

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  
JUNE 6, 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 Hargett, and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

#### **REQUESTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:**

- Ms. Deb Ainscough, 189 McMakin Street, Summerville, asked Council to approve a courtesy cleaning of the ditch behind her house and her neighbor's ditch. She also asked for a culvert in her neighbor's yard to be expanded.
- Ms. Linda Richards, 111 Perry Drive, Summerville, asked for road maintenance and drainage improvements. She said the road now has eight residents.

- Mr. Thomas Feagin, 111 Ponderosa Road, Summerville, thanked all veterans, past and present, for their service on this anniversary of D Day. He objected to the location of the to-be-built aquatic center in North Charleston. He questioned spending money on a pool versus libraries. He also questioned funding for Delemar Highway to Ashley Ridge High School versus funding for Orangeburg Road, between Boone Hill Road and Mallard Road, which serves five schools.
- Ms. Peggy Bangle, 114 Ravenwood Court, Summerville, advocated for full funding of the Local Government Fund by the state legislature. She noted unintended consequences related to a proposed hospitality tax ordinance and asked if it would be worth it once expenses are paid.

### **MINUTES**

1. On the motion of Councilman Hargett, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted unanimously to adopt the minutes from the May 16, 2016, County Council Meeting and the May 23, 2016, Special Called County Council Meeting.

### **ORDINANCE: LOCAL HOSPITALITY TAX**

2. On the motion of Councilman Byars, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted five in favor, with two opposed, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of an Ordinance Imposing a Local Hospitality Tax Not to Exceed 2% on the Sales of Prepared Meals and Beverages as Defined and Authorized and for the Purposes Set Forth in S.C. Code Annotated Section 6-1-700, et seq., as Amended. Councilman Hargett and Councilwoman Duncan opposed the motion.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: BUDGET ORDINANCE**

Chairman Chinnis announced Council would hold a public hearing for Dorchester County Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, An Ordinance to Make Appropriations for County Government, Educational, and Fire Protection Purposes for Dorchester County for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016, and Said Taxes and Other Revenues Coming into the County.

He struck the gavel, opening the Public Hearing. He invited the public to come forward to speak on this issue. The following people addressed Council concerning the proposed budget:

- Mr. Steven Wright, 102 Hammerbeck Road, Summerville, asked whether millage is being shifted from School Resource Officers (SROs) to cover deputy raises. He also asked how the schools will pay for SROs.
- Ms. Tricia Mazell, 103 Old Country Club Road, Summerville, stated concerns regarding DD2's budget plan, which discontinues funding for In-School Counseling Services via Dorchester Mental Health. She asked for more transparency regarding the budget.
- Ms. Leigh Ellen Ward, 622 S. Laurel Street, Summerville, also requested continuation of funding for In-School Counseling Services via Dorchester Mental Health. She questioned why affected families were not notified of potential cuts to services.
- Mr. Thomas Feagin, 111 Ponderosa Road, Summerville, asked Council to cut two mills from the school district budget.
- Mr. Brian Mitchem, 212 Barberry Street, Summerville, DD2 school board member, said there were six advertised budget meetings and noted that a proposed budget is not a final budget.
- Ms. Peggy Bangle, 114 Ravenwood Court, Summerville, asked about the possibility for adjustments to the school budget. She suggested sending a note home with the students, announcing budget meetings.

Chairman Chinnis said County Council approves a budget number for DD2 on the recommendation of the School Board. He said County Council does not have a line-item veto.

In the absence of any additional requests to speak, Chairman Chinnis struck the gavel again, closing the Public Hearing.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mr. Ward said staff forwarded items of correspondence upon receipt. Chairman Chinnis said Council members should have received a copy of a letter from the South Carolina Comptroller General, thanking Dorchester County for transparency in having the check register posted on the county website. He thanked staff for their efforts in making this happen.

**GUEST: MS. SHARON RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DOORS TO FREEDOM**

Ms. Rikard said she established Doors to Freedom in September of 2011 as a 501(c)3 for the purpose of providing a home for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life. In December 2012, Gov. Haley signed South Carolina's first anti-trafficking law. Since 2012, reported cases of sex trafficking statewide have doubled from 20 to 42. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force states in its annual report that 145 sex trafficking survivors were offered assistance in South Carolina in 2015. Doors to Freedom assisted 12 of those survivors. To date, Doors to Freedom has helped 20 girls, ages 14 to 23. Services include victim advocacy, case management, education, life skills and counseling. In March, Doors to Freedom purchased a home for survivors in Dorchester County. At capacity, the home accommodates 10 girls, said Ms. Rikard.

The state of South Carolina has one human trafficking law enforcement unit, which is located in the City of North Charleston. However, Ms. Rikard said human trafficking has surpassed firearms trafficking; and it is predicted to surpass drug trafficking in the next five years.

Ms. Rikard said the survivors are assessing low in education, usually at about a fifth grade level. She requested \$10,000 from County Council to fund the organization's Education, Life Skills and Counseling Program, which includes the purchase of curriculum enabling survivors to earn a General Education Development (GED) diploma.

Ms. Rikard answered questions from Council members. Chairman Chinnis thanked her for her presentation.

**GUEST: MS. MARY GRAHAM, CHARLESTON METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Ms. Graham provided an update on various initiatives undertaken by the Military Policy Council with County Council support in an effort to retain and strengthen regional military facilities and advocate for legislation supporting the military's presence in our state.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S TIME – MR. JASON WARD**

**TRANSFER REQUEST: FINANCE REGULAR WAGES TO CONTRACT PERSONNEL**

3. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hargett, Council voted unanimously to authorize the transfer of \$4,869 in savings from Regular Wages to fund Other Contract Personnel.

**HVAC REPAIRS**

4. On the motion of Councilwoman Duncan, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to authorize the transfer of \$84,178 in Personnel savings to fund the repair of HVAC units and to purchase chemicals and provide funding for aerial spraying.

**INSTITUTIONAL SIGNAGE RESTRICTIONS**

5. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted unanimously to give 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and referral to the Planning, Development and Building Committee for an Ordinance to Amend Dorchester County Zoning and Land Development Standards Ordinance #04-13, as Previously Amended, with Respect to Article XIII, Section 13.5.7, Subsection (d) "Institutional Signage" to Limit Restrictions Unique to Institutional Signage to Residential Districts.

The purpose of this amendment is to set sign standards for churches, schools and other institutions in commercial areas to the same standards applicable to commercial uses.

**REZONING REQUEST #715: CENTRAL AVENUE**

6. On the motion of Councilwoman Duncan, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted unanimously to give 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and referral to the Planning, Development and Building Committee of Rezoning Request #715 by Travis Lee to rezone 1.28 acres at 1759 Central Avenue from Multi-Family Residential (R-4) to Office and Institutional (OI), TMS #135-16-00-055.

**REZONING REQUEST: KAY LANE**

7. On the motion of Councilwoman Duncan, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to give 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and referral to the Planning Commission and the Planning, Development and Building Committee of a Rezoning Request by Mark and Melinda Shambley to rezone approximately three acres within an 8.22-acre parcel at 122 Kay Lane from Transitional Residential District (TRM) to Commercial-Light Industrial District (CLI), TMS #152-00-00-021.

**DONATIONS TO DORCHESTER COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE**

8. On the motion of Councilman Bailey, seconded by Councilwoman Duncan, Council voted unanimously to recognize donated funds from the S.C. State Firefighters' Association (\$3,637.76) and Belfor USA (\$2,000) as Revenue in FY 2016 Fire budget and approval of the funds to construct a side-by-side burn building.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CHAIRMAN CHINNIS – BUDGET, FINANCE, AND PURCHASING COMMITTEE**

Chairman Chinnis passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bailey. He reported that the Committee held a 5 p.m. meeting on May 23 in St. George to receive budget presentations by Dorchester School District Four, Dorchester County Library, Dorchester County Career and Technology Center, Dorchester County Fire-Rescue, and Ashley River Fire District. The Committee did not receive a budget presentation from Old Fort Fire District, although one was requested. The Committee received the budget reports for information only and took no action.

Vice Chairman Bailey returned the gavel to Chairman Chinnis.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

9. On the motion of Councilman Hearn, seconded by Councilman Davis, Council voted unanimously to reappoint Ms. Theresa McKnight of the Emergency Management Department to the Dorchester County Grievance Committee.
10. On the motion of Councilman Chinnis, seconded by Councilman Bailey, Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Stephen A. Elks, 267 Lois Lane, Dorchester, to the Dorchester County Aeronautics Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

- Legal Advice
  - Bond Referendum for Libraries and Parks
  - County Improvement District Summers Corner
- Contractual Matters
  - Lease Extension – Reevesville Fire Department

11. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hargett, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at approximately 8:06 p.m. to discuss the previously stated matters.


**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 9:19 p.m., Mr. Frampton reported that Council discussed the previously announced items, but no action was taken.

existing lease, which commenced February 1, 2013, for the fire station site owned by the Town according to its current provisions for a term of three years provided that either party can terminate the lease by providing the other 150 days prior written notice of termination. The lease would renew for automatic one-year extensions unless a party provides 150 days written prior notice to the termination date or extension thereof.

**ADJOURNMENT**

13. On the motion of Councilman Davis, seconded by Councilman Hearn, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at approximately 9:20 p.m.

  
Sally K. Hebert, Clerk to Council