

MINUTES

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR AIKEN COUNTY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 736 RICHLAND AVENUE, W., AIKEN, S. C.

SPECIAL MEETING – JUNE 9, 2009 – 6:00 P. M.

(A) CALL TO ORDER

Determining that a quorum was present, Chairman Young called the meeting to order.

Council Members present:

Chairman Ronnie Young
Kathy Rawls
Scott Singer
LaWana McKenzie
Chuck Smith
Charles Barton
Gary Bunker
Willar H. Hightower, Jr.

Council Members absent:

Eddie Butler

Also present:

J. Clay Killian, County Administrator
Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

(B) INVOCATION

Councilman Hightower led in the invocation.

(C) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Bunker led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(D) PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Proposed Ordinance to Establish Operating, Capital and Debt Service Budgets for Aiken County, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 Through June 30, 2010; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for County Operations, Capital and Debt Service; to Provide for All Other Estimated Revenues and for the Appropriation Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto.
 - a. Ms. Barbara Nelson, President, SPCA, discussed the effectiveness of the spay and neuter program. The appropriation of donated funds to a specific line item was also discussed.
 - b. The Honorable Liz Godard, Clerk of Court, requested additional funding in her budget in the following areas: salaries and wages, printing and binding, computer supplies, copier supplies, professional development, mileage, contract salaries and wages, and office equipment.
 - c. The Honorable Rodger Edmonds, Chief Magistrate, requested that Council fund the magistrate offices at the level funded last year.

- d. Mr. Bob Bigger, Board Chairman, Aiken County Helpline 211, reviewed the services of the organization and thanked Council for its support. Helpline 211 provides resource referrals and disaster preparedness assistance.
- e. Ms. Carmen Landy, Executive Director of Helping Hands, Inc., discussed the success of the agency and expressed her appreciation of Council's support over the past 36 years.

(E) OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Proposed Ordinance to Establish Operating, Capital and Debt Service Budgets for Aiken County, South Carolina for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 Through June 30, 2010; to Provide for the Levy of Taxes for County Operations, Capital and Debt Service; to Provide for All Other Estimated Revenues and for the Appropriation Thereof; and to Provide for Other Matters Related Thereto. (County Council) (Second Reading)

(To adopt an operating budget for the County for the next fiscal year)

MOVED FROM CONSENT ITEM 1 – REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Councilwoman Rawls made a motion to approve the proposed Ordinance. Councilman Bunker seconded.
- b. Councilwoman Rawls made an amendment motion to restore funding for Helping Hands, Golden Harvest Food Bank, and Clemson Extension Service. The restoration of those funds would amount to \$8,300. Councilman Hightower seconded the amendment.
- c. Various ways to offset the \$8,300 were discussed and are listed as follows:
 - 1. Reduction of funds for the USCA Small Business Development.
 - 2. The County insurance coverage savings, \$350,000.
 - 3. Depending on the State's decision, the possible savings of \$85,000 from the rental of office space for DHEC in North Augusta.
 - 4. A 20% reduction in the Aid to Municipalities.

Mr. Killian cautioned against the use of the insurance savings funds and reminded Council that all capital purchases and the merit program had not been funded in the proposed budget.

- d. The amendment passed by majority vote with Councilwoman Rawls, Councilman Singer, Councilman Smith, Councilman Barton, Councilman Hightower and Chairman Young voting in favor. Councilman Bunker voted in opposition. Councilwoman McKenzie was absent from the floor.
- e. The amended Ordinance passed second reading by unanimous vote.

(F) CONSENT AGENDA

I. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. **MOVED TO OLD BUSINESS ITEM 1**

(G) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

1. Proposed Ordinance to Amend Section 11-95.1 of the Aiken County Code of Ordinances so as to Allow the Aiken County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to Incur Debt Secured by Real Property Owned by it Under Certain Conditions.
(County Council)

(To allow the Aiken County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to incur debt secured by real property owned by it under certain conditions)

- a. Councilwoman McKenzie made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Bunker seconded.
- b. Councilwoman Rawls made a motion to move Consent Item 1, the proposed FY 2010 Budget, to Old Business Item 1. Councilman Singer seconded the motion.
- c. The motion to move Consent Item 1 passed by unanimous vote.
- d. The remainder of the Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

FOLLOWING ACTION ON OLD BUSINESS ITEM 1:

- a. Councilman Smith made a motion to recess for Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel matters, and contract negotiations. Councilwoman Rawls seconded.
- b. The motion to recess for Executive Session passed by unanimous vote.

RECESSED – 7:50 P. M.

RECONVENED – 8:24 P. M.

- a. Councilman Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Hightower seconded.
- b. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote.

(H) ADJOURNMENT – 8:25 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNED:

Tamara Sullivan, Council Clerk

Ronnie Young, Chairman