



Minutes
Sumter County Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019 -- Held at 6:00 p.m.
County Administration Building -- County Council Chambers
13 E. Canal Street, Sumter, SC

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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: James T. McCain, Jr., Chairman; James Byrd, Jr., Vice Chairman; Artie Baker, Eugene Baten, Charles T. Edens, Vivian Fleming McGhaney, and Chris Sumpter.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Mixon, Mary W. Blanding, Johnathan Bryan, Valerie Brunson, Keysa Rogers; Helen Roodman, Joe Perry; Allen Dailey, Jeffery Richardson, and two Sheriff's Deputies;

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Approximately 63 members of the public were in attendance.

MEDIA: The Item Newspaper; Rachel Pittman

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman McCain called this meeting of April 23, 2019, to order.

INVOCATION: Council Member Vivian Fleming McGhaney gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All in attendance repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman McCain asked Mary Blanding, the Clerk to Council, if there were any changes to the agenda for this meeting. She asked if Council would agree to move Item #1 Under New Business to be heard immediately after actions on the Minutes of April 9, 2019. Chairman McCain stated that he would entertain a motion concerning the approval of the agenda as recommended by the Clerk to Council.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Baten, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the agenda as outlined by the Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman McCain asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of Council's Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Baten, seconded by Councilman Sumpter, and unanimously carried by Council to grant approval of the Minutes of April 9, 2019, as presented by the Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Recognition of Ms. Valerie A. Brunson, Sumter County's Veteran Affairs Officer, For Being Named The 2019 Veterans Service Officer of the Year By The S. C. Association Of County Veteran Service Officers.

The Honorable J. David Weeks, former Chairman of the Sumter County Legislative Delegation, presented this agenda item to Council. He stated that after the vacancy in the Veterans Affairs Office, the Delegation decided that when they hire the next person, this person would need to be a veteran and a person that is sensitive to the needs of the veterans and willing to work to make the Veterans Affairs Office a place for the veterans to come with expectations of excellent services from those working in the office.

Representative Weeks stated that he did not participate in the voting for obvious reasons (Ms. Brunson is his niece.) However, Ms. Brunson has done an excellent job. Once there were many complaints, but now there are calls from the veterans about the many positive projects, services, programs, events, etc. that have been implemented under her leadership. Also, during a recent statewide meeting of the Veterans Affairs Service Officers, Valerie Brunson was selected as the Veterans Affairs Office of The Year for 2019.

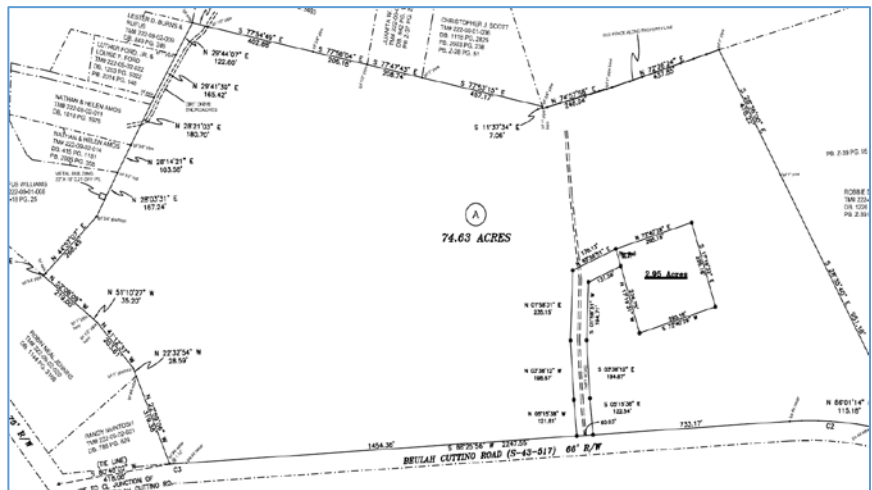
Representative Weeks presented the Trophy to Valerie Brunson on behalf of the S. C. Association Of County Veteran Service Officers. Members of Sumter County Council also presented Ms. Brunson with a gift and pictures were taken with Mrs. Brunson, Council members, and Representative Weeks.

Councilman Baten stated that, as a veteran, he can truly say that the Veterans in this community have the utmost respect for Ms. Brunson. He also said that he believes that Sumter County has the best Veterans Affairs Director not only in the state, but in the nation.

LAND USE MATTERS AND REZONING REQUESTS:
Planned Development/Rezoning Requests

- (1) **RZ-19-04 - Second Reading/Public Hearing -- Beulah Cuttino Road (County) -- Request To Rezone A +/-74.69 Acre Parcel Located On Beulah Cuttino Road From Residential-15 (R-15) To Agricultural Conservation (AC). The Property Is Represented By Tax Map #222-00-01-013. (Council Will Hold A Public Hearing Prior To Action On Second Reading Of This Rezoning Request.)**

Helen Roodman presented this proposed request to Council for second reading consideration. She stated that Donnie Beard and Robin Beard, the owners and applicants for this request, were not present during this meeting. The request is to rezone approximately 75 acres of property located on Beulah Cuttino Road from Residential-15 to Agricultural Conservation. The Beards hope to use approximately 3+ acres of this property for a home that they plan to build. The other portion of the property will be used for other agricultural purposes. The Planning Commission and Planning staff recommends approval of the request as presented.



Public Hearing

Mr. Dreyfus Williams stated that he has a parcel of land connecting to the property on Beulah Cuttino Road. He also stated that the property he owns has been in his family since the 1800's. The property has been used for agricultural property during the 1800's; his family worked on the property. He stated that he is proud to stand on behalf of allowing the properties to remain as agricultural property. He supports agricultural land. A big mistake is on the way if we do not stand for agricultural property which will

affect food, cultural, transportation, medication, clothing, and many other areas. We must come together as citizens to protect agricultural property.

After Mr. Williams' comments, Chairman McCain asked if anyone else wished to speak. No one else spoke; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on second reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Vice Chairman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to grant second reading approval.

OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- (1) 19-907 - An Ordinance To Amend Sumter County Code Of Ordinances, Sections 6-19, 6-20 And 6-23 Of Chapter 6, Article II, Relating To Dogs And Other Animals. (Council Will Take Action Third Reading Immediately After The Public Hearing Or During Old Business.)

Prior to the public hearing, Councilman Edens stated that he has not been having problems with his email and did not see the information about the ordinance until today. He further stated that it was his understanding that there was information in the ordinance about the adoption of puppies. He asked the County Attorney, Mr. Bryan if there was additional language that should have been included in the ordinance about the puppies. Mr. Bryan stated that there was some discussion, but no decisions were made about what was, if anything, would be included about adoption of puppies.

Councilman Edens asked that this matter be deferred until such time that Council can discuss this matter with those that will be running the animal shelter and law enforcement about what is to be done with puppies if they are brought to the Animal Shelter.

Because a public hearing was advertised for this meeting, the Chairman stated that he would proceed with the public hearing, and if necessary reschedule another at a later date. After the public hearing, action on the ordinance is recorded under Old Business.

Chairman McCain convened the public hearing; he asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or opposition to this proposed ordinance as presented. No one spoke to this matter; therefore, the Chairman closed the public hearing and Council took action on third reading.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Recognition of Ms. Valerie A. Brunson, Sumter County's Veteran Affairs Officer, For Being Named The 2019 Veterans Service Officer of the Year By The S. C. Association Of County Veteran Service Officers.

This matter was heard earlier in the meeting right after the approval of the minutes as listed above.

- (2) It May Be Necessary To Hold An Executive Session To Discuss An Economic Development Matter, An Employment Matter, A Legal Briefing, Or Other Matters Pertaining To An Executive Session, And Take Appropriate Actions Thereafter If Required.

No executive session was held.

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) **19-907 - Third Reading -- An Ordinance To Amend Sumter County Code Of Ordinances, Sections 6-19, 6-20 And 6-23 Of Chapter 6, Article II, Relating To Dogs And Other Animals.**

After discussion on this matter, as listed under public hearing, the Chairman called for a motion on third reading.

ACTION: MOTION was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Byrd, and unanimously carried by Council to defer third reading until such time that the appropriate staff can meet along with Councilman Edens to discuss the inclusion of adoption of puppies in this proposed ordinance. If necessary, another public hearing will be scheduled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- (1) **Budget Workshop To Be Held At 5:00 p.m. On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, In County Council's Chambers.**

The County Administrator, Gary Mixon, stated that Council and staff had a budget workshop today for about one hour. The County's projected revenue stream for the impending year is \$50,517,369. This is a very fluid number at this time. Based on the information we have today. Mr. Mixon thanked Mr. James Michaelson, the County's Finance Director, for being very thorough in his presentation concerning the budget projects for the remaining of the year and the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Mixon stated that the next budget workshop will involve the expenditure for County Government and it will be held on April 30, 2019. The time will be determined later.

- (2) **Report From Council Members On Other Meetings, Trainings, And/Or Conferences; And Any Other Council Comments.**

No report was given.

MONTHLY REPORTS

- Sumter County Sheriff's Office Monthly Report
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- Law Enforcement Prayer Breakfast
- Mary McLeod Bethune Festival/Celebration
- Building Department Report
- Planning Commission Meeting

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

No report was given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Huff - stated that he is the Chairman of the Sumter County's Veterans Association and Valerie is the Secretary of the Association. He also asked Council members and other members of the public that if they know a veteran, ask them to become a member of some of the local Veterans organizations.

Since the Veteran's Park will not be completed by the event's date, the program will be held at the American Legion on Artillery Drive. All Council members are asked to attend. Mr. Huff also elaborated on the great job that Valerie Brunson is doing for the veterans.

Jackie Humes asked Council members not to bail out the School District Board by balancing the budget on the taxpayers. She also read a statement about what she spoke to the School District Board and asked them to do what they were elected to do for the students and teachers of this County. Ms. Humes further stated that she worked with Valerie Brunson and enjoyed her time working as the van driver for the Veterans. She also said that Valerie is an asset to this County and a great help for the veterans. Mrs. Humes asked Council to provide her with an update about the litter problem in Sumter. The Chairman asked Ms. Humes to talk to Mr. Mixon after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

After all discussion and all comments from the public, Motion was made by Councilman Edens, seconded by Councilman Sumpter to adjourn the meeting of Sumter County Council at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James T. McCain, Jr.
Chairman or Vice Chairman
Sumter County Council

Mary W. Blanding
Clerk to County Council
Sumter County Council

Approved: May 14, 2019

I certify that public and media notification of the above-mentioned meeting was given prior thereto as follows required by Freedom of Information:

Public Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agendas posted on bulletin board on third floor of the Administration Building.

Date Posted: April 22, 2019

Media Notified: Yes

Manner Notified: Agenda Information is listed on Sumter County's Home Page, and E-mailed to The Item, The Chamber, WIS-TV, WBTW, and Time Warner Cable.

Date Notified: April 18, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Mary W. Blanding
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