



Chester County Council Meeting

R. Carlisle Roddey Government Building
1476 J A Cochran Bypass | Chester, SC 29706

Monday, June 17, 2024 | 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Joe Branham, Vice Chairman Pete Wilson, Councilman Mike Vaughn, Councilwoman Erin Mosley (virtual), County Administrator Brian Hester, Attorney Michael Kozlarek (virtual)

Absent: Councilman William Killian, Councilman Corey Guy, Councilman John Agee

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Branham called the meeting to order.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

The allegiance was recited, and Chairman Branham gave the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) June 3, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Vice Chairman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. 4-0 to approve.

4. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Branham and Councilman Vaughn concluded that Mr. Stoudenmire wanted to comment during Citizen's Comments; however, he had signed up on the Public Hearing sheet. Britt Stoudenmire, PRT Director, informed Council that he attended his 32nd year at Palmetto Boys State and that he represented Chester County this year. He stated that it is the largest boys' state in the country with 1,040 boys. He named several delegates representing Chester County in both boys' and girls' state. Mr. Stoudenmire stated that at the end of the week, both delegations went to Columbia and marched down Main Street and were addressed by the Governor. He stated it was a great place for leadership and he is very proud of our Chester County delegates.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Braham opened the Public Hearing. No citizens wished to comment.

- a) 3rd Reading of 2024-11 Chester County Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance to establish operating and capital budgets for the operation of the County Government of Chester County, South Carolina for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024; to provide for the levy of taxes for Chester County for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024; to provide for the expenditure of tax revenues and other county funds; to provide for other county purposes; to authorize the county to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and to provide for the repayment of sums borrowed by the County Governing Body; to provide for the payment of tort claims and worker's compensation claims against Chester County; to provide for certain fiscal and other matters relating to County Government.

- b) 3rd Reading of 2024-12 An ordinance amending and restating Ordinance No. 2016-, enacted April 18, 2016, and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds, in one or more series, tax-exempt or taxable, in an amount not to exceed the lesser of the annual aggregate of: (1) \$2,500,000 and (2) the available debt limit of the county for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, equipping, and rehabilitating various capital projects; authorizing the County Administrator to prescribe the form and details of the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds of the bonds; providing for borrowing in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds; and other related matters.
- c) 3rd Reading of 2024-13 An ordinance revoking Resolution No. 2023-29; declaring a pause to further residential subdivisions or planned developments in limited areas of the county; invoking the pending ordinance doctrine; and providing for other related matters.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve items a, b, and c under Consent Agenda. Second by Vice Chairman Wilson. Vote 7-0 to approve. Vice Chairman Wilson asked Administrator Hester to speak item b regarding the pause to further residential subdivisions or planned developments and asked if he could add to the extension of three months and the specific area that it affects. Mr. Hester stated that this is the passing of an ordinance that revokes the resolution that initially paused any planned developments or subdivisions within the Lewisville School District. He explained that the ordinance is more like a policy and has more legality and was intended to give the new Planner time to have workshops with citizens and Council to determine the best steps for moving forward.

- a) 3rd Reading of 2024-12 An ordinance amending and restating Ordinance No. 2016-, enacted April 18, 2016, and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds, in one or more series, tax-exempt or taxable, in an amount not to exceed the lesser of the annual aggregate of: (1) \$2,500,000 and (2) the available debt limit of the county for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, equipping, and rehabilitating various capital projects; authorizing the County Administrator to prescribe the form and details of the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds of the bonds; providing for borrowing in anticipation of the issuance of the bonds; and other related matters.
- b) 3rd Reading of 2024-13 An ordinance revoking Resolution No. 2023-29; declaring a pause to further residential subdivisions or planned developments in limited areas of the county; invoking the pending ordinance doctrine; and providing for other related matters.
- c) 2nd Reading of CCMA24-10 Bonnie Burgess requests Tax Map #060-01-00-021-000 at 1208 Radcliff Road, Chester, SC 29706 from Multi-family Residential District (RG-1) to General Residential District (RG-2). Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

7. ORDINANCES | RESOLUTIONS | PROCLAMATIONS

- a) 3rd Reading of 2024-11 Chester County Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance to establish operating and capital budgets for the operation of the County Government of Chester County, South Carolina for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024; to provide for the levy of taxes for Chester County for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024; to provide for the expenditure of tax revenues and other county funds; to provide for other county purposes; to authorize the county to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and to provide for the repayment of sums borrowed by the County Governing Body; to provide for the payment of tort claims and worker's compensation claims against Chester County; to provide for certain fiscal and other matters relating to County Government.

Vice Chairman Wilson motioned to approve, second by Councilman Vaughn. Vote 4-0 to approve. Administrator Hester asked Treasurer Tommy Darby to highlight a few points of the budget. Mr. Darby thanked all the county leaders and announced the importance of there being no tax increases for the citizens. He also stated that the total budget was just shy \$60 million, and the budget included \$34,406,432 from the General Fund. Mr. Darby explained the General Fund budget was increased to incorporate a 4% cost of living adjustment for all county employees and new positions and reclassifications within the budget. He stated that our revenue helped us keep a level millage as well as an increase in fee in lieu and interest earnings from prior year. Treasurer Darby also stated some of the highlights from the April 30th Budget Workshop including the leadership certificate program, an urgent care benefit for employees, increases in building inspection costs, implementing a new HR/payroll software, and picking up \$300,000 from the COPS Grant. He also stated there will be a \$175,000 cost from funding the staff of Great Falls Fire Department that will be offset by an allocation from the Town of Great Falls, a 3% adjustment to rural fire allocations, and funded a day shift of EMS at the West Chester substation.

- b) Resolution 2024-7 Identifying the Capital Projects as part of a program of general obligation borrowing for calendar year 2024; updating the list of Capital Projects related to prior general obligation borrowings for calendar years 2017-2023; and providing for other related matters.

Councilman Vaughn motioned to approve, second by Vice Chairman Wilson. Vote 4-0 to approve. Vice Chairman Wilson asked that Administrator Hester speak on this matter. Administrator Hester stated that this resolution is standard for the third reading of the budget and basically cleans up leftover monies from years 2017 that were not used. Vice Chairman Wilson asked Mr. Hester about the expense off the flock cameras for the Sheriff's Office—if it was for adding more cameras, if there was a contract, and if it was a one-time purchase. Mr. Hester stated that it is not an additional purchase and that the cameras are considered a lease, and the monies have to be paid every year and stated that last year additional cameras were approved to be added to make the \$4,000. Vice Chairman Wilson also asked Mr. Hester to speak to the solid waste collection. Mr. Hester explained that the cost of contracting the recycling outweighs the cost of doing the work ourselves and would save the county over \$157,000 in the first year. Vice Chairman Wilson also asked about the HVAC replacement at the Gateway Conference Center. Administrator Hester explained that these are older units that are costing more to maintain than to just replace. Councilman Vaughn asked that Mr. Hester speak to the projects in Great Falls Fire District. Mr. Hester stated there is already full time EMS staff stationed and there will be 2 full time firefighters added there as well—three firefighters for normal daytime operations and a Captain that will also respond to calls as well as

handle administration duties.

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Hester announced that A. Morton Thomas and Associates were selected to complete the engineering for 2025 C Fund projects. Mr. Hester updated on the government building renovations and additions, the upcoming Juneteenth holiday, and the upcoming final spec review for Rodman Sports Complex.

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Vaughn motioned to enter Executive Session, second by Councilwoman Erin Mosley. Vote 4-0 to enter.

- a) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body – Project P2373
- b) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of an employee – SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1) – County Administrator

13. ACTIONS FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Vaughn motioned to return to regular session, second by Vice Chairman Wilson. Vote 4-0 to return. Chairman Branham stated that items a and b were taken as information only.

- a) Action taken regarding Project P2373
- b) Action taken regarding employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, discipline, or release of an employee.

14. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Vaughn announced the Summer Art Camps at the Community Center.

Chairman Branham spoke of a recent death in our County and a process to alleviate dilapidated havens used for drugs and homelessness.

15. ADJOURN

Councilman Vaughn motioned to adjourn, second by Councilwoman Mosley. Vote 4-0 to adjourn.

7:20PM

Kristie Donaldson, Clerk to County Council