

RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

SOUTH CAROLINA

JAIL AD HOC COMMITTEE

April 20, 2016

11:00 AM

Administration Conference Room

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was sent to radio and TV stations, newspapers, persons requesting notification, and was posted on the bulletin board located in the lobby of the County Administration Building

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rose called the meeting to order at approximately 11:02 AM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 16, 2016 – Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to approve the minutes as distributed. The vote in favor was unanimous.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to adopt the agenda as published. The vote in favor was unanimous.

DISCUSSION: TRANSPORTATION OF RELEASED DETAINEES

Mr. Bronson stated this was discussed at the February Jail Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The proposal is to utilize the COMET bus system to transport the released detainees Monday through Friday when the bus system is running.

- The COMET has a stop at the Detention Center, Monday – Friday.
- There are four (4) stops occurring during the day. First stop is at 8:18 a.m.; last stop is at 3:18 p.m.
- Currently transport 54 former detainees to the transit station per week; approximately 23 are released on weekends
- Detention Center staff would still transport former detainees prior to the first COMET stop (8:18 a.m.) in the morning and after the last stop (3:18 p.m.) in the evenings.

Mr. Pearce inquired if the County would be providing a bus ticket for those former detainees that are transported to the transit station.



Council Members Present

Seth Rose, Chair
District Five

Greg Pearce
District Six

Norman Jackson
District Eleven

Others Present:

Tony McDonald
Kevin Bronson
Ronaldo Myers
Jennifer Wladischkin
Mike Smith
Judge Simon
Michelle Onley

Mr. Bronson stated the County can purchase a \$3-day pass and provide to the former detainees.

Mr. Rose stated this is a cost savings option, as well as, a way to improve on the current practice of transporting the former detainees to the transit station without a means to leave the downtown area.

Mr. Pearce inquired about the number of former detainees are mental health patients.

Mr. Myers stated he is not sure, but normally medical is involved and informs staff if the person cannot be safely released. Medical instead would secure placement for that person.

A discussion took place regarding bus service being extended to the Detention Center when it was moved to the Lower Richland area.

Mr. Bronson stated staff's recommendation is to move forward with a pilot program to continue transportation of former detainees prior to the 8:18 a.m. and after the 3:18 p.m. bus service, as well as, on the weekends. All former detainees will be provided with a \$3-day pass to ensure they can traverse the region to prevent them from being stranded in downtown Columbia at the transit station.

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Pearce, to accept staff's recommendation. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Rose will inform full Council of the committee's actions.

DISCUSSION: SPACE STUDY ANALYSIS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Bronson stated at the February committee meeting, the space allocation consultants briefed the committee on the various options.

- \$12 million bond has been issued to make improvements to the Detention Center
- Proposed improvements: Dormitory Renovations, New Medical Housing and a Mental Health Services Center
- Three (3) Options with two (2) financial options for each option
- Staff recommended Option #2, which would renovate two (2) dormitories, provide new medical housing and construct a Mental Health Center for approximately \$10,792,996.
- The recommendation will necessitate two (2) additional staff positions per shift
- There will be an additional 32 beds

The committee requested a conceptual aerial drawing brought back to the next meeting.

Mr. Myers stated the State legislature is taking up the issue of 17-year old being housed in the Detention Center.

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Mr. Rose stated the County is in the process of addressing mental health issues in a local Detention Center. Local detention centers are not meant to be mental health hospitals. The State legislature's actions has forced the County into that position.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:38 AM

The Minutes were transcribed by Michelle M. Onley, Deputy Clerk of Council