Attorney General (AG), stating "a school district could lawfully employ directly a security officer other than a School Resource Officer to provide protection at schools."

3. On the motion of Councilman Hargett, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted two in favor, with four opposed and one absent, to include in the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget a credit to all taxpayers upon whose property, both real and personal, the one mill for SRO funding was levied in an amount equal to the amount of taxes paid by the taxpayers resulting from the one mill levy. This would be implemented

by staff. Opposing the motion were Councilman Davis, Vice Chairman Bailey, Councilman Hearn and Councilman Byars. The motion failed.

During discussion, Councilwoman Duncan offered an amendment to Councilman Hargett's motion that we do not include a process for crediting the taxpayers in this particular budget, and instead discuss it during the budgetary process, and commit that we will not include millage for SROs in this upcoming Dorchester County budget. The amendment died for lack of a second.

This is not a conversation about the merits of SROs in our schools, said Councilwoman Duncan. Our Sheriff's deputies have provided a fantastic program to keep our children safe. This discussion is simply about the funding resource, she said. It is up to the school board to decide how they want to fund SROs.

There was much discussion. Several council members said this should be part of the budget discussion and the budget process rather than a vote at this time.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME – MR. JASON WARD

WATER AND SEWER ORDINANCE

4. On the motion of Councilman Hargett, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to give 3rd Reading and final approval 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.

REZONING REQUEST #720

5. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to give 1st Reading and Referral to the Planning, Development and Building Committee of Rezoning Request #720 for Locklair Consulting to rezone 118.55 acres at SC Hwy 27 in Ridgeville from Absence of Control (AC) to Industrial (I) and General Commercial (CG), TMS #087-00-00-050.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION: IEMC TRAINING

6. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Duncan, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to approve compensation for the employees who traveled to Maryland for training on Sunday (2/21/2016) and Friday (2/26/2016).

PAY GRADE STRUCTURE: SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

7. On the motion of Councilwoman Duncan, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted five in favor, with one opposed and one absent, to approve wage and grade structure adjustments as recommended by the Sheriff's Office in consultation with Human Resources, with an effective date of March 19. Councilman Hargett opposed the motion.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: There were no appointments

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 Matters
 - First Amendment to Real Estate Purchase from Peacock Investments, LLC
 - Solid Waste Cap and Recycling Program with the City of North Charleston

8. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to enter into Executive Session at approximately 8:41 p.m. to discuss the previously stated matter.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 9:06 p.m., Mr. Frampton reported that Council discussed the previously announced items, but no action was taken.

9. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hargett, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to authorize the County Administrator to execute the First Amendment to the Agreement to Buy and Sell between Dorchester County and Peacock Investments, LLC, as presented in Executive Session together with such additions, amendments and deletions as may be deemed necessary, reasonable and prudent after consultation with the Economic Development Director and the County Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT

10. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Byars, Council voted six in favor, with one absent, to adjourn at approximately 9:07 p.m.



Sally K. Hebert, Clerk to Council