



Richland County Council

MINUTES

Special Called Meeting
2nd Reading – FY26 Budget
June 5, 2025 – 6:00 PM
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Chair, Derrek Pugh, Vice-Chair, Jason Branham, Tyra Little, Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio (via Zoom), Don Weaver, Gretchen Barron, Tish Dozier Alleyne, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Lori Thomas, Tamar Black, Angela Weathersby, Stacey Hamm, Michael Maloney, Sandra Haynes, Michael Byrd, Kyle Holsclaw, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Aric Jensen, Patrick Wright, Oscar Rosales, Jennifer Wladischkin, Brittany Hammond, Brian Fitzgerald, Phillip Harris, Kenny Bowen, and Todd Money

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **SECOND READING ITEMS**

- a. **An Ordinance authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which together with the prior year's carryover and other State Levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2025 will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. So as to raise revenue, make appropriations, and amend the General Fund Millage Agencies, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Debt Service Fund Budget for Richland County, South Carolina, for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026**
- b. **An Ordinance authorizing the levying of Ad Valorem property taxes which, together with the prior year's carryover and other State Levies and any additional amount appropriated by the Richland County Council prior to July 1, 2025, will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**

4. **SECOND READING MOTION LIST**

a. MILLAGE AGENCIES

1. ***Richland County Recreation Commission (Recommended: \$19,108,400)*** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve the Recreation Commission at the requested amount, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Ms. Newton stated that her understanding was that Council could make motions related to any item on the motion list. If a motion is not specifically made for an item, it automatically carries over as listed to Third Reading.

The County Attorney, Patrick Wright, responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Mackey inquired if Mr. Weaver's motion would incur any additional millage.

The County Auditor, Paul Brawley, indicated a half-mill increase would be required.

Ms. Barron requested what the half-mill increase would equate to.

Mr. Brawley noted that on a \$100,000 residential home, it would be \$2.00, on commercial property/non-legal residence, it would be \$3.00, and on a \$20,000 car, it would be \$0.60.

Mr. Weaver withdrew his motion.

Mr. Pugh moved to approve Richland County Recreation Commission as requested, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, and Barron

Opposed: Branham, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

Mr. Branham moved to approve the Richland County Recreation Commission at a no-mill budget, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Livingston and Barron

The vote was in favor.

2. ***Columbia Area Mental Health (Recommended: \$2,941,200)*** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve Columbia Area Mental Health at the requested amount, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. ***Richland Public Library (Recommended: \$36,051,920)*** – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the Richland Public Library at the FY26 2nd Reading amount, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Ms. Terracio acknowledged that the library's request is midway between a no mill increase and the millage cap.

Mr. Brawley indicated the request would amount to a three-tenths millage increase. This equates to \$1.20 (legal residence), \$1.80 (non-legal residence), and \$0.36 (\$20,000 automobile).

Ms. Barron requested an overall breakdown of the impact of approving all the millage agencies at their requested amount.

Ms. Terracio withdrew her motion to allow Ms. Barron to receive the requested information from the Auditor.

Mr. Brawley stated the net effect on a \$100,000 legal residence is \$26.80, commercial/non-legal residence (District 1) - \$86.40, commercial/non-legal residence (District 2) - \$112.20, \$20,000 automobile (District 1) - \$17.28, and \$20,000 automobile (District 2) - \$22.44.

Ms. Barron inquired what the five (5) mil increase proposed by Administration would equate to.

Mr. Brawley indicated it would equate to \$20.00 on a \$100,000 legal residence, \$30.00 on a non-legal residence, and \$6.00 on a \$20,000 automobile.

Ms. Barron stated that adding those two numbers together would indicate the total impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Brawley clarified that the first number provided is the total increase to the taxpayers.

Ms. Terracio moved to fund the Richland Library at the FY26 Second Reading amount, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Little, Weaver, and Alleyne

The vote was in favor.

4. ***Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens (Recommended: \$1,522,400)*** – Mr. Pugh moved to approve Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens at the requested amount, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Mackey pointed out that she submitted a motion (Item #19) for the Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens that would fund them with hospitality tax funds instead of millage.

Ms. Newton asked if the motion on the floor was to take the funding from the General Fund.

Mr. Pugh withdrew his motion.

Ms. Terracio inquired if approving Ms. Mackey's motion would mean there was no millage for the zoo.

Ms. Mackey responded in the affirmative.

Assistant County Administrator Lori Thomas maintained last year, the millage was cut in half, and the remainder was funded through hospitality tax. The question tonight is whether hospitality tax funding would be used solely, rather than continuing the zoo as a millage agency.

Ms. Terracio asked if the motion on Item #19 was to eliminate the millage or to fund the zoo, as described by Ms. Thomas.

Ms. Mackey replied that it is as outlined by Ms. Thomas.

Mr. Livingston moved to approve Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens at the requested amount, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Mr. Branham made a friendly amendment to include Item #19: Hospitality Tax – “Approve funding for Riverbanks Zoo at the recommended amount of \$1,501,712.

Mr. Livingston accepted the friendly amendment.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. ***Midlands Technical College – Operating (Recommended: \$8,892,100)*** – Mr. Branham moved to approve Items 5 & 6 at a no-mill increase, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Ms. Barron requested the amount that would be approved with a no-mill increase.

Ms. Thomas indicated the amount for operating would be \$8,464,3000, and the capital number would not be affected.

In Favor: Branham, Little, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Pugh, Livingston, and Barron

The vote was in favor.

6. ***Midlands Technical College – Capital (Recommended: \$4,508,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

7. ***School District One (Recommended: \$277,499,134)*** – Mr. Branham moved to approve Items 7 & 8 at a no-mill budget increase, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Mr. Livingston inquired about the value of a mill for School District I and School District II.

Mr. Brawley responded that the mill value for School District I is \$773,000, and for School District II it is \$404,000.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion for a one-mill increase for School District I and a 1.5-mill increase for School District II, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Brawley indicated a one-mill increase for School District I would equate to \$6.00 on a non-residential property, and \$1.20 on a \$20,000 automobile. A 1.5-mill increase for School District II would equate to \$9.00 on a \$100,000 non-residential property, and \$1.80 on a \$20,000 automobile. There is no impact on owner-occupied residences.

Ms. Newton asked about the difference between the requested amounts and the amount that will be approved with Mr. Livingston’s motion.

Ms. Thomas replied that the difference between the requested amount and the amount approved with Mr. Livingston's motion would be (-\$5,179,100) for School District I, and (-\$4,242,000) for School District II.

In Favor: Little, Livingston, Terracio, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Weaver, and Barron

The vote was in favor.

8. ***School District Two (Recommended: \$200,287,633)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

b. GRANTS

9. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax revenue projections; \$690,000)*** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #9-18, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Terracio made a friendly amendment to remove Item #12 and approve Items #9-11 and #13-18.

Mr. Weaver accepted the friendly amendment.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

10. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax use of fund balance; \$141,258)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

11. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax transfer out; \$148,858)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

12. ***Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax committee recommendations; \$682,400)*** – Ms. Terracio moved to amend the Accommodations Tax's recommendation by approving \$36,667 for the South Carolina Ballet, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

Mr. Branham asked what the Accommodations Tax Committee recommended for the South Carolina Ballet.

Ms. Terracio replied that the current recommendation is \$17,750. She intended to fund the Columbia International Festival at \$0.00.

POINT OF ORDER: Ms. Newton noted Ms. Terracio's motion only referenced the South Carolina Ballet, not the Columbia International Festival.

Ms. Thomas stated the current fund balance for the Accommodations Tax is \$412,834. Funding is available to cover Ms. Terracio's motion, but it would reduce the fund balance.

In Favor: Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, and Mackey

Opposed: Barron, Pugh, Little, Barron, Alleyne, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

Mr. Branham moved to approve the Accommodations Tax recommendations, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

13. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax revenue projects; \$11,538,041)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
14. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax use of fund balance; \$2,666,596)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
15. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax transfer out; \$4,990,850)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
16. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax committee recommendations; \$650,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
17. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax reserve for contingency; \$150,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
18. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax Council discretionary; \$82,425 for each Council District; \$906,675)***

Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #9-18, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Ms. Terracio made a friendly amendment to remove Item #12 and approve Items #9-11 and #13-18.

Mr. Weaver accepted the friendly amendment.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

19. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Riverbanks Zoo at the recommended amount; \$1,501.712)***
20. ***Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for the Columbia Museum of Art at the requested amount; \$1,475,000)*** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the Columbia Museum of Art at the requested amount, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 21. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for the Historic Columbia Foundation at the requested amount; \$675,000)** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items 21-26, seconded by Ms. Terracio. In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 22. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding EdVenture at the requested amount; \$1,450,000)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 23. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding to the Township Auditorium Foundation at the requested amount; \$415,000)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 24. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Township Auditorium – RC Operations – ground maintenance at the requested amount; \$155,400)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 25. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for the Capital City Lake Murray County Tourism Board at the requested amount; \$160,000)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 26. Hospitality Tax – Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau at the requested amount; \$500,000)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 27. Hospitality Tax – Special Promotions (Approve funding for Columbia International Festival at the requested amount; \$350,000)** – Mr. Pugh moved to fund the Columbia International Festival at the requested amount, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

- 28. Hospitality Tax – Tier 3 (Approve funding for South East Rural Community Outreach [SERCO] at the requested amount; \$120,000)** – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) at \$90,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

- 29. Hospitality Tax – Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Gateway Pocket Park/Blight Removal Project to FY 2026 budget; \$250,000)** – Ms. Terracio moved to approve Items 29-31, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

30. Hospitality Tax – Tier 3 (Approve carryover of any unexpended funds from the Historical Corridor to FY26 budget; \$228,105) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

31. Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax Council Discretionary Funds; \$906,675) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

32. Hospitality Tax (Approve \$65,000 in funding for the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival for FY26; 43,150) – Ms. English moved to approve the additional funding for the Sweet Potato Festival, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, and Barron

The vote was in favor.

Mr. Pugh moved for a 15-minute recess, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mr. Weaver moved to reconvene the meeting, seconded by Ms. Alleyne.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

33. Hospitality Tax (Approve \$20,000 in funding to the SC Gospel Quartet Awards in FY26; 13,000) – Mr. Weaver moved to approve the additional funding for the SC Gospel Quartet Awards, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Weaver, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, and Alleyne

The motion failed.

34. Hospitality Tax (Approve \$75,000 in funding to the Latino Communications Community Development Corporation in FY26; \$55,000) – Ms. Barron moved to approve Latino Communications Community Development Corporation at the requested amount, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Little, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Pugh and Terracio

The vote was in favor.

- 35. Hospitality Tax (Approve \$35,000 in funding to the Town of Eastover in FY26; \$22,333) –** Ms. Terracio moved to approve an additional \$22,333 for the Town of Eastover, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Terracio, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, and Alleyne

The motion failed.

- 36. Hospitality Tax (Approve \$100,000 in funding to the Trustus Theater in FY26; \$85,750) –** Ms. Terracio moved to approve the increased funding for Trustus Theater, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Ms. Terracio pointed out that this funding would allow Trustus Theater to install a grid in the theater.

In Favor: Terracio, Weaver, and Mackey

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Barron, Alleyne, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

- 37. Hospitality Tax (Approve funding SC Ballet and Columbia Classical Ballet at the same amount; \$8,250) –** Ms. Terracio moved to approve funding for the South Carolina Ballet and Columbia Classical Ballet at the same amount, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Branham and Newton

The vote was in favor.

- 38. Hospitality Tax (Approve carrying over up to \$300,000 of unexpended hospitality funds from each Councilmember District to FY25 budget) –** Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items 38-41, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Livingston

The vote was in favor.

- 39. Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve Neighborhood Enrichment Grant Program (NEGP) recommendations; \$71,530) –** This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 40. Conservation Commission (Approve Conservation Commission Natural Resource Grant recommendations; \$300,000) –** This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 41. Grant Funded Depts. (Approve department requests for external grants in FY26, required matching of County funds, and grant-funded positions; \$1,212,613,076) –** This item was approved in a previous motion.

c. GENERAL FUND

- 42. County-wide Departments (Approve Projected General Fund Revenue as presented in the FY2026 Recommended Budget Book; including sufficient operating millage to achieve \$152,854,490 in property tax collections; \$236,004,917)** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #42-46, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Mr. Branham inquired if the votes on Items #65-66 will be constrained by voting on Mr. Weaver's motion.

Mr. Wright indicated it would not as long as the motion differs (i.e., amount).

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

- 43. Administration (Approve millage increase of .5 to fund Proviso 67.17; \$1,100,000)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 44. County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Transfers in from H-Tax and A-Tax Funds as presented in the FY 2024 Recommended Budget Book; \$8,589,123)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 45. Administration (Approve allocation of indirect cost to special revenue and enterprise fund departments as presented in the 2026 Recommended Budget Book; \$5,032,122)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 46. Administration (Approve general fund sale of capital assets; \$21,200)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 47. County-wide Departments (Approve the projected use of general fund assigned fund balance to support capital project expenditures as presented in the FY 2026 Recommended Budget Book; \$10,275,685)** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #47-50, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 48. County-wide Departments (Approve continued funding for step increase according to the compensation study implemented in FY2024, as well as adherence by all County employees who are not elected and appointed officials to be placed in adherence to the grade and step plan as assigned; \$2,020,096)** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 49. County-wide Departments (Approve all general fund new positions as presented in the budget work session starting January 1, 202, with the exception of Business Service Center**

and Solicitor, who are budgeted to start July 1, 2025; \$334,733) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

50. *County-wide Departments (Approve general fund personnel, operating, and capital expenditures as presented in the FY2026 Recommended Budget Book; \$235,879,094)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

51. *Transfer Out (Approve general fund operating transfers out as presented in the FY2026 Recommended Budget Book; \$19,011,831)* – Ms. Newton moved to approve Items #51-53, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

52. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve funding the Central Midlands Council of Governments membership for FY26; \$232,278)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

53. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve funding the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for FY26; \$1,350,000)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

54. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve funding for Main Street District for FY26; \$50,000)* – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the funding for Main Street District at \$50,000, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

55. *Community Impact Grants (Approve Community Impact Grants (CIG) committee recommendations—Community Partners; \$952,560)* – Ms. Barron moved to approve Items 55 & 56, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

Ms. Terracio noted that Items # 57 & 58 would impact Items #55 & 56.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Terracio

The vote was in favor.

56. *Community Impact Grants (Approve Community Impact Grants (CIG) committee recommendations – Competitive Grants; \$560,000)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

57. *Community Impact Grants (Approve reducing Senior Resources Community Impact Grants (CIG) funding by \$30,000 to bring their awarded amount to \$440,546)* – Ms. Terracio moved to reduce Senior Resources Community Impact funding by \$30,000, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

In Favor: Terracio, Weaver, and Mackey

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Barron, Alleyne, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

58. *Community Impact Grants (Approve increasing Community Impact Grants (CIG) funding for Transitions Homeless Center by \$30,000 to increase their awarded amount to \$180,000)* –

Ms. Terracio moved to approve increasing the Community Impact Grants funding for Transitions Homeless Center by \$30,000, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Ms. Terracio stated it was her understanding the Community Impact Grants Committee set aside 10% of the overall funding for Children's well-being, which reduced Transitions' funding to \$180,000.

As Chair of the Community Impact Grants Committee, Ms. Mackey clarified that 10% of the total Community Impact Grant funds were set aside to focus on children's welfare needs. However, the 10% reduction was not for any specific applicant's funding. Applicants in the Community Partners list received funding based on the committee's recommendations.

In Favor: Terracio and Weaver

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

59. *Community Impact Grants (Approve Community Impact Grants (CIG) committee recommendations; \$176,400)* – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #59-61, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey. English and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

60. *County-wide Departments (Adjust and approve projected use of general fund balance to support overall general fund expenditure as necessary)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

61. *Non-Departmental (Approve assigning \$4,000,000 of unexpended FY25 funding for affordable housing in FY26; \$4,000,000)* – This item was approved in a previous motion.

62. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve \$300,000 in funding for the Midlands Area Food Bank; \$300,000)* – Mr. Pugh withdrew the motion from consideration.

63. *Lump Sum Agencies (Clemson Cooperative Extension as presented in FY26 Recommended Budget Book Request for \$50,000)*

64. *Lump Sum Agencies (Senior Resources as presented in FY26 Recommended Budget Book. Community Impact Grants (CIG) requested amount was \$548,046, amount not awarded is \$75,502. Senior Resources is requesting the difference in their requested and awarded amount.)* – Ms. Newton moved to disapprove the additional funding for Senior Resources, seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Ms. Thomas pointed out that the amount recommended for this item is \$0.00.

Ms. Newton withdrew her motion.

65. *Propose a General Fund budget that does not increase County millage rate, or a maximum of 1 mill.* – Mr. Branham moved to propose a General Fund budget that does not increase the millage rate or only raises the millage rate by one mill, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. English inquired if that would mean starting the budget over.

Ms. Mackey stated that this motion would require clear direction from its maker on where the budget cuts would come from to meet the proposed no-mill increase. The budget cuts would entail cutting department budgets or jobs.

Mr. Branham maintained that there is no legal requirement for him to propose the areas where cuts may be necessary. He trusts that the Administration is capable of amending the budget.

Ms. Barron stated that she would like to see options as we move forward. She believes there are other ways to get where we need to, without Council members trying to do the Administrator's job.

Mr. Livingston pointed out the job of the Administrator is to present Council with a reasonable, responsible budget, which does not guarantee a reduction or increase. It is what is in the best interest of the citizens. He indicated you could actually cause more pain by reducing the budget.

Ms. Terracio inquired if staff would be charged with coming back with a revised budget book for Third Reading.

Ms. Mackey responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Branham stated that he made the motion because of higher inflationary pressure over the last few years. Households have felt the squeeze, and the government should share that experience.

Mr. Weaver called for the question, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote to call for the question was unanimous.

In Favor: Branham, Weaver, and Barron

Opposed: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

66. *Propose a General Fund budget that increases County millage rate by 2.5-3 mills* – Ms. Barron proposed a General Fund budget that increases the County millage rate by 2.5-3 mills, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Barron

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion failed.

d. SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

- 67. *Economic Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Economic Development; \$7,152,357)*** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve Items #67-88, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Weaver inquired if there was any tax implication for this line item.

Mr. Allen Brown responded that the request is to go to the cap, which is a 0.8 increase.
Mr. Weaver requested to pull out Item #69.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 68. *Emergency Telephone System (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Emergency Telephone System; \$7,659,742)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 69. *Fire Services (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Fire Services; \$38,455,793)*** – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the revenue and expenditure budget for the Fire Service, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham and

The vote was in favor.

Ms. Newton inquired if something was on the motions list, but we did not make a motion one way or another, if the item would just carry forward to Third Reading.

Mr. Wright responded that individual Council members' motions must be acted upon.

- 70. *Hospitality Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Hospitality Tax; \$14,204,637)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 71. *Accommodations Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Accommodations Tax; \$831,258)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 72. *Transportation Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Transportation Tax; \$265,917,863)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 73. *Mass Transit (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Mass Transit; \$28,388,195)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 74. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Neighborhood Redevelopment; \$1,102,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

- 75. *Public Defender (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Public Defender; \$7,126,679)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

76. ***Title IVD- Sheriff's Fund (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IVD-Sheriff's Fund; \$66,499)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
77. ***Title IV – Family Court (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IV – Family Court; 1,451,686)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
78. ***School Resource Officers (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of School Resource Officers; \$8,334,677)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
79. ***Victim's Assistance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Victim's Assistance; \$1,367,901)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
80. ***Tourism Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Tourism Development; \$1,477,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
81. ***Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Temporary Alcohol Permits; \$126,502)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
82. ***Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve funding for River Alliance FY26; \$70,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
83. ***Stormwater Management (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Stormwater Management; \$5,312,802)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
84. ***Stormwater Management (Approve funding for Congaree Riverkeeper for FY26; \$20,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
85. ***Conservation Commission (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Conservation Commission; \$3,182,580)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
86. ***Road Maintenance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Road Maintenance; \$11,898,931)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
87. ***Child Fatality Review (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Child Fatality Review; \$35,000)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
88. ***County-wide Departments (Approve other fund new positions as presented in the FY26 Recommended Budget Book; \$621,592)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

e. DEBT SERVICE

89. ***General Obligation Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$14,353,981)*** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #89-100, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

90. ***Proposed General Obligation Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$8,968,471)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

2nd Reading – Budget Meeting

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91. ***Fire Bond Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$547,950)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
92. ***Hospitality Refund 2013A B/S [Special Assessment] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$1,490,850)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
93. ***RC-IP Revenue Bond 2019 (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$1,601,381)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
94. ***Richland School District I; (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$17,530,778)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
95. ***School District I Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$45,132,122)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
96. ***School District II Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$67,172,352)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
97. ***Recreation Commission (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$3,067,430)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
98. ***Riverbanks Zoo & Garden (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$5,506,989)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
99. ***East Richland Public Service Dist. [Sewer] (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$809,320)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.
100. ***Transportation Bonds (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$14,435,500)*** – This item was approved in a previous motion.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

101. ***County-wide Departments (Approve multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented in the FY 2026 Recommended Budget Book [FY 2026 – FY 2029]; \$242,371,782)*** – Ms. Barron moved to approve the multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Newton.

Mr. Weaver inquired if this would require a tax increase.

Ms. Thomas replied that it would not. The capital plan is just a plan and is apt to change.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

f. ENTERPRISE FUNDS

102. ***Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 3.60% increase in the Landfill's rate schedule for FY26; \$3,448,377)*** – Ms. Newton moved to approve Items #102-107, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Ms. Barron requested the no-mill increase amount.

Mr. Allen Brown, Deputy Auditor, stated it would be \$8,178,800.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

103. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve Mill Cap budget for Landfill: \$8,391,200) –
This item was approved in a previous motion.

104. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve Solid Waste Collection revenue projections; \$39,318,401) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

105. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Solid Waste total budget; \$51,157,978) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

106. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Solid Waste use of fund balance; \$2,000,000) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

107. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Keep Midlands Beautiful; \$45,500) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

108. Richland County Utilities (Approve Utilities Water revenue projections – includes 10% increase; \$287,829) – Mr. Pugh moved to approve Items #108-112, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

109. Richland County Utilities (Approve Utilities Sewer revenue projections – includes 4% increase; \$14,722,102) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

110. Richland County Utilities (Approve Utilities TAP revenue projections - \$896,278) –
This item was approved in a previous motion.

111. Richland County Utilities (Approve funding for Richland County Utilities total budget; \$15,906,209) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

112. Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve Jim Hamilton Owens Airport revenue projections; \$310,000) – This item was approved in a previous motion.

113. Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve Jim Hamilton Owens Airport use of fund balance; \$470,971.)

114. Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve Jim Hamilton Owen Airport total budget; \$785,971)

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Newton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Little, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Alleyne, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.