



Richland County Council
Detention Center Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
MINUTES
March 18, 2025 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Derrek Pugh, Tyra Little, Don Weaver, Tish Dozier Alleyne, and Cheryl English

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilwoman Allison Terracio, Councilwoman Chakisse Newton, Councilman Jason Branham, Councilwoman Gretchen Barron, Anette Kirylo, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Jackie Hancock, Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Kenny Bowen, John Thompson, Aric Jensen, Stacey Hamm, Patrick Wright, Lori Thomas, Maddison Wilkerson, Jennifer Wladischkin, Tamar Black, and Venyke Harley

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Councilman Derrek Pugh called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** – Ms. Little moved to nominate Ms. English as Chair of the committee, seconded by Ms. Alleyne.

Mr. Weaver moved to nominate Mr. Pugh for the position of Chair, seconded by Ms. Alleyne.

Mr. Pugh kindly declined the nomination.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. **November 22, 2025** – Mr. Weaver moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Alleyne.
In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English
The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Mr. Weaver moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Little.
In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English
The vote in favor was unanimous.

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- a. **Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center– Status Updates**
 1. *Personnel Updates [EXECUTIVE SESSION] [Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, Sec. 30-4-70(1)]* – Mr. Leonardo Brown, County Administrator, noted the County is continuing with digital, social media, radio, and print advertisements for positions. We are still offering sign-on and retention bonuses. He indicated we are not at the staffing level we want to be, but we are actively seeking individuals to work at the facility. He mentioned that overall employee safety is a priority for the County and aligns with the plan we submitted to the Department of Corrections, the information we provided to the Department of Justice, and the steps we said we would take to address staffing.

Mr. Weaver mentioned he met with a concerned citizen, and she pointed out that the Richland County website lists the starting salary at \$20/hour. In comparison, the Lexington County website lists an annual salary. The concerned citizen noted that the salary seemed more generous in Lexington County and suggested listing the yearly salary on our website.

Mr. Brown stated billboards and external advertisements provide the annual salary. From a Human Resources standpoint, there is a reason why you list the lowest denomination of what a person earns. You do not want to create a contractual obligation. Employees have argued they were not informed they had to work so many hours to earn the annual salary. He said he would see if our system would allow us to show the hourly and yearly salary.

Ms. Barron requested to go into Executive Session to discuss specific questions related to staff members.

Mr. Weaver moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Little.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***The Committee went into Executive Session at approximately 4:12 PM
and came out at approximately 4:43 PM***

Ms. Alleyne moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Weaver.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English indicated that the Committee entered into an Executive Session to receive legal advice. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

2. *Infrastructure Updates* – Mr. Brown mentioned at the Strategic Planning Forum that Council members were provided with a list of projects at the Detention Center. He provided an update on where those projects are now compared to January 2025.

- Hotel Housing Unit: January – 60%; March – 96%; housing unit is expected to come online in the next couple of weeks
- Juliet Housing Unit: January – 1%; March – 40%
- Lima Housing Unit: January – 1%; March – 43%
- Kilo Housing Unit: January – 1%; March – 37%
- Uniform Housing Unit: January – 1% March – 45%
- Attorney/Client Visitation: January – 70%; complete by May 2025

He indicated the wall colors have been updated to a lighter color, which is intended to assist with mental health.

The area known as Phase I has many open-bay dorms. The other units have single cells in the space or single cells behind a glass partition. He expressed they are working on addressing the open-bay concept because having that much movement available is not conducive to the type of environment where there is an officer with a reasonable number of detainees out and about.

In addition, plumbing issues (e.g., rusted piping) must be addressed. In many instances, the plumbing is old; therefore, the water management system has had to be replaced.

3. *Security Updates* – Mr. Brown pointed out that approximately 90% of the locks have been replaced. The remaining locks to be replaced are in units that need to be renovated. To do so, we must move the individuals housed in these units to other accommodations to renovate and install the new locks.
4. *Other Updates* – Mr. Brown acknowledged the County is supposed to send a request to allow Council members to tour the facility. A formal request is forthcoming.

In the past, discussions have been held about various detainee needs that the facility was not designed to address. We have discussed adding on another unit or constructing a facility.

Mr. Brown affirmed we are still walking down the plan provided to the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Weaver stated he recalled the Department of Justice (DOJ) wanting the County to hire a mental health counselor. If that is the case, has the County addressed the recommendation?

Mr. Brown replied that one of the DOJ's recommendations was to deal with classification, which we have addressed. From a mental health perspective, the County has a third-party contracted provider that provides medical and mental health services. He noted the facility itself is not a mental health facility. There are certain requests regarding mental health that the Detention Center was not structurally built to address.

Mr. Weaver inquired if we have someone available to accommodate mental health screenings.

Mr. Brown responded in the affirmative.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Weaver moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Alleyne.

In Favor: Pugh, Little, Weaver, Alleyne, and English

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:59 PM.