

CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Complex

1476 J.A. Cochran Bypass Chester, SC 29706

Monday, February 7th, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Present: Interim Chairman Dr. Wylie Frederick, Vice Chairman Joe Branham, Councilman Brad Jordan, Councilman William Killian, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Councilwoman Mary Guy, Councilman Pete Wilson, County Attorney Joanie Winters and Clerk to Council Karen Lee.

1. **Call to Order-** Interim Chairman Dr. Wylie Frederick called the meeting to order. He requested a motion to amend the agenda, Richburg Fire District Board had asked that ordinance 2021-24 under 5.b. and 6.d. be removed from the agenda. Councilman Wilson motioned to remove Ordinance 2021-24 from the agenda, second by Councilman Killian. Vote 6-0 to remove.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation-** Pledge was recited in unison; Councilwoman Guy gave the invocation.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. **January 25th, 2022 Special Called Minutes.**
Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Councilman Killian was not present and did not vote.
 - b. **January 20th, 2022 Special Called Council Minutes.**
Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Councilman Killian was not present and did not vote.
 - c. **January 4th, 2022 Council Minutes.**
Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Councilman Wilson. Vote was 5-0 to approve. Councilman Jordan was not present and did not vote.
4. **Citizen Comments**

Susan Helms and Chief Eddie Murphy spoke in favor of adding paid fire fighters to the Richburg area.
5. **Public Hearing**
 - a. **3rd Reading of 2021-22 An Ordinance to Approve and Adopt a Memorandum of Understanding between Chester County and the Town of Fort Lawn.**
No one signed up to speak.
 - b. **Removed 2nd Reading of 2021-24 An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$160,000 Fire Protection District Improvement Revenue Bonds Of Chester County, South Carolina, For The Purpose Of Defraying The Cost Of Improvements To The Richburg Fire Protection District; Prescribing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Principal Of And Interest On The Bond From The Revenues Derived From The Operation Of The System; Providing For The Acceptance And Administration Of Grants And Donations;**

Creating And Establishing Certain Funds And Accounts; And Making Other Covenants And Agreements In Connection With The Foregoing; And Other Related Matters.

- c. **3rd Reading of 2021-25 An Ordinance To Amend the Chester County Ordinance No. 2021-4 The 2021-2022 Chester County Budget Ordinance, In Certain Limited Particulars Only. (Library Roof). No one signed up to speak.**

6. Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations

- a. **2022-1 Proclamation to Honor and Commend Officers of the Sheriff's Offices.**

Chester County Council and Chester County Sheriffs' Office recognized Sergeant John "Trey" Hunter III, Sergeant Richard Branham, Corporal Jordan Brown, Deputy Deshaun Boyd, Deputy Marcus Beasley, Deputy Quentin Eley, Deputy Sydney Canipe and Deputy Johnny Arcila for the bravery and heroism of the Delta Patrol Shift with a proclamation for their heroic and extraordinary measures while responding to a prolonged and treacherous chase of two extremely dangerous felons for numerous crimes including murder in three different states whom courageously risked their own lives, the felons were successfully apprehended.

- b. **1st Reading of 2022-2 An Ordinance to Provide for the Redistricting of Chester County Council Seats Utilizing Popular Data from The 2020 Federal Census In Accordance With The South Carolina Code Of Law.**

Councilman Wilson motioned to approve the first reading and draft, second by Councilman Jordan. Councilwoman Guy stated she was not pleased with the redistricting of district five. To her it seemed some of the citizens and voters were taken from district five. This district had been a minority district so this will make it a toss-up district. Until she had more information she could not vote in favor of it tonight. Attorney Winters stated to her understanding the redrawing's of the lines came from the 2020 census, when people move or areas that doesn't grow the line changes. She stated the County is permitted by law a maximum of 10%, on a standard of deviation the County is at 12.58% which wasn't a huge distance. So there would be a little bit of push and pull on the lines being moved where areas has grown Council can make changes to redraw the lines but we are at the beginning so your concerns for your district would be addressed by you and Council before any final vote takes place.

Election and Registration Commission Chairman Bill Marion stated they didn't have any control over drawing the lines that was done in Columbia. They were trying to get ready for the upcoming election since filing starts March 16th for the upcoming June primary. His office needs to have the lines drawn so they can get the maps drawn, once there approved they make sure each individual house or living unit is in the correct place. He said many maps are drawn by computers which sometimes the computer would put a residence on the wrong side of the road and in a different voting district. Mr. Marion stated it was very important having the lines drawn, they take what is given to them to implement. This happens every ten years through the census, to his understanding he thought the school board lines were the same as council districts so this will affect them as well.

Councilman Vaughn stated the data received his district lost 4% of its population and asked if that was accurate.

Mr. Marion stated he didn't have the information with him, but he was surprised by how some areas grew, and some did not, that's why it is so important for everyone to be counted

because certain areas citizens did not fill out the census. Therefore, causing the loss of population, they take the figures given to them by the US Census and have no control over that. The voter registration office doesn't see the new maps until they are completed, and they have not been asked by Columbia to give any input on them.

Attorney Winters stated Council would work to move the lines to an agreeable point for every district. They then would be sent to the State, the State had told her it takes approximately five to seven days to try and get them done. Their office as well is having staff shortages due to COVID but would do their utmost to get them done. The final date to get them drawn was March 3rd to get the final map to them and to come back with any recommendations. The State wants Council to decide how they can move the line to equalize all of the districts. She stated she was trying to get someone from the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs office to come to a workshop with Council, they are the ones who draw the maps and someone from the COG. She stated in the meantime look at the maps to see what it means to your district and talk to other council members to see what can be done to give and take on the district lines.

Councilman Jordan stated the draft map was hard to see since it was so small and asked if it was possible to get it in a computer format so they could blow it up.

Attorney Winters stated it was hard to get the one they have now but would try to get bigger maps.

Councilman Wilson asked how the public could see what the initial maps would look like, so if someone was interested in running for office, they would need to have some input as to which district to run in and not be switched to another district.

Attorney Winters stated her recommendation was to put the benchmark plan and a bigger map once on the county website.

Councilman Wilson suggested having both the maps on the website by the end of the week. Vote was 4-2 to approve. Councilwoman Guy and Councilman Killian opposed.

c. **3rd Reading of 2021-22 An Ordinance to Approve and Adopt a Memorandum of Understanding between Chester County and the Town of Fort Lawn.**

Councilman Jordan motioned to approve, second by Councilman Killian.

County Attorney Winters stated the ordinance is a MOU between the County and Fort Lawn. The County approved the ARPA money coming from the federal government which approved up to \$4 million to be used for the installation of sewer for increased economic development in that area. Vote 6-0 to approve.

d. **Removed 2nd Reading of 2021-24 An Ordinance Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$160,000 Fire Protection District Improvement Revenue Bonds Of Chester County, South Carolina, For The Purpose Of Defraying The Cost Of Improvements To The Richburg Fire Protection District; Prescribing The Form And Details Of The Bond; Providing For The Payment Of The Principal Of And Interest On The Bond From The Revenues Derived From The Operation Of The System; Providing For The Acceptance And Administration Of Grants And Donations; Creating And Establishing Certain Funds And Accounts; And Making Other Covenants And Agreements In Connection With The Foregoing; And Other Related Matters.**

- e. **3rd Reading of 2021-25 An Ordinance To Amend the Chester County Ordinance No. 2021-4 The 2021-2022 Chester County Budget Ordinance, In Certain Limited Particulars Only. (Library Roof).** Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilman Killian. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- f. **2022-2 A Resolution to Adopt Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan.**
Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. EMA Director Ed Darby stated FEMA requires a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan every five years in order to apply for most federal grants. Once the plan is adopted it would go back to the state and from the state back to FEMA and the process would be completed. Mr. Darby stated when applying for grants they are always asked if the county has a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. He stated the plan was a living document so if anything came up in the future an addendum could be made to the document. Vote 6-0 to approve.

7. Old Business

- a. **Discuss the final report from Moseley Architects regarding the Detention Center. Sheriff Max Dorsey.**

Sheriff Dorsey stated he wanted to talk to about the study that was returned in December. If you recall Council authorized the expenditure of funds to do a structural study of the detention facility. They employed Mosley architects to do the study. The report is in your packet, and he asked Council to review it. It's quite technical, and he would be the last person to try and explain it. He had spoken with Dr. Frederick and Miss Lee and asked to have a workshop. He stated Moseley had agreed to come down along with the engineer and the author of this report to come and explain it in detail. He said there was a lot of lot of information in it. Obviously, the bottom line is there's a \$3.7 million price tag that they've identified to be done. But there are also some other details in there. That is no guarantee that it will fix the problems. He wanted to bring this before council asked them to spend some time in reading it. And hopefully, a workshop could be scheduled very soon where that engineer can come down and Council could ask the questions that you want to ask.

8. New Business

- a. **Council to authorize the approval of \$52,600.00 to Carraway Construction of Sumter, SC for flooring at the Chester County Health Department. Procurement Director Susan Cok.** Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Councilman Wilson asked where the funding was coming from. Mrs. Cok stated from the one cent sales tax fund. Vote was 6-0 to approve.
- b. **Council to authorize the approval of \$70,671.00 to Mace Green Builders of Lancaster, SC for windows at the Courthouse. Procurement Director Susan Cok.** Mrs. Cok stated it should be \$75,671.00 she had typed it wrong on the sheet, she also stated it would be ten wood windows same for same. Councilman Wilson asked if Council could be given an update regarding the Courthouse projects from Mr. Hall or the engineers. Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- c. **Council to authorize the approval of \$245,596.00 to Mace Green Builders of Lancaster, SC for windows at the Chester County Museum. Procurement Director Susan Cok.** Mrs. Cok stated the windows being replaced were on the second and third floor and same for same, with asbestos being removed which was included in the price. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- d. **Council to authorize the approval of \$183,825.00 to SM Grading and Excavating of Jonesville, SC for off-site water and wastewater Improvements to Last Step Recycling Facility. Project Manager Kris Phillips.** Mr. Phillips stated the contract should be approved contingent upon RIA approval. This project will extend water and sewer across Ballymenia and Technology Drive to Last Step Recycling worksite. The funding would be covered completely with the RIA grant that was applied for last year and awarded. He said they would look at all the documentation process as well as the permits and then issue their approval. Vice Chairman Branham motioned to approve contingent upon RIA approval second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- e. **Council to authorize the approval to accept a \$5000 grant from the SC Forestry Commission to purchase Dual Band Alerting Pagers with a match of \$5000 dollars. - Richburg Fire Chief T Melton.** Councilman Jordan motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- f. **Council to consider accepting State funds to hire and equip four new school resource officers for Great Falls Elementary, Lewisville elementary, Chester County Career Center and The Academy for Teaching and Learning. -Captain David Peebles.**
 Captain Peebles stated there had been a big push from the state and Governor McMaster to place an SRO in every school in the state. In the state's budget this year they have set aside funding to achieve this. The County's portion of that was awarded was \$391,042 and will run from January 2022 to June 30th, 2022. The money would allow them to hire the four new resource officers as well as equipment to equip them with.
- Vice Chairman Branham asked if this was a one grant and would the County be responsible for the rest of the money.
- Captain Peebles stated they apply for the grant every year. Solicitation was open now for funding that would begin July 1st and would carry for another twelve-month period. They plan to apply by the 25th of this month and should know before July of this year if they would receive the grant.
- Councilman Wilson stated in the past a motion was made where it was contingent that the org chart would be changed for so long as the funding was in place and if the funding ever ceased it would have to come back to Council to see where the funding would come from. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve to change the org chart to include the four positions contingent upon receiving the funding from the state, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- g. **Council to authorize the Sheriff's Department to accept a \$20,000 grant from The Chester Healthcare Foundation, no match, to be used toward the purchase of a large drone. - Captain David Peebles.** Councilwoman Guy motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Branham. Vote 6-0 to approve.
- h. **Council to authorize the Sheriff's Department to accept a \$20,000 grant from The Lutz Foundation, no match, to be used toward the purchase a large drone. -Captain David Peebles.** Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

i. **Council to authorize the Sheriff's Department to accept a \$599,193 grant from US Department of Justice, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant & Substance Program with no match. Sheriff Max Dorsey.** Sheriff Dorsey stated this was the comprehensive opioid stimulant and substance abuse grant, also known as the COSAP. This helps them build a system in the detention center that approaches drug abuse problems in Chester County, completely different. This is an outside the box unconventional mechanism that they have been successful in getting some funding to do that will help people who are struggling with drug addiction that come in the jail and assist them with getting the right resources they need to get out of that lifestyle. What this grant does, it obviously gives (Sheriff Department) funds for equipment. But most importantly, it helps them create an even deeper partnership with the Hazel Pittman Center and would allow them to contract with Hazel Pittman, to employ some peer support staff, some people who have struggled with addiction and they can come in and develop some relationships with people in our jail that are struggling. And a detention center substance abuse counselor. He stated the grant is for five years with no match. Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.

j. **Discussion regarding the Detention Center Maintenance Problems- Detention Center Director Wayne Alley.** Director Alley stated during the inspection of the bathroom the plumber found fifty-two feet of drain that needed to be dug up and replaced with the estimated cost of \$16,684.21. The inspector saw during the inspection one of the old water heaters was not functioning, both heaters were old so the lines would have to be replaced also, that cost was \$28,500. Director Alley stated in 2021 they were approved on the rolling stock bond and asked if they could combine the two projects to address the water issues which would leave them with a \$6580 difference they plan on trying to use some of their savings, if not they would come back before Council to ask for reallocation.

Treasurer Tommy Darby stated it had been discussed it could be potential savings in their budget, if not they could use grant match the Sheriff had received where no match had been required. Those funds could be reallocated but thought they could find \$7000 to finish the project. Councilman Wilson motioned to combine the two rolling stock projects, second by Councilman Jordan. Vote 6-0 to approve.

k. **Discussion regarding funding for additional firefighters, in the light of new development. Councilman Jordan.**

Councilman Jordan stated as new industry and development coming to Chester County the call volume Richburg, Lando and Fort Lawn have risen. The problem is when a firefighter goes on an interior call, they have National Fire Protection Association and OSHA standards that require two fire fighters inside and two outside. Currently they don't have the manpower to meet those requirements. Right now, there are multiple fire departments covering a fire because its insufficient manpower to cover that leaves other parts of the county vulnerable. He had spoken to Dr. Frederick to see if budgeting for additional firefighters could be included when he and Treasurer Darby started working on the budget.

Councilman Vaughn stated he had spoken to a county firefighter who suggested Council looking at how Lancaster County approached this since they had a similar situation with the lack of volunteers. They hired four or five full time firefighters under Rural Fire and developed a system where the fire fighter moved to each fire department on a regular basis also with helping with maintenance.

Councilman Jordan stated the districts hands were tied with regards to raising the millage due to Act 388.

Treasurer Darby stated currently each department has their budget packets which are due February 25th. They would start having budget workshops with Council around March or April.

Councilman Wilson stated each fire department has their own different needs we need to look across the whole county making sure to try to fill them. In this area it would need full time firefighters, but other districts may have different needs. Some of the districts are not seeing much growth and asked Dr. Frederick to gather data on how many calls each department is receiving along with any other information. This would make it easier for Council to put this plan together to work toward having a better system for growth in certain areas.

I. Discussion regarding solar lights along Lancaster Hwy in Richburg. -Councilman Jordan.

Councilman Jordan stated from the one cents sales tax funding was established to fund high mass lighting to cover the same area where the solar lights are. He would like to see the current solar lights be utilized in other parts of the county, like Fort Lawn who had mentioned using them for trails also the Town of Richburg had asked to use them in their park or any other Town in the county. As the County transition to different lighting at exit 65 he wanted to utilize the solar lights in other parts of the county.

Building Maintenance Director Joe Roberts stated currently there were 14 solar lights that were in need of repair. To replace the batteries, damaged heads and damage to the panel he estimated it would around \$12,000 dollars to get them back to operation again. His department could remove and deliver them to the location as well.

9. Boards and Commissions-None

10. Executive Session

Councilman Jordan motioned to go into Executive Session, second by Councilwoman Guy. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- a. Receive legal advice regarding Parks & Recreation Department and Advisory Commission. - Attorney Winters.

11. Council Actions Following Executive Session

Councilman Wilson motioned to come back to regular session, second by Councilman Killian. Vote 6-0 to approve.

- a. Action taken regarding legal advice of the Parks & Recreation Department and Advisory Commission. Taken as information only.

12. Council Comments

Councilwoman Guy thanked all the officials, the state, county, school board, churches and the communities that came out to the Martin Luther King parade despite the date being changed.

Councilman Wilson he appreciated the proclamation that recognized the officers for their bravery and work. He thanked the Sheriff's office for applying for grants also thanked the Lutz and Healthcare foundations for giving the grants to the County. He was very impressed with the Chester Aquatic & Fitness Center formerly the YMCA.

Councilman Killian wished his mother a happy birthday.

13. Adjourn

Councilwoman Guy motioned to adjourn, second by Councilman Killian. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

Time: 9:00PM.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Chester News & Reporter, The Herald in Rock Hill, SC, WSOC-TV, Channel 9 Eyewitness News, the Mfg. Housing Institute of SC, WRHI Radio Station, C&N2 News, WCNC News and Capitol Consultants were notified, and a notice was posted on the bulletin board at the Chester County Government Building 24 hours prior to the meeting.