



Richland County Council
Regular Session
MINUTES
June 4, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jesica Mackey, Chair; Derrek Pugh, Vice-Chair; Jason Branham, Derrek Pugh, Yvonne McBride, Paul Livingston, Allison Terracio (via Zoom), Don Weaver, Gretchen Barron, Overture Walker, Cheryl English, and Chakisse Newton (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: Michelle Onley, Leonardo Brown, Anette Kirylo, Stacey Hamm, Susan O’Cain, Dale Welch, Kyle Holsclaw, Andrew Haworth, Tamar Black, Patrick Wright, Michael Maloney, Judy Carter, Jackie Hancock, Jennifer Wladischkin, Chelsea Bennett, Maddison Wilkerson, Lori Thomas, Tish Gonzales, John McKenzie, Shirani Fuller, Bill Davis, Crayman Harvey, Darlene Gathers, Thomas Gilbert, Brittney Terry-Hoyle, John Thompson, Dante Roberts, Geo Price, Ojetta O’Bryant, Matiah Pough, Oscar Rosales, and Sandra Haynes

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Jesica Mackey called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM.
2. **INVOCATION** – The Invocation was led by the Honorable Cheryl English.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Honorable Paul Livingston.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. Special Called Meeting: May 14, 2024 – Ms. Terracio moved to reconsider Item 19(a): Report of the Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Committee, seconded by Ms. Barron. Ms. Terracio noted that the committee needed to continue work, and they were not ready to make a recommendation to the Council.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.
 - b. Zoning Public Hearing: May 21, 2024
 - c. Special Called Meeting: May 23, 2024

Ms. Terracio moved to approve the May 14, 2024, Special Called Meeting minutes, as amended, the May 21, 2024, Zoning Public Hearing minutes, and the May 23, 2024, Special Called Meeting minutes as distributed, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.
5. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Mackey requested to defer Items 8(a), 14(a), and 17(a): “An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Animals and Fowl” until the next Council meeting.

Mr. Pugh moved to adopt the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.
6. **PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS** – Ms. Barron moved to adopt the resolutions recognizing the life of Cedrick Lamont Richie, II, and June as the Joy of Fatherhood Month, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- a. A Resolution Recognizing the Life of Cedrick Lamont Richie, II – Ms. English read the resolution into the record.
- b. A Resolution Recognizing June as the Joy of Fatherhood Month – Ms. Mackey read the resolution into the record.

7. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS**

- a. A Proclamation Recognizing Blythewood High School Girls' Track Team as 5A State Champions – Ms. Chelsea Bennett, Deputy Director - Communication/Public Information Office, read the proclamation into the record.

8. **REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70)**

- a. Animal Care Ordinance – This item was deferred.
- b. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center Update [Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2)]
- c. Legal Department Budget [Pursuant to SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2)]

Mr. Walker moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 6:37 PM
and came out at approximately 6:50 PM***

Mr. Walker moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Livingston.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey indicated council entered into Executive Session to receive legal advice regarding the Legal Department's Budget. No action was taken in Executive Session.

9. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. For Items on the Agenda Not Requiring a Public Hearing – No one signed up to speak.

10. **CITIZENS' INPUT**

- a. Must Pertain to Richland County Matters Not on the Agenda (Items for which a public hearing is required or a public hearing has been scheduled cannot be addressed at this time)
 1. Jodi Moseley, 1008 Wotan Road, Columbia, SC 29229 – Columbia Classical Ballet
 2. Myra Nelson, 124 White Birch Circle, Columbia, SC 29223 – Columbia Classical Ballet
 3. Lisa Smarr, 720 Kawana Road, Columbia, SC 29205 – Columbia Classical Ballet

11. **REPORT OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

- a. Updates for Consideration

1. *PEBA Update* – The County Administrator Leonardo Brown stated this item is before the body because there is a window of time in which the County has to provide feedback to PEBA regarding the following matter: "On March 6, 2024, the PEBA Board of Directors voted unanimously to amend the definition of 'Employee' for the purposes of eligibility to participate in the state insurance benefits program. This amendment allows councils of participating counties and municipalities to exercise a one-time, irrevocable option to exclude their councilmembers from the definition of 'Employee.'" He noted he is required to execute a document indicating what Council's desire is. The recommendation is to continue to offer state insurance benefits to the Council.

Mr. Walker moved to accept the Administrator's recommendation to continue to offer state insurance benefits to Council members, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. Administrator's Nomination: (Items in this section require action that may prejudice the County's interest in a discernible way (i.e., time-sensitive, exigent, or of immediate importance) – Mr. Brown indicated these three items relate to excess mitigation credits. The funds from the sale of the mitigation credits will go back into the Transportation Program. The staff's recommendation is for approval.
1. *Community Planning & Development – Conservation – Mitigation Bank Credit Sales – D.R. Horton, Inc. Granite Falls*
 2. *Community Planning & Development – Conservation – Mitigation Bank Credit Sales – Lexington, Health, Inc.*
 3. *Community Planning & Development – Conservation – Mitigation Bank Credit Sales – SCDOT I-26 Widening*

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items 11(b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3), seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider Items 11(b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3), seconded by Ms. Mackey.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

12. **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL**

- a. Strategic Planning Forum Update – The Clerk of Council, Anette Kirylo, requested Council to give her direction on a location for the 2025 Strategic Planning Forum.

Ms. Barron moved to hold the 2025 Strategic Planning Forum in Rock Hill, South Carolina, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

13. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR** – Ms. Mackey welcomed Ms. McBride back for tonight's Council meeting.

14. **OPEN/CLOSE PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Animals and Fowl – The public hearing for this item was deferred.
- b. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Motor Vehicles in Traffic; Article II, General Traffic and Parking Regulations, Section 17-9, through truck traffic prohibited; so as to include Clearwater Road, Crestwood Road, and Edgewater Drive – No one signed up to speak.
- c. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, Solid Waste, Recycling, and Public Sanitation; Article VII, Enforcement; Section 12-66, Penalties; so as to amend the language therein – No one signed up to speak.

15. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Case #23-045MA, Raysa Sanchez, INS to R6 (.40 Acres), 1626 Horseshoe Drive, TMS # R17011-02-19 [SECOND READING]
- b. Case #24-008MA, Heather Bounds/Christina Tran, PDD to PDD (63.95 Acres), 1312 Crane Church Rd., 7639 Fairfield Rd. & Crane Church Rd., TMS # R09600-02-13, R09600-03-02, & R09600-03-03 [SECOND READING]
- c. Case #24-012MA, Jeff Ruble, Richland County Economic Development, HM to LI (5.15 Acres), 605 Blythewood Road, TMS # R15100-01-03 (portion) [SECOND READING]
- d. Department of Public Works – Engineering- Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program – Road Rehabilitation Award
- e. Department of Public Works – Engineering – Springwood Lakes Dam Rehab Design Services

- f. Sheriff's Department – Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Project Coordinator Grant

Ms. Newton moved to approve Items 15(a) – 15(f), seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider Items 15(d) – 15(f), seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

16. **THIRD READING ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17, Motor Vehicles in Traffic; Article II, General Traffic and Parking Regulations; Section 17-9, through truck traffic prohibited; so as to include Clearwater Road, Crestwood Road, and Edgewater Drive – Mr. Pugh moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Mackey requested a friendly amendment to add Risdon Way and Sparkleberry Lane Extension.

Mr. Pugh accepted the amendment.

Ms. Newton noted when the other roads went through Council, we received information about them, why they were being added to the ordinance, and traffic impact studies. She inquired if there was additional information Ms. Mackey could share about the roads she wished to add.

Ms. Mackey stated Sparkleberry Lane Extension and Risdon Way are roads previously requested to prohibit through truck traffic but did not make their way to the list.

Mr. Brown indicated that this cut-through area has been identified. Staff pointed out that Risdon Way would be appropriate to be included because that is where traffic cuts through from Sparkleberry Lane Extension. It would not be prohibitive for Council to consider these other roads and streets.

Mr. Weaver asked what type of “through truck traffic” the County would be prohibiting.

Mr. Brown responded the prohibition would be on large trucks using neighborhood roads to bypass traffic in which they do not want to sit.

Ms. McBride inquired if there would be any additional cost to add these two roads.

Mr. Brown replied the cost would be de minimum.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

- b. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12, Solid Waste, Recycling, and Public Sanitation; Article VII, Enforcement; Section 12-66, Penalties; so as to amend the language therein – Mr. Pugh moved to approve this item, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Barron moved to reconsider this item, seconded by Ms. English.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

17. **SECOND READING ITEMS**

- a. An Ordinance Amending the Richland County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5, Animals and Fowl – This item was deferred.
- 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, 2024 will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. So as to raise revenue, make appropriations and amend the General Fund, Millage Agencies, Special Revenue Funds, Enterprise Funds, and Debt Service Funds Budget for Richland County, South Carolina for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025
- c. 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, 2024 will provide sufficient revenues for the operations of Richland County Government during the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

Mr. Walker moved to approve Items 17(b) and (c), seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

GRANTS

1. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax revenue projects; \$640,000)*
2. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax use of fund balance; \$135,000)*
3. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax transfer out; \$25,000)*
4. *Accommodations Tax (Approve A-Tax committee recommendations; \$750,000)*
5. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax revenue projections; \$10,442,422)*
6. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax use of fund balance; \$2,019,470)*
7. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax transfer out; \$4,985,350)*
8. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax committee recommendations; \$600,000)*

Ms. Terracio moved to approve Items #1-9, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. Mackey made a friendly amendment to pull out Item #9.

Ms. Terracio accepted the friendly amendment.

Ms. McBride inquired as to the fund balance for Accommodations Tax.

Ms. Maddison Wilkerson, Budget Director, stated that as of June 30, 2023, the fund balance is \$655,000, and we would be using \$135,000.

Ms. McBride indicated she would like to know the fund balance for Hospitality Tax.

Ms. Wilkerson stated that as of June 30, 2023, the fund balance was \$16,787.884, and we would be using \$2,019,470.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor of Items #1-8 was unanimous.

9. *Hospitality Tax (Approve H-Tax Council discretionary; \$82,425 for each council district; \$906,675)*—Ms. Terracio moved to approve the Hospitality Tax Council discretionary of \$82,425 per council district, which equates to \$906,675, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

10. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Columbia Museum of Art at the requested amount; Requested: \$1,450,000 – committee awarded: \$11,000; \$1,430,200)*

11. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Historic Columbia Foundation at the requested amount; Requested: \$675,000 – committee awarded: \$8,333; Last year awarded: \$622,500; **\$666,667**)*
12. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for EdVenture at the requested amount; Requested: \$1,450,000 – committee awarded: \$20,000; **\$1,430,000**)*
13. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Township Auditorium Foundation at the requested amount; Requested: \$415,000 – committee awarded \$6,250; **\$408,750**)*
14. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Capital City Lake Murray Country; Requested: \$200,000 – committee awarded: \$40,000; Last year awarded: \$150,000; **\$160,000**)*
15. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Columbia Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau; Requested: \$500,000 – committee awarded: \$28,750; Last year awarded: \$275,000; **\$471,250**)*
16. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for Columbia International Festival; Requested: \$300,000 – committee awarded: \$25,000; Last year awarded: \$235,000; **\$275,000**)*
17. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding for South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO); Requested: \$120,000 – committee awarded: \$0; Last year awarded: **\$90,000**; \$120,000)*
18. *Hospitality Tax (Approve carry over any unexpended funds from the Gateway Pocket Park/Blight Removal Project to FY 2025 budget; **\$250,000**)*
19. *Hospitality Tax (Approve carry over any unexpended funds from the Historical Corridor to FY 2025 budget; **\$228,105**)*
20. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding of \$1,000,000 to complete the Township Auditorium parking lot project; \$1,800,000 funded through assigned capital fund balance, need an additional \$1,000,000 to complete the project; **\$1,000,000**)*

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items #10-20, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Ms. Terracio requested a friendly amount to fund South East Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) at last year's amount of \$90,000.

Ms. Barron accepted the amendment.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

21. *Hospitality Tax (Approve \$70,000 in funding to the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival for their annual festival in FY 2025; Committee awarded \$20,000; Funding at \$70,000 would increase the use of fund balance by \$50,000; \$50,000) – Ms. English moved to approve \$40,000 in funding for the Lower Richland Sweet Potato Festival, seconded by Mr. Pugh.*

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

22. *Hospitality Tax (Approve \$50,000 in funding to Latino Communications CDC in FY 2025; Committee awarded \$6,000; Funding at \$50,000 would increase the use of fund balance by \$44,000; **\$44,000**) – Ms. Barron moved to approve the use of \$44,000 from the Hospitality Tax fund balance to fund Latino Communications CDC at \$50,000, seconded by Ms. English.*

Ms. Mackey inquired if the \$44,000 is already included in the amount approved on Item #6.

Ms. Wilkerson stated it was not included.

In Favor: Branham, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey and English

Not Present: Pugh and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

23. *Hospitality Tax (Approve carrying over any unexpended hospitality funds from each Councilmember District to FYThe25 budget) – The motion on Item #24 overrode this item.*

24. *Hospitality Tax (Approve carrying over up to \$300,000 of unexpended hospitality tax funds from each Councilmember District to FY2025 budget)* – Ms. Mackey moved to approve carrying over up to \$300,000 of unexpended hospitality tax funds from each Council district to FY25, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. McBride inquired if any Council district had more than \$300,000 of unexpended hospitality tax funds.

Ms. Mackey indicated Mr. Weaver does courtesy of his predecessor.

Ms. McBride inquired if Mr. Weaver could not return the hospitality tax funds if he did not want to utilize them.

Mr. Brown responded Mr. Weaver could not independently take action to return the funds based on the previous motions to roll the funds over.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

25. *Hospitality Tax (Approve funding the Riverbanks Zoo at \$1,509,800 from hospitality tax fund balance; Requested: \$3,019,600; the remaining would come from .7 mills; \$1,501,712)* – This item was taken under Item #95.
26. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve neighborhood improvement grant recommendations; \$92,250)*
27. *Conservation Commission (Approve Conservation Commission grant recommendations; \$250,000)*
28. *Various Grant Funded Depts. (Approve department requests that are applying for external grants in FY 2025, required matching of County funds, and grant-funded positions; Departments requesting approval of applying for various grants. Potential total external incoming revenue of \$120,462,281 and associated matching of County funds: \$1,376,474 in General Fund, \$11,856,490 in Other Funds [Excludes ARPA funding, since previously approved]; \$133,695,245)*

Ms. Terracio moved to approve Items #26-28, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

GENERAL FUND

29. *County-wide Departments (Approve Projected Operating General Fund Revenue as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book, including sufficient operating millage to achieve \$131,340,500 in property tax collections; \$216,959,183)* – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the Projected Operating General Fund Revenue as presented in the FY25 Recommended Budget Book, including sufficient operating millage to achieve \$131,340,500 in property tax collections, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Ms. English inquired about the \$216,959,183 amount listed on the motions list.

Ms. Wilkerson indicated the \$131,340,500 referenced in the motion is only related to the property tax collections. The \$216,959,183 includes all revenue collected.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

30. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Transfers In from H-Tax and A-Tax Funds as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book; \$3,525,000)* – Ms. Mackey moved to approve the General Fund Transfers in from Hospitality Tax and Accommodations Tax funds of \$3,525,000, as presented in the FY25 Recommended Budget Book, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

31. *Administration (Approve allocation of indirect cost to special revenue and enterprise fund departments as presented at the May 9, 2024 work session; \$4,761,209)*

32. *Planning (Approve refining and redesigning the Land Development Fee schedule as presented by Richland County's Planning Department; The new land development fee schedule was presented by Ms. Fuller during the Budget Work Session on May 14, 2024)*

33. *County-wide Departments (Approve Projected Use of General Fund Assigned Fund Balance to support Capital project expenditure as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book; \$6,225,000)*
34. *County-wide Departments (Approve continued funding for step increase according to the compensation study implemented in FY 2024; \$2,184,948)*
35. *County-wide Departments (Approve all general fund new positions as presented at the May 14, 2024 work session starting January 1, 2025; \$238,901)*

Mr. Weaver moved to approve Items #31-35, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

36. *Solicitor & Council Services (Approve the Solicitor's request for a new public information coordinator starting January 1, 2025 in lieu of the public policy new position in Council Services; Position grades are very similar. No budgetary impact if starting January 1, 2025)*
37. *County-wide Departments (Approve General Fund Overall Personnel, Operating and Capital Expenditures as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book; \$213,881,834)*
38. *Transfer Out (Approve General Fund Operating Transfers Out as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book; \$15,119,809)*
39. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve funding the Central Midlands COG for FY 2025; \$219,380)*
40. *Lum Sum Agencies (Approve funding the LRADAC for FY 2025; \$1,350,000)*

Mr. Pugh moved to approve Items #36-40, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Ms. McBride inquired if there was another position available for Council staff. She indicated that Council is in dire need of research and public policy.

Ms. Mackey responded there were two positions for the Clerk to Council's Office. This motion is to replace the public policy position.

Ms. McBride indicated the salary listed was approximately \$26,000/year.

Ms. Mackey stated that the amount does not represent a full year's salary, as advertising and finding a person would take a while.

Ms. Wilkerson replied that the research analyst position would be approximately \$68,000, and the public policy position would be roughly \$88,000.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

41. *Community Impact Grants (Approve community impact grant community partners request; Requested: \$1,201,546 – committee recommended: \$988,200; \$988,200)*
42. *Community Impact Grants (Approve community impact grant committee competitive recommendations; Committee awarded \$658,800; \$658,800)*

Ms. Mackey moved to approve Items #41-42, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Opposed: McBride

Not Present: Newton

The vote was in favor.

43. *Community Impact Grants (Approve funding for Senior Resources at the requested amount; Requested: \$548,046 – Committee recommended: \$387,700; Requires use of fund balance or decreasing funding levels of other organizations; \$163,346) {THIS ITEM WAS RECONSIDERED AT THE JUNE 18, 2024 REGULAR SESSION COUNCIL MEETING}*

Mr. Livingston moved to approve funding for Senior Resources at the requested amount of \$548,046, which would require the use of \$163,346 from fund balance or to decrease funding levels of other organizations, seconded by Ms. Barron.

Mr. Livingston maintained that Senior Resources has received at least \$548,000 for the last six or seven years. This year, the recommended budget is significantly lower, at \$387,700, which is \$163,346 less than they received in the past few years. His motion intends to reinstate them at the same level. He indicated this is a dedicated agency for Richland County. Richland-Lexington County Council on Aging was sanctioned by Richland and Lexington counties for many years. Lexington County moved out; therefore, Richland County decided to have a public-private partnership with Senior Resources. He noted his recommendation is to transfer out \$163,346 from the General Fund to make Senior Resources whole. He suggested we look at a different way to fund Senior Resources in the future. For example, Lexington County funds its senior programs through a millage. Fairfield and Newberry counties fund their senior services with General Fund dollars.

Ms. Barron expressed her support for Senior Resources and the services it provides to seniors. She noted that if this body is invested in funding resources for seniors, we need to find a way to fund the program(s) consistently. She has mixed feelings about where we are getting the funds from. She requested further clarification on the impact of taking the funds from the General Fund.

Ms. Wilkerson indicated that Item #38 concerns transfers out from the General Fund, which offset other funds. She noted that Mr. Livingston's motion was to decrease the transfer out by \$163,346. If we choose to decrease the transfer out, one of the other funds would not be made whole, and there would not be enough revenue to have a balanced budget.

Mr. Livingston clarified that his motion was not to decrease the transfer out but to increase it by \$163,346.

Ms. Wilkerson asserted the only way to accomplish the intent of Mr. Livingston's motion is to take the \$163,346 from the General Fund fund balance.

Ms. Terracio inquired about the impact on the General Fund fund balance.

Ms. Thomas stated at the end of FY24, there was \$43,525,320 in unassigned fund balance, which means 22.64% of the prior year's expenditures were available. The budget proposed for FY25 would leave us with 21% in the unassigned fund balance, leaving us with \$1,619,291 before we drop below 20%. If we were to utilize the \$163,346 of fund balance, it would bring us to approximately 20.8%. The available unassigned fund balance policy is 20-35%.

Ms. Mackey pointed out that the body has worked for several years to create a process. She understands the history Mr. Livingston provided about Senior Resources. The Community Grants Committee is in its second year of funding, and we have had conversations about the organizations, applications, and how to apply. At no time was it mentioned that we should treat funding Senior Resources differently. At this point, we have to consider how to fund non-profits. There were so many non-profits we could not fund or meet their full ask. She acknowledged we could not meet Senior Resource's total funding request, but \$387,700 is still the largest amount of funding allocated to a non-profit. If the body wants to get Senior Resources to their previous amount, we should look at what other organizations we are willing not to fund. Using General Fund fund balance goes against many of the principles we have stated we wanted to create a fair process for our non-profits.

Mr. Weaver called for the question.

In Favor: McBride, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, and Walker

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Livingston, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

**During the voting process, Ms. Mackey inquired if Council was out of order of Robert's Rules of Order.

County Attorney Wright responded that Mr. Weaver called for the question; therefore, Council is voting on Mr. Livingston's motion.

The motion failed.

44. *Lump Sum Agencies (Approve funding for the Main Street District at the requested amount; Requested: \$50,000; Funded at \$47,500 last year; \$50,000)* – Mr. Livingston moved to approve funding for the Main Street District at the requested amount of \$50,000, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

45. *County-wide Departments (Adjust and approve Projected Use of General Fund Balance to support overall General Fund expenditures as necessary)*

46. *Non-Departmental (Approve assigning \$4,000,000 of unexpended FY24 funding for affordable housing in FY25; \$4,000,000)*

Ms. Mackey moved to approve Items #45-46, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

47. *Economic Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Economic Development; \$8,957,203)*
48. *Emergency Telephone System (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Emergency Telephone System; \$7,783,549)*
49. *Fire Service (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Fire Services; \$36,851,850)*
50. *Hospitality Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Hospitality Tax; \$12,461,892)*
51. *Accommodations Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Accommodations Tax; \$775,000)*
52. *Transportation Tax (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Transportation Tax; \$96,682,144)*
53. *Mass Transit (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Mass Transit; \$27,193,375)*
54. *Neighborhood Redevelopment (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Neighborhood Redevelopment; \$994,000)*
55. *Public Defender (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Public Defender; \$6,646,727)*
56. *Title IVD-Sheriff's Fund (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IVD-Sheriff's Fund; \$67,824)*
57. *Title IV-Family Court (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Title IV-Family Court; \$1,425,716)*
58. *School Resource Officers (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of School Resource Officers; \$8,560,752)*
59. *Victim's Assistance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Victim's Assistance; \$1,407,504)*
60. *Tourism Development (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Tourism Development; \$1,332,000)*
61. *Tourism Development (Approve funding the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center at FY2024 level; \$637,359)*
62. *Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Temporary Alcohol Permits; \$111,947)*
63. *Stormwater Management (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Stormwater Management; \$4,277,541)*
64. *Conservation Commission (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Conservation Commission; \$2,608,552)*
65. *Road Maintenance (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Road Maintenance; \$12,042,077)*
66. *Child Fatality Review (Approve revenue and expenditure budget of Child Fatality Review; \$35,000)*

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items #47-66, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

67. *Temporary Alcohol Permits (Approve funding for River Alliance for FY 2025; This expenditure is budgeted in Temporary Alcohol Permits Fund; Last year funding was \$55,000; Increase to \$70,000 would require a \$15,000 use of fund balance; \$70,000) – Ms. Terracio moved to approve funding for the River Alliance for FY25 at \$70,000, which will require the use of \$15,000 of Temporary Alcohol Permit fund balance, seconded by Ms. Barron.*

Ms. Wilkerson indicated there is currently \$592,000 in the Temporary Alcohol Permits fund balance.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

68. *County-wide Departments (Approve Other Fund New Positions as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book; \$339,439)* – Ms. Barron moved to approve Other Fund New Positions as presented in the FY25 Recommended Budget Book for \$339,439, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

DEBT SERVICE

69. *General Obligation Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$18,721,888)*

70. *Fire Bonds Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$555,000)*

71. *Hospitality Refund 2013A B/S (Special Assessment) (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$1,486,963)*

72. *RC IP Bonds 2019 (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$1,605,577)*

73. *School District I Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$44,442,462)*

74. *School District II Debt Service (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$64,854,932)*

75. *Recreation Commission (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$458,016)*

76. *Riverbanks Zoo & Garden (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$2,670,190)*

77. *East Richland Public Service Dist. (Sewer) (Appropriate funding to fund debt service \$1,438,560)*

78. *Transportation Bonds (Appropriate funding to fund debt service; \$14,434,250)*

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items #69-78, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

79. *Capital Projects (Approve multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented in the FY 2025 Recommended Budget Book [FY 2025 – FY 2026]; \$256,035,036)* – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the multi-year comprehensive capital improvement plan as presented in the FY25 Recommended Budget Book, seconded by Ms. Barron.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

ENTERPRISE

80. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 4.75% increase in the Landfill's rate schedule for FY 2025 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$1,254,490)*

81. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve Mill Cap budget for Landfill; \$7,957,000)*

82. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve 4.75% increase in Curbside Collector's rate schedule for FY 2025 as presented by the Department in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$36,401,191)*

83. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Solid Waste's total budget; \$45,612,681)*

84. *Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Approve funding for Keep Midlands Beautiful; \$42,900)*

85. *Richland County Utilities (Approve proposed 10% volumetric water rate increases and fee schedule presented by Richland County Utilities in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$264,138)*

86. *Richland County Utilities (Approve proposed 4% sewer rate increase and fee schedule presented by Richland County Utilities in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$14,751,760)*

- 87. *Richland County Utilities (Approve use of fund balance of \$10,000,000 for paygo capital projects as presented by Richland County Utilities in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$10,000,000)*
- 88. *Richland County Utilities (Approve funding for Richland County Utilities total budget; \$25,015,898)*
- 89. *Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve funding for Richland County Airport budget; \$474,078)*
- 90. *Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve use of fund balance of \$191,361 as presented by the Hamilton-Owens Airport in the Council Budget Work Session on May 9, 2024; \$191,361)*
- 91. *Hamilton-Owens Airport Operating (Approve funding for the Hamilton-Owens Airport total budget; \$665,439)*

Ms. Barron moved to approve Items #80-91, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English
 Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

MILLAGE AGENCIES

- 92. *Recreation Commission (Approve the agency's budget request for FY 2025; 2 mill increase to operating millage; Requesting mill cap of .6 mills plus 1.4 mills lookback; Offset by decreasing debt service millage by 2 mills for 1 year; \$19,743,400) – Mr. Walker moved to approve the agency's budget request for a 2 mill increase to the operating millage. The agency is requesting the mill cap of .6 mills plus 1.4 mills lookback, which will be offset by decreasing debt service millage by 2 mills for 1 year. Ms. Barron seconded the motion.*

Ms. Newton stated that, for clarification, increasing the operating millage by 2 mills while acknowledging the offset in the debt service means it is a net loss and a zero tax increase to approve this item.

Mr. Walker responded in the affirmative. He noted that this is for one year, and the debt service will return to its previous level next year. Council will have to remember that the 2 mill operating millage increase is for this year; otherwise, the 2 mill increase will remain on the books.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton
 Opposed: Branham

The vote was in favor.

- 93. *Columbia Area Mental Health (Approve the agency's budget request at FY 2025 – No Mill Budget; \$3,017,923) – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the agency's FY25 budget request of a no mill budget of \$3,017,923, seconded by Mr. Weaver.*

Mr. Walker indicated a no-mill increase budget would be \$2,900,600, but what is requested is \$3,017,923; therefore, there seems to be a discrepancy.

Ms. Wilkerson stated that the request submitted was \$50,000 more than what the Auditor provided, but they had a carry-forward of \$50,000 they could use.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 94. *Public Library (Approve the agency's budget request at FY 2025 – No Mill Budget; \$34,505,365) – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the agency's FY25 budget request of a no mill budget increase of \$34,505,365, seconded by Mr. Walker.*

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

- 95. *Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens (Approve the agency's operating millage at .7 mills for FY 2025; Total agency request = \$3,019,600; .7 mills will provide \$1,517,888 in revenue, the additional \$1,501,712 to be funded by hospitality)*

tax; \$1,517,888) – Ms. Terracio moved to approve the agency’s operating millage at .7 mills for FY25 of \$1,517,888, seconded by Ms. Mackey

Ms. Mackey pointed out that Riverbanks Zoo currently has a millage of 1.4 mills. This motion reduces the millage to .7 mills and provides the remaining funds for their overall budget from Hospitality Tax dollars. Late last year, there were discussions related to the zoo’s funding, our support of the additional bonds, and how we could help alleviate the tax burden on taxpayers by using Hospitality Tax funds.

Ms. Barron noted Ms. Terracio’s motion did not include using Hospitality Tax funds.

Ms. Mackey clarified that the motion’s intent is to use Hospitality Tax funds to make the zoo’s overall budget whole. The Hospitality Tax portion will be taken up under the Hospitality Tax portion of the budget.

Mr. Branham made a friendly amendment to include Item #25: “*Hospitality Tax (Approve funding the Riverbanks Zoo at \$1,509,800 from hospitality tax fund balance; Requested: \$3,019,600; the remaining would come from .7 mills; \$1,501,712).*”

Ms. Terracio accepted the friendly amendment.

Ms. McBride indicated her concern is that we are reducing their millage by 50%. Based on her knowledge of hospitality funds, there are only certain ways you can expend the funds. She wondered about the impact of reducing the millage and the zoo's ability to address their needs with hospitality funds.

Ms. Mackey stated, that in her conversations with the zoo, they felt as if Hospitality Tax funds could help them continue to operate. In addition to Richland County providing Hospitality Tax funds, other municipalities are looking at giving them Hospitality Tax funds for operations.

Ms. Newton emphasized that this would be reviewed every year. We do not intend to prevent the zoo from operating as it needs to. We are acknowledging that we have this additional source of funding, which can help meet their needs and offset the tax burden on our residents.

Ms. McBride inquired if there is written documentation of how the funds will be expended.

Assistant County Administrator Lori Thomas maintained there are many groups in our Hospitality Ordinance that allocated funds annually, and not necessarily through a grant process. This would be treated like that. In order for them to receive the funds, they would have to show that the funds are expended on appropriate items in accordance with the State statute.

Ms. McBride pointed out that the County has certain programs that we require to have a grant plan, and others can submit a general request but do not have to provide a plan.

Ms. Thomas responded general requests typically come in the form of a motion from Council members, and the Council members know what the funds will be used for. As to the process, there is a Hospitality Tax Committee that takes up grant applications. However, there is no formal process for other Hospitality Tax requests, and would need to be decided by the body.

Ms. McBride indicated we might be voting on something there is no policy on.

Ms. Thomas responded the use of Hospitality Tax is based upon the use of funding by State statute. As far as the Council’s policy related to Hospitality Tax, she cannot tell you what the actual policy is for the use of all funds other than the committee grants, which are based on a competitive process.

Ms. Barron inquired if the \$1,501,712 in Hospitality Tax funds is a one-time request.

Ms. Mackey responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Barron expressed that we need to be consistent in how these requests come. She would not want another organization to come before us and request these funds, and we do not have a mechanism to determine if they qualify or do not qualify. In the months to come, she feels it will be important that we are intentional in how we give the funds out. She believes it is an excellent way for us to supplement our budget and move dollars around, but as we are moving the dollars around, this is an open option for others. She noted that if she had known this was an option, she might have made some motions differently.

Ms. Mackey asserted that the zoo did not request Hospitality Tax funds. They asked for a no-mill budget. She declared that she made the motion as a possible solution to reduce the impact on taxpayers.

Mr. Livingston stated that, for clarification, the zoo bond is county-wide. If we choose to use this much of our hospitality tax, which will reduce the bond's impact, how will that affect the City of Columbia's bond payback? Ms. Thomas responded that City taxpayers are also County taxpayers, so they would benefit as well. However, if we are talking about the City Hospitality Tax paid to the zoo, she does not have an answer.

Mr. Livingston asserted that if the City of Columbia is not using its Hospitality Tax, the County would be paying more than its share.

Ms. Thomas indicated that this could be possible. It would not impact the taxpayers, but it would impact the use of Hospitality Tax funds.

Mr. Livingston expressed he was concerned that the zoo may not receive Hospitality Tax funding next year, which could put them at risk.

Mr. Livingston made a substitute motion to approve the agency's FY25 request of a no-mill budget increase of \$3,019,600, seconded by Ms. McBride.

Ms. Newton pointed out that we are talking about a millage agency, not just any organization that might come to request funds. The zoo currently receives millage, and we will be using a minimal amount of Hospitality Tax funds, which every organization is eligible. She noted the onus would be on Council to ensure the zoo continued receiving Hospitality Tax funds to be made whole.

In Favor: McBride and Livingston

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote on the substitute motion failed.

The motion submitted by Councilwoman Terracio is back on the floor.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor of the original motion was unanimous.

96. *Midlands Tech. College (Operating) (Approve the agency's budget request at FY 2025 – No Mill Budget; \$8,321,255)* – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the agency's FY25 budget request of a no mill budget increase of \$8,321,255, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

97. *Midlands Tech Capital/Debt Service (Approve the agency's budget at FY 2025 – No Mill Budget; \$4,427,677)* – Mr. Pugh moved to approve the agency's FY25 budget request of a no mill budget increase of \$4,427,677, seconded by Ms. Terracio.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

98. *School District One (Approve the agency's budget request at FY 2025 – Mill Cap Budget; Originally requested: \$276,952,216; No mill budget = \$270,928,511; Mill cap budget = \$278,846,511; \$276,952,2126)* – Ms. English moved to approve the agency's budget at the no-mill increase amount of \$270,928,511, seconded by Mr. Branham.

Ms. Barron stated that with the additional mandates from the State level, she believes the school district(s) need more money to be able to do things. She noted that this is a difficult place to be and a difficult decision to make when we consider what is being requested of Council versus the no-mill increase. Last year, there was a deficit of \$12M, and the motion on the table is a deficit of \$6M. She indicated she would like the millage agencies to

have an open dialogue with Council members so we know what the needs are prior to the budget cycle because when the budget cycle comes, everyone has an ask.

Ms. McBride expressed her concern about not knowing the impact of a no-mill budget. She understood that a portion of the funding was for teacher salaries, and it is not easy to recruit teachers.

Ms. English maintained that the Superintendent, Dr. Witherspoon, indicated that a no-mill budget would not affect teachers' pay.

Ms. Barron inquired if a no-mill budget impacts the General Assembly mandates.

Ms. English stated she did not know, but one of the specific questions at the School Board meeting was whether it impacted teacher pay, and Dr. Witherspoon answered, "No."

Mr. Walker believes it is important to understand that Council is not the General Assembly. We do not set teacher salaries. Since he began serving on Council, they have been supportive of public education. There has not been a time when we have reduced the budget for any of the school districts. Last year, Richland One was approved for approximately \$255M; this year, a no-mill increase would put them at \$269M. A no-mill increase would put them at an additional \$15M in revenue; therefore, we are increasing their funding. He maintained the onus is on the General Assembly if we have State mandates coming down. It is not incumbent on County Council to figure out how to finance or subsidize State mandates. We have a Legislative Delegation for a reason.

In Favor: Branham, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Walker, Mackey, and English

Opposed: Pugh, McBride, and Barron

Not Present: Newton

The vote was in favor.

99. *School District Two (Approve the agency's budget request at FY 2025 – No Mill Budget; \$193,918,258)* – Ms. Barron moved to approve the agency's FY25 budget request of a no-mill increase of \$193,918,258, seconded by Mr. Pugh.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, English, and Newton

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

18. **REPORT OF THE RULES AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

a. NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS

1. *Midlands Workforce Development Board – One (1) Vacancy (*Labor Position)* – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended appointing Ms. Debra Stripling to fill the labor position vacancy on the Midlands Workforce Development Board.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

b. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. *Richland County First Steps Partnership Board Description* – Ms. Barron stated the committee recommended approving the Richland County First Steps Partnership Board description included in the agenda packet.

In Favor: Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey and English

Not Present: Branham and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

19. **REPORT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Polo Road – Windsor Lake Greenway Project – Mr. Walker stated the committee recommended approving staff's recommendation to cancel the project due to safety and security concerns. The project includes the construction of an elevated shared-use path along the I-20/I-77 Interchange ramp. The greenway alignment would cross a waterway with a boardwalk and require cuts and fills that would greatly increase the costs above budget and hide the trail from public view. The connection to Windsor Lake Boulevard has no planned bicycle or pedestrian facilities, and the road has obscured visibility due to horizontal curves in the road. He noted the cancellation of the project would unencumber \$1,770,700.88 in funding. Those funds would be reallocated toward the Columbia Mall/Jackson Creek Greenway.

Ms. Terracio inquired if this would require three readings and a public hearing.

Mr. Walker responded that it would not.

Ms. Terracio indicated that when we made changes to the projects in the past, it required three readings and a public hearing. She inquired what made this change different.

County Attorney. Wright stated only a change to the ordinance would require three readings and a public hearing.

Mr. Brown stated that, for clarification, the County does not own the property. The property owner is concerned and will not provide the property; therefore, it is not feasible for the County to move forward with the project.

Ms. Barron asked how it was determined which project the funding would be reallocated to.

Mr. Walker responded that tonight's vote was not to reallocate the funds but to cancel the project. The suggestion is to reallocate the funds to another greenway. He mentioned the Columbia Mall/Jackson Creek Project because it is also a nearby Penny Greenway project.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

20. **REPORT OF THE DETENTION CENTER AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- a. Request to Consider Closure of the ASGDC Juvenile Detention Center – Mr. Pugh stated the committee recommended approval of staff's recommendation to close the Juvenile Detention Center at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.

Ms. Barron requested for the record the reason staff is recommending the closure of the Juvenile Detention Center and if there is an alternative.

Mr. Brown stated that the request to close the Juvenile Detention Center is primarily to ensure that Richland County can fulfill its responsibilities related to detaining individuals. At the local detention level, we are responsible for detaining male and female adults, not juveniles. The State of South Carolina has given the Department of Juvenile Justice statutory responsibility.

Ms. Barron affirmed that with this vote, Richland County will no longer take in juveniles.

Ms. English stated that, for the record, there will be a transition period.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

21. **OTHER ITEMS**

- a. FY24 – District 3 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Allen University Alumni Association - \$10,000, Greater Waverly Foundation - \$6,500)
- b. FY24 – District 5 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Carolina Marathon Association - \$7,500)
- c. FY24 – District 6 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Columbia Classical Ballet - \$30,000)
- d. FY24 – District 7 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Greater Columbia CRC - \$9,000, Black Pages International - \$5,000, South Carolina Ballet - \$2,500, RC Recreation Foundation - \$5,000, SC Juneteenth Freedom Festival - \$7,500, Dapper & Distinguished Gentlemen - \$10,000)
- e. FY24 – District 8 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Black Pages International - \$10,000, SC State University Foundation - \$6,500)
- f. FY24 – District 9 Hospitality Tax Allocations (SC Juneteenth Freedom Festival - \$5,000)

- g. FY24 – District 10 Hospitality Tax Allocations (SC Gospel Quartet Awards - \$10,000, Kingville Historical Foundation - \$25,000)
- h. FY24 – District 11 Hospitality Tax Allocations (Kingville Historical Foundation - \$15,000, Town of Eastover - \$13,000, SC Philharmonic Orchestra - \$5,000, Columbia Classical Ballet - \$5,000)

Ms. Terracio moved to approve Items #21(a)-21(h), seconded by Ms. English.
In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. English moved to reconsider Items 21(a)-21(h), seconded by Ms. Terracio.

Opposed: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron and Newton

The motion for reconsideration failed.

22. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Pugh moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Barron and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

***Council went into Executive Session at approximately 9:19 PM
and came out at approximately 9:45 PM***

Ms. Barron moved to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Mackey indicated council entered into executive session to discuss the item listed below and no action was taken in Executive Session.

- a. Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center Update

23. **MOTION PERIOD** – No motions were submitted.

24. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. English.

In Favor: Branham, Pugh, McBride, Livingston, Terracio, Weaver, Barron, Walker, Mackey, and English

Not Present: Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:46 PM.