



Richland County Council

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

July 28, 2020

Immediately Following the Zoning Public Hearing
Zoom Meeting

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Chair; Dalhi Myers, Vice Chair; Joyce Dickerson, Calvin Jackson, Bill Malinowski, Yvonne McBride, Chakisse Newton, Allison Terracio, Jim Manning and Joe Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Ashley Powell, Leonardo Brown, Dale Welch, Angela Weathersby, Ashiya Myers, John Thompson, Larry Smith, Tammy Addy, Clayton Voignier, Kyle Holsclaw, Quinton Epps, James Hayes, Allison Steele, Nancy Stone-Collum, and Elizabeth McLean

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Livingston called the meeting to order at approximately 7:38 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Walker moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Walker, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE**

- a. **CDBG-DR Rehabilitation Project Change Order** -- Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to deny this item.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Walker, Manning, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- a. **Historic Property Designation at 1215 Shop Road** – Mr. Brown stated the committee forwarded this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. It was noted by Ms. Myers that it would have been beneficial if she had been aware of this matter.

Mr. Malinowski noted, at the committee meeting, he requested staff to provide the cost to Richland County in loss taxes, or benefit to the County in additional taxes taken in.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Walker, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Clemson Rd. Widening Project – Waterline Deeds – Mr. Jackson stated the committee recommended First Reading approval of this item.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Walker, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

6. **REPORT OF THE CORONAVIRUS AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Coronavirus Relief Fund Requirements – Ms. Myers stated Mr. Brown and Tetra Tech made us aware that the funds the County had to receive directly from the Federal government have been given to the State, and were to have been distributed on a proportionate basis. We have now been informed that the Governor has instituted a different program, and we may not get proportionate amounts of the funds, based on population. We will now be competing with every other county for a smaller pot of funds. At the committee meeting, she inquired if the statute allow for that kind of discretion on the part of the Governor, and if we are entitled to the funds as a direct grant, based on what Congress did. She requested the Legal Department to look at that, collaborate with other counties, and check with the Association of Counties and lobbyists to see if the process that has been instituted is correct.

Ms. Newton stated one additional thing that was discussed was what would happen if we signed the agreement that allowed us to access the system to apply for reimbursement.

Mr. Smith stated between the committee meeting and this meeting they had an opportunity to go back and gather information regarding the way the State proposes to distribute the funding to local government, pursuant to a sub-recipient agreement. Based on the information he has, at this point, it appears the legislation from Congress provided that if a local government had a population of 500,000 or less, a benchmark would be used, based on 45% of the local government's per capita share of the Statewide allocation. It appears Richland County has an approximately 420,000 citizens. It his understanding that Greenville County is the only county that got a direct payment because their population was over 500,000. Based on the information they have received, the State wants counties that have less than 500,000 to compete for the rest of those dollars by way of the sub-recipient agreement. They have not been able to find anything in the legislation, which says that is the formula they intended to be followed for those local governments with less than 500,000.

Ms. Myers inquired if we should go back, because there is a formula by which funds should be allocated rather than on a competitive basis, as would be the case with this agreement.

Mr. Smith responded in the affirmative.

- b. Subrecipient Agreement for Coronavirus Relief Funds – This item was taken up with the previous item.
- c. Relief Grant Program – Mr. Brown stated the committee forwarded this to Council with a recommendation to approve the extension to October 31, 2020, with the understanding that we could request additional time, if needed.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Walker and Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Mr. Malinowski, to go into Executive Session.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Opposed: Manning

Not Present: Walker and Kennedy

The vote was in favor.

Council went into Executive Session at approximately 8:03 PM and came out at approximately 8:26 PM

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Mr. Manning, to come out of Executive Session.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Walker and Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Myers moved, seconded by Ms. Newton, to instruct the staff to evaluate the CARES Act, the County's options under the CARES Act, and to recommend actions consistent with the funding formula under the CARES Act.

Mr. Malinowski made a friendly amendment to reach out to other stakeholders and State officials, as needed.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Jackson, Myers and Newton

Not Present: Walker and Kennedy

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Malinowski noted, during the earlier Transportation Ad Hoc Committee meeting, the Administrator commented that he was not going to approve any projects that were over the referendum. However, in a previous Council meeting, staff presented descopes of projects, and all of those projects were included under one item on the agenda. It is his recollection, Council approved staff to move forward with all of the descoping projects. Therefore, staff needs to allow them to

move forward so we do not end up having negative publicity by holding something back that was approved by Council.

Mr. Jackson stated he was glad to hear that what was going to be recommended to Council, in the future, has automatically been approved tonight by everyone saying they honor that. We were going to ensure, in the effort of full transparency, that if there were any items in that approved list that exceeded the referendum, which prior to the list every member of Council voted to not fund, or to allow to move forward, that you understood that and you still wanted that list to go forward. If you are saying you are happy with the decision on May 5th, regardless if they are over the referendum, there will be no need to bring those projects back for individual approval.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 PM.