

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

June 1, 20169:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Al Johnson, Vice-Chair Lenora V. Powe, Council Members: J. Matthew Rivers, Mary Anderson, Bruce E. Rivers, Gerald L. Miller, Douglas Curtis, Robert G. Cole and G. Franklin Plyler.

OTHERS PRESENT: Denise R. Douglass – Administrator; Tim Eubanks – Assistant Administrator/Public Works Director; Betty M. Boswell – Clerk to Council; Michelle Stanley – Finance Director; Lisa Gainey – Human Resource Director; Kim Burch – Chesterfield County Economic Development Director; Mike Orr – Codes Enforcement Director; Cody Harvey, I.T Department Director; Kip Kiser – Coroner; C. Heath Ruffner – County Attorney; Robert Monnie – The Link; Ben Teal, Ronald Griggs, and Ralph Watson. There were others attending the meeting who did not sign the sign-in-sheet.

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone and Council Member Miller opened the meeting with prayer.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Matt Rivers made a motion to adopt the June 1, 2016 meeting agenda. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 4, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Council Member Matt Rivers made a motion to approve the May 4, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

None

APPOINTMENTS

a. Honorable Kip Kiser, Coroner – Additional Deputy Coroner

The Coroner briefed Council on the likely passage of Senate Bill 1182 and the additional duties that would be required of the Coroner’s office as a result. Coroner Kiser reported that the new requirements relate mainly to child fatalities and will necessitate the hiring of an additional part-time deputy coroner. This new deputy coroner would also be utilized to assist in covering the western portion of the County. There was discussion among the Coroner and Council concerning the current number of deputy coroners and possible methods of funding the additional deputy in the event it was not funded by the State. The Coroner indicated he would update Council on the status of the pending legislation and Chairman Johnson thanked him for keeping Council informed.

b. Marlboro County Rescue Squad, Inc. – Ambulance Service Franchise Application

The Applicant did not appear. Chairman Johnson advised this item will be placed on the July 13, 2016 Council meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Zuendt – Citizen: Advised Council his name is Richard Zuendt and he that he lives at 141 Bullard Ford Road. He advised that he would like to address Council regarding the resettlement of Middle Eastern refugees and that he was asking Council to join seven other counties in South Carolina in expressing to the Governor that they don't want to participate in this. He stated that the Resettlement Program is wrong on so many levels and that he would like to see Council join these other counties and issue a Resolution and send it to the Governor saying that Chesterfield County does not want to be a part of this.

Mr. Zuendt presented Council with copies of Resolutions from other counties regarding this matter.

Kim Burch, Director of Economic Development: Advised Council this is the first year that the County has participated in the Art and Ag Tour in South Carolina and that there are nine counties participating and it is through Olde English Tourism. She advised that McLeod Farms is our designee farm and there were others they would have loved to have participate, but there were some issues with insurance. We are with Darlington and Horry County and every weekend in June you can visit a farm in our area and see the local artisans. There will be artisans on place at McLeod's and there will also be some at Pageland Antique Mall in Pageland.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Lease-Purchase Ordinance – Public Hearing

Council Member Curtis made a motion to open public hearing. Vice-Chair Powe seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

There were no oral comments from the public made nor were any written comments received.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to close public hearing. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTION

a. Lease-Purchase Ordinance – 3rd Reading

Vice-Chair Powe made a motion to pass 3rd Reading. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. Ordinance to Reestablish the Chesterfield Rural Fire Protection District – 1st Reading, by title only

Council Member Plyler made a motion to pass 1st Reading, *by title only*. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

c. \$210,000 General Obligation Bond Ordinance – 1st Reading, by title only

Council Member Matt Rivers made a motion to pass 1st Reading, *by title only*. Council Member Cole seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

d. Resolution Authorizing Contract Extension (Chesterfield Rural Fire Protection Service Area)

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to pass the Resolution. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

e. Resolution Ordering Public Hearing (Chesterfield Rural Fire Protection District)

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to pass the Resolution. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

f. Resolution Authorizing First Amendment (Solid Waste Disposal Agreement)

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to pass the Resolution. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Subdivision Road Standards – Road Committee Chair Powe

- Submission of Proposed Amendment to Land Development Ordinance to Planning Commission

There was discussion regarding subdivision road standards, changing those standards and the procedure necessary to amend the two ordinances involved.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers made a motion to table the matter. Vice-Chair/Road Committee Chair Powe indicated her agreement with tabling the matter for the time being. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

None

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

a. Lease-Purchase Funding Award (motor grader, two (2) dump trucks and roll off truck – Douglass

Reported that Invitations for Bid were issued for the funding of this equipment. BB&T submitted a bid for 1.46% with a five year term and Wells Fargo submitted a bid for 1.79% with a five year term. The bid was awarded to BB&T at a rate of 1.46% with a five year term. This was presented for information only as the previously passed Ordinance authorized the Administrator to accept the bid. The Administrator also clarified that the repayment would be from the Capital Equipment Fund.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Advised that the Animal Services Director asked that she let everyone know that we have been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the ASPCA. This is to be used for the care and testing expenses for distemper outbreak. Also advised that the volunteers raised enough money for thirty adoptable cats to be vetted. The vet, Dr. Taylor, is going to donate her services, so what this means, is for the month of June, they are running a special that Veterans can adopt a fully vetted cat for \$20.00, so we would like for you to pass it along to others.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Council Member Anderson: I want to share a couple of things and this is in reference to Jim McGonigal, our Animal Services Officer. Mr. McGonigal gave the Animal Services Committee some information about our trash conviction rate but I asked if he could get comp numbers from our surrounding counties and I just thought it would be interesting and of note for us to know what other counties have, and once again to show what a good job Jim is doing and The Link and Jane Pigg have done to help educate our citizens. Marlboro County had 60 Summons with a 60% conviction rate for the last year. Darlington County had 26 Summons with a 100% conviction rate but a majority of those are at the convenience center from what I understand. Lancaster County is the closest to us averaging seven a month with an 85% conviction rate but with us, we have taken care of 78 tons of trash, 106 convictions, which is a 29% increase and a 100% conviction rate. I think that definitely shows we are in the right direction.

Chairman Johnson: Ms. Anderson, when you say conviction rate, what do they make these people do?

Council Member Anderson: Well, they do fine them and they can also give eight hours of community service which is generally the sentence.

Council Member Curtis: One request on the same note with Animal Services, as Chairman of the Animal Services Committee. We are starting to meet again and we haven't met in quite some time and we put some protocols together back some years ago when we had other issues. I would like to, Mr. Chairman, if you would appoint my colleague, our colleague, Mr.

Frank Plyler, to that Committee, too. He chaired the last Committee and has got a lot of knowledge and experience in that. I think he would be a very positive member.

Chairman Johnson: Most certainly. Would you be willing to do that Mr. Plyler?

Council Member Plyler: Yes, sir.

Chairman Johnson: Well, you are appointed to the Animal Services Committee. I want to back up just a minute to Lenora again with the roads. It might be a good idea for y'all to check with some other counties. I know Lancaster has got a policy, pretty much a paving policy but they do allow some dirt roads but not very many roads can be put there, like five acre tracts but you might want to check with them and see how they do it. I just wanted to mention that might be an avenue.

Chairman Johnson: Advised there would be a fifteen minute break and then Council would begin the Budget Workshop.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Chairman Johnson: We are back from our break. We are going to have kind of a budget workshop. This is no reflection on the Finance Committee. I think they do a good job but I think in my opinion with what we are faced with, 10 Mills and \$300,000 plus or minus out of our savings or whatever you want to call it, every Council member needs to have an opportunity to ask questions or make comments or see what we can do to put our heads together to see if we can't get this thing down some. I been here a long time and I don't never remember raising millage 10 Mills. I might be wrong, is that right Eddie, can you remember?

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: Not that I recall.

Chairman Johnson: But anyhow, let's just see if we can, and we are going to be real relaxed and if anybody has got anything to say, say it or whatever but I just think we need to talk about this thing some. I had staff print some information that you have got before you and #1 is Departmental Expenditure Increases and we'll go through that in a little bit and some of our big things. One of our big things is the gasoline budget, then we got department training and travel, I.T. Department/Computers and we got utilities. These are items in the department expenditures but the last four are items that we really have no control over in my opinion. We have to pay gas bills, we have to pay utilities and the computers, we have to furnish everybody computers or software or whatever they need. In my opinion, I think maybe these things need to be taken out of the line items. I'm not sure about that but that's just my thinking; that we might could keep a better handle on what we're spending. Denise, did you want to say anything before we get started with this? I don't want to leave you out because you've done a lot of work on this thing.

Denise Douglass, Administrator: Just what you were just talking about, putting the line items together instead of different departments, one big reason we do that is because we find that when we do it that way, they do better when they see it in their department, cause it's like if they don't see the money, they think "oh, well there's money somewhere, so I can get me what I

need,” where if it’s in their department, they’ll be like well, I need this but I don’t have enough money or its going to make me go over or whatever. I mean not in all departments but a majority of the departments, plus it helps us keep up better with each department and if we see something strange, it pops out at us a little better.

There was discussion regarding information presented to Council.

Cody Harvey was asked to speak on the different types of software used by County offices and what his department can and cannot handle.

There was discussion regarding I.T./Computers, the Local Government Fund, request made by the fire departments and ambulance services and the Sheriff’s Budget.

Council Member Matt Rivers: I think we do increase taxes and then find the balance of it from the reserve. All these years I voted for a reserve for a rainy day, well we are at a rainy day. I think we could take a couple of hundred thousand from the reserve and I think we need to help the fire departments and ambulance services. We’ve got to compromise but you have done a good job Mr. Chairman trying to save us money, but it’s not here without us doing a mass layoff.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: If we can find a little money, let’s give it to our employees.

Council Member Matt Rivers: If we do 8 Mills, we would need \$500,000 to \$600,000 off of our general fund transfer and get all that other done. I’m all for that.

Vice-Chair Powe: I’m with Matt.

Council Member Anderson: Me too.

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: I’m still disappointed we ain’t giving nothing to the employees but if you ain’t got it, you ain’t got it to give.

Council Member Matt Rivers: Mr. Rivers, if you want to go to 10 mills, I’m with you on that or 9 ½ mills and you give some to the employees. Speak and it will pass from what I’m hearing. Once again it’s what the State is taking from us. Mr. Rivers, you want to give a COLA to the employees for another mill?

Council Member Bruce E. Rivers: I would certainly be in favor of it. I couldn’t vote against it.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council did not enter Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Council Member Curtis made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Bruce E. Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

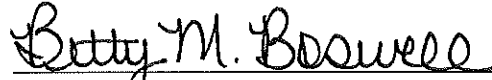
APPROVED:



Al Johnson, Chairman

Date: July 13, 2016

ATTEST:



Betty M. Boswell, Clerk to Council