

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 5, 20239:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman Rhett Butler, Vice-Chair Mary Anderson, Council Members: Bruce E. Rivers, Douglas Curtis, Gerald L. Miller, Todd Smallwood, Hattie Burns, Ben Conklin and Ethan Foard.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Eubanks – Administrator, Betty M. Boswell – Clerk to Council/Administration Office Manager, Michelle Stanley – Finance Director, Libby Lear – Economic Development Director, Lisa Gainey – Economic Development, C. Heath Ruffner – County Attorney/Assistant Administrator, Loni Riley, Augustine Benton, Honorable John R. Melton, Chief Magistrate, Rosea Miller, John James – Coroner’s Office, Kip Kiser – Coroner, Tim Griffin – Pageland Chamber of Commerce, Ben McQueen, Chad Arant, Emergency Management, Heather Felts – Accounts Payable, Kimberly McDonald – Human Resource Assistant, and Robert Monnie – The Link. There were others who did not sign the sign-in-sheet.

PRESS: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 178 Mill Street, Chesterfield, SC, and the County Website (www.chesterfieldcountysc.com). In addition it was made available to the newspapers and concerned citizens (*upon request*).

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

Chairman Rhett Butler welcomed everyone and Council Member Rivers opened the meeting with prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Butler advised there was a need to amend the Agenda to add a letter of support for Sandhill Telephone Cooperative as Agenda Item 13b and that exigent circumstances exist in that the grant application deadline is prior to the next Council Meeting. Council Member Conklin made a motion to adopt the July 5, 2023 meeting agenda. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

a. Employees Years-Of-Service Recognition

Staff has implemented a Service Recognition Program that is designed to honor the County’s Employees. The program will recognize years of service beginning at five years and following in five year increments. The following employees were recognized and presented with their Certificates:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u># of Years</u>
Britttni Jackson	Detention Center	05/07/2018	5 Years

Gearld Croxton	Public Buildings	07/03/2018	5 Years
Sara Lewis	Assessor's Office	07/23/2018	5 Years
Evelyn Miller	Magistrate's Office	04/15/2013	10 Years
C. Heath Ruffner	County Attorney	07/01/1998	25 Years

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 7, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Council Member Rivers made a motion to approve the June 7, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. June 28, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Council Member Miller made a motion to approve the June 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS

Augustine Benton

Ms. Benton appeared before Council regarding Elbert Baskins Road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Griffin – Pageland Chamber of Commerce

Advised the Pageland Watermelon Festival was coming up this weekend and it will be the largest one Pageland has ever had. This will be the 72nd year of having the Watermelon Festival.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

Bonds, payroll and authorizations were distributed to Council for approval by signatures.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Cash Fire Protection District GO Bond Ordinance – Public Hearing

Council Member Burns made a motion to open the Public Hearing. Council Member Curtis 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 Curtis made a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Cash Fire Protection District GO Bond Ordinance – 3rd Reading

Member Burns made a motion to pass 3rd Reading. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. Project Juniper Inducement Resolution – Resolution

Vice-Chair Anderson announced that it was necessary for her to recuse herself from this matter, and filed a Recusal Statement which is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

Council Member Rivers made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. As previously stated, Council Member Anderson recused herself and did not vote on this matter. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Curtis, Conklin, Smallwood, Burns, Foard, Miller and Rivers. Motion passed.

c. Project Juniper FILOT Ordinance – 2nd Reading

Vice-Chair Anderson announced that it was necessary for her to recuse herself from this matter, and filed a Recusal Statement which is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

Council Member Rivers made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. As previously stated, Council Member Anderson recused herself and did not vote on this matter. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Curtis, Conklin, Smallwood, Burns, Foard, Miller and Rivers. Motion passed.

d. Alligator Fire District Lease-Purchase Ordinance – 1st Reading

Member Conklin made a motion to pass 1st Reading. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

e. Lease-Purchase Ordinance (6 motor graders and 1 tractor) – 1st Reading

Member Burns made a motion to pass 1st Reading. Council Member Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

f. Project Furnace Inducement Resolution – Resolution

Council Member Rivers made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

g. Project Furnace FILOT Ordinance – 1st Reading, *by title only*

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

h. 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan – Resolution

Council Member Conklin made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL

a. Committee Meetings – Livestream/Video- Council Member Foard

Council Member Foard requested that Council reconsider the matter of livestreaming/videoing committee meetings. Per Standing Rule 25, the motion to reconsider is, itself, debatable; that is a majority of Council must vote in favor of the motion to reconsider in order to take up the main motion.

Council Member Foard made a motion to reconsider the matter of livestreaming/videoing committee meetings. Council Member Smallwood seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Foard, Smallwood and Vice-Chair Anderson. Voting in opposition of the motion were Council Members Curtis, Miller, Conklin, Burns and Rivers. Motion failed.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

a. South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant – Letter of Support - Eubanks

Administrator Eubanks advised that a Grant Award was received from the SC Infrastructure Investment Program for a Chesterfield County Water and Sewer Impact Study which the Town of Chesterfield has agreed to administer. There is a special condition set forth in the Grant Award which requires a letter of support from the chief executive of each jurisdiction.

Council Member Conklin made a motion to authorize Chairman Butler to submit the required letter of support and to appoint Council Member Todd Smallwood to the Committee pertaining to this study. Vice-Chair Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

a. Sandhill Telephone Cooperative – Letter of Support – Ruffner

Sandhill Telephone Cooperative is in the process of applying for grants through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Fund (CPF), to expand their fiber network, and to improve services to the residents of Chesterfield County. They have asked for a letter of support from the County showing their support in Sandhill's efforts to enhance fiber network within the County.

Council Member Burns made a motion to authorize the submittal of the required letter of support. Council Member Conklin seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. ARPA Funds (Rescue Squads) – Eubanks

Administrator Eubanks advised that the Rescue Squads will be having a meeting on July

6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and that he would like the Ambulance, Fire and Rescue Committee to attend the meeting. The Rescue Squads would like to know what the County's expectations are for the volunteer Rescue Squads.

Chairman Butler advised that he had no problem with the Committee attending this meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Eubanks advised he had a meeting with some of the employees with Sandhill regarding the use of their towers and was advised the County would have to provide a building, generator, heat/air and power source. Administrator Eubanks advised he was given an estimate of \$12,000 from the County's Building and Maintenance staff for these items.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Council Member Rivers:

Advised he would like for staff to look into relocating the Convenience Center in Pageland.

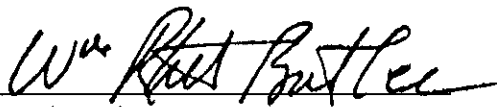
Vice-Chair Anderson:

Advised that in regards to the Rural Initiative Grant (SC Department of Commerce) in which Council voted on at the June 28, 2023 Special Meeting, there was going to be a greater portion required of Cheraw, and Cheraw was aware of this.

ADJOURN

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

APPROVED:



Rhett Butler, Chairman
Date: August 9, 2023

ATTEST:


Betty M. Boswell, Clerk to Council

RECUSAL STATEMENT

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

Member Name: Mary Anderson

Meeting Date: July 5, 2023

Agenda Item No.: 10 b and 10 c

Topic: Project Juniper - Solar

The Ethics Act, SC Code §8-13-700, provides that no public official may knowingly use his office to obtain an economic interest for himself, a family member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated. No public official may make, participate in making, or influence a governmental decision in which he or any such person or business has an economic interest. Failure to recuse oneself from an issue in which there is or may be conflict of interest is the sole responsibility of the council member (1991 Op. Atty. Gen. No. 91-37). A written statement describing the matter requiring action and the nature of the potential conflict of interest is required pursuant to SC Code §8-13-700(B).

Justification to Recuse:

Professionally employed by or under contract with principal

Owns or has vested interest in principal or property

Other: husband owns/shareholder in property

affected by this project

Date: July 5, 2023

Member Mary D. Anderson

Printed Name: MARY D. ANDERSON