

# RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### RICHLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

#### FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET WORK SESSION

**MAY 17, 2016  
4:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Rush called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05PM

Mr. McDonald stated an additional work session needs to be held on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. This item will be added to the Council agenda for action.

Mr. Pearce requested that similar items be grouped together on the motions list.

#### **GRANTS REVIEW**

Ms. Dozier stated there was a summary of the contractual and statutory agencies, a 10-year funding history and other revenue sources the agencies received funding through.

**Discretionary Grants** – This program is designed to provide financial support to organization and agencies that carry out community based programs and services throughout Richland County.

There were 37 grant applications received requesting \$458,000 in funding. The committee recommended 21 grants totaling \$200,000.

Mr. Pearce inquired if the Discretionary Grants funding level was increased to \$200,000.

Mr. McDonald stated the funding level was raised in FY14.

Ms. Dozier stated the maximum amount an agency can receive is \$15,000 for one year. For multiple year grants, an agency can receive \$10,000 per year for up to 3 years. Once an agency funding cycle has ended, they must sit out the application process for one year.

Mr. Manning stated multiple year agencies are informed they are not guaranteed to be funded in years 2 and 3.

**Accommodations Tax** – The grants are funded through the collection of Accommodations Tax on the rental of all transient accommodations. The proceeds from the tax are used to promote tourism and tourism-related activities.

There were 33 applications received requesting \$1.7 million. The committee has recommended 31 grants totaling \$630,000.



#### **Council Members Present:**

Torrey Rush, Chair  
Greg Pearce, Vice Chair  
Norman Jackson  
Bill Malinowski  
Joyce Dickerson  
Jim Manning  
Paul Livingston

#### **Others Present:**

Tony McDonald  
Daniel Driggers  
Michelle Onley  
Warren Harley  
Roxanne Ancheta  
Kevin Bronson  
Kim Roberts  
Latoisha Green  
Tracy Hegler  
Donald Woodward  
Ismail Ozbek  
Beverly Harris  
Quinton Epps  
Brandon Madden  
Natashia Dozier  
Chris Eversmann  
Ryan Staub  
Meagan Douglas  
Larry Smith  
Geo Price

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Mr. Pearce requested an accounting of how much Accommodations Tax the County received in the last few years.

Mr. Driggers gave an overview of how Finance projects the revenue for the various funds. If less revenue is taken in than collected, staff would have to identify a method to absorb the shortfall.

**Hospitality Tax** – The grants are funded from proceeds from the 2% Hospitality Tax on all prepared food and beverages sold in unincorporated areas of Richland County. These funds may be used to promote tourism-related events and programs. (75% unincorporated; 25% incorporated)

There were 43 grant applications were received requesting \$2.1 million in funding. The committee recommended 42 grants totaling \$347,516.

Mr. Pearce requested the grant letters stress to the organizations that the amount they are receiving is their allocation for the fiscal year.

**Conservation Commission Grants** – The Conservation Commission receives ½ mill to fund operations and grant programs.

Mr. Malinowski inquired which projects are in the incorporated portion of the County and which are located in the unincorporated portion.

Ms. Stone-Collum stated 4 of the 12 historic preservation grants and 33% of the Community Conservation Grants are used in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Ms. Dickerson inquired about the reconstruction of the cupolas on the Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

Mr. Pearce inquired about the Conservation Commission funding the Hangar Preservation Development's application to assist with rehabilitation of the Curtiss-Wright Hangar Observation decks.

**Neighborhood Redevelopment Grants** – Neighborhood Redevelopment receives ½ mill to fund operations and grant programs.

**FY17 Budget Grant Requests** – Approximately \$9.6 million in grant funds have been requested by County departments for FY17.

- \$477,382 – Matching Funds
- School Resource Officer grant is ending; the County is required to fund the 4 positions

Mr. Driggers stated the amount requested for matching funds exceeds what has been budgeted.

Mr. McDonald stated if the County receives a grant and there are no matching funds available the County will either have to not accept the grant or bring the item to Council for action.

Mr. Driggers stated in FY18 the County is committed to picking up \$1.4 million in grants ending. If Council commits to the new grants, they will be committing to an additional \$500k in perpetuity.

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Mr. Malinowski stated it was his understanding the department or agency was responsible for absorbing the costs into their budget.

Mr. McDonald stated the larger departments are able to absorb the positions, but those departments that are not able to absorb the costs are brought back to Council.

Council members are requested to submit their motions by the close of business on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM

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