

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 1, 2023 9:00 A.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Eubanks – Administrator; Michelle Stanley – Finance Director; Betty M. Boswell – Clerk to Council/Office Manager; C. Heath Ruffner – County Attorney/Assistant Administrator; Tim Griffin – Pageland Chamber of Commerce; Loni Riley; Ken Riley; Linnett Burr; Nancy Pope; Cambo Streater – Sheriff, Jordan Seidhom – Sheriff’s Department, Don Strickland – PDRTA, Elise Foard; Libby Lear – Director, Economic Development; Cherry McCoy – Economic Development; Lisa Gainey – Economic Development; Sammie Copeland – Chairman, CCTC; Jermaine Johnson 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*). Members of the press present: Robert Monnie – The Link.

CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Rhett Butler welcomed everyone and Vice-Chair Anderson opened the meeting with prayer and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The County Attorney advised that there was a need to amend the agenda to strike Agenda Item 18a.

Council Member Conklin made a motion to adopt the March 1, 2023 meeting agenda as amended. Council Member Curtis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 1, 2023 - Regular Meeting

Council Member Burns made a motion to approve the February 1, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Smallwood seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

SIGNING OF BONDS, PAYROLL, AND AUTHORIZATIONS

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

APPOINTMENTS

a. Don Strickland, Executive Director, Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority

Appeared before Council and presented a transit update and discussed the 2023-2024 plans for Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority.

b. Reverend Johnnie McLendon

Did not attend meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Griffin, Pageland Chamber of Commerce, appeared before Council and updated Council on projects in Pageland.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. Lease Purchase Ordinance (Sheriff's Vehicles) – Public Hearing

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

ORDINANCE READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Lease-Purchase Ordinance (Sheriff's Vehicles) – 3rd Reading

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

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF

a. Lease Purchase Bid Award (Sheriff's Vehicles) – Stanley

Ms. Stanley advised that a Request for Proposals was issued to six local banks and were due back on February 14, 2023. Staff received the following two proposals:

- 1) First Citizens Bank & Trust Company with an interest rate of 4.28%.
- 2) Truist Financial Corporation with an interest rate of 4.609%.

Upon advice from our bond attorney, staff recommended that the proposal from First Citizens Bank be accepted.

Council Member Rivers made a motion to accept the proposal of First Citizens Bank at an interest rate of 4.28%. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

b. Retirement of K-9 Zelda – Sheriff Streater

Sheriff Streater requested that K-9 Zelda be retired and that Larry Tucker assume custody and future care of K-9 Zelda.

Council Member Conklin made a motion to authorize the retirement of K-9 Zelda and that Larry Tucker assume custody and future care of K-9 Zelda. Council Member Smallwood seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

c. Retirement of K-9 Honeybun – Sheriff Streater

Sheriff Streater requested that K-9 Honeybun be retired and be offered to someone for assumption of custody and future care.

Council Member Conklin made a motion to authorize the retirement of K-9 Honeybun. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

- Advised Council that the County needed to appoint four people to the Joint Planning Commission for the creation of the new Comprehensive Plan.

- Asked Libby Lear to introduce Lisa Gainey to Council as the new Existing Industry/Project Coordinator for Economic Development.

COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

Ethan Foard: Read a letter he had written regarding transparency and other issues.

Chairman Rhett Butler: Reminded everyone the Sandblast Rally was this weekend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- b. Pursuant to S.C. Code § 30-4-70(a)(2), Council entered into Executive Session for the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, regarding the following:
- i. Contractual negotiations concerning emergency medical and ambulance services
 - ii. Sale of Leppard Building
 - iii. Governing boards of fire departments

Council Member Conklin made a motion to enter into executive session. Council Member Rivers seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Council Member Foard made a motion to exit executive session. Council Member Smallwood seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Butler reported Council is back in regular session and that no action was taken and no motions were made in executive session other than to exit executive session.

Agenda Item 18.b.i.

Vice-Chair Anderson made a motion to authorize staff to issue a Request for Proposals for emergency medical and ambulance services, after feed back from Council. Council Member Conklin seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 18.b.iii.

Council Member Conklin made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to Fire Departments requesting an accounting of county collected funds and a request to make sure their respective boards are formed correctly and properly constituted. Vice-Chair Anderson seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Miller made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Burns seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was unanimous.

APPROVED:



Wm. Rhett Butler, Chairman
Date: April 5, 2023

ATTEST:



Betty M. Boswell, Clerk to Council