



Richland County Administration and Finance Committee
December 17, 2020 -6:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29201

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce Dickerson, Chair, Bill Malinowski, Yvonne McBride,

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Ashiya Myers, John Thompson, James Hayes, Tamar Black, Ashley Powell, Dwight Hanna, Angela Weathersby, Kerry L. Smyer, Ronaldo Myers, Jennifer Wladischkin, Randy Pruitt, Stacey Hamm, Michael Maloney, Brad Farrar, Leonardo Brown, Sandra Haynes, Bill Davis, Geo Price, Lori Thomas, Jani Hussain, Michael Byrd, Kyle Hosclaw, and Elizabeth McLean.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Ms. Dickerson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Regular Session: November 19, 2020 – Ms. McBride moved, seconded by Ms. Dickerson to approve the minutes as distributed.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride

Not Present: Walker, Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Brown requested Item 4(a) be deferred for additional information.

Ms. McBride moved, second by Mr. Malinowski, to adopt the agenda as published.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride

Not present: Walker, Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

- a. Atlas Road Community Park Professional Services Contract - Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to defer this item until staff has the additional information.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride

Not Present: Walker, Myers

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The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. Richland School District One's Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to connect to the Southeast Sewer and Water Expansion Service – Mr. Malinowski stated Ms. Myers always had quite a bit of discussion to ensure the school district is in line with what the County is trying to do. He inquired if anyone from staff or the committee has heard from Ms. Myers on.

Ms. Dickerson responded that she had not heard anything from Ms. Myers regarding this item.

Mr. Brown responded he had not had a discussion with Ms. Myers, he could address the Mr. Malinowski's questions.

Mr. Brown stated, at the last Council meeting, when we discussed this item, Council communicated the School District needed to add the additional \$500,000 in funding. The School District also needed to include in the IGA the understanding that once the lagoons were drained, if the funding received did not wholly cover the cleaning of that lagoon, the School District would be responsible for the excess costs. The School District received a letter from Mr. Brown. The School Board reviewed the information and responded in writing. The correspondence is included in the agenda packet. The School District communicated they were willing to pay the additional funds, as well as any excess funds required to clean the lagoons to comply with DHEC's requirements. The School Board asked for a specific amount, but we cannot provide that until the lagoons are drained and we know if there is any contamination. The School Board agreed to both of those conditions.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if the IGA was created by the County's Legal department.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski inquired if it is up to the School District to sign the IGA.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to approve the staff's recommendation to accept the IGA and forward it to the School District for their signatures.

Ms. Dickerson stated it was her recollection the School District agreed to pay \$250,000.

Mr. Brown responded the amount they have agreed to pay \$500,000 for a total of \$2,500,000.

Mr. Malinowski noted, if the School District signs the agreement, they will also agree to pay any additional costs after the lagoons are drained.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride

Not Present: Walker, Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson noted staff has requested to add this item to the Special Called Meeting agenda tonight due to the item being time-sensitive.

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- c. Request for Sewer Availability Approval for a Proposed Development on Old Tamah Road, Irmo, SC29063 Tract (Tax # R03500-04-41) – Mr. Malinowski moved, seconded by Ms. McBride, to approve for discussion.

Mr. Malinowski stated, under the “Strategic & Generative Discussion”, the first sentence reads “would like to provide reliable and higher-level sewer service to this proposed development”. Mr. Malinowski inquired as to what a higher-level sewer service is. He thought the County provide equal service to all residents.

Mr. Davis responded this is typical language. The subdivision does not exist, so higher-level would be not be a septic system, but a gravity sewer system.

Mr. Malinowski stated he has been dealing with staff saying “this is typical language” for a while. He believed we need to get away from “typical language” and use Richland County language. A higher-level of sewer service led him, and possibly others, to believe they are getting something others will not. He would think that “would like to provide reliable sewer service” would be adequate in this case. Additionally, the next paragraph states, “The County Council has not taken any action on this development previously.” He inquired if this is a development that is being developed in conjunction with current zoning or is there going to be re-zoning request.

Mr. Brown responded, when developments are coming on board, Council members are not routinely aware. As a result, there are concerns about development going up without notice. Part of the sewer availability process we are providing now is to bring Council an awareness of these developments, so you will not be in a situation where you are not aware of a new development. This has been a part of the normal process, the only reason you are seeing it now is, because under his administration, he communicated about being more aware and providing Council more information.

Dr. Thompson added, when staff does research and these developments come online, staff has given out the sewer availability letter. The issues is, once the development comes online, the County is accepting assets from these developments. Once we accept those assets, we take full responsibility to make any repairs and maintenance. If anything breaks, we have to bring it back to Council. So for us, it is to let Council know on the front end about these new developments, so once we accept these assets you are fully aware of the assets we are accepting. Only Council can accept these assets, not staff.

Mr. Malinowski stated he understands what staff is saying, but it still leaves his question unanswered. You can tell Council a development is being considered for a particular area, and if they have requested sewer service, the County would want to give them a letter that service is available. If the County gives the developer a letter stating sewer capacity is available for their development, but the development needs to have a re-zoning approved, we need to know that first. You may be giving a commitment for capacity, but the re-zoning may never be approved.

Ms. Powell responded there is no rezoning necessary for this development.

Ms. McBride inquired as to what staff’s recommendation was.

Mr. Malinowski stated staff’s recommendation is “County Council approve the issuance of a sewer availability letter for the development.”

Ms. Dickerson stated she approves this process because she has been bringing this to staff's attention for a while. A lot of times, Council members learn of things on the backend, and they do not know about things going on in their districts.

Mr. Malinowski stated he would like to know when a development is taking place, even if they will be utilizing a septic system and not the sewer system.

In Favor: Malinowski, Dickerson, McBride

Not present: Walker, Myers

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Dickerson noted this item will also be forward to the Special Called meeting tonight.

She also thanked everyone for allowing her to be the Chair of the A&F committee since this would be her last meeting. She thanked the staff for their unwavering support.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:22 PM.