



Richland County Council  
DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE  
**MINUTES**  
April 23, 2024 – 5:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chakisse Newton, Chair; Jason Branham, Allison Terracio, Gretchen Barron, and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Ashiya Myers, Angela Weathersby, Patrick Wright, Stacey Hamm, Anette Kirylo, Michael Maloney, Shirani Fuller, Ashley Fullerton, Kyle Holsclaw, Dale Welch, Leonardo Brown, John Thompson, Jackie Hancock, Aric Jensen, Geo Price, Michael Byrd, Lori Thomas, and Tamar Black

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilwoman Chakisse Newton called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 PM.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. March 26, 2024 – Ms. Barron moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. English.  
In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Barron moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Terracio.  
In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton  
The vote in favor was unanimous.
4. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**
  - a. Amendment to Chapter 17, Section 9, Through Truck Traffic Prohibited – The County Administrator, Leonardo Brown, stated Clearwater Road, Crestwood Road, and Edgewater Drive are residential roads inside a neighborhood with front-facing homes that are being used as a cut-through between Parklane Road and Legrand Road. This is an older neighborhood without sidewalks where pedestrians walk in or along the road's edge. Truck traffic cutting through this neighborhood has increased in recent years, posing a danger to residents walking through the community. Public Works supports the addition of these roads to Chapter 17, Section 9 prohibits trucks from using them as a shortcut. These are South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) maintained roads, and if approved, SCDOT would take action to manufacture and install appropriate signage.  
  
Ms. Barron moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to approve the amendment to Chapter 17, Section 9 to add Clearwater Road, Crestbrook Road, and Edgewater Drive to “Through truck traffic prohibited...”, seconded by Ms. Terracio.  
  
Ms. Terracio noted she represents a part of the district that includes Olympia Avenue, and one of the things they have discussed is enforcement of “no through truck traffic.” She inquired if we are approving SCDOT placing signage, and we do not have any further action regarding enforcement.  
  
Mr. Brown maintained that we wanted to at least take action that would allow other enforcement to be available. Even though this is a SCDOT-maintained road, this action triggers the opportunity for enforcement to happen.

Patrick Wright, County Attorney, indicated this action gives whatever law enforcement entity the ability to do something if someone transgresses the ordinance.

Ms. Terracio asked if there had been any discussions with law enforcement regarding the amendment.

Mr. Brown stated he does not know today, but there are steps we could commit to taking if the ordinance is amended. We can ensure that the Sheriff's Department is aware, and we wish to have the ordinance enforced.

Ms. Barron thanked Mr. Maloney and Ms. Fuller for providing support to the Springwood Lake community regarding this matter. She believes putting this in action will be helpful. She suggested issuing a press release informing the community about the change.

Mr. Branham inquired if Edgewater Drive goes over I-77 and the trucks use it as a cut-through.

Ms. Fuller responded in the affirmative. Coming off of Parklane Road, they are using Crestbrook and Clearwater Roads to reach Edgewater Drive and make their way to Legrand Road. She noted there are alternative routes to get to Legrand Road.

Ms. Newton asked about the process for placing a road in this ordinance.

Ms. Fuller replied that if Public Works receives a request, they evaluate it internally to ensure the concern is merited and there are alternate routes. Typically, neighborhood subdivisions are not your primary route, especially for truck traffic.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- b. I move that the administrator look at the illegal dumping ordinance and state law and investigate the incorporation of a community service element in the penalty for illegal dumping, as well as look into the possibility of levying a higher penalty for businesses that engage in illegal dumping, including the potential revocation or suspension of their business license also incorporating an escalation schedule based on the weight of the material illegally dumped and whether the individual or business is a repeat offender within a twelve-month period [BRANHAM – February 26, 2024] – Mr. Michael Maloney, Public Work Director, stated staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance, which includes penalties for business involvement, hours of community service, fines, and potential for jail time. The proposed ordinance also covers scavenging, littering, and uncovered loads. The proposed amendments are as follows:

- Any person who violates the provisions...with less than 15 pounds of material shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be required to complete 15 hours of community service and fined not more than five hundred (\$500) dollars;
- Any person who violates the provisions...with 15 pounds or more of material shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be required to complete 30 hours of community service and fined not more than one thousand ninety-two dollars and fifty cents (\$1,092.50) dollars;
- Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter for a second or more distinct offense and within 365 days of the prior offense, the community service shall be 50 hours, the fine shall be two thousand one hundred eighty-five dollars (\$2,185), and shall be imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days;
- Any business identified to have participated or provided materials for improper disposal is subject to triple the amount of penalties of Section 12-66(c), (d), or (e), and for 12-66(c) is subject to flagging of the business license for renewal consideration, for 12-66(d) or (e) is subject to revocation of the business license.

Mr. Branham inquired if we need to be cognizant of or reduce the fine amounts so that they do not exceed the State statute.

Mr. Maloney responded the original motion was to look at \$5,000 fines. Therefore, staff did not glean that fines should be reduced to the State level.

Ms. Terracio inquired if 15 hours of community service is the minimum or if it is up to 15 hours of community service.

Mr. Maloney responded the penalty would be to complete 15 hours of community service.

Ms. Terracio inquired who would ensure these individuals complete their community service.

Mr. Maloney indicated Special Services manages the community service program.

Ms. Newton stated she was not prepared to send someone to jail because they littered, even if they repeatedly littered. This impacts a person's record and their ability to earn a livelihood.

Ms. English noted that she would support aligning the fines with the State statute and removing the provision of jail time.

Mr. Branham moved to forward to Council with a recommendation to adopt the ordinance as drafted, with the following revisions: fines will follow those outlined in the State statute, removal of any reference to imprisonment, and remove any reference in Section 12-66(f) of tripling the amount of penalties, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Brown inquired if Mr. Branham's motion included amending the language for community service hours. He noted that the State statute has a number that is less than what we have in our ordinance.

Mr. Branham stated he would accept the State statute's provision for the number of community service hours.

Ms. Newton inquired if there was a reason why the county would not be allowed to exceed the number of community service hours in the State statute.

Mr. Wright does not believe we would get pushback on the number of hours of community service.

Ms. Newton restated the motion as follows: fines and the number of community service hours will follow those outlined in the State statute, removal of any reference to imprisonment, and removal of any reference in Section 12-66(f) of tripling the penalties for businesses.

Ms. Newton made a friendly amendment to retain the number of community service hours, as outlined in the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Branham accepted the friendly amendment.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ITEMS PENDING ANALYSIS: NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- a. Direct the Administrator to research and present to Council current laws and benefits of enacting impact fees in Richland County. The purpose is to help reduce the tax burden on residents by not having to pay the complete cost of development in Richland County. [PUGH, BARRON, and NEWTON - January 3, 2023] - An update was provided in the agenda packet. No action was taken.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - Ms. Barron moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Terracio, Barron, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:35 PM.